



WEEKLY UPDATE NOVEMBER 24 - 30, 2024

THIS WEEK SEE PAGE 4



THANKSGIVING

"Time out of mind at this turn of the seasons when the hardy oak leaves rustle in the wind and the frost gives a tang to the air and the dusk falls early and the friendly evenings lengthen under the heel of Orion, it has seemed good to our people to join together in praising the Creator and Preserver, who has brought us by a way that we did not know to the end of another year. In observance of this custom, I appoint Thursday, the twenty-sixth of November, as a day of Public Thanksgiving for the blessings that have been our common lot and have placed our beloved State with the favored regions of earth -- for all the creature comforts: the yield of the soil that has fed us and the richer yield from labor of every kind that has sustained our lives -- and for all those things, as dear as breath to the body, that quicken man's faith in his manhood, that nourish and strengthen his spirit to do the great work still before him: for the brotherly word and act; for honor held above price; for steadfast courage and zeal in the long, long search after truth; for liberty and for justice freely granted by each to his fellow and so as freely enjoyed; and for the crowning glory and mercy of peace upon our land; -- that we may humbly take heart of these blessings as we gather once again with solemn and festive rites to keep our Harvest Home."¹

¹ In 1936 Connecticut Governor Wilbur Lucius Cross penned a Thanksgiving Proclamation that has withstood the test of time. The words of this former professor of English and Graduate School dean at Yale are revived year after year for their positive, uplifting message.

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES OFF

SLO COUNTY CLERK RECORDER'S OFFICE

***VOTE COUNT IS THE SLOWEST IN THE STATE
EVEN LA COUNTY HAS LESS TO COUNT***

**LAST WEEK
SEE PAGE 8**

NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

PENSION TRUST BOARD CANCELLED

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF

***RECOMMENDS DIABLO RELICENSING
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FINDS IT TO
BE THE BEST ALTERNATIVE***

**EMERGENT ISSUES
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FOR CHINA, IT'S A GAS!

***CHINA AND OTHER NATIONS IN ASIA ARE RAPIDLY
EXPANDING THEIR USE OF NATURAL GAS***

**CALIFORNIA DESERVES ALL THE SCORN IT GETS FOR
HOLDING UP HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS**

**UK AND NATO TO MEET AS PUTIN VOWS TO
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COLAB IN DEPTH
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THE AMERICAN UNUM
BY BRUCE THORNTON

THE TRUMP COUNTERREVOLUTION
IS A RETURN TO SANITY
THE TRUMP COUNTERREVOLUTION CHALLENGES ENTRENCHED
ELITES, BUREAUCRACIES, AND PROGRESSIVE IDEOLOGIES IN
FAVOR OF RESTORING TRADITIONAL VALUES, GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

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102 Bridge St.
Arroyo Grande (CA) 93420
byron-grant@c21home.com
www.byron-grant.com




THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 (Not Scheduled)

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

SLO County Clerk Recorder Elections Office Slowest in the entire State

There were still 24,846 votes that had not been counted as of the close of business on November 20, 2024. The table below (from the Secretary of State) indicates that as of November 20, SLO County had the highest number of uncounted votes of all 58 counties. Even LA County, with 3.8 million votes to count, only had 19,700 left. See the related article [on page 15](#), below. If California is the slowest State in the nation, could SLO County be the slowest County in the nation?



The California Secretary of State's tabulation is displayed on the next several pages. Note the column "Estimated total Ballots remaining as of November 23, 2024."

**Estimated Unprocessed Ballots for the November 5, 2024, General Election
as of 11/23/24 10:30 a.m.****

County	Cumulative Total Number of Processed Ballots	Total Number of Processed Ballots from the Last Report	Ballots Voted at a Voting Location	Vote-By-Mail Ballots Received on or Before Election Day	Vote-By-Mail Ballots Received after Election Day thru E+7/Ballots Forwarded by Other Counties	Provisional Ballots	Conditional Voter Registration Ballots	Other*	Estimated Total Ballots Remaining	Last Report	Next Results Expected	Ballots Left to Cure
Alameda	682,819	18,213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/20/24 5:03 PM	12/3/24 5:00 PM	4,836
Alpine	748	48	0	0	48	0	0	0	48	11/21/24 3:40 PM	11/27/24 2:00 PM	4
Amador	22,753	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/20/24 9:55 AM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	16
Butte	91,930	0	0	8	314	0	4,164	0	4,486	11/15/24 3:28 PM	11/27/24 4:30 PM	1,283
Calaveras	26,874	18	0	0	0	13	6	0	19	11/22/24 2:59 PM	11/27/24 4:00 PM	154
Colusa	7,092	223	0	0	0	9	0	0	9	11/19/24 3:58 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	145
Contra Costa	534,305	13,978	0	0	500	0	500	4,000	5,000	11/22/24 2:50 PM	11/27/24 4:00 PM	3,500
Del Norte	10,676	252	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 4:01 PM	12/2/24 4:00 PM	80
El Dorado	113,777	1,090	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 4:07 PM	12/3/24 4:00 PM	730
Fresno	320,612	3,915	0	0	0	200	5,039	393	5,632	11/22/24 3:57 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	4,936
Glenn	10,541	215	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	11/21/24 3:24 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	81
Humboldt	54,768	20,812	34	5,283	0	1,417	587	700	8,021	11/15/24 4:02 PM	11/22/24 5:00 PM	435
Imperial	47,333	1,257	0	0	0	5,550	940	0	6,490	11/18/24 5:47 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	800
Inyo	9,087	224	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	11/21/24 4:01 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	8
Kern	283,592	4,028	0	0	0	0	2,400	495	2,895	11/22/24 4:52 PM	11/26/24 4:30 PM	2,200
Kings	41,936	887	0	0	0	0	15	0	15	11/22/24 10:26 AM	11/27/24 3:00 PM	519
Lake	16,523	7,882	0	8,828	342	453	1,000	144	10,767	11/21/24 4:36 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	330
Lassen	11,165	3	0	0	0	177	176	0	353	11/20/24 2:20 PM	11/25/24 12:00 PM	41
Los Angeles	3,788,531	12,802	0	13,700	0	0	6,000	0	19,700	11/21/24 4:31 PM	11/26/24 5:00 PM	13,700
Madera	55,246	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 11:37 AM	12/2/24 5:00 PM	242
Marin	146,707	2,505	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/20/24 12:40 PM	12/3/24 5:00 PM	1,469
Mariposa	9,606	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/15/24 10:51 AM	11/26/24 3:00 PM	76

Table continues on next page.

