

# The Schwarz Report

60 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



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#### Communist China's Voice in WHO

by Alex Newman

With United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia serving as a mouthpiece for the Communist Party of China on the global stage, questions and concerns about his shadowy communist past are growing louder. Considering his scandal-plagued background, critics have gone so far as to say that "Marxist revolutionary" Tedros should be on trial for crimes against humanity—not sitting atop the WHO barking orders at national governments and peddling Beijing's propaganda to humanity. So far, though, the establishment media has largely remained silent about the emerging firestorm.

As *The New American* reported shortly after his tenure began, Tedros, who has no medical degree but got the top UN job with fervent backing from Communist China, is an actual communist with a long pedigree in the movement. Before taking up his perch at WHO, Tedros was most prominent for his government posts in a tyrannical regime, and for his key role in leading the murderous communist organization known as the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). This ethno-Marxist terror group has declared war on freedom and other ethnic groups within Ethiopia. And Tedros played a major role, serving as a top member of the TPLF's Politburo Central Committee, according to multiple news reports.

The US government previously designated the Marxist group as a terrorist organization for its murders, kidnappings, terror attacks, and more. Citing at least a dozen terror attacks on private citizens, religious figures, private property, nongovernmental organizations, journalists, and other targets spanning more than three decades, the Global Terror Database continues to list it as such. TPLF also joined forces with other mass-murdering Marxist-Leninist parties and formed the "Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front" (EPRDF), an alliance that today rules the nation despite having been formally disbanded last year.

While it claims to have moderated its Marxism-Leninism since coming to power in the early 1990s, in reality, critics say EPRDF governs in a deeply corrupt and autocratic fashion. Tedros, the "right-hand man" of late dictator Meles Zenawi, served in multiple senior positions in the Ethiopian regime over those years, including a term as health minister and later a stint as foreign minister. His service has been widely criticized, so much so that his original biography on WHO's website initially omitted several of the most important points in his career. That past is now coming back to haunt him as critics dig deep.

As minister of health, Tedros reportedly played a key role in covering up epidemics. Perhaps the most significant example was his concealing of multiple cholera outbreaks, falsely labeling them water-borne diarrhea and downplaying the crises. He also bullied bureaucrats into silence about these problems, news reports and critics say. Later, as minister of foreign affairs, Tedros helped the regime hunt down journalists and dissidents, including those who fled abroad. Human Rights Watch and other groups drew global attention to the regime's kidnapping and rendition of Andy Tsege, a British father of three who was tortured and tormented for years over his criticism of the dictatorship ruling Ethiopia.

The ethnic group that has been most ruthlessly targeted by Tedros' TPLF is known as the Amhara. Under the regime of Tedros and his EPRDF cronies, Amhara leaders reported regular human-rights abuses. A US-based group known as the Amhara Professionals Union (APU) publicly lambasted Tedros for his crimes. "APU believes Dr. Ghebreyesus lacks the competence, impartiality, accountability, and transparency that we feel are required," the group said, practically accusing the current WHO boss of pursuing genocidal policies against the Amhara through sub-standard healthcare and even "selective application of contraceptives" to reduce the group's population size.

"Such disparities were created and gaps increased across all measures of health in his leadership tenure," the APU

said about Tedros' anti-Amhara campaign while serving the regime and his "fascist" political party. "Of particular importance is the unexplained 2.5 million decrease in the Amhara population under his healthcare leadership. The Amharas were victimized and punished due to their ethnic background. . . . Therefore, we at the APU, believe that it would be a travesty of justice if WHO awards its highest position to a person who violated WHO's core principles and whose deliberate actions and inactions have claimed the lives of millions of Amhara people as well as other Ethiopians."

The regime that Tedros helped lead also persecuted people in the Oromia region of Ethiopia as it sought to forcibly relocate some 15,000 people to make way for "investment" opportunities. Following the use of tear gas, mass killings ensued as police fired military weapons at unarmed victims. That was followed by a government declaration of "emergency" and the mass arrest of some 70,000 people. In his role as foreign minister, Tedros helped track down some dissidents overseas, especially in nearby Yemen, something that drew the ire of British authorities at the time.

