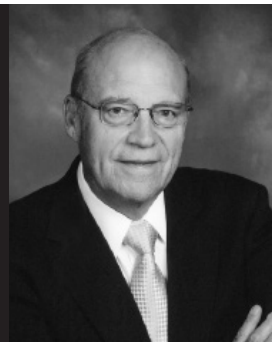




Dr. Fred Schwarz

# The Schwarz Report



Dr. David Noebel

Volume 59, Number 2

February 2019

## John Lennon's Imagine

by Stu Tarlowe

I've just heard it announced that one of the "highlights" of the New Year's Eve celebration in NYC's Times Square will be a performance of John Lennon's "Imagine," this time by one Bebe Rexha. I'll admit to being "culturally deprived"; I've never heard of that person. And it turns out that "Imagine" has been performed at other Times Square New Year's Eve celebrations since 2005 (2012 and 2016, for example, by other performers of whom I'd never heard), with videos of the crowds enthusiastically waving their arms and singing along.

Now, I'm a big fan of The Beatles, and I happen to think John Lennon was a musical genius, and I'm still sad and angry at his having been murdered in front of his home on Central Park West in December of 1980. And I've even visited "Strawberry Fields," the shrine to him just inside Central Park from the spot where he was gunned down.

And I think "Imagine" is a great song, musically speaking. Content-wise, I'm not that crazy about it. For anyone unfamiliar with the lyrics, they are as follows:

Imagine there's no heaven // It's easy if you try  
No hell below us // Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people living for today  
Imagine there's no countries // It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for // And no religion too  
Imagine all the people living life in peace  
You may say I'm a dreamer // But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us // And the world will be as one  
Imagine no possessions // I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger // A brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people sharing all the world  
You may say I'm a dreamer // But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us // And the world will be as one.

That second verse in particular seems to advocate for not only "open borders," but an end to national sovereignty and patriotism, and for an end to religion as well.

And, in general, the song seems to be right in line with the globalist, "one-world" Marxist agenda that has lately seemed to be far less shy about showing itself.

Lennon even admitted that the song was "virtually the Communist Manifesto" set to music, although he claimed to not be "*particularly* a Communist," nor to "belong to any movement." While he (rather naively, I think) stated that "There is no real Communist state in the world," he did advocate for a "British Socialism." He admitted that the song is "anti-religious, anti-nationalistic, anti-conventional, anti-capitalistic, but because it is sugarcoated it is accepted." As to its anti-religious aspect, the late highly assertive atheist Richard Dawkins called the song an "atheist anthem!"

Clearly, the 1971 song's message is in large part a reflection of the politics of Yoko Ono, now listed as a co-writer of the lyrics (and thought by many to be the force that ruined The Beatles). Lennon's 1968 "Revolution" stands in contrast, with lyrics that can resonate with conservatives, like:

You say you'll change the constitution  
Well you know

We'd all love to change your head  
 You tell me it's the institution  
 Well you know  
 You better free your mind instead  
 But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao  
 You ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow  
 But it won't be "Revolution" with which 1,000,000-  
 plus people (some estimate the number in attendance  
 at 2,000,000) will be singing along in Times Square on  
 Monday night. Instead, it'll be "imagine there's no coun-  
 tries..." If there are no countries, then there's no need to  
 get all exercised over people sneaking across a border, is  
 there? In fact, there's no need for borders.

It'll be a big event in NYC, and on the Left Coast,  
 and for the networks that cover it, and for the Democrat  
 leadership, for everyone who opposes building a wall to  
 secure our southern border, for everyone who thinks na-  
 tionalism and patriotism are bad things, and for the pro-  
 paganda masters who determine the political messages  
 we get from "entertainment."

But I don't think it'll be that big a deal in "flyover  
 country."

