



WEEKLY UPDATE
MAY 9 - 15, 2021

COLAB
San Luis Obispo County



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

12th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday September 9th, 2021

Alex Madonna Expo Center

more details coming soon...

***We're Back
& We Will always Be Here!***

COLAB San Luis Obispo County
805-548-0340 colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

**WHY THE SECRECY ON CAMP ROBERTS REFUGEES?
SHOULDN'T THE FEDS BE SUBJECT TO NEPA & PERFORM AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF HOUSING 20,000 IN A DROUGHT?
BUT IF YOU FIND ONE DEAD SALAMANDER, YOU COULD GET A \$250K FINE**

LAST WEEK

THE REVOLT BEGINS

**LONGEST DAY IN DECADES – BOS LASTS UNTIL MIDNITE
100'S CALL IN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON VOTING & VACCINE PASSPORTS**

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT IGNORED

SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT WATER GRAB OPPOSED

COVID STATS GOOD

WE NEED TO GO TO LIVE MEETINGS – BUT NO ONE WILL TALK ABOUT IT

**BOS REJECTS ALL MAIL VOTING & SEEKS BETTER RULES
IT WOULD BE BEST TO REQUIRE VOTE-IN-PERSON FOR ABLE-BODIED**

**YET ANOTHER BIG HOMELESS PLAN ADOPTED
SPENDING AVERAGE OF \$93,738 PER HOMELESS PERSON IN COUNTY
MEDIAN INCOME IN COUNTY ONLY \$60,000**

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 18

MONEY FOR NOTHING

***NOW THAT AMERICA HAS DECIDED TO SPEND ITS
DISCRETIONARY TRILLIONS ON FOSTERING DEPENDENCE
AND DIVISION, ITS USEFULNESS TO THE WORLD
DETERIORATES ACCORDINGLY***

BY EDWARD RING

ARE AMERICANS BECOMING SOVIETIZED?

***If our wokists destroy people in the name of equity, then they believe their
nihilism is justified.***

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

TOWARD A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

***The goal isn't civil war, it's the redemption of our republic from alien
servitude and inching obliteration.***

BY STEPHEN BALCH

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for May 18, 2021.

Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021 (Scheduled)

The agenda appears to be light, containing updates to various service contracts such as accounting and bill paying, which is now performed by the County for a fee. Strangely, and as of the close of business last Friday, there was no agenda packet with the actual documents and write-ups. The link for those legally required details states:

If required, the agenda packet information will be here once published.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 13, 2021 (Scheduled)

The agenda contains several permit applications for smaller projects but no matters of general policy.

ISSUES

Item 1 - Camp Roberts to Host Refugee Camp for Thousands. You would think our Congressman, Salud Carbajal, would have something to say to us and our local officials about this publicly. What about Senators Feinstein and Alex Padilla, State Senator John Laird, and Assemblyman Cunningham? Where will the thousands of staffers required to support the operation be quartered and fed, shop, recreate on their days off, and receive their medical care, including hospitalization?

What does the County Health Officer think about this situation?

Will the already overtaxed Border Patrol provide the perimeter and internal security, or will this fall on the National Guard, regular Army, Federal police agencies, or even State and local police agencies?

How will the County, San Miguel Community Service District, and City of Paso Robles be impacted, and how will their cost impacts be offset?

Will COVID cases in the camp be counted against SLO County's and Monterey County's statistics for progress (or lack thereof) through the State's lockdown tiers? One rumor is that the children will actually be housed on the portion of the base that lies in Monterey County.

What other diseases could the refugee children be carrying from tropical central America, for which the local population has no immunity or vaccination? For example, Americans travelling to Ecuador must receive Yellow Fever and Malaria vaccines. **IN fact the CDC posted the following warning on April 2, 2021:**

COVID 19 IN ECUADOR

Level 4: Very High Level of COVID-19 in Ecuador

Key Information for Travelers to Ecuador

- Travelers should avoid all travel to Ecuador.
- Because of the current situation in Ecuador even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants and should avoid all travel to Ecuador.
- If you must travel to Ecuador, get fully vaccinated before travel. All travelers should wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, avoid crowds, and wash their hands.

- [See recommendations for fully vaccinated travelers.](#)
- [See recommendations for unvaccinated travelers.](#)
- [Quick guide for travelers](#)

The CDC has issued the same warning for Mexico:

COVID-19 in Mexico

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- See [recommendations for fully vaccinated travelers.](#)
- See [recommendations for unvaccinated travelers.](#)
- [Quick guide for travelers](#)

COLAB Question (Comment): Will the thousands of refugees have passed the following CDC requirements prior to arriving in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties? Will the refugees who come from Central America, passing through Mexico, be tested, vaccinated, and COVID free when they arrive in SLO and Monterey Counties? What about the young children who are not supposed to be vaccinated?

*If you are **not** [fully vaccinated](#) and must travel, take the following steps:*

Before travel:

- *Get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip. **During travel:***
- *[Wear a mask](#) over your nose and mouth when in public settings. [Masks are required](#) on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.*
- *Avoid crowds and [stay at least 6 feet/2 meters](#) (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who did not travel with you. It's important to do this everywhere—both indoors and outdoors.*
- *[Wash your hands](#) often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).*

Before you travel to the United States by air

*All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens and fully vaccinated people, **are required** to have a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States. COLAB NOTE: If you walk in illegally, you have none of this.*

After you travel:

- *Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.*
 - *Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.*
 - *If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.*
 - *If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.*
- *Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.*
- *Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.*
- *Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.*

Do NOT travel if were exposed to COVID-19, you are sick, you test positive for COVID-19, or you are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test. Learn when it is safe for you to travel. Don't travel with someone who is sick.

Questions:

If some of the older youths escape into the general population and COVID or even tropical diseases start to spread, would the Feds lockdown the whole county, forbid travel in or out, or otherwise kill both freedom and the economy?

Will the Government have to divert limited Naci water to service the refugees and staff? What about the regularly scheduled National Guard Training this summer and following summers? Will there be enough water for everyone?

Will law enforcement agencies such as Probation and the Sheriff be impacted by the children who will inevitably escape from the sprawling installation? What if the older youths who escape become homeless and blend into the general population ?

Where will visiting parents and relatives be housed when they come to find and retrieve their children? What if some of them are illegals? Do they receive some sort of special amnesty?

Who will prove provide prenatal and maternal care for young mothers and new infants who will be borne by some of the teenagers in the population?

Will the local school districts by required to provide educational services?

Why is the Federal government housing, tens of thousands of illegal refugees at a military installation but has refused to allow such use for a few hundred American homeless people including veterans?

Locally, developers, vintners, and even single family home builders are crushed with regulations and fees involving the mitigation of traffic. How will the huge traffic generated by all the personnel be managed? Will the military allow personally operated vehicles (POVs) for these staffers on the base?

