

October 2022

### The Federal Bureau of Investigation by Lloyd Billingsley

"These attacks on the FBI must stop," Mike Pence said on August 17. "Calls to defund the FBI are just as wrong as calls to defund the police." That equation invites a review of FBI performance at its duly appointed tasks.

"We protect the American people and uphold the US Constitution," proclaims the FBI website. On the protection side, the American people might look back at September 11, 2001.

In May of 2001, according to *The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States,* FBI counterterrorism boss Dale Watson had only *two people* looking at threats from Osama bin Laden. FBI assessments of the potential use of flight training by terrorists and warnings of "radical Middle Easterners attending flight school," were not passed on to FAA headquarters.

The FBI did not produce the kind of intelligence reports other agencies disseminated, and its usual practice was to withhold the information and say little about investigations. FBI field offices "never used the information to gain a systematic or strategic understanding of the nature and extent of al Qaeda fundraising."

Terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui was prevented from further training on Pan Am's Boeing 747 simulators but FBI headquarters believed there was "insufficient cause" to search his laptop computer. An FBI agent in Minneapolis said he was "trying to keep someone from taking a plane and crashing it into the World Trade Center." Officials at FBI headquarters said that was not going to happen and they did not know if Moussaoui was a terrorist.

"The FBI has proven for the past decade it cannot identify and prevent acts of terrorism against the United States and its citizens at home and abroad," wrote FBI whistleblower Robert Wright in the summer of 2001. "Even worse, there is virtually no effort on the part of the FBI's International Terrorism Unit to neutralize known and suspected terrorists residing within the United States."

Wright headed an operation that shut down terrorist funding but claimed that FBI management "intentionally and repeatedly thwarted and obstructed," his attempts to expand the investigation, arrest other terrorists, and seize their assets.

In 2009, American-born Muslim Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was communicating with al Qaeda terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki about killing Americans. As *Lessons from Fort Hood* explains, the FBI was monitoring the communications but the bureau's Washington office "does not currently assess Hasan to be involved in terrorist activities." On November 5, 2009, Hasan murdered 13 unarmed American soldiers, including Pvt. Francheska Velez, who was pregnant, and wounded more than 30 others.

In 2011, Russian intelligence warned the FBI about Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, but in 2013 the FBI failed to stop the brothers from bombing the Boston Marathon. The attack killed three people and wounded more than 250. Local police, not the FBI, took out Tamerlan and captured Dzhokhar.

The FBI failed to stop Islamic terrorists Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik from murdering 14 people and wounding more than 20 others in San Bernardino, California, on December 2, 2015. As in Boston, the FBI played no role in the takedown of the terrorists. San Bernardino police shot dead the heavily armed Farook and Malik, with no loss of innocent life.

In 2016 in Orlando, Florida, the FBI failed to protect the Pulse nightclub from Omar Mateen. The Islamic State supporter killed 49 people and wounded more than 50. The FBI had questioned Mateen in 2013 but closed the inquiry, leaving the terrorist free to plan his attack.

In 2020, Antifa and Black Lives Matter launched riots that during more than 100 days, claimed 35 lives, injured hundreds of police officers, and caused \$2 billion in property damage. The FBI did nothing to prevent the "peaceful protesters" from taking over part of Seattle.

As these cases confirm, the FBI does a poor job of protecting the American people. It's unclear if any FBI bosses were disciplined, suspended or dismissed for the failures that left thousands of Americans dead and wounded. The failure of

the FBI and CIA against Islamic jihadists led to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, like the FBI now deployed against the American people.

It's hard to find statements from Mike Pence contending that FBI failure "must stop," or have any effect on the bureau's budget. According to Christopher Wray, that is now \$10.8 billion, including "a total of \$10.7 billion for salaries and expenses, which will support 36,945 positions."

More recent episodes call into question FBI dedication to the Constitution and the rule of law. According to former FBI director Louis Freeh, the rule of law is the "only beacon" for the FBI. Under James Comey, the FBI made election interference a major priority.

With her unsecured home-brew server and destruction of subpoenaed emails, Hillary Clinton violated federal statutes. Comey said no reasonable prosecutor would pursue the case, and the FBI launched the Midyear Exam operation to keep Clinton in the presidential race. FBI-favored candidates Clinton and Tim Kaine lost to Donald Trump and Mike Pence, but there was more to FBI meddling.