—*American Thinker*, December 29, 2018

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## Tim McGraw's Cuba

by Humberto Fontova

Don't get me wrong, amigos. The "mainstream me-  
 dia" does not label gun-control-loving Tim McGraw's  
 upcoming tour in the same manner as does this column.  
 Instead we read stuff like this:

Tim McGraw to perform in [totalitarian] Cuba—  
 McGraw's 2019 Memorial Day Weekend trek,  
 dubbed "One of Those *Havana* Nights."...The Mc-  
 Graw trip offers lodging in ocean-view rooms at [to-  
 talitarian] Havana's upscale Meliá Hotel, where a box  
 of cigars and a bottle of rum will await each traveler.  
 The all-inclusive tour is designed to make foreigners'  
 typical Havana dreams come true, featuring a ride  
 around [totalitarian] Havana in a classic American  
 convertible, a rumba party, and the chance to "Walk  
 in the footsteps of Hemingway and Obama!" in Old  
 [totalitarian] Havana....Prices range from \$2,999 to  
 \$5,799 for the four days (May 24-27), which does  
 include airfare, [totalitarian] Cuban visas, taxis, and  
 other incidentals.

I apologize for spending time clarifying this issue,

amigos. But there was a day when most Americans un-  
 derstood what the term "totalitarian" meant. Indeed, the  
 longest-reigning totalitarian dictator in modern history  
 himself explained the issue: "*Inside the Revolution (re-  
 gime), everything—outside, nothing.*" (Fidel Castro, July  
 16, 1961.) Like with so many others, Castro copped this  
 line from Benito Mussolini.

Despite all the poppycock propaganda from the Fake  
 News Media about "reforms" in Cuba, Raul Castro's son  
 Alejandro (a fanatical Stalinist and KGB-trained Colo-  
 nel in Cuba's Secret police) actually runs Cuba from be-  
 hind the scenes.

In fact, when Trump-hating CIA director Brennan  
 secretly traveled to Cuba in 2015 to do some advance  
 work to help facilitate Obama's whimpering surren-  
 der—called "opening" by the Fake News Media—to the  
 Castro-Family Crime-Syndicate (called "Cuba" by the  
 Fake News Media), the man he met with was Alejandro  
 Castro.

You see, amigos: Cuba's entire economic infrastruc-  
 ture, and especially the tourism industry infrastructure,  
 is majority-owned—not only by the Stalinist regime's  
 military and secret police sectors (the only people in  
 Cuba with guns, in case you'd forgotten)—but more spe-  
 cifically by the Castro family itself.

In a presentation a few years ago at a hearing by the  
 House Foreign Affairs Committee debating travel to  
 Cuba by US citizens, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher  
 Simmons, a recently retired Defense Intelligence Agency  
 Cuba specialist, explained the issue in detail. He showed  
 how through a corporation named GAESA, Raul Cas-  
 tro's military owns virtually every corporation involved  
 in Cuba's tourism industry, among the Stalinist regime's  
 top money-makers lately.

And as GAESA's chief executive officer we find  
 none other than Raul Castro's very son-in-law Maj. Luis  
 Alberto Rodriguez Lopez-Callejas.

In fact, McGraw's Cuba tour, with a business part-  
 nership with the Castro family, would have been un-  
 thinkable when Soviet subsidies kept Cuba afloat; and  
 when American music in all its forms, from rock to jazz  
 to country, was viciously denounced by regime propa-  
 ganda as "imperialist!"

Obviously things have changed, and here's why: take  
 as an illustration, a millennial Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
 supporter who lives in his divorced mother's basement  
 room. Say his mother, finally tired of his sloth and stu-  
 pidity, cut off his allowance and booted him from her  
 basement. So he moves in with his father, who provided

the new room, board, and allowance. Chances are that the Ocasio-Cortez supporter would suddenly find a way to extol the virtues of his father and forget all the horrible things he said about him while eagerly agreeing with his mother when he encountered her while raiding the refrigerator or asking for her car keys. Don't you think? Alas, the son's sloth and stupidity would probably remain unchanged.

Well, think of the Castro regime as that Ocasio-Cortez supporter. Back in the early 1990's his mother (Russia) finally tired of the arrangement and booted him into the street, so to speak.

So now Cuba lives with his father (tourism), while retaining essentially all of his disgusting habits. Living with this new provider requires that Cuba slightly change his "tune"—and slightly modify his behavior—but really nothing major, nothing of substance. "What's a little lip-service in exchange for room, board, and my uninterrupted Wi-Fi?" the Ocasio-Cortez supporter snickers.