Mendocino	37,606	13,004	0	0	0	2,250	0	0	2,250	11/22/24 11:29 AM	11/27/24 12:00 PM	103
Merced	83,398	305	0	0	0	82	2,397	460	2,939	11/22/24 4:14 PM	11/23/24 3:30 PM	1,900
Modoc	4,059	185	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	11/22/24 5:35 PM	11/27/24 4:00 PM	66
Mono	6,148	40	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	11/20/24 5:42 PM	11/25/24 5:00 PM	50
Monterey	148,801	1,776	0	0	9	0	17	0	26	11/22/24 5:10 PM	11/26/24 5:00 PM	617
Napa	66,315	4,338	0	41	0	7	28	474	550	11/22/24 5:05 PM	11/25/24 4:30 PM	471
Nevada	63,115	9,523	0	0	0	10	75	0	85	11/22/24 4:03 PM	11/26/24 4:00 PM	237
Orange	1,406,590	4,882	0	10,010	766	0	10,800	331	21,907	11/22/24 5:05 PM	11/23/24 5:00 PM	14,317
Placer	233,054	3,547	56	0	0	937	3,730	1,000	5,723	11/22/24 4:53 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	1,444
Plumas	10,209	488	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	11/15/24 11:55 AM	11/21/24 4:00 PM	106
Riverside	948,490	7,647	0	0	0	0	9,000	500	9,500	11/22/24 6:27 PM	11/23/24 6:00 PM	10,900
Sacramento	651,808	5,974	0	0	0	0	16,050	0	16,050	11/22/24 4:25 PM	11/26/24 5:15 PM	3,315
San Benito	27,874	207	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	11/21/24 3:40 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	754
San Bernardino	753,810	3,769	0	0	2,200	2,000	13,000	250	17,450	11/22/24 3:19 PM	11/25/24 4:00 PM	8,900
San Diego	1,491,078	39,578	0	200	100	500	11,000	200	12,000	11/21/24 4:47 PM	11/27/24 6:00 PM	8,000
San Francisco	412,090	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/21/24 4:09 PM	12/3/24 4:00 PM	550
San Joaquin	254,988	1,159	0	0	0	1,133	7,971	0	9,104	11/22/24 5:50 PM	11/25/24 7:00 PM	5,295
San Luis Obispo	128,948	25,600	25	13,605	4,209	4,397	1,043	1,567	24,846	11/20/24 5:50 PM	11/23/24 3:00 PM	680
San Mateo	336,444	1,292	0	0	450	0	50	0	500	11/22/24 4:23 PM	11/26/24 4:30 PM	1,361
Santa Barbara	185,432	4,818	0	0	0	1,000	1,900	0	2,900	11/21/24 2:03 PM	11/27/24 1:00 PM	1,850
Santa Clara	764,769	2,000	0	0	0	1,000	2,000	0	3,000	11/22/24 4:31 PM	11/25/24 5:00 PM	2,000
Santa Cruz	132,406	1,315	0	100	53	130	3,000	150	3,433	11/19/24 4:24 PM	11/22/24 4:00 PM	245
Shasta	78,136	2,475	0	1,934	413	1,736	562	6,822	11,467	11/22/24 8:02 PM	11/27/24 6:30 PM	660
Sierra	1,778	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/14/24 2:25 PM	11/26/24 3:00 PM	7
Siskiyou	21,798	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 10:00 AM	12/3/24 12:00 PM	129
Solano	192,319	141	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 3:37 PM	12/3/2024 1:00PM	400
Sonoma	249,815	2,040	0	0	1,000	1,482	3,450	25	5,957	11/22/24 2:07 PM	11/26/24 3:00 PM	1,830
Stanislaus	196,082	1,546	0	0	0	313	3,149	383	3,845	11/21/24 4:27 PM	11/26/24 6:00 PM	2,284
Sutter	38,942	424	0	0	0	761	173	25	959	11/20/24 12:09 PM	11/22/24 5:00 PM	73
Tehama	25,828	4,267	0	513	79	518	341	56	1,507	11/22/24 3:43 PM	11/27/24 5:00 PM	537
Trinity	5,749	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/22/24 12:01 PM	12/2/24 5:00 PM	94
Tulare	139,613	945	0	0	0	108	0	4	112	11/21/24 5:41 PM	11/25/24 6:00 PM	1,232
Tuolumne	29,221	218	0	0	0	0	13	0	13	11/21/24 5:11 PM	11/27/24 4:00 PM	170
Ventura	392,039	1,521	0	0	33	85	468	46	632	11/21/24 3:33 PM	11/26/24 4:00 PM	4,030
Yolo	89,124	229	0	0	0	163	5,076	0	5,239	11/22/24 3:55PM	11/26/24 4:00 PM	1,431
Yuba	28,402	528	0	0	650	1,000	300	50	2,000	11/21/24 6:41 PM	11/26/24 12:00 PM	500
STATEWIDE	15,922,899	234,679	115	54,230	11,169	27,451	116,420	18,075	227,460			112,123

See the SLO County report from November 20th below:

Estimated Unprocessed Ballots Report November 5, 2024, General Election

Please check a box below:

- First Report **(Due Thursday, November 7, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.)**
- Update Report (date and time): 11/20/2024 6:30 pm
- Final Report (date and time): _____

County Name: San Luis Obispo

Contact Name: Elaina Cano

Contact Phone Number: 805-781-5235

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Cumulative total number of processed ballots (includes ballots tabulated on election night) | 128,948 |
| 2. Total number of processed ballots from the last report | 25,600 |

Estimated number of unprocessed ballots in the following categories:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3. Ballots voted at a voting location (includes ballots voted during early voting and on Election Day) | 25 |
| 4. Vote-by-mail ballots received on or before Election Day | 13,605 |
| 5. Vote-by-mail ballots received after Election Day thru E+7/ballots forwarded by other counties | 4,209 |
| 6. Provisional ballots | 4,397 |
| 7. Conditional voter registration (CVR) provisional ballots | 1,043 |
| 8. Other (includes unprocessed ballots that are damaged, need to be remade, or require further review) | 1,567 |
| 9. TOTAL ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNPROCESSED BALLOTS (total includes #3-8) | 24,846 |
| 10. Challenged ballots and left to cure (noncomparable signature on identification envelope or unsigned identification envelope and first-time federal voter ID) | 680 |
| 11. Next vote results expected (date and time) | Saturday, November 23, 2024 by 3:00pm |

Why are there so many provisional ballots? Did someone register 4,397 new voters on Election Day? It's unlikely that 4,379 people suddenly woke up and ran in.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 (Not Scheduled)

Instead of a Board meeting this week, some Supervisors attended the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) 130th Annual Meeting in Pasadena. Our own Supervisor Bruce Gibson is President and presided. His invitation stated:

Dear County Colleagues,

I am thrilled to invite you to join us at the 130th CSAC Annual Meeting, which will be held in vibrant Los Angeles County. This marquee event offers a unique opportunity for us to come together, network, and engage in meaningful discussions about the challenges and solutions that shape our communities.

The Annual Meeting is not just a conference—it's a collaborative gathering where the collective wisdom of county leaders from across the state can shine. Our sessions are designed to inspire, inform, and foster innovative approaches to the common issues we face. By sharing our experiences and insights, we can strengthen our ability to serve our constituents more effectively.