How will the antique sewer system at the base work with a sudden influx of thousands of children and staffers? Where will the sludge be sent? San Luis County sends theirs to Kern.

Why is there a veil of silence on this whole operation? We have heard that vendors and contractors who have been pressed into service have been warned to keep quiet and maintain strict secrecy. This is also true for State National Guard personnel.

The article from the May 4th California Globe provides the overall picture as known last week.



View of Camp Roberts. (Photo: Camp Roberts Installation, Facebook)

CA National Guard Base Camp Roberts to House Thousands of Border Migrants

Customs and Border Patrol is projecting that as many as 184,000 unaccompanied children could reach the border this fiscal year

By [Katy Grimes](#), May 4, 2021 7:19 am

“U.S. military bases are now being used for illegal immigrants’ housing in addition to the Donna, Texas border detention facility, the convention center in Dallas, and San Diego Convention Center,” the Globe reported in early April. “Migrants are currently being held at Fort Bliss and Joint Base San Antonio in Texas after crossing into the United States.”

Adding to military base accommodations, the Pentagon approved a third military base, California National Guard post Camp Roberts on 42,000 acres on the Central Coast of California, to house migrants amid the border surge invited by the Biden Administration.

The Globe has learned that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services asked the Pentagon for use of Camp Roberts to house migrants – as many as 10,000 migrants.

Where will the water come from for 10,000 additional people on the Central Coast, which is usually short of water anyway. Where are the environmentalists?

What is the plan?

Fox News reported that Customs and Border Patrol is projecting that as many as 184,000 unaccompanied children could reach the border this fiscal year. Again, is there a plan?

Where will these children eventually go?

Residents living on the Central Coast from Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Santa Maria, up to Santa Cruz, want to know what the plan is for their communities.

The website for Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) says it helps new populations maximize their potential in the United States by linking them to critical resources that assist them in becoming integrated members of American society. Is that the plan?

Providing some context, we found this NBC New York report:

During the last months of Trump’s term, unaccompanied minors were allowed to stay after a federal judge ruled in November that the government couldn’t use the pandemic as a reason to expel them. In January, an appeals court said the government could resume the practice, but Biden decided against it.

The numbers quickly rose under Biden, who ended other Trump policies, including one that made asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for court hearings in the U.S.

Jonathan H. Hayes, who directed Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement from February 2019 to March 2020, said the Biden administration needed to listen to estimates on capacity needs before undoing Trump’s policies.

Projections of arrivals threatened to strain the system and should have prompted officials to hit pause, considering the time it takes to get licensed shelters up and running, Hayes said.

Since Joe Biden was elected President in November 2020, the fears among Americans about a massive surge of illegal immigration at America’s borders has been realized. And it’s not over.

Texas Governor Gregg Abbott was on “Sunday Morning Futures” with Maria Bartiromo and noted that a “lack of border security is the root cause” of the record number of immigrants entering the U.S. illegally, Flag and Cross reported. “It shows that President Biden’s approach to this is to abandon the rule of law,” Abbott said of the migrant surge and Biden’s immigration policies.

“Our state legislature, they allocate about \$800 million every two years for the state to pay for this,” Abbott said of securing the border. “This year, because of the extended time that we will have the National Guard on the border, it likely will clearly exceed a billion dollars for the state to have to secure the United States of America.”

Abbott said border security is only one of the many costs to the state, with others are health care, education and law enforcement. These costs will also affect other states where gangs and human traffickers go after crossing the border with migrants, the Gov. Abbott added.

“The first 100 days of the Biden administration, they’ve been great for the cartels, for the gangs, for the human traffickers who have been exploiting the borders,”. Abbott said.

What awaits Camp Roberts and California’s Central Coast? How will the military contain and manage tens of thousands of migrants and children on the base, and why? Is containment even part of the plan? Will there be security, and if so, who is providing it and at what cost?

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California’s War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Lost

Back at the beginning of World War II when the base was developed in expectation of the need to train thousands of soldiers, the Federal Government helped Monterey County and SLO County, to some degree, by constructing the Nacimiento reservoir. At this point and to help manage the impacts, the County should request our State government and our Federal representatives and Senators to have Congress:

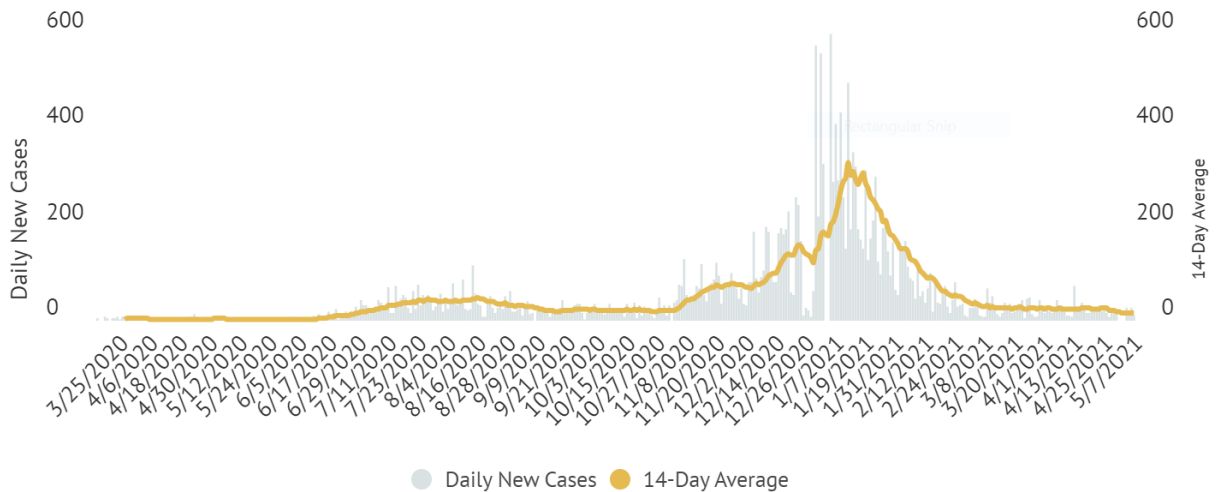
1. Fund the raising of the Nacimiento Dam to provide more water storage.
2. Widen Highway 101 from the top of the Questa Grade to the Monterey County line.
3. Provide direct funding for the construction of the works necessary to implement the Paso Basin SGMA Plan.
4. Fund industrial scale desalination at Diablo to provide water for San Luis Obispo and the South Coast cities and water districts. Divert state water, Naci water, and Lake Margarita water to agriculture.
5. Assist the City of Paso Robles with the repaving, and in some cases reconstruction, of the severely deteriorated residential and collector streets on the west side of the City.

As Congressman Carbajal often proclaims: “Share the Love.”