In brief, the Castro regime briefly "hooked-up" with Tim McGraw for the simple expedience of filling its coffers with millions more in tourist money, one of its major financial lifelines nowadays. In the meantime, Castro's subjects—while allowed to boot-scoot-n-boogie a bit—essentially remain the impoverished and oppressed subjects of a totalitarian regime.

An OH!...almost forgot! As billed, Tim McGraw's Cuba tour also offers that "Walk in the footsteps of Hemingway and Obama in Old Havana."

"Castro's revolution is very pure and beautiful," Hemingway wrote in 1960, "I'm encouraged by it. The Cuban people now have a decent chance for the first time. The people getting shot all deserve it."

But in fact, I doubt seriously that McGraw's tour facilitators will arrange the exact footsteps that Ernest Hemingway walked in old Havana. Because you see, amigos, those steps often took charming old "Papa" Hemingway (also a failed KGB agent) to a ringside seat to watch and gloat during the Castro brothers' and Che Guevara's firing squad murder marathons.

—*FrontPageMag.com*, December 29, 2018

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## Steven Hayward on Justice

by Monica Showalter

We probably think of Power Line's Steven Hayward as a first-rate writer at first glance, but he's got this other side and it's a doozy: He's a distinguished law professor who gets awards and gives special-event lectures for his accomplishments at universities. He's done quite a few.

I got the opportunity to hear him speak at the University of San Diego last night, as the featured guest at the Bowes-Madison Distinguished Speaker series, and his speech called "Justice without hyphens" offered amazing insights on the persistence of the left and its grip on America's cultural institutions.

For the left, there's no such thing as justice, or justice-justice, but just the lefty "intersectional" variants of it as they define it. Here's how he laid it out:

Why is the essential noun "justice" so often accompanied by a modifier, or a hyphen, today? We have social justice, environmental justice and climate justice, racial justice, feminist justice, gender justice, even spatial justice, and more. Why this conspicuous rise of contingent justice? Whatever happened to simple "justice" without a modifier?

Good question, no? He went into such topics such as post-modernism, (which has wrecked the humanities and arts), political correctness and identity politics, and the persistence of communism in academia despite its failed record.

Many of Hayward's ideas were derived from his latest book, *Patriotism is Not Enough*, published last year and set to come out in a paperback edition this year. I'm certainly getting it.

He pointed out that postmodernism was a muddled word, and began with the irony of how the left and the right seemed to have changed places. Back in the 1950s, the left championed free speech and academic ideas, today it's the right that does that. Same deal with democracy or constitutional government, customs, individualism, even the Enlightenment. The left has problems with all of those concepts, likely because they no longer support the concept of using reason. Hayward explained:

"Who could be against reason, science, humanism, and progress?," Pinker asks. "[C]ounter-Enlightenment ideas continues to be found across a surprising range of elite cultural and intellectual movements." Needless to say most of these elite movements are dominated by the left.

And the most important or influential of these is postmodernism.

Pinker: “[T]he postmodernist credo [is] that reason is a pretext to exert power, reality is socially constructed, and all statements are trapped in a web of self-reference and collapse into paradox.”

Sound like some academia places you know? They’re always yelling about power structures, when it’s they themselves who have all the power. And they insist objectivity is for the birds, all that matters is how they feel about such things. No wonder they have problems with guys like Voltaire and Washington and Burke, so he explained, much more elegantly, I’ll add. He said this:

If objectivity is impossible, if language is subjective or corrupt or determined purely by power-relations, if common deliberation is actually not possible, then it raises a stark question: Why exactly are we having this conversation? More importantly, how are we having this conversation?

The radical skepticism of critical theory should be contrasted with oldfashioned Socratic skepticism. Socratic skepticism begins with the famous axiom, “I know that I know nothing,” which is meant to indicate a complete openness to being, a quest that begins always with the question, “What is. . .” about everything.

Postmodern skepticism evinces the exact opposite: I know that nothing can be known. Few postmodern thinkers say this very directly or necessarily think this explicitly, but when you try to take in the layer upon layer of the complications critical theorists lay down in the path to understanding anything, it amounts to the same thing.