Since taking over WHO with Beijing's support, Tedros has continued to promote Marxist policies and individuals. Shortly after landing the job, for instance, he named mass-murdering Marxist dictator Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe as a "Goodwill Ambassador" for WHO. Mugabe, of course, was responsible for genocide against a rival ethnic group, slaughtering tens of thousands of people in an attempt to exterminate them. Tedros has also made a government takeover of healthcare world-wide—euphemistically dubbed "universal health coverage"—one of his top priorities during his term as WHO boss. Peddling climate hysteria as a health issue is also front and center, according to his own biography.

Some critics say Tedros should be put on trial for crimes against humanity. "If there was ever an example of the failure of globalized institutions, the WHO is it," said analyst John Martin in a piece published by Rough Estimate headlined "The Crimes of Tedros Adhanom," calling for the global outfit to be radically reformed or simply disbanded. "In a sane world, instead of leading a global organization, Tedros and his cronies would be put on trial at the International Criminal Court, tried for his crimes, and if found guilty, should spend the rest of his life in prison."

Other critics have also blasted Tedros for his past. Writing in *Ethiopian News & Views*, for example, writer Abebe Gellaw slammed Tedros for playing the nice technocrat concerned about global health. "But his 12-page

campaign CV never mentions his most important experience that made it possible for him to climb the ladder of power within the tyrannical regime oppressing and misruling Ethiopia," wrote Gellaw, referring to the now-WHO boss and his "ethnofascist" group as a "gang" that was "responsible for all the corruption, killings, torture, mass detention, land grab, and displacement" afflicting their homeland.

There is also the fact that Tedros is a puppet for the Chinese Communist Party, which has murdered more people than any government in human history. About the coronavirus he said, "We appreciate the seriousness with which China is taking this outbreak, especially the commitment from top leadership, and the transparency they have demonstrated," blasting everyone who referred to SARS-CoV-2 as the "Chinese" virus or "Wuhan" virus. "China is actually setting a new standard for outbreak response." He also blasted Trump's ban on flights from China. Before Tedros, WHO was run by Communist Chinese agent Margaret Chan.

Numerous current and former WHO officials have contacted *The New American* over the years to highlight the incredible corruption and mismanagement that permeates the UN health agency. Among those whistle-blowers is Kari Laperriere, author of *WHOligans: A witness account of fraud and bullying at the heart of the World Health Organization*, who has exposed the "dark secrets" of WHO hiding behind "a respectable façade and the words of noble principles." Laperriere, who spent decades working inside the UN, has sought to expose bullying and fraud perpetrated from the very top of the UN outfit, including by former WHO boss Chan of China.

Naturally, the entire UN system is using the Chinese virus as a pretext to advance globalism and Big Government—the very same "solutions" offered by the UN to deal with everything from "climate change" to poverty. "Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive, and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face," said UN boss António Guterres, the former head of the Socialist International alliance of communist and socialist political parties (many with the blood of millions on their hands). WHO is also working to become a global health ministry, while Guterres calls on humanity to hand over "at least" 10 percent of global GDP to the UN to supposedly fight the coronavirus and inject "stimulus" into the global economy.

However, while WHO seeks more power and prestige, a growing chorus of US lawmakers and media critics is calling for WHO to be investigated, defunded, and even shut down completely. US Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.) is among those demanding a congressional investigation of WHO over its "work for Communist China." Saying he "deceived the world," Senator Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) called for Tedros to step down. Trump even threatened to withhold US funding.

*The Spectator*, meanwhile, ran a piece by Stephen Miller headlined simply: "Abolish the World Health Organization." That would be a step in the right direction. But it would not neutralize the broader threat that the UN poses to American liberty, sovereignty, and self-government.

Legislation currently in Congress, known as the American Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 204), would end all US government involvement in the UN. It is sitting in the House Foreign Affairs Committee right now, waiting indefinitely for hearings. But with more support from Americans and potentially even from the White House, that dream could become a reality—neutralizing the ability of Marxist criminals such as Tedros and his Communist Chinese cronies to interfere in American life. There has never been a better time for an AMEXIT from the UN!

—The New American, May 4, 2020

# John Brennan—Marxist

by DiscovertheNetworks

Brad Johnson, a retired 25-year veteran officer of the CIA, laments that in recent years he has seen our nation's Intelligence Community "turn away from its core responsibilities"—i.e., promoting "the safety and security of all Americans"—and embrace "a far more political agenda." He notes, for example, that the Intelligence Community's 2017 quadrennial report about global trends "overwhelmingly" supports "global government integration" and the "globalist movement," which he describes as "a hardcore leftist philosophy that is deeply political" and antithetical to the concept of national sovereignty.