Or are we naïve, and some deals have already been cut?

Item 2 COVID Status: The infection rate remains low. Only 3 people were hospitalized with COVID as of the end of last week. Again, we asked the Board schedule a Board item to discuss resuming open meetings with a live audience. Thus far we have heard no response. It is rumored that County Counsel has persuaded the Board members that when they declared the COVID State of Emergency, they ceded decision-making power on matters such as opening various venues to the County Administrative Officer and Public Health Officer.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



[Download data](#)

3 (0 ICU)**

SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, May 4, 2021 (Completed)

Item 3 - Fiscal Year 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The report was received on the consent calendar, and there were no questions or discussion.

Background: The good news is that the report received what is known as “unqualified opinion” from the County’s independent auditors, which means that insofar as their tests show, the data in the report is accurate and conforms to national standards for governmental financial reporting. In short, no one is misrepresenting any information, and the facts as presented are true.

The CAFR is one of the most important annual report documents provided by any governmental agency and should be studied by those who have an interest in government services, efficiency, reform, and the politics of the agency involved. At first, the 288-page document seems formidable,

but it contains substantial useful information, including the independent auditor's opinion report and County management's reply. It also contains an abundance of information about finance history, County programs, and how the County raises and expends its money. Matters such as debt, reserves, bond ratings, taxes, fees, and available balances that can be expended in some cases are also included.

The elected officials, those who are running for office, and those who wish to participate in examining and commenting on County policies and issues should read this document. The document also contains a number of historical and comparative tables, which provide useful perspective on issues facing the County and community.

There are many governmental accounting conventions that will seem peculiar to readers who are familiar with private sector accounting. For example, the report indicates that the County has nearly \$1 billion in fixed assets categorized as land and buildings. Many may actually be worth \$0. After all, who would buy a hundred million dollar jail, an obsolete hospital building, a glitzy \$54 million airport terminal, a \$14 million animal shelter, or even a \$200 million sewer treatment plant in Los Osos? These have no intrinsic value except for their governmental purpose. It would be interesting to see what potential operators would pay if the whole system were privatized.

See last week's Update at the link for all the details:

[Weekly Update May-2 May-8 2021.pdf \(colabslo.org\)](#)

Item 13 - It is recommended that the Board, serving as the Paso Basin - County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Agency, authorize the Chair to sign and send a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board that opposes two applications to appropriate water that were submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board by the Shandon-San Juan Water District. The Board voted 3/2 (Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting) to send a letter of opposition to the State Water Resources Water Control Board (SWRWC) opposing the District's two applications. There was considerable public comment supporting the action. Several members of the District Board spoke against the action. Gibson asserted that the public comment was in error and that the Board should not take action until the matter is given full review.

Supervisors Arnold and Peschong proposed that the Board formally request the State Water Resources Water Control Board to reject the District's applications for control of certain storm water that may accrue in wet years. It will be interesting to see how each Supervisor votes in view of the fears alleging that the District is fronting for out of County interests and may seek ultimate control of the Basin.

The Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) appears to have attempted suicide. At this point it is threatened with forfeiting over \$420,000 in State application fees. As we have reported previously, the District submitted 2 pre-emptive applications to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in an effort to corner the market on surplus storm water that may occur in Lake Nacimiento and Santa Margarita Lake in wet years. The District would bank the water in the Paso Basin and sell it to its members and perhaps others outside of the District in dry years.

Its other partners in the Paso Basin State Groundwater Management Plan (SGMP) were not notified as required by statute. Details of this omission are included in the background section below.

After reviewing the two applications, SWRWC responded with two separate letters stating:

After preliminary review, Division staff has found that although you have made a bona fide attempt to comply with the rules and regulations of the State Water Board and the law, the application is defective for the reasons provided below.

Both letters include scathing, highly technical 10-page rejections of each application, detailing the omissions, lack of data, failure to contact impacted property owners, failure to contact the entities that operate the reservoirs, failure to consider Monterey County's live stream rights, and scores of other problems. The SSJWD is given 90 days from March 5, 2021 to file corrected applications or face losing over \$420,000 in application fees. It seems impossible that the District could complete the work, because much of it includes securing agreements from other governments and property owners who were never included in the process in the first place. Similarly, there are huge amounts of technical data which must be collected, analyzed, and agreed to by others.

See last week's update for all the details at the link:

[Weekly Update May-2 May-8 2021.pdf \(colabslo.org\)](#)

Item 16 - COVID Vaccination Passports. The Board received about 3 hours of laborious public testimony, requesting that it refrain from establishing any policy or program of requiring vaccination passports. This occurred even though the Board did not contemplate such a program, let alone agendize the issue. Since the County does not contemplate or support such a program, the Board voted 3/2 (Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting) not to establish the program. Apparently, a petition containing over 2,000 signatures challenging the process came in sometime on Tuesday morning.

There is fear that the State or Feds may attempt to impose mandatory COVID vaccination passports for travel and entry into public places. Community organizers may push the Board to take a public stand against such an illegal law, which would violate the 14th amendment and interstate commerce laws. It is one thing to prevent COVID entering the country from China, but a government entity can't require people to show a vaccination certificate to travel to Nevada or attend the Board of Supervisors meetings.

Item 22 - Board of Supervisors Raise. The Board approved the raise 3/2 (Peschong and Compton dissenting).

Background: The Board letter stated, in part, that the current annual salary for the Board members is \$86,115.12. The increase effective July 11, 2021 will result in an annual salary of \$90,417.60. This increase is estimated to increase Fiscal Year 2021-22 and annual ongoing County costs by \$29,708, provided all Board members elect to receive this increase. The annual increased cost per individual Board member is approximately \$5,942 per year. Apparently, the salaries of the Board legislative aides, who are subordinates of the Board members, are approaching the point where they will exceed the Board salaries. Bureaucrats who run the system refer to the problem as "compaction." They believe that a superior must always be paid more than their subordinates.

Item 25 - Submittal of a report on elections and voting systems in San Luis Obispo County, and request to provide direction to staff regarding which election model to use for future elections. After some of the most extensive public comment in history, considerable debate, motions, and counter-motions, the Board approved 3/2 (Gibson and Ortiz-Legg dissenting) the restoration of the system of precinct voting rather than going to all mail ballots for permanent registered voters who select it and/or a limited number of voting service centers. The matter was controversial, as many Republicans and conservatives (not always the same species) mistrust the elections system due to suspected tampering and fraud in locations around the country. No specific allegation of election fraud has been made in SLO County, however, a number of speakers and people who wrote in stated that they do not trust the juxtaposition of mail-in ballots and electronic data processing systems which tabulate them.