They love themselves some relativism. Higher education bubble, anyone? He sums up the problem here:

Is it possible to get to the heart of the matter, and grasp in simple terms why it is so difficult to apprehend and comprehend objective reality? If objective reality is impossible to apprehend, what takes the place of objectivity as the ground of moral and political judgment? The answer is historicism. Here we come to the crux of the matter, and the most relevant point, which is that historicism is the background noise, the intellectual muzak of our time, even among people who aren’t radical postmodernists. The point is: our everchanging historical circumstances are so powerful and overwhelming that we simply cannot penetrate to the real mysteries of being.

He continues here:

Every generation will apply its own context to all ideas and classic works of the past. Tradition of any kind has no standing. [This goes a long way toward explaining the death of the humanities in our time. Why then do they matter? If there is nothing of real or lasting value to be learned from old books and once-great authors so long as they are merely a mirror to our own thoughts and prejudices, why bother with all that reading?]

Now the lefty world is starting to make sense.

The core philosophical question of conservatism is finding the unchanging ground of changing experience. Postmodernism says there is no unchanging ground: nothing is permanent.

This is a variation of Russell Kirk’s first great principle of conservatism, which he describes as the view that there is a transcendent moral order of the universe.

What does that mean? Although Edmund Burke argued that humans are fundamentally religious beings, the proposition that there is a transcendent moral order of the universe does not mean that everyone must believe in God, still less that everyone must profess a sectarian religion or even that religion must or should be the authoritative source for our opinions.

It means that there is a real structure or order to existence, and especially human existence. But a complete understanding of the wholeness of existence is inherently impossible to achieve—that’s what is meant by any understanding of “transcendence.” It requires an openness to metaphysics, which is partially beyond the grasp of pure reason. The mysteries of the physical universe, the subject of intense interest in advanced physics today, is matched by the mysteries of the human social universe. The conservative tradition has long pointed to the natural law as the embodiment of both the difficulties and provisional solutions to this mystery, starting with the fact that there is such a thing as human nature though it would take an entire separate lecture to begin to lay out this rich teaching. But the essential conservative truth is perhaps best expressed by the old line of the Roman poet Horace: You can expel nature with a pitchfork, but it will come back at you through the window. Postmodernists or their epigones are the wielders of intellectual pitchforks, making war on human nature, trying to close the window against a return.



Hayward had many more insights drawn from a deep well of law, the meanings of words, philosophy and the arts, distilled clearly and precisely. I always knew that many lawyers were good writers, (a lawyer pal at Columbia j-school pointed that out to me) but it's that very fealty to words and their meaning which is why law can be practiced at all in the Western world. When words lose their meaning, law itself becomes mush, which is just what lefties appear to like.

For more on why the left seems to have such a cultural upper hand, a look at Hayward's book sounds like just the thing.

—*American Thinker*, November 14, 2018

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## Climate Change Changing— Part I

by Jay Lehr

For three decades, global warming alarmists have harassed society with stories of gloom and doom as a result of the carbon dioxide emitted into the air by the burning of fossil fuel. They are exercising precisely what prominent writer H.L. Mencken described as “the whole point of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed and hence clamorous to be led to safety by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.”

In fact, the man-caused global warming or climate change panic may well be the best hobgoblin ever conceived. It has half the world clamoring to be led to safety from climate change without a shred of physical evidence. Every single statement issued to support these fearmongering claims presented in a new 1,500-page report from 13 separate agencies of the federal government by 300 Obama-appointed scientists, has no basis in physical measurements or observations.

What they do have are mathematical equations considered to be models of the Earth's climate. However, they have only a handful of the hundreds of variables that impact climate and the numbers inserted for the arbitrarily selected variables are little more than guesses. Unfortunately, the US government has financed more than one hundred efforts to model our climate for the better part of three decades, with none coming close to actual results.

The problem real scientists who study climate—not

those paid for bias—face, is that the public has no clue what a mathematical model actually is, how it works, and what they can and cannot do. Let's simplify the subject and enlighten all Americans, and the rest of the world's population as well.