A particularly odious manifestation of this new globalist philosophy, says Johnson, was former CIA Di-

rector John Brennan's so-called "modernization" plan, which "systematically dismantled and destroyed the CIA's operations division—the heart of the agency's central mission of using people to steal vital secrets around the world." Brennan himself articulated this new mindset when he flatly told National Public Radio in an interview: "We don't steal secrets." "The Brennan plan," says Johnson, "instead called for other nations' intelligence services to provide the CIA with spies as intelligence collectors." This approach made it impossible for the US to keep its intelligence-gathering operations clandestine, thereby forfeiting the type of secrecy that is "fundamental to the credibility and reliability of the information" collected.

In light of the recent highly disturbing revelations about Obamagate, and in light of the damage that John Brennan in particular has done to America's intelligence-gathering capacity and, by extension, to its national security, a closer look at the former CIA Director's long track record of deceit, lies, and bad judgment is most certainly in order.

When Brennan was just 21 years old and attending Fordham University in New York, he voted for Communist Party USA (CPUSA) presidential nominee Gus Hall in the 1976 US presidential election. As historian Ron Radosh points out, "The CPUSA at that time was dedicated to gaining support for Soviet foreign policy, with the intent of defeating the United States in the Cold War. . . . Moscow regularly gave Hall thousands of dollars to enable the Communists in America to carry on their work"

In 1980 Brennan earned an M.A. in government from the University of Texas. In his graduate thesis, he denied the existence of "absolute human rights" and argued that "since the press can play such an influential role in determining the perceptions of the masses," he was "in favor of some degree of government censorship."

Also in 1980, Brennan joined the CIA as an intelligence director, and in the '90s he served a stint as a daily intelligence briefer for President Bill Clinton. In 1998 he played a key role in preventing an American operation that would have killed or captured Osama bin Laden, and instead he advised the US to let Saudi Arabia deal with the al Qaeda leader. A few months later, bin Laden masterminded the deadly bombings of two US embassies in Africa; three years after that, he carried out the 9/11 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In a 2006 interview on C-SPAN, Brennan spoke of the Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah as an entity that merited a seat at the negotiating table along with the representatives of national governments from across the globe: "It would be nice to be able to put Hezbollah in a category of being totally evil, but Hezbollah as an organization is a very complex one that has a terrorist arm to it. It has a social and political nature to it as well."

In a paper he published in July 2008, Brennan stated that he saw the recent increase of political involvement by Hezbollah as a very positive development: "Not coincidentally, the evolution of Hezbollah into a fully vested player in the Lebanese political system has been accompanied by a marked reduction in terrorist attacks carried out by the organization. The best hope for maintaining this trend and for reducing the influence of violent extremists within the organization . . . is to increase Hezbollah's stake in Lebanon's struggling democratic processes."

In August 2009, Brennan said he was "pleased to see that a lot of Hezbollah individuals are in fact renouncing . . . terrorism and violence and are trying to participate in the political process in a very legitimate fashion." "Hamas," he added, had "started out as a very focused social organization that was providing welfare to Palestinians," but eventually "developed an extremist and terrorist element" that "unfortunately delegitimized it in the eyes of many" and diminished the chances of the Palestinian people getting "what they truly deserve, which is a Palestinian state side-by-side with Israel."

When news of the George W. Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping initiative made headlines in late 2005, Brennan defended the practice and maintained that the telecommunication companies participating in the program "should be granted . . . immunity, because they were told to [participate] by the appropriate authorities that were operating in a legal context." Brennan also supported "enhanced interrogation" techniques, and he described "extraordinary rendition" as "an absolutely vital tool" that "without a doubt has been very successful as far as producing intelligence that has saved lives." In a 2007 interview with CBS News, Brennan stated that waterboarding in particular was a highly useful practice that "has saved lives."