Among the expressed concerns nationally and locally are:

1. Vote harvesting techniques.
2. Same day voter registration and voting.
3. Lack of mail ballot chain of custody in many jurisdictions.
4. Protracted multiple day voting – no real election day.
5. Failure of some elections offices to allow designated observers to be close enough to the counting to actually see what is going on.
6. Wide swings in vote counts in some crucial vote states between the times they shut down counting at night and when they opened up in the morning to resume.
7. The use of street money in the larger and medium sized northeastern and upper Midwestern machine-dominated Democratic Party cities. (Street money is handed out in certain precincts to voters who promised a particular vote if the machine supported candidate wins.¹)
8. Failure to maintain accurate voter lists by including deceased and people who have moved away and filling out their mail in ballots.
9. Not requiring voter ID

Key discussions and outcomes of the hearing included:

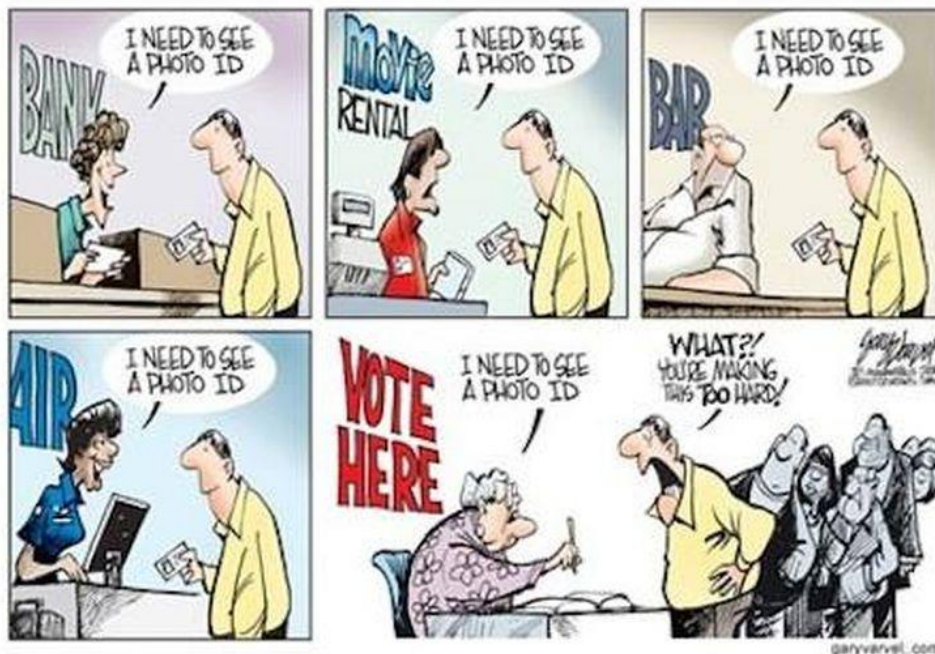
1. The County will eschew the State's recommended voter service center concept and instead operate up to 72 voter precincts as it did in the past.
2. People will also be able to register to vote by mail but will have to request a mail ballot. Once you are signed up for mail ballots, you don't need to re-register.
3. The Board directed that an item adding to its Legislative Program be brought forward on the agenda which would oppose mandatory all mail voting.
4. Other matters which could be included in the package :
 - a. No same day registration and voting.
 - b. Voter ID required.
 - c. A ban on ballot harvesting.
 - d. Hand counting of ballots vs. machine counting.

¹ No one has asserted that street money is used in SLO County.

The latter may be too labor intensive and costly, but is on the list for discussion.

All of these patriotic safeguards are anathema to the Democrats who are fronting for Socialism. Their strategy is to keep flooding the country with illegal immigrants, have no voting safeguards what so ever, and flood the nation , states , and localities with overwhelming numbers of harvested ballots rounded up from both willing and unknowing people who may or may not even residents of their voting precinct , have no idea of American history and institutions, and in growing numbers are loyal to another country.

2nd District Supervisor Bruce Gibson categorized these safeguards as blatant attempts to exclude large classes of voters by a retrograde Republican Party in decline . 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg agreed. She surmised that, if Election Day were to become a holiday, people could take off from work to vote in person.



As usual the San Luis Tribune amplified the left progressive's position and severely chastised the 3 conservative supervisors as luddites.

Background: The Board received a lengthy report from the elected County Clerk Recorder (who is by law the chief county election official) about the 2020 election and the Dominion electronic voting system. The actual decision in front of the Board was whether to go to an all vote-by-mail system or to continue to use a mixture of physical voting precincts and vote-by-mail. The Clerk Recorder recommended going to the all vote-by-mail system, citing cost, security, speed, and other advantages.

Underlying the discussion was considerable public concern about the Dominion electronic voting system used by the County, which has been attacked nationally by current and former public officials, advocacy attorneys, and a variety of political interest groups. It has been asserted that the Dominion system is susceptible to manipulation from the outside via internet, county intranet, Wi-Fi, or telephonics. It has also been asserted that it can be manipulated by its own software through hidden programs which are built in to the system to obtain specific results for the progressive left. The State of Arizona Legislature has commissioned an audit to see if it can discover if these assertions are true.

In this regard the Clerk Recorder’s report summarized in part:

SECURITY

- *Voting system hardware is NEVER connected to the Internet or the County intranet*
- *All wireless communications disabled*
- *Voting system hardware operates either*
- *Stand-alone (e.g. ballot on demand or ballot marking device), or*
- *On air-gapped network (computers, servers, network switches connected only to one another)*
- *Physically secured within our office, access limited to authorized Clerk-Recorder staff*
- *24x7 video surveillance*



“The County Election” by George Caleb Bingham, 1854

Voters were sworn in.

Item 27 - Request to 1) receive and file an update on initiatives to address regional homeless needs and provide staff direction as necessary; 2) support implementation of the adaptive Framework for Regional Homeless Action Plan and Multiyear Efforts proposed for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23; and 3) direct staff to return with a budget

adjustment request to implement said Framework. This was a long report about all the “wonderful new programs” the County and not-for-profit agencies will be doing to reduce homelessness in the next few years.

These will not work anymore than the past programs, as their basic premises lie in the County’s and its partner not-for-profits belief that they can remediate the underlying conditions that lead to homelessness. The fact is that once a person suffers from severe mental illness and then supplants the condition with drug and alcohol abuse, that person is not going to suddenly emerge as a new person. The redemptive therapeutic approach only works for a few – witness “The My Pillow Guy.”

Background: This is yet another grand plan for dealing with the homeless population. It contains the usual goals:

1. More mental health and substance abuse services.
2. Transitional housing.
3. More permanent housing.
4. More direct services to illegal homeless campgrounds.
5. Creation of legal (sanctioned) homeless campgrounds.
6. Creation of sanctioned RV homeless parking areas.
7. More shelter space.