There are many ways in which things or systems can be described. Before we build buildings or airplanes, we make physical small-scale models and test them against the stress and performances that will be required of them when they are actually built. When dealing with systems that are totally beyond our control we try and describe them with computer programs or mathematical equations that we hope may give answers to the questions we have about the system today and in the future. Historically, mathematical descriptions of such systems were used to better understand how the system might work. We would attempt to understand the variables that affect the outcomes of the system. Then we would alter the variables and see how the outcomes are altered. This is called sensitivity testing, the very best use of mathematical models.

Throughout our history, we were never foolish enough to make economic decisions based on predictions calculated from equations we *think* might dictate how nature works. My first introduction to using math to try and understand nature occurred almost 60 years ago when I was performing graduate work on contaminated fluid transport in subsurface rocks. It was fun and instructive but was never intended to serve as a crystal ball for the future. However, that is exactly what the well-paid math modelers throughout the academic world now claim they can do.

All problems can be viewed as having three stages, observation, modeling, and prediction. Perhaps the most active area for mathematical modeling is the economy and the stock market. No one has ever succeeded in getting it right and there are far fewer variables than occur in determining the climate of our planet.

For many years, the *Wall Street Journal* selected five eminent economic analysts to select a stock they were sure would rise in the following month. Then, they had chimpanzees throw five darts at a wall covered with that day's stock-market results. A month later they determined who did better choosing winners, the analysts or the chimpanzees. In a majority of years, the chimps won.

I am not saying that today's mathematical modelers would not beat chimps throwing darts at future Earth temperatures, but I will not object if you reach that conclusion. Their predictions for the past 20 years could just as well have been reached with darts because they have

all been wrong.

Consider the following: we do not know all the variables but we are quite sure they are likely in the hundreds. We know how very few work. Clouds must play a significant role in the planet's climate and we do not even know how they work. Yet today's modelers believe they can tell you the planet's climate decades or even a century in the future and want to manage the economy accordingly. Either they are crazy to think this or we are crazy to believe them. I suspect both to be true.

Dr. Willie Soon of the Harvard-Smithsonian astrophysics laboratory once calculated that if we could know all the variables affecting climate and plugged them into the world's largest computer, it would take 40 years to reach a conclusive answer.

Should we waste a single brain cell even considering the doomsday predictions that 300 scientists working in 13 government agencies all hired by President Obama are telling us we must all plan for? The answer is obviously no. And we should all go back to preparing for a wonderful winter holiday.

—*American Thinker*, December 7, 2018

To make the argument more convincing, the proponents of climate change insist that the majority of the scientific community—they call it “scientific consensus”—supports global warming. This is a fallacious argument that the Romans called *argumentum ad populum* (appeal to the people) or *argumentum ad numerum* (appeal to the number). Furthermore, the “majority argument” is totally irrelevant because scientific disputes are not settled by majority consent. The majority once believed that the Sun revolves around the Earth; the atom could not be cracked and so on, and has been proven wrong throughout history.

In the mid-1970s, the majority supported global cooling with the same vigor and urgency as they support global warming today. The cover of the April 28, 1975, issue of *Newsweek* proclaimed “The Coming Ice Age.” In the article “The Cooling World,” the magazine suggested the disasters similar to those predicted in the government report. In the June 24, 1974, issue of *Time* magazine, the article “Another Ice Age” painted a bleak picture for the future of our planet: “When meteorologists take an average of temperatures around the globe, they find that the atmosphere has been growing gradually cooler for the past three decades. *The trend shows no indication of reversing (emphasis mine).*”

There was also the “scientific” theory of “acid rain” propagated during the 1970s and 1980s that was supposed to be destroying the forests and poisoning our lakes and rivers unless we closed down coal-fired power plants. Acid rain was also blamed on CO2. Sounds familiar? Aren't we happy that President Reagan was wise enough not to take that nonsense seriously?

However, what “the majority” of the climate scientists so authoritatively predicted and the media so loudly blared in the 1970s-1980s never came to pass and proved to be a hoax.

Never mind; if not cooling, there must be warming. As long as there is a climate, there is a change; as long as there is a change, there must be a crisis. Not to let a crisis “go to waste,” the same scientists and publications that have been so demonstrably wrong in the past now advocate global warming.

Since Galileo's time, ideology has been trying to overtake science and it often has. It may just be human

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## Climate Change Changing— Part II

by Alexander G. Markovskiy

George Bernard Shaw so aptly wrote, “The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.”