This year, we have an exceptional lineup of speakers, workshops, and panels that promise to provide fresh perspectives and practical strategies. Whether you are looking to tackle fiscal management, public health, infrastructure, or any other pressing topic, you will find invaluable resources and connections at this event.

The importance of counties coming together cannot be overstated. It is through our unity and collaboration that we can drive progress and create positive change. The Annual Meeting is a testament to our commitment to working together, learning from one another, and building a brighter future for all Californians.

I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles County for an inspiring and productive gathering. Let's make this 130th Annual Meeting a milestone of innovation and partnership.

Warm regards,

Bruce Gibson
CSAC President and San Luis Obispo County Supervisor

Change to what?
Socialism?
Climatism?
The DEI State?
3rd World living style?

The meeting took place at the Pasadena Convention Center.



US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff Hearing on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 (Completed)

Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the extension of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant operating license for 20 years. The good news is that the DEIS found no serious negative impacts that would prevent the extension of the license.

Based on the review presented in this draft SEIS, the NRC staff concludes that the 15 environmentally preferred alternative is the proposed action. The NRC staff recommends that 16 renewed Diablo Canyon operating licenses be issued. As shown in Table 2-1, all replacement 17 power alternatives have impacts in more than one resource area that are greater than LR, in 18 addition to the environmental impacts inherent to new construction projects. To make up the lost 19 power generation if the NRC does not issue renewed licenses for Diablo Canyon (i.e., the no-20 action alternative), energy decision-makers may implement one of the replacement power 21 alternatives discussed in Chapter 3, or a comparable alternative capable of replacing the power 22 generated by Diablo Canyon.

About 150 people, including 56 speakers, showed up for the hearing. Of the speakers, all but 5 were in favor of relicensing. Interestingly, security was fairly tight, with 4 SLO City police officers assigned. A Federal officer checked each person into the room, asking if they had any weapons. The hearing was peaceful and the crowd was overwhelmingly in favor of the extension.

Most of the speakers seemed unaware that the purpose of the hearing was to comment on the DEIS (environmental issues), not all the other aspects of the project such as jobs, economic benefits, and local taxes. This notwithstanding, several Cal Poly professors provided hard scientific testimony about the climate benefits of keeping the plant on line.

A few of the usual opponents, such as the Mothers for Nuclear Peace, asserted that the reactor vessels are too old and brittle. Others stated that new earthquake faults have been discovered under the plant.

The staff will enter any new environmental data that was provided into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). It is expected that the full NRC will render its decision on the extension of Diablo by August 2025.

Current License Renewal Review Schedule

Milestones	Schedule Date	Actual Date
Receive License Renewal Application (LRA)	11/2023	11/07/2023
Publish <i>Federal Register</i> Notice (FRN) – LRA Availability	11/2023	11/20/2023
Publish FRN – Docketing Acceptance/Rejection and Opportunity for Hearing	12/2023	12/19/2023
Publish FRN – Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping	01/2024	01/24/2024
Public Meeting – Overview of License Renewal Process and Environmental Scoping	02/2024 (Virtual) & 02/2024 (In-Person)	02/01/2024 (Virtual) & 02/08/2024 (In-Person)
Environmental Scoping Period Ends	02/2024	02/23/2024
Deadline for Filing Hearing Requests and Petitions for Intervention	03/2024	03/04/2024
Issue Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)	10/2024	10/25/2024
Public Meeting – Draft SEIS Meeting	11/2024	11/14/2024 (virtual) & 11/20/2024 (in-person)
End of DSEIS Comment Period	12/2024	12/16/2024
Issue Safety Evaluation Report (SER)	06/2025	
Issue Final SEIS	06/2025	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – Availability of Final SEIS	06/2025	
ACRS Full Committee Meeting	07/2025	
Decision – Director, NRR	08/2025	

Other nuclear news:

Meanwhile, as reported in multiple news sources on Thursday, November 21, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened to attack the US and NATO. Someone’s drones are surveilling British air bases.

Vladimir Putin issued a major new warning to the West following reports of Ukraine striking into Russia with Storm Shadow long-range missiles.

In a television address on Thursday, the Russian President said Moscow could strike the military installations of any country whose weapons were used against Russia.

Related video: Putin’s foreign minister’s chilling warning to West after Ukraine fired US-made missiles into Russia (The Independent)

Video Player is loading.
The Independent

Putin's foreign minister's chilling warning to West after Ukraine fired US-made missile is into Russia

"In response to the use of American and British long-range weapons on 21 November of this year, the Russian armed forces launched a combined strike on one of the facilities of the military-industrial complex of Ukraine.

"In combat conditions, one of the newest Russian medium-range missile systems was tested, among other things. In this case, with a ballistic missile in a nuclear-free hypersonic equipment."

Despite issuing the major threat to the West, Putin claimed the use of long-range missiles into Russia by Ukraine would not change the outcome of the war in Ukraine - or "special operation", as the Kremlin continues to call the unlawful invasion of the eastern European country.

Moscow, he added, would "respond symmetrically" to any "escalation".

The Mothers for Nuclear Peace do not seem as concerned about this threat as they do about the power plant.

San Luis Obispo County Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, November 18, 2024 (Cancelled)