The FBI's Crossfire Hurricane operation targeted candidate and President Trump. As Julie Kelly recalls, the FBI framed Gen. Michael Flynn, misled the FISA court, doctored correspondence, and used a fake dossier against President Trump and his allies. In the style of the Soviet KGB, politicians pointed out the man and the FBI created the crime.

FBI boss Christopher Wray is all-in with the notion that anyone less than worshipful of Joe Biden is a violent extremist and domestic terrorist. The bureau raids the home of Donald Trump, ripping off his passports and rummaging through Melania's clothes, yet Mike Pence has a beef with those who "attack" the FBI by taking a hard look at its budget in light of clearly lawless activity.

The former vice president, a devout Christian, did not publicly cite Bible verses against the FBI critics. Steve Bannon called the former vice president a "mindless, gutless symp" and "Judas Pence." If that seems too strong, it's fair to say that Mike Pence is "just as wrong" as those who remain uncritical of the FBI. The targets of current FBI operations, meanwhile, might ponder Matthew 10:36: "A man's foes shall be they of his own household."

The foes of Donald Trump include the man who ran at his side, and prominent members of his own party. The most formidable foes of the American people are the agencies of their own government, with the FBI leading the charge.

*—FrontPageMag.com*, August 24, 2022

# Karl Marx and Canceling Culture by Robert Merz

Today's cancel culture is a form of online banishment embraced by the far Left. It is used to expose, target, silence, and humiliate anyone who dares say anything they don't like.

The tactic has worked. Today, many people in schools, the media, and the publishing business are forced to self-censor anything they say or write for fear of retaliation from leftist woke mobs. In the publishing world, J.K. Rowling, the creator of the Harry Potter books is frequently cancelled for her views on transgenderism. To show how serious this is, she has even received death threats.

So, where does Marx fit in this equation? First, Marx is the author of the modern cancel culture and second, he should probably be the victim of it,—but won't be.

In 1848, long before computers, Marx wrote that, in normal society, the past dominates the present, but in Communist society, the present had to dominate the past. This means that history can only be seen and interpreted through the prism of Marxist theory. Anything incompatible with the latest Marxist positions would necessarily be altered to fit or eliminated (AKA Cancelled).

This is necessary because Marxists have to control the "facts" and the narrative to fit their manufactured reality. No competing messages or facts can be allowed. This was the actual beginning of the cancel culture.

One example of this was seen in a book, *The Commissar Vanishes*. In it, photos show heroes of the revolution who were 'disappeared' when Stalin took power and accused any possible opponents of being enemies of the people—usually they were both murdered and erased. That makes Marx the father and Stalin the godfather of the cancel culture.

Like Stalin in the great terror, the cancel culture mob rules by fear and intimidation. Today, books, plays, songs, and movies are not being removed by state censors (yet), but by authors, editors, publishers, distributors, protesters, news personalities, or others who think they have to remove anything that might be offensive—just as Stalin banned Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, because he didn't like the play. Some reports even indicate that the US Government is now working with a social media company to censor posts containing what some bureaucrats call "misinformation." So much for the First Amendment.

One of the favorite pastimes of the cancel culture mob is to attack anyone they can call a Nazi, a bigot, a racist, a Fascist, a homophobe, or any other name with "-phobe" attached to the end of it. Plus, they go after these offenders no matter how long ago the supposed "offence" occurred. This is Marx's present dominating the past.

So, what did Karl Heinrich Marx, the founder of Marxism, say that could get him cancelled?

Comrades in the West, most of whom have never actually read his works or lived in a Marxist state, speak glowingly of the person they call a great thinker, a philosopher, a champion of the working man, a champion of women's rights, an internationalist, and a revolutionary hero. These all sound great, except—they are wrong.

Let's look. Perhaps the attack term the cancel mob use most often is also the most erroneous. They love calling people Nazis.

They often claim that anyone who criticizes them or Marx is a Nazi. Following that, they'll go out of their way to claim that even though the actual name of the Nazi Party was the National Socialist German Worker's Party—they weren't *really* socialists.

But, if you look, you will find that Hitler said that he was a true socialist as opposed to Marx and Marxism. Also, many of the things Marx wrote were strikingly similar to what Hitler said.