There couldn't be a better description of a newly released climate-change report compiled by 13 federal agencies. The report blames human activities and emission of CO2 for the rise in temperature and warns that it will hurt the US economy and lead to thousands of deaths. Apparently, “Apocalypse Now” is threatening a host of calamities, and we should blow trillions of dollars to save the planet. Haven't we heard this song before?

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at [www.schwarzreport.org](http://www.schwarzreport.org). Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is [www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com](http://www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com).

nature to want to acquire wisdom from prophets rather than bother with facts and scientific analysis—however satisfying—is a poetry of dreams.

Here is the prose of reality; there is no compelling evidence to suggest that the source of climate change is man-made. There are other persuasive causes such as the Sun’s activity and the Earth’s reflectivity, could affect temperatures on this planet.

As the argument goes, if the United States would replace internal combustion engines with batteries and shut down oil refineries and coal-fired power plants, we would save the planet. There is a reason they keep emphasizing the United States. Other countries, especially the major polluters such as Russia, China, and Eastern Europe, have no intention of following this destructive path. Every single week of the year, China brings into service a new, large coal-fired plant that has practically no environmental controls and subsequently contributes to 30 percent of the air pollution in Los Angeles. By taking this position, the supporters of global warming have demonstrated that they selectively collect, analyze, and utilize scientific data to support their ideological position. Otherwise, they might have found that the theory of global warming is full of holes.

It has been well documented that the collapse of the Old Kingdom in Egypt and the Akkadian Empire in Mesopotamia around 2200 B.C. was brought about by a catastrophic rise in temperatures and subsequent droughts. At the same time, the European continent was being subjected to a prolonged ice age. The supporters of Global Warming might also be surprised to learn that the Romans grew grapes in northern England. Hence, temperatures on this planet were a lot higher then. Given the level of erudition of the advocates of global warming and some of our elected officials, we should wonder whether they are aware that neither the Bronze Age civilizations nor the Romans had cars, oil refineries, or coal-fired power plants.

Recent fires in Southern California demonstrated that Mother Nature can produce in several days more greenhouse gases than all the cars in the region in a whole year. California’s yearly fires have been known since the Spanish conquistadors first visited it in 1542. If we add volcanoes spitting into the air millions of tons of CO2 every year for millions of years, then according to the proponents’ theory, we should already be living on small islands surrounded by an ocean of melted Arctic ice.

Moreover, the supporters might be amazed to learn that only 0.04 percent of Earth’s atmosphere is carbon

dioxide, which is part of the air we breathe. Plants make themselves from it and, as every sixth-grader in China or Russia knows, by way of photosynthesis they produce oxygen. Therefore, if not for CO2 there would not be O2 and subsequently no life on Earth.

There is no solid evidence CO2 is having an impact on the Earth’s temperature one way or the other and no amount of scientific falsehood can make it so.

The inconvenient truth is that the climate change movement has nothing to do with climate and everything with making money, ideology, and degrading America’s industrial capabilities.

Climate change, whether warming or cooling, justifies the unlimited expenditure, strangles oil and gas production and coal mining, and places power generation under tight government control. It also makes charlatans like Al Gore very rich through exchanges of greenhouse gas emissions. Like medieval priests, modern swindlers sell indulgences that forgive carbon sins making money literally out of thin air, by underwriting the sale of “carbon credits” that industries, utilities, and other entities must purchase for the “right” to operate facilities that produce industrial emissions.

If the climate change alarmists were really concerned about CO2 emissions they would be advocating planting more trees. President Trump, just as Ronald Reagan, should not take the current hysteria seriously.

—*American Thinker*, December 29, 2018

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## The New York Times

by Lloyd Billingsley

“I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration,” headlined the September 5 op-ed in the *New York Times*. As the subhead explained, “I work for the president but like-minded colleagues and I have vowed to thwart parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations.”

For the unnamed author, “the bigger concern is not what Mr. Trump has done to the presidency but rather what we as a nation have allowed him to do to us. We have sunk low with him and allowed our discourse to be stripped of civility.” The walk-off urges readers to heed the words of John McCain and “break free of the tribalism trap, with the high aim of uniting through our shared



values and love of this great nation.”