Note that the actual numbers seem to have declined since 2013. This does not comport with the observable conditions on the streets or in the creeks, shopping strip malls, parks, Cal Tran’s bushes, and other locations. There are several shopping centers on Grand Avenue that seem to be allowing a few homeless individuals to camp under the porticos of their buildings. Similarly, often to exit the Vons parking lot on Teff in Nipomo, drivers have to run a gauntlet of people begging for money. There is a group which clusters next to the KFC across from the Fair Grounds in Paso. Another large camp exists just west of Higuera off Prado St. up from the big homeless shelter. The SLO police periodically remove it and it comes back. These conditions exist all over the urban portions of the County.

The fundamental problem is that the entire policy is geared toward the unachievable goal of rehabilitating the mentally ill, drug and alcohol addicted, developmentally disabled, attention disordered, plain dumb, and otherwise voluntary traditional hobo populations. Our elected bodies have determined that society must expend whatever is necessary to “service” the population.

This ignores the problem faced by the majority of the work a day population. The wealthy are immune in large lot properties or suburban gated communities. They simply say, “I never go downtown anymore” or “I wouldn’t go to San Luis Obispo on a bet.”

The problem is that the government is not addressing the problem. Instead it is using Band-Aids. There need to be secure places to house and treat those who are not able to take care of themselves and who are a danger to themselves and others. In the case of mental illness, which is prevalent in the homeless population, there should be a return to institutions to house and care for those people who cannot care for themselves. In the case of those who like the lifestyle of drugs, alcohol, and resort to thievery and other threatening behavior to support their lifestyle, they should be prosecuted and sentenced to meaningful terms of confinement.

Ultimately, we must replace the public officials who have the catch-and-release mindset and install people of will, who will adopt strict community standards and courts which will sentence these individuals. As noted in the bottom table below, the current program costs \$139 million per year locally. That equals \$93,728 per each of the 1,483 “unhoused” individuals listed in the table immediately below. As noted in Agenda **Item 3** above, the average per capita income in the County is \$60,004 per year.

Table 1. Regional Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts, 2013 – 2019

	2019	2017 ^{Note A}	2015	2013
Total Regional Unhoused Population ^{Note B}	1,483	1,125	1,515	2,186
Subtotal of Sheltered Homeless Individuals	311	349	394	240
Subtotal of Unsheltered Homeless Individuals	1,172	776	1,121	1,946

Breakout of HUD-defined Subpopulations (and Percentage Subpopulation Living Unsheltered)

Chronically Homeless (% unsheltered)	298 (84%)	262 (94%)	315 (98%)	649 (95%)
Veterans (% unsheltered)	144 (97%)	81 (90%)	130 (87%)	239 (90%)
Family Members including Children (% unsheltered)	222 (38%)	140 (9%)	358 (24%)	438 (79%)
Unaccompanied Children (% unsheltered)	23 (100%)	23 (100%)	14 (100%)	31 (100%)
Transition-Age Youth (% unsheltered)	151 (96%)	173 (95%)	381 (98%)	153 (93%)

Source of Funding	Estimated/Approximate Funding in FY 2020-21
Direct Benefits to Homeless Support Countywide:	\$ 10,584,057
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 2,342,440
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 7,848,617
Other Related Health and Human Services Countywide:	\$ 157,277,516
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 25,334,398
Estimated State/Federal/Other	\$ 131,943,118
Total	\$ 167,861,573
Estimated County General Fund	\$ 27,676,839
Estimated State/Federal	\$ 139,791,735

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

MONEY FOR NOTHING

NOW THAT AMERICA HAS DECIDED TO SPEND ITS DISCRETIONARY TRILLIONS ON FOSTERING DEPENDENCE

***AND DIVISION, ITS USEFULNESS TO THE WORLD
DETERIORATES ACCORDINGLY
BY EDWARD RING***

During 2020 the U.S. federal budget deficit was \$3.1 trillion, equal to over 15 percent of GDP. The deficit hasn't been this big since the end of World War II. This difference between now and 1945, however, is deeply unsettling: Back then, Americans were a unified, patriotic people who had just emerged relatively unscathed from a horrific conflict that left most of the world in ruins, whereas today it is difficult to say in what sense we are united.

In the aftermath of World War II, the American economy exploded. Industries previously on a war footing turned to manufacturing automobiles and appliances that were sold all over the world. Government-funded projects—from interstate highways to reservoirs and commercial airports—were built in record time. The economy boomed, unemployment was low and wages were high. The American middle class expanded to become a majority of the total population.

Today America's economy is fitfully emerging from being nearly shut down in 2020. Entire economic sectors—travel, entertainment, hotels, food services, retail, small businesses—have been devastated, with no end in sight. The windfall the lockdown imparted to high tech companies only served to increase their ongoing assault on legacy retail and media industries. The deficit spending that back in 1945 had been used to build a war machine and spawn countless spin-off technologies that would later prove profitable, was used in 2020 to help ordinary Americans buy food and pay rent—activities that, while necessary, do not generate future economic activity. And for that, too, there is no end in sight.

National Suicide

There's plenty of room for debate about these questions, of course. Economic growth is easy when you have minimal environmental regulations and not even one viable competitive foreign economy. And last year, when America's unemployment rate soared to nearly 15 percent, "stimulus" checks probably prevented even greater hardship. But the path Democratic policymakers have chosen for the United States today—with barely more than a peep of objection coming from GOP politicians—is not driven by COVID concerns and is completely discretionary. And it is a disaster.

If America were bent on national suicide, it couldn't do much more than it is doing right now to facilitate it. Stimulus spending, with an astonishing \$6 trillion now committed, for starters, has been used to bail out state and local government budgets that have been in the red for years. The reckoning that should have confronted bloated public education bureaucracies and underfunded public sector pension systems has been papered over, literally, with money conjured out of thin air.

Other nations of the world have long tolerated America's ability to sustain budget deficits because America invests in global security. Why should trading nations invest in their own navies to keep the sea lanes free from piracy and rogue nations? Why should Europeans worry about Russia going back

into Eastern Europe? Why should Asians prepare to fight Chinese domination in the Far East? The Americans will do it.

America also imposes on its population punitive rates for life-saving medicines that it then exports to the world at bargain prices; another reason to let the Americans print money. And with or without those perks, America's appetite for foreign products creates millions of overseas jobs, and America's willingness to sell its real estate and technology to the highest bidder gives American dollars additional enduring value.

The Rebellion of Infants

For better or for worse, these are the reasons America could run up federal budget deficits without consequences. But America's vitality as a nation was never as threatened as it is today. The financial algebra that is getting harder and harder to balance is only part of the problem. The culture that made America great is dying. America is now in the throes of what Claremont Institute Fellow Joel Kotkin recently called an "infantada."