In a 1934 May Day speech, Hitler said: "The hammer will once more become the symbol of the German worker and the sickle the sign of the German peasant." In a newspaper interview, Hitler also said that National Socialism was derived from the national resolution of the bourgeois tradition and creative socialism from the teaching of Marx.

Marx and Hitler also had similar attitudes on Jews. In 1844, Marx wrote an essay titled "The Jewish Question." In 1919, Hitler wrote about what he called the "Jewish question." It is quite telling that they used the same terminology.

Like Hitler, Marx never hid his anti-Semitism. Marx also seemed to want to see the Jews eliminated. He wrote: "The emancipation of the Jews, in the final analysis, is the emancipation of mankind from Judaism." That doesn't sound good, but it does sound Nazi.

Like Hitler, Marx also hated a lot of people and cultures—ones that he thought were less evolved than advanced Western Europeans.

Marx despised Mexicans. After the Mexican-American War he wrote: "Is it a misfortune that magnificent California was seized from the lazy Mexicans who did not know what to do with it?" His buddy Engels added: "In America we have witnessed the conquest of Mexico and have rejoiced at it. It is to the interest of its own development that Mexico will be placed under the tutelage of the United States." I wonder what the Critical Race Theory crowd and La Raza think of that?

Marx also loved to use the N-word. He even used it against his own son-in-law, who Engels said had "oneeighth or one-twelfth n\*\*\*\* blood." When Marx's sonin-law, Paul Lafargue, ran for a council seat in a Paris district that contained a zoo, Engels said that it was appropriate as n\*\*\*\*s were closer to the animal kingdom than other people. So much for Marxists courting the Black Lives Matter crowd.

It wasn't just Blacks and Jews. Marx and Engels despised a lot of different people. In his 1853 writings on the Crimean War, Marx disparaged Slavonians, Greeks, Wallachians (Romanians), Arnauts (Albanians), Moldavians, Serbians, and Turks—equal opportunity hatred.

Marx also wrote positively about British colonial rule in India. He said that Indian society had no history at all, except for successive invaders who lost their empires when they became "Hindooized." He said that The British conquerors were superior to the Arabs, Turks, Tartars, Moguls (Mughal Empire) who had proceeded them in conquering India. He said that the British had not succumbed to the "Hindoo civilization" but set the foundation of Western civilization. Imagine the first Marxist speaking in favor of racist colonialism and the destruction of native cultures.

(The Indus Valley culture was in fact one of the first ancient civilizations and was contemporary with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.)

Bottom line, Karl Marx was a racist, a religious bigot, a supporter of European colonialism, a person who thought white Europeans were superior to lesser cultures, and a person who had ideologies that were in line with Hitler's and ideas which may indeed have inspired Hitler.

So, why isn't Karl Marx being cancelled? Because he's a Marxist and Marxists are a protected class in the US today. Questioning them is not allowed and indeed may indeed get you cancelled—and called a Nazi.

*—American Thinker*, August 17, 2022

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### Call Them Communists by Steve Rose

It's time to stop calling them Democrats.

This is no longer the party of FDR, JFK, or even Bill Clinton, and it's time to start calling a spade a spade.

Imagine this scenario:

You have a neighbor, Mr. Jones—a kind old man whose wife died years ago, who works in his small garden, wears the same old jacket all the time, and has a funny but genuine laugh.

One day, suddenly, Mr. Jones disappears.

Several days later, you notice some activity in his place—it looks like Mr. Jones—and you go to say hello. But suddenly, you realize *this is a stranger*. He *looks* like Mr. Jones, *sounds* a little like Mr. Jones, and *acts* in some ways like Mr. Jones. But *it's not him*.

This person lives in Mr. Jones' place, wears his clothes, works in the garden, and even has a strange imitation of his laugh. "Who are you?" you ask. He responds, "Why, I'm Mr. Jones, of course!"

But it's not him.

This creepy scenario is what has taken place with the Democratic party.

One of the stated goals of communism, from the Congressional Record in 1963, was to take over one or both political parties from within.

They've succeeded.

In 1949, William Z. Foster, a chairman of the Communist Party USA, dedicated a book by writing "To My Great-Grandson Joseph Manley Kolko Who Will Live in a Communist United States."

He seemed quite confident.

One of the many challenges real Americans now face is to start calling "Democrats" what they actually are. They'll protest. But if it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and acts like a duck, we need to *call it a duck*.