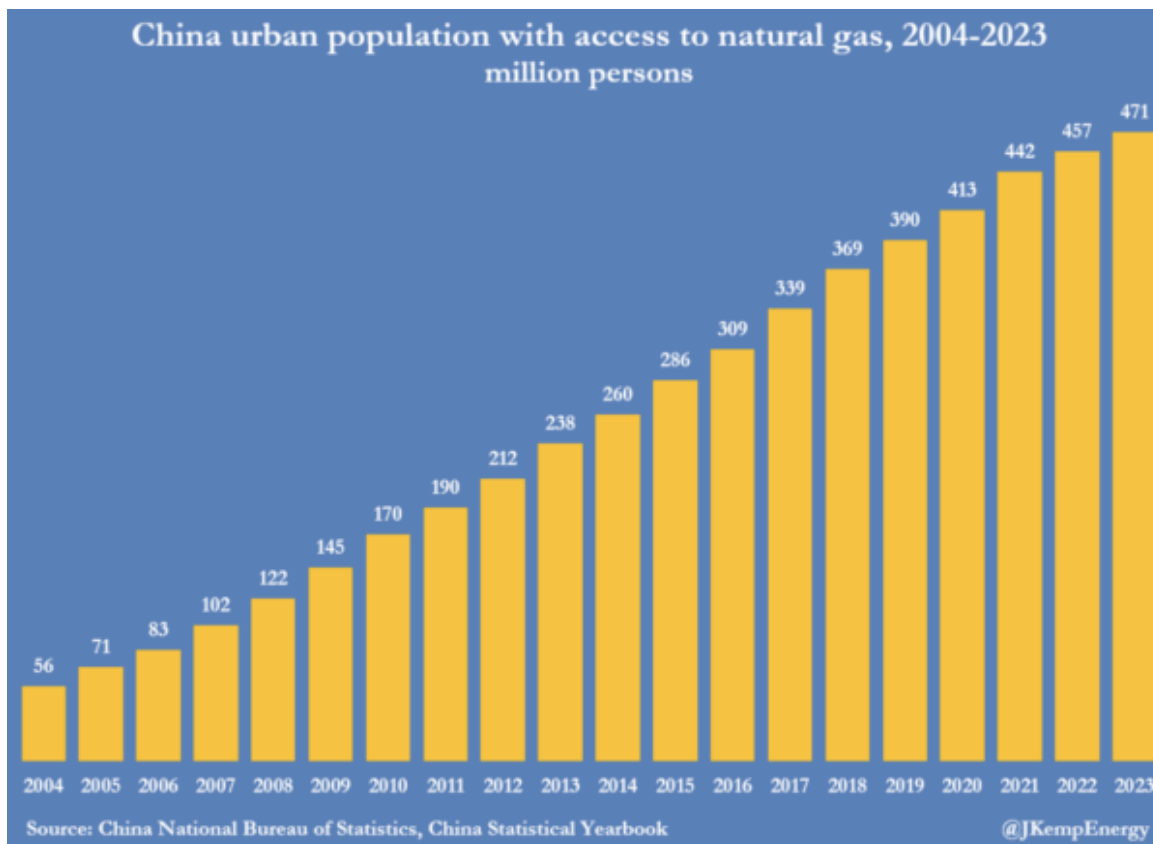
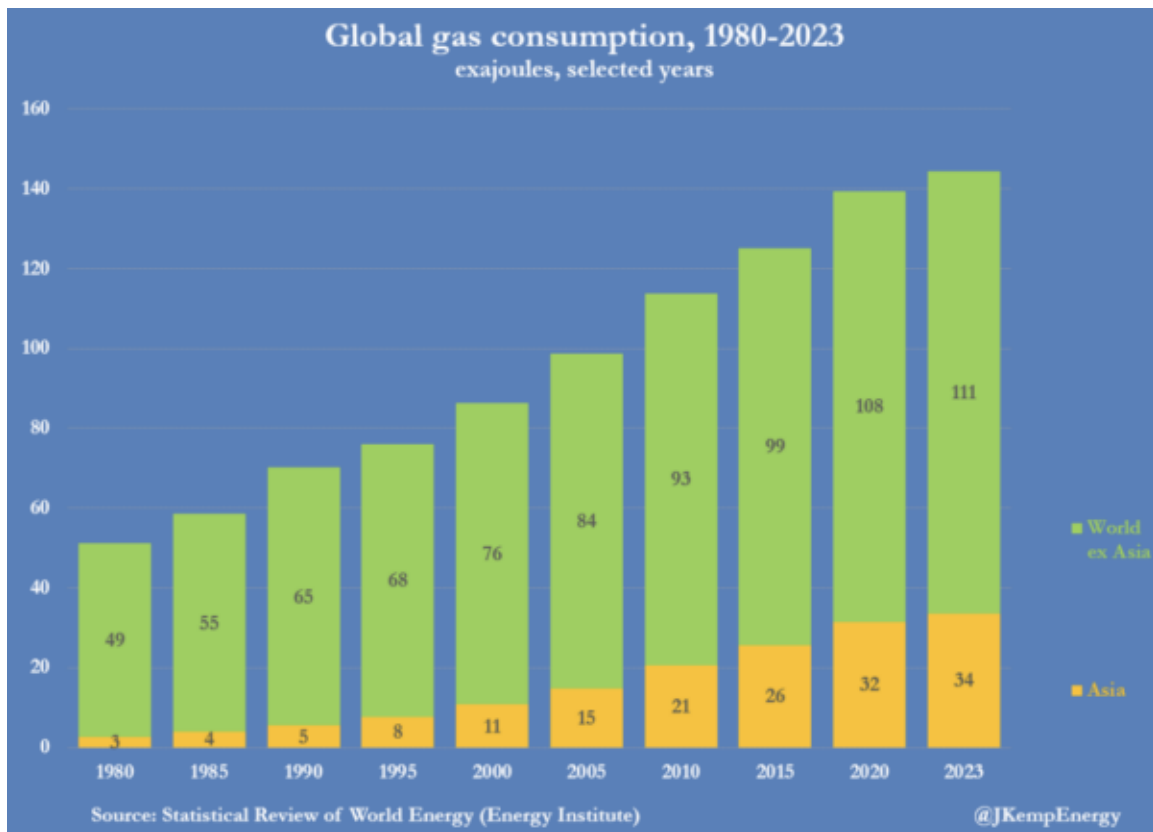
No reason for the cancellation was provided.