Examples across America of what may as well be termed a rebellion of infants are plentiful. Leaders of the "woke" movement are not poverty stricken victims, despite their whining. They are tenured faculty at America's most elite universities. They are lavishly compensated executives running the human resources departments of multinational corporations. Even on the streets, the violence and the vandalism is coming, as often as not, from people who take off their black bloc garb after their midnight "actions" and go to work the next morning.

These people, most of whom have more than average "privilege," hate traditional American culture, they hate authority, and apparently they expect a perfect society. Their outlook is absolute; their capacity for nuanced reflection is nonexistent. They are infantile. They are expensive. They add no value to our civilization.

Homelessness Sinkholes

What of those American dissidents, more numerous than ever, who *don't* still enjoy the dwindling fruits of America's national vitality? What of America's homeless population? These people could be helped, and help could come fast. Instead, tens of billions are wasted and the problem gets worse. The reason, justified by the new, woke arbiters of modern social justice, is because they must be provided housing that is far too expensive to be built in sufficient quantity, at the same time as they are encouraged to indulge whatever destructive lifestyle choices they wish to indulge. Heroin addiction? Free needles. Stealing and looting? It's a "poverty crime." Consider the alternatives.

One national guard regiment could move onto some sparsely populated tract of land in North Los Angeles County and construct a city within a few weeks. Complete with barracks, bathroom facilities, kitchens and clinics, the homeless population of Los Angeles, 50,000 strong, could be moved into this city within days. Meanwhile, the feckless crook that runs Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti, proposes to spend yet another billion to help the homeless do little more than continue living as they are. With that kind of money, properly spent, these homeless could be moved into a supervised environment practically overnight. And magically, half of them would suddenly find relatives and friends with a roof, in order to avoid having to sober up.

“Freedom” and “Equity” for the homeless is costing the American taxpayer countless billions. The people who need help get next to nothing, while corrupt developers rake in most of the spending. The people who truly deserve help get even less. In the name of tolerance, infantile human urges are indulged and nurtured. Millions of lives are ruined. Thank the Democrats.

Climate Change Shenanigans

The monstrous scams that define America under Democratic rule, with the complicity of GOP politicians, are numerous. “Climate change” is yet another way America is destroying itself from within. Not billions, but *trillions* are going to be spent on projects that either accomplish nothing—injecting CO2 into underground caverns is a grotesque example—or displace cost-effective technologies like natural gas and nuclear power plants with unreliable and absurdly costly solar, wind, battery, and grid upgrades. These “renewables,” destined to be obsolete, embarrassing fads the moment breakthrough technologies like nuclear fusion are commercialized, are breaking American power. Pipelines are being cancelled so fossil fuel can only be transported by train, in an eerie parallel to a chapter in *Atlas Shrugged*. Productive wells are being capped. Vital infrastructure is being neglected, and the word itself, “infrastructure,” has become synonymous with fraud.

At staggering cost, America’s economy is being strangled by “climate emergency” zealots and opportunists. Thank the Democrats, and while you’re at it, thank Mitt Romney, Conservative Inc.’s favorite oligarch, and every other Republican coward who knows better but doesn’t say a word in opposition, much less actually do something to change the trajectory.

Race and Gender Hysterics

Race and gender obsessions are obviously additional sources of American infantilization—any ideology that trains people to take no responsibility for their success or failure in life is the epitome of infantilism—but it also imposes a devastating cost on the American economy. Wherever you turn—schools, jobs, contracts—the most competent applicants are turned away because proportional representation in every institution at every level must be maintained. This is impossible. It is devastating. It destroys the character of those favored and embitters those who are denied what they’ve earned. It undermines American competitiveness. It introduces hideous waste. If nothing else does it first, “equity” at all costs will kill the nation.

Immigration Idiocy

Another mismanaged issue is immigration, where—sorry nativists—the problem isn’t that too many people arrive. It’s that too many of the *wrong* people arrive. America invites, either legally or defacto, immigrants who are not bringing the skills America needs today. Justin Webb, writing for *Unherd*, explains:

The whole ‘bring me your huddled masses’ schtick is a bit of a con. Nearly 30 years ago, a taskforce led by then congresswoman Barbara Jordan, a hugely respected African American Democrat, blew it apart with a detailed study of the people who actually came to Ellis Island. Jordan pointed out that they were in fact more skilled than the average American at the time. They were seamstresses and stonemasons, tailors and bricklayers. They had, in other words, the skills the nation needed. They were the cancer researchers of their time. This was not charity; it was nation building.

When you wonder why America’s immigration policy no longer emphasizes “nation building,” just remember that if you criticize the disaster it’s become, you’ll be called a racist. For that, blame the Democrats. While you’re at it, blame virtue-signaling George W. Bush, who wrote a new book that gives all those “racists” a good thrashing, but has little to say about why we must move to merit based immigration.

Across almost every sector of American society and across every policy that drives America’s destiny—infrastructure, public finance, education, housing, homeless, law and order, energy, environmental protection, race relations and immigration—Americans are spending far too much for what they’re getting. In many cases, the money they’re spending is making the problems—both economic and cultural—not marginally better at ridiculous expense, but *worse*. With Americans now able to collect more money by collecting government benefits than they’ll make working in a job, with “universal basic income,” and with every new scheme that undermines work and independence, America’s once estimable character is being destroyed.

There’s a reason why America has been able to run up federal debt and print money to cover the annual deficits, while still retaining a hard currency. It’s because Americans have always been a generous, creative, productive, and fearless people who have given the world much more than they’ve taken from it. Now that America has decided to spend its discretionary trillions on fostering dependence and division, its usefulness to the world deteriorates accordingly.

When you spend money for nothing, you become nothing.

Edward Ring is a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness and co-founder in 2013 of the California Policy Center.

ARE AMERICANS BECOMING SOVIETIZED?

If our wokists destroy people in the name of equity, then they believe their nihilism is justified.

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

What ultimately ended the nihilist Soviet system?

Was it not that Russians finally tired of the Kremlin’s lies and hypocrisies that permeated every facet of their falsified lives?

Here are 10 symptoms of Sovietism. Ask yourself whether we are headed down this same road to perdition.

1) There was no escape from ideological indoctrination—anywhere.

TV commercials, a job in the bureaucracy, or military assignment all hinged not so much on merit, expertise, or past achievement. What mattered was loud enthusiasm for the Soviet system.

Wokeness is becoming our new Soviet-like state religion. Careerists assert that America was always and still is a systemically racist country, without ever producing proof or a sustained argument.

2) The Soviets fused their press with the government. *Pravda* or “Truth” was the official megaphone of state-sanctioned lies. Journalists simply regurgitated the talking points of their Party partners.

In 2017, some university and independent media monitoring centers found that 93 percent of American network media coverage of the early Trump Administration was negative. The most inflammatory of the media’s political assertions—Trump-Russia collusion, Hunter Biden’s laptop was a product of “Russian disinformation,” and Capitol Officer Brian Sicknick was murdered by a Trump rioter inside the Capitol—were all false.