But Brennan subsequently departed from all of those positions when he served as a senior advisor to Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. In a letter to Obama, for example, Brennan called himself "a strong opponent of many of the policies of the Bush administration, such as the preemptive war in Iraq and coercive interrogation tactics, to include waterboarding." In August 2009, Brennan said that tactics like waterboarding were not only inconsistent with "our ideals as a nation,"

but also "undermine our national security" because they "are a recruitment bonanza for terrorists, increase the determination of our enemies, and decrease the willingness of other nations to cooperate with us."

In 2009 as well, Brennan detailed for the first time the Obama administration's decision to dispense with the term "global war on terror." Emphasizing the need to target "extremists" rather than "jihadists," Brennan explained that "jihad" means "to purify oneself or to wage a holy struggle for a moral goal." The use of that term, he elaborated, "risks giving these murderers the religious legitimacy they desperately seek but in no way deserve. Worse, it risks reinforcing the idea that the United States is somehow at war with Islam itself."

On Christmas Day 2009, Nigerian al Qaeda operative Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted, unsuccessfully, to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight (from Amsterdam to Detroit) in midair with a powerful chemical bomb. In the aftermath of the incident, Brennan explained that the Obama administration would treat it as a law-enforcement matter rather than as an act of war or terrorism; that the perpetrator would be offered a plea agreement in exchange for information about al Qaeda operations in Yemen; and that if such an agreement could not be worked out, Abdulmutallab would be tried in a federal civilian court rather than in a military tribunal.

Brennan sought to try 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in a civilian court as well, stating, in a February 2010 speech to Islamic law students at New York University, that "we need to bring him to justice in an American court"—a goal the Obama administration eventually abandoned, due to the plan's unpopularity with the US public.

On March 17, 2011, forty-two Pakistanis—mostly civilians—were killed in a major CIA drone strike on the town of Datta Khel in North Waziristan. The incident was widely reported by the media and was angrily denounced by Pakistan's government. An anonymous US official later justified the attack as one that had targeted "a large group of heavily armed men, some of whom were clearly connected to Al Qaeda [AQ] and all of whom acted in a manner consistent with AQ-linked militants." But in fact, the gathering was eventually confirmed to have been a jirga, or tribal meeting, convened to address a local mining-related dispute. The dead included dozens of tribal elders and local policemen, as well as a small number of Taliban.

But three months later, in a June 29 speech, Brennan claimed that the March 17 drone attack had not resulted in even "a single collateral death." In fact, he went even

further: "I can say that the types of operations . . . that the US has been involved in, in the counter-terrorism realm, that nearly for the past year there hasn't been a single collateral death because of the exceptional proficiency, precision of the capabilities that we've been able to develop."

Brennan's claim was untrue, however, as noted in a report by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ): "The Datta Khel attack was not the only time that civilians had died in the period referred to by Brennan. Working with veteran Pakistani reporter Rahimullah Yusufzai and field researchers in the tribal areas, the Bureau identified and published details of 45 civilians known at the time to have been killed by CIA drones in ten strikes between August 2010 and June 2011, the date of Brennan's speech. Many of those killed had died at Datta Khel."

On October 19, 2011, Farhana Khera, president and executive director of the organization Muslim Advocates, sent Brennan a letter charging that the FBI was a bigoted agency which kept "antiquated and offensive documents about Muslims and Islam" on its intranet, and that some of the Bureau's new recruits were being taught "that Islam is a religion that 'transforms a country's culture into 7th-century Arabian ways." Within two weeks, Brennan capitulated to Khera's demand that America's intelligence agencies eliminate their "offensive" curriculum/training materials; i.e., he called for a purge of any and all materials that made reference to "jihad" or "radical Islam."

Speaking in June 2011 about how the Obama administration would deal with terrorism following the recent death of Osama bin Laden, Brennan dismissed any notion that Islamic terrorists might attempt to build a caliphate in the Middle East. "Our strategy is shaped by a deeper understanding of al-Qaeda's goals, strategy, and tactics that we have gained over the last decade," said Brennan. "I'm not talking about al-Qaeda's grandiose vision of global domination through a violent Islamic caliphate. That vision is absurd, and we are not going to organize our counter-terrorist polices against a feckless delusion that is never going to happen. . . . We are not going to elevate these thugs and their murderous aspirations into something larger than they really are."