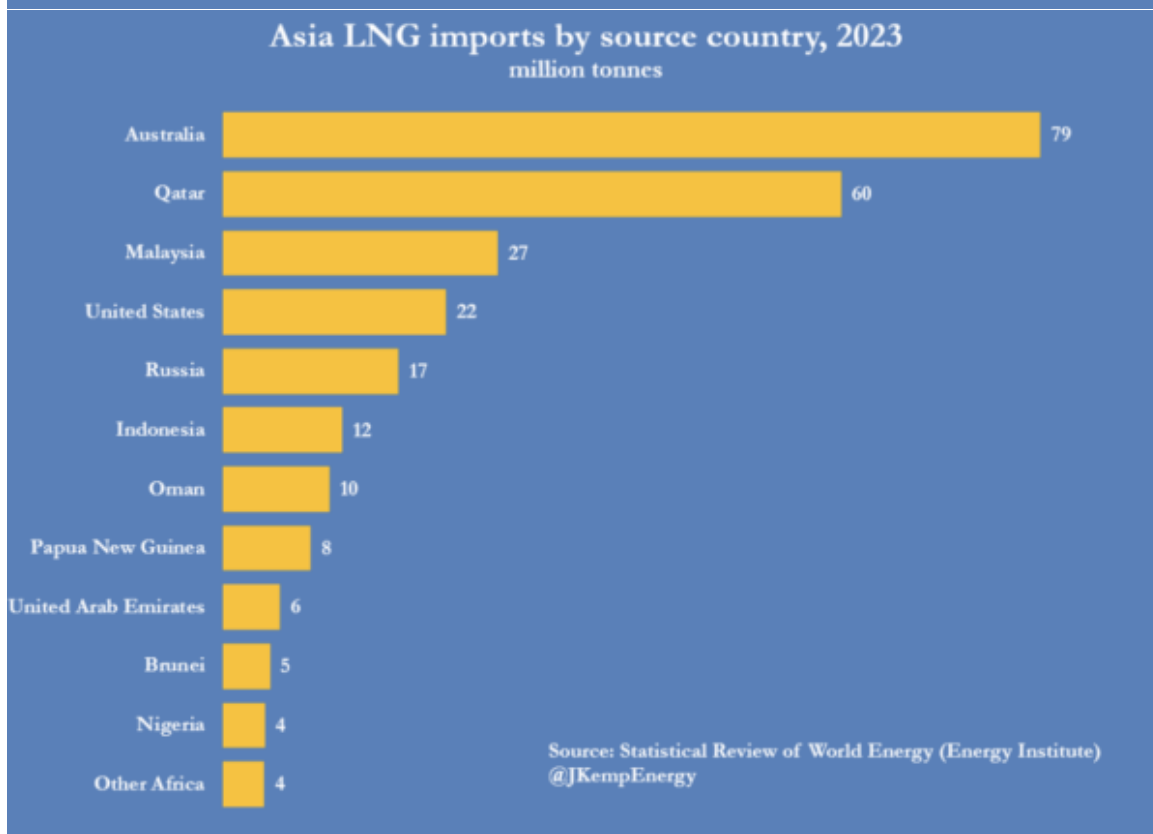
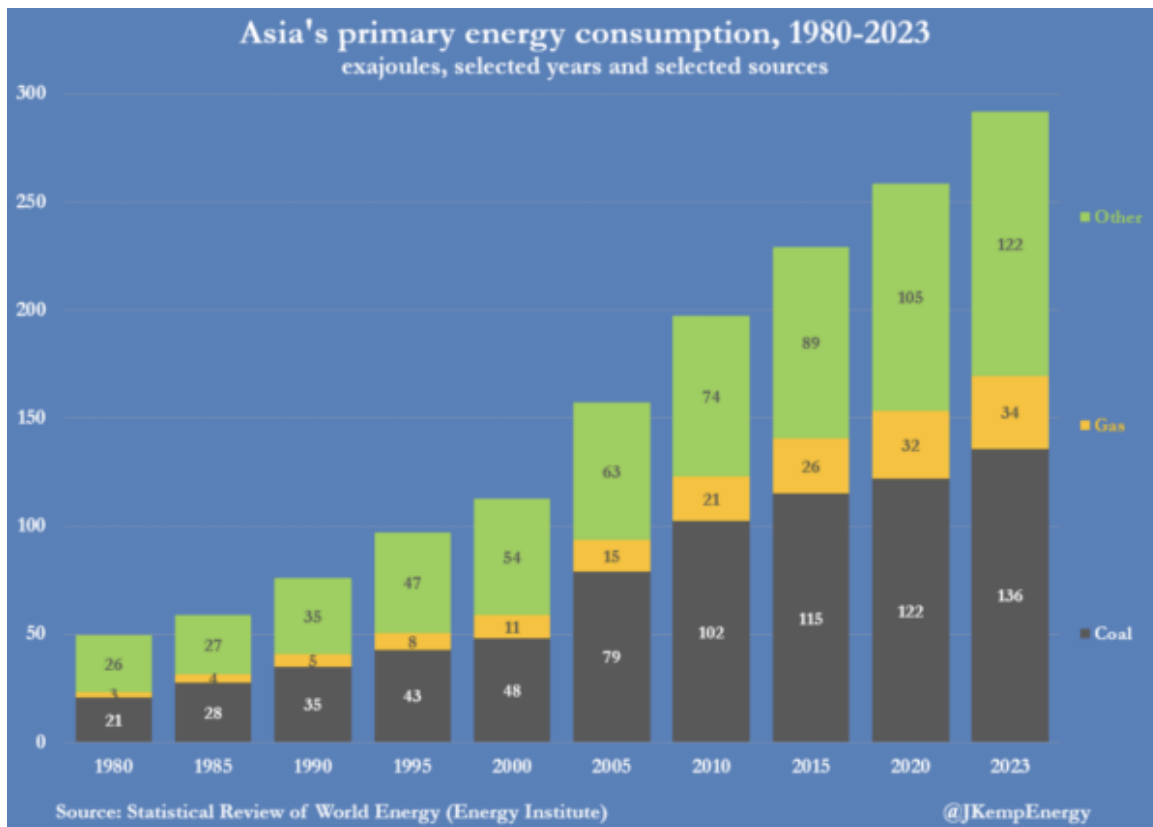
EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1- THE DAILY CHART: FOR CHINA, IT'S A GAS! BY STEVEN HAYWARD IN THE DAILY CHART

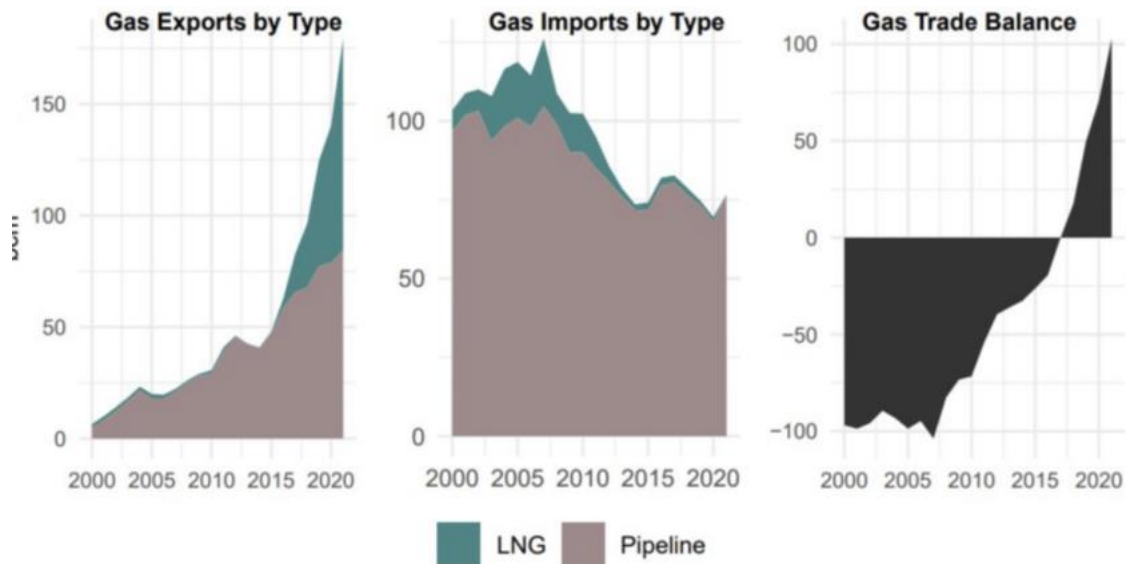
THE DAILY CHART: FOR CHINA, IT'S A GAS!

Even as our windmill-tilting climatistas try to ban our gas stoves (hopefully slowed up by voters in liberal jurisdictions like Washington state and even Berkeley voting against this madness), China and other nations in Asia are rapidly expanding their use of natural gas. (But coal is still growing too.) So lifting Joe Biden's stupid ban on further U.S. natural gas exports can come soon enough. Anyway, a few articles from energy analyst John Kemp:





And another look at long-term U.S. natural gas trends:



Item 2 - California deserves all the scorn it gets for holding up House election results
By NY Post Editorial Board
Published Nov. 16, 2024



Election workers in California were still processing ballots one full week after Election Day. Getty Images.

Yet again, California has America rolling its eyebrows: By midday Wednesday — *more than a week* after Election Day — it had still failed to count enough votes in six House races to determine winners.

That left open the question of which party, officially, would control the body.