We've been conditioned to believe that communism is just a myth, that it isn't real, or even if it is real, it only exists in faraway places like China, and anyone who mentions it is a conspiracist who deserves ridicule.

But let's review a few basics:

□ They're raiding and jailing their political opponents.

☐ They're turning the FBI, CIA, and IRS against American citizens.

□ They've come out against freedom of speech, religion, press, the Second Amendment, and other core American ideals.

 $\Box$  They've abandoned the rule of law, and now have one set of laws for themselves and another for the rest of us.

□ They're deliberately trying to bankrupt us—

sometimes directly (through shutting down businesses), sometimes indirectly (through wasting trillions of our dollars.)

 $\Box$  They're indoctrinating our children with radical ideologies.

 $\Box$  They celebrate infanticide.

□ They're making secret deals with foreign entities against our interests.

□ They're deliberately keeping our borders wide open to erase our national identity.

□ They mandate groupthink and conformity and punish anyone who doesn't parrot their chosen narratives, however absurd.

□ They're purging the best from our military and converting what's left into a tool of Wokeism.

□ They've transformed our once-great American cities into crime-ridden hellscapes.

□ They relentlessly stoke division between everyone and never miss the slightest opportunity to accuse someone or something of being racist, sexist, phobic, supremacist, etc.

□ They constantly work to slander, cancel, and erase our Founding Fathers, American heroes, and America itself. (E.g., they removed the statue of Theodore Roosevelt from the American Museum of Natural History.)

□ They want to defund the police, release criminals from prisons and disarm the rest of us.

☐ They defend terrorists. (Joe Biden: "Antifa is an idea, not an organization.")

□ They've ignored the first principle of the Nuremberg Code, which was written in the aftermath of WWII, and which explicitly prohibits coerced consent for experimental medications.

 $\Box$  They've tried to corrupt elections on a national scale.

 $\Box$  They've openly stated their desire to abolish the family structure itself.

□ They've threatened to abolish the filibuster, pack the Supreme Court, and dismantle the electoral college system.

 $\Box$  They're criminalizing normality on multiple fronts.

□ They've taken down American flags and raised other flags in government buildings and city streets, symbolizing their stealth political takeover.

 $\Box$  Their leaders have literally kneeled to one form of the cause they actually serve in the Capital building.

This list could go on, yet they accuse *us* of turning against America.

All the above is straight out of the communist playbook.

For anyone new to all this, some good places to start are the documentaries *The Agenda* (parts I and II) by Curtis Bowers, resources from *The Epoch Times*, or books such as *The Naked Communist* by W. Cleon Skousen or *Masters of Deceit* by J. Edgar Hoover. (While Hoover was flawed and the FBI has clearly gone downhill, the book itself, first published in 1958, is illuminating.)

If you're reading this, the above is probably restating the obvious and confirming what you already know.

But many still haven't put all the pieces together. Others find it all too wild or disturbing to think about. They're still going about life as if the ground hasn't shifted beneath their feet. The idea that we're living through a worldwide communist revolution just seems too strange and bizarre.

But those who have actually lived through communist revolutions have been trying to warn us. Those who lived through Mao's cultural revolution in China (Xi Van Fleet), former KGB agents (Yuri Bezmenov), FBI Directors (Hoover), Soviet prisoners (Solzhenitsyn), and many more have been sounding the alarms.

Few listened. Now we're getting a taste of what they were trying to warn us about.

Tyrants don't simply announce themselves openly and honestly. "Hi! I'm trying to become a tyrant, and I'd like to enslave you. Will you start obeying everything I say?" The serpent in the garden of Eden didn't say, "Hi! I'm trying to turn you against the Almighty. Eat this, please."

Instead, they make lofty, inspiring speeches. They promise free things. They appeal to our sense of hope, fairness, and justice. They claim to hold the solution to racial harmony, violence, and the literal death of the planet. They bribe the corrupt, seduce the gullible, and slander, disarm, and imprison everyone else.

Once they're in power, the mask comes off. But by then, it's too late.

The symbol of Fabian Socialism is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Too few of us see the wolf under the disguise. Far too many of us complain: "Why are you being so mean to this poor, innocent sheep?"

The word "Democrat" is now part of their disguise.