3) The Soviet surveillance state enlisted apparatchiks and lackeys to ferret out ideological dissidents. Recently, we learned that the Department of Defense is reviewing its rosters to spot “insurrectionary” sentiments.

The Postal Service recently admitted it uses tracking programs to monitor the social media postings of Americans.

Left-wing CNN recently alleged that the Biden Administration’s Department of Homeland Security is considering partnering with private surveillance firms to get around government prohibitions on scrutinizing Americans’ expression. From 2015 to 2017, the FBI, CIA, and Justice Department engaged in efforts to monitor and injure the Trump campaign and then sabotage a presidential transition.

4) The Soviet educational system sought not to enlighten, but to indoctrinate young minds in proper government-approved thought. Currently, cash-strapped universities nationwide are hiring thousands of “diversity, equity, and inclusion” staffers and administrators. Their chief task is to scan admissions, hiring, curriculum, and administration of universities. Like good commissars, our diversity czars police compliance with the official narrative that a flawed America must confess, apologize, and renounce its evil foundations.

5) The official Soviet was run by a pampered elite, exempt from the ramifications of its own radical socialist ideologies. So too woke Silicon Valley billionaires talk socialistically but live royally. Coke and Delta Airlines CEOs who hector Americans on their illiberality respectively make over \$16 million a year.

What unites current woke activists like Oprah Winfrey, LeBron James, Mark Zuckerberg, and the Obamas are their huge estates and their multimillion-dollar wealth. Just as the select few of the old Soviet nomenklatura had their Black Sea dachas, so our loudest top-down revolutionaries prefer living in Martha’s Vineyard, Beverly Hills, Montecito, and Malibu.

6) The Soviets mastered Trotskyization, or the rewriting and airbrushing away of history to fabricate present reality. Are Americans any different when they indulge in a frenzy of name changing, nighttime statue toppling, monument defacing, book banning, and “cancellation”?

7) The Soviets created a climate of fear and rewarded stool pigeons to root and rat out all potential enemies of the people. Since when did Americans encourage coworkers to turn in others for an ill-considered word in a private conversation? Why do thousands now scour the internet to find any past incorrect expression of a competitor, rival, or opponent? Why are there now new thought criminals supposedly guilty of climate racism, immigration racism, vaccination racism, and almost anything racism?

8) Soviet law, state prosecutors, and courts were weaponized according to ideology. In America, where and for what reason you riot determines whether you face any legal consequences. Politically correct sanctuary cities with impunity defy the law. Jury members are terrified of being doxxed and hunted down for an incorrect verdict. The CIA and FBI are becoming as ideological as the old KGB.

9) The Soviets doled out prizes on the basis of correct Soviet thought. In America now most concede that Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and Oscar awards or Pulitzer Prizes do not reflect the year’s best television show, song, play, movie, or book—rather than the most politically correct production from the most woke.

10) The Soviets offered no apologies for extinguishing freedom. Instead, they boasted they were advocates of equity, champions of the underclass, enemies of privilege, and therefore could terminate anyone or anything they pleased.

Our wokeists are similarly defending their thought-control efforts, forced reeducation sessions, scripted confessionals, mandatory apologies, Trotskyization of our past, and cancel culture on the pretense that we need long overdue “fundamental transformation.”

So if they destroy people in the name of equity, then their nihilism is justified.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won and The Case for Trump.

TOWARD A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The goal isn't civil war, it's the redemption of our republic from alien servitude and inching obliteration.

BY STEPHEN BALCH

It's hard to find a good historical parallel for what America is undergoing. Yes, it's a revolution, but in key respects one very unlike those with which we're historically familiar. For one thing, there's been no sudden seizure of power. Our revolutionaries have slowly percolated their way to the top. But even more curious is the fact that while previous revolutionaries—Jacobins, Bolsheviks, Nazis, Maoists, etc.—all professed love for their countries' common people, ours accuse them of systemic villainy.

Yet if one shifts the analogical frame, this last curiosity clarifies. America's current revolution is less like that of France or Russia and more like what the African or Asian lands under British and French rule experienced. As with them, our revolution is being delivered by a culturally exogenous elite seeking to excise indigenous lifeways and supplant them with those it considers more enlightened.

To be sure, the colonial analogy is far from perfect. Western colonies often gained from being colonized; for us, it's a dead loss. But there are enough similarities to help us understand the strategies our elites are following, how they could be better resisted, and why, as with most colonialists of the past, they're likely to fail.

Colonial Analogies

Here are some of the colonialist resemblances that distinguish our elites from the behavior of more typical revolutionaries.

Woke Man's Burden: Like colonialists of yore, ours have a civilizing mission: the elevation of America's primitives. Whereas Jacobins, Bolsheviks, Nazis, and Maoists romanticized their plebs, imagining them, Rousseau-like, as reservoirs of superior virtue and wisdom, the reverse is true of our colonizers. As they see it Americans must be dragged out of their "long Egyptian night" before they can be accepted as moral and political equals. This accounts for their abiding air of hauteur, to say nothing of their view of the American inheritance as one of troglodyte hatred and superstition.

Missionary Positions: To be rid of their backward ways, Americans must be brought to embrace a new religion—their rulers' Dionysian one. This requires not just the toppling of institutions—and statues—but remaking the sanctums of private life. By and large Jacobins, Bolsheviks, Nazis, and Maoists, though they spoke of creating "new men," left this field rather fallow. Because "the people," as they defined them, were numinously good, their agitprop largely centered on the need for political and economic rearrangement. With respect to family structure, or the intimacies of sex, they were generally conventional. By contrast, colonial missionaries were avid to impress upon the natives the starchier family and sexual codes of the Occident. So too are our colonizers, though with a diametric spin and even greater urgency. For the earlier missionaries, Sunday sermons and mission schools

largely sufficed, gradualist pipsqueakery compared to the libidinous drumming of today's education and media.

Divide et Impera: Tried and true for holding colonial possessions is the widening of social rifts and the creation of new ones among the indigenes, usually undertaken by raising local underdogs above the hitherto dominant. Intersectionality is this strategy's American consummation, exacerbating genuine grievances while inventing a trove of new ones. Jacobins, Bolsheviks, Nazis, and Maoists, did quite the reverse, isolating selected minorities—aristocrats, capitalists, Jews, and landlords—so as to unite overwhelming majorities in fury against them.

Cantonment: Classic revolutionaries generally prided themselves on melding with the populations they championed, living modestly, or at least not sumptuously, when not in exile or underground. Colonial elites are completely different, lording it in splendid residences and closed compounds. Ours unquestionably prefer the cordoned high life, gazing from private jets and offshore getaways on distant peasant landscapes.