Events over the ensuing three years, however, would prove Brennan wrong. On June 29, 2014, ISIS announced the existence of what it called a new Islamic caliphate that would thenceforth go by the name "Islamic State" and would recognize no existing national borders. By November 2014, the organization controlled some 100,000 square kilometers of territory in the Middle East.

In September 2012, Brennan was involved in crafting the false talking points that then-Secretary of State Susan Rice delivered during five separate television interviews regarding the 9/11/12 terrorist attack against a US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. Specifically, Rice claimed that according to the "best information at present," the deadly attack was not premeditated, but rather, was a "spontaneous reaction" to "a hateful and offensive [anti-Islamic] video that was widely disseminated throughout the Arab and Muslim world."

In March 2014, Senator Dianne Feinstein—the head of a Senate Intelligence Committee that was involved in a multi-year probe of the CIA's use of harsh interrogation measures against suspected terrorists during the Bush Administration—went to the Senate floor and angrily accused the Agency of having hacked into the computers of her Committee staffers. In response, Brennan expressed dismay that "some members of the Senate" were making "spurious allegations about CIA actions that are wholly unsupported by the facts." Moreover, he told NBC's Andrea Mitchell: "As far as the allegations of the CIA hacking into Senate computers, nothing could be further from the truth. We wouldn't do that. I mean, that's just beyond the, you know, the scope of reason in terms of what we do." Brennan likewise told the media that "a lot of people who are claiming that there has been this tremendous sort of spying and monitoring and hacking will be proved wrong."

But according to the findings of a CIA inspector general's report that was released on July 31, 2014, it was actually Brennan who was proved wrong. The report indicated that five CIA employees—two attorneys and three computer specialists—indeed had surreptitiously and unlawfully searched files and emails on the computers of the aforementioned Senate investigators. In response to the report, Brennan apologized to Senate Intelligence Committee leaders.

In a March 2015 speech at the Council on Foreign Relations, Brennan refused to refer to the Islamic State (ISIS) terror group as an "Islamic" entity. "By ascribing [sic] it as a Muslim terrorism or Islamic extremism," he said, "I think it does really give them the type of Islamic legitimacy that they are so desperately seeking, but which they don't deserve at all."

In May 2017, Brennan lied to Congress when he testified that: (a) he did not know who had commissioned the infamous Steele dossier which contained many false accusations against Donald Trump and his political allies, and (b) the CIA had not relied on the dossier's contents for any action that the Agency took.

In July 2018, Brennan was outraged by President Donald Trump's remarks at a joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki. At that event, Trump expressed doubt about a US Intelligence Community assessment claiming that Russian operatives had interfered in America's 2016 presidential election, and he suggested that he had at least as much faith in the Russian KGB as he had in the American CIA. Later that day, Brennan described Trump's comments as "nothing short of treasonous."

In August 2018, President Trump revoked Brennan's security clearance, explaining that Brennan's "lying and recent conduct characterized by increasingly frenzied commentary" was "wholly inconsistent with access to the nation's most closely held secrets and facilities, the very aim of our adversaries, which is to sow division and chaos." In response, Brennan told NBC's Meet the Press that Trump's move was "treasonous."

In a February 2020 interview on MSNBC, Brennan said that President Trump's staunchest supporters are a "very debased group of people."

In light of John Brennan's long history of undermining America's national security by downplaying the extent of the threat posed by our nation's most committed enemies, it is no wonder that he detests President Trump. In virtually every way possible, Trump is the anti-Brennan.

—FrontPageMag.com, May 13, 2020

### The French Revolution

by Peggy Noonan

We often make historical parallels here. History doesn't repeat itself but it does rhyme, as clever people say. And sometimes it hiccups. Here is a hiccup.

We start with the moral and political catastrophe that was the French Revolution. It was more a nationwide psychotic break than a revolt—a great nation at its own throat, swept by a spirit not only of regicide but suicide. For 10 years they simply enjoyed killing each other. They could have done what England was doing—a long nonviolent revolution, a gradual diminution of the power of king and court, an establishment of the rights of the people and their legislators so that the regent ended up a lovely person on a stamp. Instead they chose blood.

Scholars like to make a distinction between the Revolution and the Terror that followed, but "the Terror was merely 1789 with a higher body count." From the Storming of the Bastille onward, "it was apparent that violence was not just an unfortunate side effect. . . . It was the Revolution's source of collective energy. It was what made the Revolution revolutionary."