Few communists today call themselves communists. Some don't even know they're communists themselves. "Sure, I walk, talk, and act like a duck, but don't call me a duck!" But the key lies in what they *do*, not the word on their name tags.

Others know exactly who they are. John Brennan, for example, admitted to voting for a communist party candidate in 1976. He eventually went on to become Director of the C.I.A.

Hoover said, "...we may not learn until it is too late to recognize who the communists are, what they are doing, and what we ourselves, therefore, must do to defeat them." We Americans have had it so good for so long that we've become complacent. Too many of us can hardly recognize wolves in our midst.

But that's no longer Mr. Jones living there.

Viktor Orbán from Hungary recently said as much: "Don't be afraid to call your enemies by their name."

It's time to put them on the defensive. We can stop calling them Democrats.

Instead, we can call them what they are.

Call them communists.

*—American Thinker*, August 17, 2022

## **Basic Math vs. Global Warming** by Maker S. Mark

If someone proposes a solution to an "existential problem" that has no chance of success, should we be forced to take the problem seriously?

If the climate alarmists truly believe there is a climate emergency, then they should be able to answer the first basic question about "the plan." Are the numbers in the plan even remotely achievable? Remember: based on their screeching, we have only twelve years before we all die from "man-made climate change."

To answer that question, let's break part of the plan into the most basic math problem: can we replace 25%, 50%, or 75% of the cars on the road in ten years? To understand the theoretical possibility, we will simplify this to how many years will it take to replace all vehicles on the road in the US.

I will start with how many vehicles are on the road today in the US. In 2020, there were 286 million.\* I will round that to 300 million to simplify the math.

How many total vehicles are sold every year in the US? An average of a little fewer than 15 million vehicles are sold in the US every year (assuming sold vehicles and production capacity are related).\*

How many electric vehicles are produced in the US? We produce fewer than 1 million.\* I will round up to one million for my calculation.

The simple math problem is, how many years will it take to replace all the cars in the US with electric vehicles (total in the US rounded up / average production volume per year)?

It is 300M / 15M/year = 20 years. This assumes two important things: first, there are no new additions into

the economy of drivers and vehicles. Second, that we can convert *all* production to electric vehicles overnight.

If you believe that we are all going to die in 12 years, we are eight years too late in converting to all electric vehicles even if the underlying assumptions were possible.

This simple math problem shows that the people that are screaming the loudest do not have a serious solution to the existential problem of "man-made climate change." The automobile situation in the US alone cannot be resolved in twenty years, let alone in ten years.

Here is where the math gets a little more fun:

If we are currently producing 1 million electric vehicles a year, and we are struggling to attain the materials to hit that number, what is the maximum number of electric vehicles we can produce without a "magic wand"?

I will be generous and say we can at best expect to triple production to 3M a year. If we need 300M to be produced (300M/3M/year = 100 years), that means that it will take 100 years just to replace all the vehicles on the road. Companies are already struggling to get the minerals needed for batteries. When we try to go from 1M to 2M, it will get worse *and* more expensive. I can't even image the costs and environmental impact of trying to go from 2M to 3M. My prediction is that in ten years, the best we can hope to achieve in the US is replacing 10% to 15% of the vehicles on the road with electric vehicles.

Unserious people, who can't do this basic math, definitely cannot comprehend the complex science involved in studying the climate. The numbers don't lie. Their solution will not solve the "man-made climate problem" without a magic wand to replace every vehicle in the US in one or even two generations.

Members of the Biden administration have taken to saying we need the pain to get the gain. I demonstrate for you now that it is not possible to produce enough vehicles in 12 years or in 25 years. Therefore, this is definitely *all* pain and *no* gain. By destroying the US fossil fuel industry, it does seem they are determined to destroy the US economy from within.

Therefore, why are they pushing this agenda and this ridiculous solution? If you believe that the "man-made climate catastrophe" is around the corner, how will

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destroying the US and the world economy help? Simple answer is "it won't." The US is the most innovative nation in the history of the world. If you take us out of the equation, serious problems cannot be solved.

For those who say the globalists have a plan, I can assure you based on this high-level math that they do not have a serious plan to address "man-made climate change" (if they really believe it). It will probably take trillions of dollars injected into the world economy and thirty to forty years to replace all gas-powered vehicles with electric (assuming we can find the minerals and components to manufacture the batteries).