Hey, bud, what's the rush? Seems to be Golden State officials' work ethic: In races for three of the seats, just a bit over 80% of the ballots had been counted.

In response to Cali's tardy vote-counts

TOKE ALONG WITH IT,
SEVER IT FROM THE UNION,
MOCK IT 'TIL IT REFORMS

In the other three, even *less* was in, with as little as 57% reported in the 13th Congressional District. At one point it seemed the next national elections would arrive before Cali's 2024 tallies were done.

What gives?

Hmm: California was among the first states to legalize weed, and lefty officials post-election might've sought comfort in it, given the GOP's run of victories nationwide.

Perhaps that slowed them down?

But the rest of the country needed to get on with its business.

That's why the 49 other states managed to complete vote counts in 377 of their 383 House races by that point.

Think about it: Before California had even *processed* tens of thousands of votes in key races, President-elect Donald Trump had already filled multiple major posts in the new administration, and Republicans had chosen a new Senate leader, John Thune of South Dakota.

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Nor can the state justify its lateness by claiming its laws require officials to accept mail-in ballots as late as a week after the election.

If voters are going to send in that many ballots at the last minute, and it takes a full week to reach election staffers, they might want to rethink that law.

To be sure, we're not pushing for a nationwide requirement for speedier vote-counting; every state has the right to make its own election rules — subject to the Constitution's requirement that their presidential electors meet on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday of December.

But Americans have an understandably strong desire — and need — to know results sooner.

The right answer:

- Heap scorn on the Golden State?
- Mock it for its ineptness?
- Ridicule it for its tardiness?

Californians' high rates of crime, drug-abuse, homelessness and public lawlessness, not to mention insane taxes, already have the nation looking on in shock and horror; do they really need more humiliation?

Florida cleaned up its act after becoming a national piñata for the way it handled the 2000 Bush-Gore election.

Item 3 - UK and NATO to meet as Putin vows to fire more hypersonic missiles. Story by Mark Nicol Defense Editor, London Daily Mail of November 23 , 2024

.NATO members including Britain are to hold crisis talks after Vladimir [Putin](#) pledged to fire more nuclear-capable missiles into Ukraine.

Meanwhile [Russia](#)'s top missile commander warned its latest 'unstoppable' weapon can strike targets throughout Europe.

Next week's emergency meeting will discuss the terrifying threat posed by the hypersonic rockets and fears that Ukraine's front line is on the brink of collapse.

Speaking last night, President Putin described Thursday's ballistic strike as 'successful' and said he would launch more in 'combat conditions'.

In a televised address, Putin boasted there was 'no countermeasure' to the Oreshnik missile due to its speed. It took just 15 minutes to travel from a launch site in northern Russia to its target in central Ukraine, at Mach 11, or more than 8,500mph.

The medium-range, or intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), struck an arms factory in Dnipro, causing damage.

Putin said: 'I will add, there is no means of intercepting it, in the world today. And I will emphasize once again that we will continue testing this newest system.' If Russia can mass produce the weapon, as Putin said it would do, it could force Ukraine to surrender – or draw NATO states deeper into the conflict.



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

WOKE IDEOLOGY IS NOT DEAD AND BURIED

BY FRANCIS X. MAIER



The Examination of a Witch (1853), depicting the trial of Quaker preacher Mary Fisher in 1656. Oil on canvas, 97.8 x 137 cm (38.5 x 53.9 in). Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

I spent the evening after November 5 on YouTube.

The site was full of time-compressed videos that tracked news media icons and Hollywood celebrities as election night wore on. The clips were mesmerizing. It was like watching a Carnival Cruise ship gradually sink. Passengers went from champagne to life jackets in just six hours. Jimmy Kimmel, Rachel Maddow, the always unpleasant Joy Reid, and so many others found themselves trapped in a Greek tragedy, with the bill for their jumbo helping of hubris suddenly due.

How did it happen? The reasons, as the emotionally battered luminaries said, were legion: misogyny, racism, and transphobia from America's uneducated, sex-reactionary masses. And the pain was made even worse by bitter treason on the part of Latinos, blacks, and women. Over at Fox News, the analysis was rather different: An elitist Democratic party had vastly misread the real needs of the public. And Trump Ascendant had well and truly crushed the woke left.

Others have danced on the grave of this year's Democratic party fiasco. The gloating will be brief; 2026 is right around the corner. And it's not my purpose here. My concern is religious. Those of us with normal lives to pursue, mouths to feed, and bills to pay might earnestly wish

woke ideology to be dead and buried. But like Nosferatu or a bad case of shingles, it will keep coming back, because—in its essence—it isn't a purely "political" creature at all.

Six decades ago, the political theorist Michael Walzer, himself a man of the left, described the Puritan zealotry of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries "as the earliest form," and effectively the primary model, "of [today's] political radicalism." In *The Revolution of the Saints*, he argued that

[The Puritan] saint [was] the first of those self-disciplined agents of social and political reconstruction who have appeared so frequently in modern history. He is the destroyer of an old order for which there is no need to be nostalgic. He is the builder of a repressive system which may well have to be endured before it can be escaped or transcended. He is, above all, an extraordinarily bold, inventive, and ruthless politician, as a man should be who has "great works" to perform, as a man perhaps must be, for "great works have great enemies."

Elsewhere in the same text he noted that

As in politics as in religion, the saints were oppositional men and their primary task was the destruction of traditional order. But they were committed after that to the literal reformation of human society, to the creation of a Holy Commonwealth in which conscientious activity would be encouraged and even required. The saints saw themselves as divine instruments and theirs was the politics of wreckers, architects, and builders—hard at work upon the political world. They refused to recognize any inherent or natural resistance to their labors. They treated every obstacle as another example of the devil's resourcefulness and they summoned all their energy, imagination, and craft to overcome it.

For anyone who's been alert over the past decade, some of the above should sound familiar. Woke thought is classically "religious" in the original sense of the Latin word *religare*, which means "to bind."

It's expansionary and immune to counterargument. In a weird mutation of Augustine's "I believe that I might understand," woke reasoning and programming bind themselves to a preceding set of beliefs that explain the world and amount to a kind of degraded Christianity. It's a faith without the irritating baggage of a personal God who judges our actions and demands love, mercy, and patience from his followers, not merely justice.

As a Columbia-born friend often reminds me, most of today's American left has no experience of real poverty or hunger, real political repression, or real civil violence—the kind that leaves a river of blood in the streets. We Americans live in a cocoon of comfort and security compared to most of the rest of the world. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow earns \$30 million a year for her progressive views. In effect, American radicalism on the left, especially in our cultural elite, is a performative faith, a kind of ongoing, immanent religious liturgy. It's bad First World theater produced by the pampered, the privileged, the intellectually extreme, and hangers-on unaware of the uglier ironies of recent history. Yet none of these flaws makes woke ideology and its faithful any less dangerous. Ideas have consequences. And bad ideas can be intensely resilient. Check the body count of the last century.