That is from Simon Schama's masterpiece *Citizens*, his history of the revolution published in 1989, its 200th anniversary. It is erudite, elegant, and heroically nonideological.

John Adams, across the sea in America, quickly understood what was happening in France and voiced alarm. In contrast his old friend Thomas Jefferson egged on the revolution and lent it his moral prestige. Faced with news of the guillotines, he reverted to abstractions. He was a genius with a true if hidden seam of malice, and rarely overconcerned with the suffering of others.

The revolution had everything—a ruling class that was clumsy, decadent, inert; a pathetic king, a queen beyond her depth, costly wars, monstrous debt, an impervious and unreformable administrative state, a hungry populace. The task of the monarchy was to protect the poor, but the king had "abdicated this protective role." Instead of ensuring grain supplies at a reasonable price, Mr. Schama notes, the government committed itself to the new modern principle of free trade: "British textiles had been let into France, robbing Norman and Flemish spinners and weavers of work." They experienced it as "some sort of conspiracy against the People."

One does see parallels. But they're not what I mean.

It was a revolution largely run by sociopaths. One, Robespierre, the "messianic schoolmaster," saw it as an opportunity for the moral instruction of the nation. Everything would be politicized, no part of the citizen's life left untouched. As man was governed by an "empire of images," in the words of a Jacobin intellectual, the new régime would provide new images to shape new thoughts. There would be pageants, and new names for things. They would change time itself! The first year of the new Republic was no longer 1792, it was Year One. To detach farmers from their superstitions, their Gregorian calendar and its saints' days, they would rename the months. The first month would be in the fall, named for the harvest. There would be no more weeks, just three 10-day periods each month.

So here is our parallel, our hiccup. I thought of all this this week because I've been thinking about the language and behavioral directives that have been coming at us from the social and sexual justice warriors who are

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renaming things and attempting to control the language in America.

There is the latest speech guide from the academy, the Inclusive Communications Task Force at Colorado State University. Don't call people "American," it directs: "This erases other cultures." Don't say a person is mad or a lunatic, call him "surprising/wild" or "sad." "Eskimo," "freshman," and "illegal alien" are out. "You guys" should be replaced by "all/folks." Don't say "male" or "female"; say "man," "woman," or "gender non-binary."

In one way it's the nonsense we've all grown used to, but it should be said that there's an aspect of self-infatuation, of arrogance, in telling people they must reorder the common language to suit your ideological preferences. There is something mad in thinking you should control the names of things. Or perhaps I mean surprising/wild.

I see in it a spirit similar to that of the Terror. There is a tone of, "I am your moral teacher. Because you are incapable of sensitivity, I will help you, dumb farmer. I will start with the language you speak."

An odd thing is they always insist they're doing this in the name of kindness and large-spiritedness. And yet, have you ever met them? They're not individually kind or large-spirited. They're more like messianic schoolmasters.

Offices and schools are forced to grapple with all the new gender-neutral pronouns. Here a handy guide from a website purporting to help human-resources departments in midsize businesses. It is headlined. "Gender Neutral Pronouns—What They Are & How to Use Them."

He/She—Zie, Sie, Ey, Ve, Tey, E

Him/Her—Zim, Sie, Em, Ver, Ter, Em

His/Her—Zir, Hir, Eir, Vis, Tem, Eir

Himself/Herself—Zieself, Hirself, Eirself, Verself, Terself, Emself

It's wrong, when you meet a new co-worker, to ask his pronouns. (We don't say "preferred" pronouns—that "implies someone's gender is a preference"!) You don't want him wondering if you think he's transgender or nonbinary. Instead, introduce yourself in a way that sum-

mons his pronouns: "Hi, I'm Jim and my pronoun is he/him." Use "they" a lot. It's gender neutral. Suggested sentence: "I spoke to the marketing director and they said they'd get back to me."

This is grammatically incorrect but so what? Correct grammar, and the intelligibility it allows, is a small price to pay for inclusion and equality.

We are being asked to memorize all this, to change hundreds of years of grammar and usage, to accommodate the needs or demands of a group that perceives itself as beleaguered.