Resettlement: Domestic tyrants prefer sealed borders to shut subjects in and keep strangers out. Forts, fences, checkpoints, and minefields bear witness to these concerns. Colonialists on the other hand have been avid importers of people. Some, usually from the homeland, strengthen their base of political support. Others, slaves and “coolies,” are brought in to provide cheap labor. In both instances, the aim is a more tractable and profitable population, successfully achieved during the early colonization of the Americas. The same phenomenon is transforming the United States today.

Colonial Disanalogies

As noted, the analogies aren't perfect. How so?

First, where is our colonialists' homeland? Truth to tell, it's but a metropole of the mind. Their promise to build America “back better” relates to no known template but merely fanciful aspiration. The pigs of past colonialists didn't live in such utopian pokes.

The accomplishments of their motherlands dwarfed most of what the colonized could claim, providing the technical and military foundations for imperial rule. Classic colonialism's subjects correctly recognized many of these superior attainments and hoped to enjoy them themselves. In their dress, language, and deportment they frequently advertised this desire. It was the realization that they wouldn't be accepted as equals that most alienated them—Mohandas Gandhi an exemplary case. Having repudiated the greater part of what America has accomplished, our colonial governors can only offer that proverbial poked pig. This considerably weakens their position.

Second, our colonialists look like those they rule. They also speak the same tongue. As the country's demography alters this may change at both top and bottom, but we're not there yet. People are naturally tribal and always more likely to resent advantages accompanied by other forms of difference. These differences aren't as acute as they were for old-fashioned colonizers.

Third, there has been no act (or acts) of conquest. Our rulers completed their long march through America's institutions largely unnoticed until too late in the game. The facades of those institutions

still stand, even as their inner life is progressively distorted. This bestows an illusion of legitimacy on what would otherwise appear disturbingly exotic.

A Hydra-Headed Monster

America is thus under attack from a hydra-headed monster, on one side a culturally exogenous colonizer, on the other something more classically revolutionary. The monster's strength has lain in its incremental stealth and feigned familiarity, appearing to be something it isn't—American and constitutional. In this respect “Scranton Joe” is its ideal avatar. But its underlying duality and the half-baked quality of each of its insidious persona gives it special vulnerabilities—as in the combining of arrogance with the absence of anything to be arrogant about, or its wallow in luxury while pretending to be radically egalitarian.]

Finally, it counts on an ideology of self-hate to paralyze the majority of Americans, a strategy audacious, unprecedented, and chock with exploitable contradictions. To be sure, the historical record is uncomfortably clear—elites usually prevail over masses—so by standard reckoning America's future should be our elites' to impose. But the most conspicuous exceptions to this generalization have occurred where underlings come to see their rulers as hostile foreigners, as did the peoples who threw out the British, French, Dutch, and Portuguese. “Us versus them” is always a compelling motivator and our new rulers are now positively inviting its use.

What's more, because our elites' mentality derives from Cloud-Cuckoo Land, they can't deliver good governance, protective diplomacy, or material prosperity. Communist and fascist revolutionaries, though also utopian, had a technocratic approach to economic management that had actually been tried with some success under the command economies of the Great War. In their time it could pose as a rational way. They were also hard men who knew how to make their rule stick, however miserable it made those beneath it. The same could be said for traditional colonial administrators, also serious and seasoned men with true gifts to bear. Our political stage is now commanded, at best, by a troupe of burlesquers, likely to eventually take one pratfall too many.

Learning from those who faced more impressive foes, we must build an “us versus them” resistance, one devoted to ending our alien captivity by willing to name it as such. Our resistance's bottom line for admittance must be deeply felt love of country, reverence for its defining heroes, and a desire to celebrate and marvel at its achievements. Critically, it must command both mind and heart, clear on principle but heavy with emotion. It must every inch be nationalist but of an American kind, welcoming all of genuine patriotism. And upon honest acknowledgment of their errancy, it must be prepared to accept strayed sheep back into the fold.

Taking On Colonialism

A strong opening move would be to challenge our colonizers, and those who witlessly identify with them, to explicitly declare on which side their affections lie. Our elites have given us a wonderful opportunity to make this kind of polarization yield dividends. Their brazen pronouncements about “systemic racism” and “white supremacy,” now taken up by Joe Biden and other top Democrats, are nothing less than declarations of war on American identity and memory. Accordingly, let every politician, education official, and celebrity be asked unequivocally if he or she accepts these libels,

with responses tallied, published, and politically acted upon. The process will discomfort many of anti-Americanism's fellow travelers, driving a psychological wedge into colonialism's ranks.

We also need to concentrate on repairing American identity's intellectual foundations. This means not only engendering mass activism but, alongside and often through it, mass education and inspirational ceremony. So far too much of our political communication has been one way and atomizing, broadcast gurus talking through the ether at large but dispersed and passive audiences. Fine enough in itself, but badly in need of supplementation by participatory, and cumulatively reinforcing intellectual and emotional communion, especially on a face-to-face basis that's bond-building and immune to electronic surveillance and interference.

We badly need to build a youth movement that promotes the study of real American history, along with an adult counterpart to make up for past educational neglects. Traditional scouting in many parts of the country has been as much compromised as are the public schools. A patriotic replacement, with a serious educational component, would be a good way to recover lost civic ground while providing a productive occasion for adult volunteerism and self-education.

We should also organize mass observances of traditional and newly created holidays, commemorating events like the Yorktown surrender and D-Day, or solemnly memorializing the victims of totalitarianism. Movements against the powers-that-be must fortify themselves psychologically through ritualized mass performance as well as more politically focused action, so let's consider the creation of a counter-calendar to our elite's parade of apologetic commemorations, filled with holidays reinforcing national consciousness and pride.

The goal isn't civil war, it's redemption of our republic from alien servitude and inching obliteration. What we want is what happened to most of the colonial empires during the middle of the 20th century, a collapse of overlord confidence and peaceful transfer of power back to "the natives"—us. Faced with a morally empowered resistance, drawing clear lines, and sparing no feelings, we can peel away the regime's collaborators and, by isolating its core, break it. Alas, our rulers have no physical homeland to which to retreat, making ousting them harder. On the other hand, their inanity ensures that there will be a long train of discrediting events on their watch.

This kind of nationalist movement is not presented as an alternative to winning elections and finding strong leaders at the federal and state levels. But it's an indispensable supplement. Even if all the branches of the national government were returned to "American" control, decolonization would require a radical reshaping of cultural and educational institutions for which only a rousing, grassroots consciousness-raising national liberation movement can provide the moral energy. Let's waste no more time starting to build one.

Steve Balch was the founding president of the National Association of Scholars and, from 2012 to 2020, director of the Institute for the Study of Western Civilization at Texas Tech University. This article first appeared in American Greatness on May 6, 2021.



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