Without the magic wand referenced repeatedly by globalists, there is no way to produce enough electric vehicles to make a difference. The real question then becomes, why are they pushing to convert to electric vehicles (it won't help in time) to solve an "existential problem"? I think we have to "follow the money" to find out.

Personally, I will continue the work on the math problems and real science to dispel the myth of "manmade climate change." I recommend we not listen to people who are unwilling or unable to complete basic math problems when solving for this so-called crisis. The unserious solutions will do nothing to help an unserious problem.

*—American Thinker*, August 15, 2022

\*Links to data can be found at American Thinker.com

### Cuban Communism by Mary Anastasia

One way to think about the inferno that tore through a critically important fuel-shortage terminal in the Cuban port of Matanzas last week is as a funeral pyre for the 1959 revolution.

Havana says the fire was caused by a lightning strike. That may be so. But without modern safety and maintenance protocols to mitigate the risks of an act of God, the aging tanks were an accident waiting to happen.

Images of billowing black soot drifting toward the heavens for nearly a week and of the charred remains of the facility are a metaphor for what six-plus decades of Castro tyranny and fraud has done to once-prosperous Cuba.

Cuban communism has gone up in smoke. That's the good news. But the corruption and gangsterism championed by the megalomaniac Fidel lives on. A new generation of Castro kleptocrats—think of Vladimir Putin's Russia—is trying to grab the baton. As if to prove the point, last week Fidel's grandson took to social media to announce that he and a group of "entrepreneurs" had arrived in Matanzas to "help" the Cuban people.

A better outcome isn't impossible, Cubans are clamoring for regime change. If they get it, a transitional government will need technical support to shape a free Cuba. One reasonable worry is that the Biden administration isn't committed to Cuban freedom. The State Department recently reopened US flights to two luxury resort destinations run by the military dictatorship desperate for dollars.

The Cuban economy has buckled. According to a paper by Emilio Morales of the Miami-based Havana Consulting Group, revenue generated by the nine most important economic sectors on the island was down 70% in 2021 from 2013. The Mariel Special Development Zone, financed by the Brazilian government, is a white elephant. Nine years after it was inaugurated, "only 32 of the 62 businesses approved by the government are still operating," Mr. Morales writes, and it has received only "13.3% of the projected investment."

There are severe shortages in transportation, food, and basic medications like aspirin. A dengue epidemic is sweeping the island, the peso is worthless, and tourism isn't recovering from a steep pandemic contraction.

Three of eight fuel storage tanks at the Matanzas facility collapsed and a fourth caught fire, which means that the principal fuel supply for Cuba's electricity generation is now crippled. Even before the fire, daily power outages were routine and more than simply inconvenient. Without electricity, food spoils and hospitals are without lights and reliable running water. "Living in the country has become a true hell for everyone: children, youth, adults, and the elderly," Mr. Morales explains.

The political scene is no more stable. It's been 13 months since island-wide protests, sparked by extreme privation, filled the streets with calls for liberty. The uprising stunned dictator Miguel Diaz-Canel. He unleashed paramilitary brigades and uniformed state security agents to beat demonstrators in the streets. Many received harsh prison sentences.

But the regime's go-to methods for controlling dissent-like nightsticks and cock-roach-infested jail cells—hasn't done the trick this time. As the online news outlet *Diario de Cuba* reported last week, "spontaneous protests have become a regular phenomenon in Cuba," and "it is no longer extraordinary for there to be, every night, especially in towns suffering protracted blackouts, people banging pots and pans and shouting anti-regime slogans." Those slogans feature vulgar personal insults directed at the ruling class.

Farmers have engaged in a notable act of defiance by selling their tobacco crop in the black market, where

they reportedly get three times the price the government pays them, or by simply refusing to plant tobacco.

Overt disrespect for the dictator and his decrees was once enforceable. But Fidel's mystique is as dead as he is, and at 91 his brother Raul is at most a symbolic figure.

The July death of Gen. Luis Alberto Rodriquez Lopez-Calleja, Raul's former son-in-law, at 62 adds to the looming anarchy. As head of the large conglomerate Gaesa, he had become the most powerful man in the country. Under his leadership, Gaesa seized control of some 70% of the economy. His businesses included tourism, finance, retail, real estate, remittances, the port of Havana, the Mariel project, the telecom company and Cuba's Banco Financiero Internacional.