The next day, a CNN story said the op-ed portrayed the president as weak, played to his paranoia, and was “designed” to make Trump lash out on Twitter. It was “written by someone who works for him,” but CNN did not reveal the author’s identity. As CNN observed a month later, “a move to clean house never occurred,” and “the author’s identity is still a mystery.”

The anonymous op-ed may have been designed by a team of like-minded colleagues at the *New York Times*, a publication with a long history of prodigious fakery. Consider, for example, *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair, who plagiarized other writers and fabricated stories.

In an October 30, 2002 piece, Blair said Beltway sniper John Muhammad was about to confess and named lawyers who were not present as having witnessed his interrogation. The following March, Blair described a videotape of Muhammad’s accomplice Lee Malvo and quoted officials who had reviewed it. The tape did not exist and Blair wrote of a confession that never occurred.

The *Times* finally forced Blair to resign and called the scandal “a low point” in the paper’s 152-year history. Within a year Blair got a book deal for *Burning Down My Master’s House*, and several plays and television episodes were based on his story. In 2016, Blair lamented that the biggest problem in journalism is “not calling a lie a lie,” and “one shining example is coverage of the presidential campaign of Donald Trump, the great American narcissist and not-so-great businessman.” In effect, he was still with the *Times*.

Consider also Herbert Matthews, who made a name for himself reporting on the Spanish Civil War for the *New Masses*. The *New York Times* brought Matthews aboard and in 1957 he cranked out articles about Fidel Castro, portrayed as noble idealist with no Communist leanings. Che Guevara said Matthews was more important than victory on the battlefield and in 1959 Castro gave Matthews a medal of honor.

For further reading see *The Man Who Invented Fidel: Cuba, Castro, and Herbert L. Matthews of The New York Times*, by Anthony DePalma. And for the *Times*’ top-tier fake, don’t forget Walter Duranty.

In the early 1930s Stalin engineered a famine designed to eliminate some five million kulaks, independent farmers who resisted collectivization. “Must all of them and their families be physically abolished?” Duranty wrote. “Of course not—they must be ‘liquidated’

or melted in the hot fire of exile and labor into the proletarian mass.”

As Stalin’s famine killed millions, Duranty wrote “there is no famine or actual starvation nor is there likely to be,” and “any report of a famine in Russia is today an exaggeration or malignant propaganda.” Headlines included “Stalinism Smashes Foes in Marx’s Name,” and “Stalinism’s Mark is Party Discipline.”

Duranty won a Pulitzer for those articles, which influenced President Roosevelt to recognize the USSR. In 2003, more than 50 years after the fact, the *Times* made some effort to reckon with Duranty’s pro-Stalin reporting. On the other hand, the *Times* has never made an effort to clarify Herbert Matthews’ pro-Castro reporting, which helped empower Soviet colonialism in Cuba.

When it comes to fake news, the *New York Times* is the paper of record, and from JFK to Hillary Clinton, the *Times* has endorsed only Democrats for president. With a record like that, a fake op-ed about “resistance inside the Trump administration,” is hardly outside the realm of possibility. The *Times*, of course, holds no monopoly on fakery.

As Hanna Rosin recalls, Stephen Glass of *The New Republic* was “probably the most elaborate fraud in journalistic history.” Glass “had been making up characters, scenes, events, whole stories from first word to last,” including “Spring Breakdown,” from March 1997, about a conference of “drunk and dumb” young conservatives at a Washington Hotel.

“On the bed, a Gideon Bible, used earlier in the night to resolve an argument, is open to Exodus,” Glass wrote. The bathtub “is filled with ice and the remnants of three cases of Coors Light.” Young Reagan and Kemp supporters guzzle booze, smoke joints, and get naked with ladies like “Cynthia,” a supporter of Bob Dole. The piece sounds like the fake stories Democrats deployed at the hearing for Brett Kavanaugh.

Meanwhile, *New York Times* op-ed columnist Jennifer Senior recounted Christine Blasey Ford’s “memory of being sexually assaulted in high school by President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.” Senior found Blasey Ford “transparent,” “without guile,” and ultimately “believable.”

—*FrontPageMag.com*, November 15, 2018

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