So here's the point: The return of Donald Trump may pump the brakes on some of the nastier momentum in our culture, but changing its basic direction is a much bigger, and arguably less likely, task. In other words, woke or one of its ideological variants will recover and be back. So how do we turn the culture around?

Well, maybe we can't. Maybe that's the wrong question. Problems we behaved ourselves into have no silver-bullet cure; no easy escape hatch. But we can at least change our thinking and our actions. Over the past year, I've read and reread the Epistle of James a dozen times, especially verse 1:22: "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." In my seventies, I realize I've skimmed over those words much of my life with a pious nod. And I know I'm not alone. I think too many of us who are Catholic have lied to ourselves too often over the last half-century about the kind of country we're becoming; about our laziness in going along with it; about our cowardice in not resisting it more effectively.

We can't go back to change that. But we can bind ourselves to the religion of truth and life. We can start to be the kind of leaven in our culture that the Word of God calls us to be. We can support each other as friends, to save the good that can be saved, and to build something new and better over time. We can do the right thing despite the cost.

It's a generational task. But we can start today. And it's the only kind of revolution that might really, one day, change the world.

*Francis X. Maier, a senior fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, is the author of True Confessions: Voices of Faith from a Life in the Church (Ignatius). This article appeared in the November 19, edition of *First Things**

**THE TWO AMERICAN NATIONS
NOT SINCE THE CIVIL WAR HAVE SUCH STARK
DIFFERENCES AMONG THE PLURIBUS THREATENED
THE AMERICAN UNUM
BY BRUCE THORNTON**

In 1845, British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli published *Sybil, or The Two Nations*, a literary exposition of the social and economic changes that followed the industrial revolution, especially the travails and squalor of the urban working class set off against the aristocracy— or “the rich and the poor.”

These two classes, as one character famously describes them, comprise “Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, are fed by a different food, are ordered by different manners, and are not governed by the same laws.”

The political polarization graphically on display during the recent presidential election season— particularly the unhinged hysteria of the “woke” Democrats after Trump's victory —calls to mind

Disraeli's influential novel, for it captures our country's great divide between not just the economic classes and political ideologies, but also mores, morals, values, tastes, cultures, and sensibilities. Not since the Civil War have such stark differences among the pluribus threatened the American unum.

America, of course, has always been divided by its complex diversity of ethnicities, languages, dialects, manners, customs, faiths, beliefs, cultures, and numerous other defining folkways. Our Constitutional structures are the Framers' response to that contentious diversity: the Bill of Rights to protect diverse citizens, federalism to protect the diverse states, and a tripartite national government divided and mutually balanced to protect our freedom from the tyranny of any concentrated power attempting to dominate everybody else.

Starting in the later 19th century, for a while, new technologies both of communication such as radio, movies, and television; and of transportation like railroads, automobiles, and airplanes, distributed regional and ethnic cultures across the nation through entertainment, magazines, and tourism. Also, consumer capitalism and mass advertising more widely sold products and fashions that now became the tokens of identity in the homogenizing of America's regional cultures, and the weakening of all those myriad ethnicities and their distinctive folkways accelerated this process.

Another change that contributed to the refashioning of identities was the postwar expansion and availability of higher education to a more diverse citizenry. Moreover, by the Sixties, colleges and universities were more liberal and left-wing than the nation as a whole, making a college education another marker of identity as well as social status. The influence of the left increasingly made political affiliations signs of elite status too, one with its own tastes and fashions in entertainment, clothes, travel, cuisines, and especially more liberal and hedonistic habits and behavior regarding sex and drugs.

By the Seventies, our "two nations" and their identities were easily recognizable as the major source of divisiveness. One nation was still churchgoing, traditionalist, patriotic, and conservative, the "moral majority" that could be identified by their vehicles, pastimes, clothes, values, morals, and, most significantly, their political opinions and preferences that opposed the expansion of the welfare state and its erosion of character and families, as well as crime and urban squalor that followed.

The other nation comprised those who fancied themselves the "cognitive elite," "progressives," the "counterculture," "brights," the "woke," and globalist "citizens of the world." This "new class," as jurist Robert Bork called it, "followed the science" and trusted in credentialed "experts" rather than the Constitution. They dismissed religion as a Marxist "opioid" or Freudian "illusion," and scorned patriotism as xenophobic, if not racist. Both faith and love of country—like traditional mores, virtues, and morals—were actually, the left claimed, capitalist lies and ruses for keeping the unenlightened, philistine rubes docile and submissive to the plutocrat capitalists' control.

This increasing endorsement of technocratic inclinations was a consequence of the rise of Progressivism during the early 20th century. A major goal of that movement was to rewrite the Constitution to eliminate or weaken its guardrails protecting our rights and freedom from the

tyranny of a minority of technocrats who want a centralized concentration of powers unaccountable to the citizens.

From Woodrow Wilson's to Joe Biden's administrations, progressive assaults on the Constitution have steadily proliferated and found its home among Democrats, who don't believe ordinary Americans are capable of self-government. Instead, like their Progressive forbearers, they want so-called "experts" armed with "science" to control the government rather than the citizens, whom the Constitution has given the means to hold leaders accountable. We saw how well the technocracy worked during the Covid crisis, when politicized protocols and policies like lockdowns, "social distancing," and masks did more harm rather than good.

This Progressive anti-Constitutionalism, blended with old-fashioned class snobbery and arrogance, has made for a toxic political brew that was obvious in the Dems' and NeverTrump Republican establishment's scorched-earth attack on Donald Trump starting in 2016. Trump's election by "bitter clingers" and the "deplorable" canaille —cartoonish caricatures of people whom neither Obama nor Hillary Clinton had any actual experience of— was a grievous affront to the progressives' inflated egos and preening self-regard.

The divide has widened even more this election season, and the Dems' lunatic reactions are more intense than in 2016. Indeed, the woke lefts, to paraphrase Disraeli, are as "ignorant of [conservatives'] habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets."

We have seen this dismissive prejudice recently in the Dems' reaction to Trump's pick for Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth. A graduate of Princeton and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a decorated veteran who served in Cuba, Baghdad, and Samara, and experienced combat in Afghanistan, Hegseth has been excoriated for his lack of DC administrative experience.

But as the Wall Street Journal pointed out, "He could hardly do worse than the so-called adults in the room of recent years. The armed services can't make their recruiting quotas, America's military industrial base has been exposed as inadequate with little protest from Pentagon leaders, and no one in the civilian or military ranks was held accountable for the Afghanistan debacle.]"

Hegseth's real offense, however is being a conservative who works for FOX News, and an outspoken critic of the progressive "woke" establishment and its "managerial elites" long record of foreign policy failures, and the current degradation of our military. The bipartisan guild of technocrats or "perfumed princes of the Pentagon," as David Hackett put it, vehemently dislike Hegseth because he, like Trump, isn't one of the agency clerks climbing the bureaucratic greasy pole of promotion and retirement to the lucrative corporate boards of the "military-industrial complex."