Lopez-Calleja was intelligent, worldly, and ruthless. He also was Raul's heir apparent. In the tradition of the Castro family, he used the country to make himself rich while Cuban misery deepened. As Mr. Morales notes, he leaves behind a bankrupt nation "bogged down between the stupidity of a bureaucracy that is incapable of reforming a proven obsolete model and the excessive ambition of a new mafia that has seized the country's wealth."

He also leaves behind a power vacuum, and we know how nature feels about that.

*—The Wall Street Journal*, August 15, 2022

## **Gender Madness in Schools** by C.S. Boddie

Like a huge iceberg submerged in the ocean of public education, most of the agenda concerning gender across the USA is underwater and hidden. Its origins are dark.

One corner of the iceberg popped out of the water when a teacher in Jefferson County, Colorado, who has been re-educated for not going along with the gender agenda, spoke out to the *Daily Caller* about his experience.

According to a July 1, 2022 article, "Jefferson County Public School teacher Phil Vagos underwent disciplinary action following an email exchange between himself and a transgender student."

The exchange took place in May 2021. Vagos tried to give a student information about how other transitioning young people have regretted their decisions to transition and detransition. He gave the student information from a website called "Transgender Trend."

#### THE SCHWARZ REPORT / OCTOBER 2022

That was the end of the matter until another student complained that Vagos was too conservative and didn't wear a mask. Apparently, the email exchange came to light then, because Vagos was sent to be re-educated on gender issues with a slew of videos. Vagos was told he could not use the word "trend" when talking about transgender issues.

Jeffco Public Schools wrote in a letter to Vagos, "Your response to this student and the provision of this link imparts a lack of support and reduces a student's self-identification as being transgendered as a 'trend' rather than something real the student is experiencing," the letter read.

Most parents in my part of the world would beg to differ with the school district. They would say that this high school teacher was taking the risk of providing information to a student to help the student in a real way, and that was honorable. But most parents around have some common sense.

My husband and I worked to get conservatives on the school board. Unfortunately, those good people were recalled by liberals in the district, and now we are where we are.

Also, we raised our two children in the Jeffco Public Schools. We volunteered at all levels and grades throughout their education and were very supportive and positive parents in the school communities. In addition, we have paid taxes in the county for some 35 years, supporting the public schools.

The fact that Jeffco Public Schools is teaching this gender stuff, and hiding it, and then persecuting a teacher who stands up for truth is a real betrayal to well-meaning community members and taxpayers like us.

Where did the gender-as-a-social-construct idea come from, anyway? Recently, I suggested to someone via Facebook that I thought somebody just made it up, and then teachers unions latched onto it and spread it across the country. Turns out, my intuition wasn't far off, except reality is much uglier and more tragic than my simple idea. The person who "just made up" gender was John Money, according to a January 24, 2022 article on *Reduxx*, a feminist news and opinion website. Writes Anna Slatz, "Dr. John Money, a sexologist and psychologist from New Zealand who practiced at Johns Hopkins, is considered the first to coin the terms 'gender identity' and 'gender role,' describing the 'internal experience of sexuality' and the 'social expectations of male and female behavior' respectively."

Dr. Money may have done some good across his 50 years at Johns Hopkins—he passed away in 2006 although he was very sympathetic to pedophilia, and "his work is prominently featured on the website of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA)," but it is said that he did not like to talk about an early case with which he was involved.

In 1967, the parents of a young Canadian boy brought their son to Money at Johns Hopkins. The poor lad had endured a bad circumcision at age six months and was mutilated. He had a twin brother. Money was big into research on gender "reassignment" and saw the presenting baby as an opportunity to test his theories because of the twin. Those tests turned out to amount to sex "reassignment" for the damaged twin and sexual abuse of both twins for years.

Both brothers eventually committed suicide. The parents blamed Money and his methods.

Something useful was proved by Money through the case. His subject, who was not told for years that he was male, never accepted his new identity as a female. Never. In fact, when he made his parents tell him the truth about his sex at 14, he had surgery to reclaim his true sex.

If you ask me, the teacher in Jefferson County, Mr. Vargas, was a hero and should be celebrated. What Dr. Money started should be stopped in Jefferson County and across the USA.

*—American Thinker*, August 25, 2022

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