There's a funny but painful spoof of all this on You-Tube. A seemingly friendly but dogmatic teacher of adult immigrants in English as a Second Language class introduces them to the 63 new pronouns. They are understandably flummoxed. An Asian woman announces she identifies as a girl and then shrinks in fear this might not be allowed. A confused Eastern European man asks the pronoun of his desk. The Central American asks if the new pronouns mean gay. "You're not learning English so you can be a bigot, are you?" the teacher demands.

And there are the office arguments about bathroom policy, which I gather are reaching some new peak. There can no longer be a men's room and a women's room, so we can have one expanded bathroom everyone can use. No, we'll have three. But there may be a stigma to using the third, so keep two bathrooms but remove all designations. But the women don't want to put on their makeup with men coming in and out. But the men don't want women walking in on them—that's a harassment suit waiting to happen!

It's all insane. All of it.

But we're moving forward, renaming the months and the sexes, reordering the language.

You wonder how the people who push all this got so much power. But then, how did Robespierre?

—The Wall Street Journal, July 27-28, 2019, P. A13

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## The World in Revolt

by Michael Ledeen

So far, two dictators have been toppled and have been replaced by interim governments (with a striking resemblance to the previous ones), and there is a civil war in Libya. There are demonstrations throughout the Middle East, and indeed throughout the world, driven by mass movements demanding greater freedom. But there are also many demonstrators who want more rigid governmental control, typically inspired by fundamentalist Islamic codes that would dramatically worsen the civil rights of women, members of other sects and faiths, and more liberal Muslims. It's a fight, with enormous stakes for the people involved and for the world at large. The war in Libya, along with the virtual civil war in Iran, give some sense of the intensity of the conflict.

Perhaps there will be structural changes in the Middle East—people are working on new Constitutions all over the place—but they have not taken place yet, and the "new order" may eventually not resemble the dreams of the democratic demonstrators, nor of those who dream of a new Caliphate. No one can predict what the world will look like in a few weeks, let alone months from now, any more than anyone anticipated the current situation.

This is quite normal, by the way. There is a wide-spread conceit that pundits or experts can predict events of great import, such as revolutions, but while it is certainly possible to diagnose a "revolutionary situation," we are invariably surprised when it actually happens. This was the case with the Soviet Empire, for example. Several of us predicted its downfall, but none of us could put a precise time frame on it, and when it finally happened we were surprised at both the timing and the form it took (implosion rather than explosion).

Nonetheless, we can certainly dispense with at least three widely-accepted views of the Middle East, which have been effectively demolished on the ground:

- \* First, the myth of the "Arab Street," according to which the Arab masses are somehow unmoved by the desire for freedom, and inevitably—as if it were a genetic imperative—rally around one strong man or another. We have seen huge numbers of Arabs willing to take enormous risks to remove their strong men and create a freer and more just polity;
- \* Second, the misguided notion that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the central issue in the Middle East. None of the revolts—whether in Arab countries or in Iran—was inspired by a demand that the regime act more force-

fully in the "peace process" or do more for the Palestinian people. The uprisings were aimed at removing hated regimes;

\* Contrary to the conventional wisdom, according to which revolutions are desperate acts of people in dire economic straits, the Tunisian uprising—the first in the Arab countries—came under generally good economic conditions (the best in the region) and was led by men and women from comfortable circumstances. True, the proximate cause of the uprising was the self-immolation of a young man prevented from selling vegetables on the streets, but the regime was toppled by demands of greater freedom and less corruption, not of bread for the hungry.

With rare exceptions, revolutions are acts of hope, not a last, desperate throw of the existential dice. It is no accident that most revolutions and revolts are carried out by young people full of hope and hormones. The hope transcends national and regional boundaries as well as ethnic and religious divides, as we see today: Sunnis and Shi'ites, and even Ibadhis (in Oman) have demanded freedom and justice.

The Chinese regime, which knows a thing or two about revolution, was quite prepared to believe that revolutionary passions had spread to the People's Republic of China, and cracked down quickly and viciously at the first sign of young Chinese organizing their own pro-democracy movement. Down in Venezuela, students demanding the release of political prisoners staged a hunger strike in front of the Caracas offices of the Organization of American States. As their action started to gain widespread support and media coverage, President Hugo Chavez capitulated. We will no doubt see more such protests in the future. And the passions for liberty and virtue are very much on display in the United States.

Growing, no doubt.

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