What's remarkable about this whole state of affairs is that the Democrats, in their arrogant conviction of class and cognitive superiority over Republicans, obviously didn't learn anything from 2016 after Trump's trouncing of establishment Republicans in the primaries, and his shocking defeat of consummate insider Hillary Clinton. As The Wall Street Journal's Gerard

Baker wrote recently, the legacy media “discovered they knew as much about their country as they did about North Korea.”

“So,” Baker continues, “like 19th-century anthropologists venturing into the undiscovered interior of Africa, passels of metrosexual journalists sallied forth into Flyover Country. They sat down—warily, we can assume—in diners and bowling alleys with people who had never even been to Harvard or eaten a slice of avocado toast. They listened in rising amazement as men and women without either gym memberships or nannies from Guatemala talked about God, the importance of national borders and something called patriotism.

What did they learn? Eight years later, we can now hazard a guess. From how many of them reported on the 2024 election it seems they concluded that these people were fascists or semifascists with reactionary views about race, sex and everything else, ready to vote for a fascist presidential candidate.”

For anyone who has spent time in professions dominated by cognitive elite leftists and progressives, Baker’s satire brilliantly captures the haughty arrogance and superior airs of the cognitive and economic elite, who try to camouflage their privilege by morally preening about their championing “social justice” and DEI policies that patronize the “victims” of callous and selfish conservatives.

Finally, these two “nations” are not morally equivalent. The core of the radical difference is the Democrats’ long embrace of progressive anti-Constitutionalism, and willingness to degrade as well the Bill of Rights and other obstacles to tyranny. One “nation” is the champion of freedom and the Constitution; the other comprises the agents of a “fundamental transformation” of our founding charter that guarantees our Constitutional rights and freedoms. For now, it seems that we the people have chosen the nation of freedom.

Bruce S. Thornton is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, an emeritus professor of classics and humanities at California State University, Fresno, and a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. His latest book is Democracy’s Dangers and Discontents: The Tyranny of the Majority from the Greeks to Obama. Front Page Magazine , November 20, 2024.

**THE TRUMP COUNTERREVOLUTION
IS A RETURN TO SANITY
THE TRUMP COUNTERREVOLUTION CHALLENGES
ENTRENCHED ELITES, BUREAUCRACIES, AND PROGRESSIVE
IDEOLOGIES IN FAVOR OF RESTORING TRADITIONAL
VALUES, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, AND NATIONAL
IDENTITY
BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

We are witnessing a historic counterrevolution after Trump’s victory, far different from his first election in 2016.

The orthodox and the supposed scripted future are now suspect. And they are likely to be dethroned—from the trivial to the existential.

Critics claim Trump has no mandate to stage such a counterrevolution. They argue that he did not win 51 percent of the popular vote or achieve a Reaganesque landslide in the Electoral College.

Yet all the initiatives he advanced and won on polled landslide public approval.

Despite being the target of Democrat lawfare for years, a defiant Trump promised to end an open border, massive illegal immigration, rising crime, and soaring prices. He pledged to slash government and its administrative state, terminate racial and gender identity politics, and restore deterrence abroad.

The people overwhelmingly wanted those messages but were waiting for an unorthodox messenger who would actually deliver them.

The Trump messenger reassured weary citizens that they were not crazy.

Instead, they had good cause to be sick of being talked down to by a media, academic, bureaucratic, and political elite that never earned nor deserved such self-appointed status.

The FBI, the CIA, and the DOJ, not the massive crowds at rallies, were the ones truly out of control.

President Joe Biden was really suffering from dementia, not those who said he was.

Criminals with weapons are as deleterious to society as law-abiding citizens deprived of them.

It is not a thought crime to believe there are two sexes—not three or four or more. No one should be forced to buy an electric vehicle, disconnect their natural gas stove, or submit to racial or gender indoctrination sessions.

Americans should speak their minds and write what they wish without worry of being censored, blacklisted, ostracized, doxxed, or shadow-banned—or jailed.

Campuses are not oases of tolerance, disinterested inquiry, and free expression.

They instead increasingly became overpriced indoctrination centers that shred the Constitution and graduate indebted students who know less—but are far more biased—than when they enrolled.

Trump and his MAGA appointees promise to slash over a trillion dollars from the annual federal budget, disbanding entire agencies.

Is the objection that an ever-expanding government—\$37 trillion in debt, running nearly \$2 trillion in annual deficits—should keep growing?

Trump pledges to reform the Pentagon—ending DEI Pentagon commissars and revolving-door corporate generalship.

He vows to hold the 4-star class responsible for the catastrophe in Afghanistan and to reenlist soldiers who were driven out due to draconian vaccination mandates or woke intolerance. Trump envisions changing the entire system of military procurement.

Does the status quo object on the grounds that our military leadership has been winning our wars abroad?

Is the Pentagon currently awash in eager recruits?

Has it stockpiled a huge surplus of shells, bombs, and rockets?

Trump promises historic deportations of the 12 million who destroyed the southern border and surged in without health or criminal audits.

Trump vows to rescue swamped social services and stop crimes by illegal alien felons.

Is that really worse than the Biden administration's original massive importation of millions of illegal aliens, empowered by drug-importing and sex-trafficking cartels?

Who are the culpable? Those flagrantly mocking and breaking the law, or those vowing to enforce it?

Trump says he will deter enemies without bogging America down in “endless wars”—and did just that in his first four years as president.

Is the current alternative preferable to convincing enemies that there are few consequences to their aggression, sandbagging allies like Israel, or feeding the war in Ukraine without any plan of either winning or ending it?

The Trump revolution is also cultural and social. Shared class interests have replaced race, ethnicity, and gender chauvinism.

Athletes of all races are no longer taking a knee in protest of America's supposed systemic racism during the national anthem. Sometimes they celebrate their scoring by doing honorific Trump YMCA/golf-swing dances on national television.

Enlistments to help craft the Trump counterrevolution are not always predicated on degrees, conventional resumes, or past lengthy government service. Race and gender do not determine qualifications alone. Nor does class.

Common sense, successful lives outside of government, and a desire to end the current nonsense count instead as better prerequisites.

For Trump, party identification, titles, and traditional prestige matter less as he is surrounded by an ideologically diverse cadre including Elon Musk, Robert Kennedy, Jr., Dana White, Tulsi Gabbard, and Joe Rogan.

The country no longer must apologize incessantly for its past or present but can move on—content that it need not be perfect to be better than all the alternatives.

The age of flashing pronouns, renaming iconic landmarks, statue toppling, trashing the dead, vandalizing with impunity the campus library, or spouting anti-Semitic venom is passing.

So, another name for the Trump counterrevolution is a simple return to sanity.

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, and is the 2023 Giles O'Malley Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush, and the Bradley Prize in 2008. Hanson is also a farmer (growing almonds on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author of the just released New York Times best seller, The End of Everything: How Wars Descend into Annihilation, published by Basic Books on May 7, 2024, as well as the recent The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, The Case for Trump, and The Dying Citizen. This article first appeared in the American Greatness of November 21, 2024.



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