

# COVID-19: A Weapon to Fundamentally Transform America

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An old Russian operating room joke says: *Did you know that in Russia tonsillectomies are done transrectally? No, why? People are afraid to open their mouths!*

Sadly, this joke could be describing the new America. What has happened? Why have we collectively lost our minds? And what has COVID-19 got to do with it?

While Americans have been asleep at the wheel, the power brokers were manipulating us into constant societal unrest, with dwindling individual liberties and growing dependency on the government and big corporations. COVID-19 has been a handy justification for left-leaning politicians to promote and solidify their ideology. What many Americans were led to believe was well-intentioned concern for our safety and health has turned into a morass of ever-changing rules designed not for our health, but to accustom us to government control of our lives.

The collectivist political philosophy that has been simmering in America for years may be coming to fruition. We will recover from the COVID-19 disease, but will we recover from the attendant malignant policy changes?

## Paving the Way for Transformation

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a major ally in paving the way for extreme social engineering. The U.S. political elite and the assorted rich and powerful have one overarching goal: to maintain and accumulate more power at any cost.

The hysteria and media manipulation surrounding the very real SARS-CoV-2 virus and its COVID-19 disease are the makings of a John Le Carré novel. As with the prophecies of Nostradamus, one can read anything into anything.<sup>1</sup> However, what we are witnessing has an uncanny similarity to the warning of former KGB agent Yuri Bezmenov.<sup>2</sup> Foreshadowing President Obama's dream to "fundamentally transform" America, Bezmenov describes the stages that occur over decades to accomplish "ideological subversion" of a population: (1) Demoralization through academic and media manipulation, when facts no longer matter; (2) Destabilization especially of the country's economy, forcing government to become more intrusive in our lives through doling out financial benefits; (3) Crises that allow the government to circumvent the Constitution and alter the checks and balances of government, and possibly to impose martial law; (4) Normalization in which the populace finally acquiesces and begins to assimilate communism.<sup>3</sup>

There you have it: the "New Normal."

## The Perfect Storm (Crisis)

The year 2020 brought an incredible convergence of a pandemic, national race riots, and a highly contentious presidential election. While the election controversy and

the pandemic, even with its variants and mutations, will fade, racism is the hot-button issue of choice to place all societal fronts—interpersonal relationships, education, and medicine—in a constant state of turmoil. Let's call it acute and chronic crises. COVID-19 is the crisis of the moment, and racism is the chronic, festering sore that saps our society's immune system.

The Social Justice Warriors and their media allies are working furiously to transform our thinking about people with whom we have harmoniously lived, worked, and played for years. The term "white supremacist" formerly conjured up images of the hood-wearing, cross-burning Ku Klux Klansmen. Now the term applies to anyone with whom the Wokerati disagree, including those black and brown people who behaved badly by professing conservative values, i.e., "multiracial whiteness." Further dividing us, the party line dictates that we condemn all white people for their "whiteness." This includes attributes such as rugged individualism, family structure, emphasis on the scientific methods, Protestant work ethic, planning for the future, and speaking proper English.<sup>4</sup> How interesting. These are all qualities my black parents had instilled in me.

Even mathematics is racist. For example, teachers asking students to show their work when solving math problems is a sign of white supremacy. According to class materials, this requirement reinforces "worship of the written word as well as paternalism" and wrong answers "perpetuate objectivity as well as fear of open conflict."<sup>5</sup> Take heed. If even a small group of people can be convinced that math is racist, they can be convinced of anything.

Enter the pandemic, stage left. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the American black population, and the causes are likely multifactorial. Prevalent in the American black population, obesity and hypertension are key risk factors for the severity of COVID-19.<sup>6</sup> This reality has served up an excuse for coming up with a mathematical model to show that wealth redistribution and reparations to descendants of slaves would have decreased COVID-19 deaths.<sup>7</sup>

In polite company, no one dares dissect these changes occurring in our society. Critical race theory (CRT) has replaced critical thinking. Any concerns are dismissed as "conspiracy theories" or "misinformation." Indeed, some researchers have felt inclined to study which members of a rural population are susceptible to misinformation.<sup>8</sup> Racism is the perfect chronic crisis. Knowing how difficult it is to prove a negative, when all else fails, calling someone a racist ends the discussion.

## It Can Happen Here!

We like to believe that our best and brightest are immune from making irrational, immoral policy decisions. Two eye-

popping Supreme Court cases involving, not rednecks but liberal icons and a recent COVID-related case tell us differently.

### **Buck v Bell (Facts Don't Matter)**

When an agenda is at stake, facts don't matter. The Supreme Court in the 1927 case, *Buck v. Bell, Superintendent of State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble Minded*, upheld as constitutional Virginia's compulsory sterilization law for the institutionalized "feeble-minded." Progressive eugenicist Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote:

The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes.... [Carrie Bell's] welfare and that of society will be promoted by her sterilization. It is better for all the world if, instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind... Three generations of imbeciles are enough.<sup>9</sup>

In fact, Plaintiff Carrie was merely an unwed mother, the daughter of prostitute, but not feeble-minded. Justice Pierce Butler, a devout Catholic, was the sole dissenter.<sup>10</sup> He was a consistent strict constitutional constructionist who had opposed federal welfare programs and ruled against the New Deal programs as unconstitutional.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, Justice Butler did not write a dissenting opinion. Although on-the-record state-sponsored sterilizations ended in 1981, the case has never been overruled.

### **Korematsu v. United States (No Evidence)**

The 1944 Supreme Court six-to-three ruling in *Korematsu v. United States* is clear evidence that a crisis can justify government overreach and disregard for individual rights.<sup>12</sup> Shortly after the United States entered World War II, progressive icon President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Executive Order 9066 authorized the removal of people of Japanese ancestry—most of whom were U.S. citizens. These law-abiding citizens were removed from their homes (many in high-end neighborhoods in California) and sent to out-of-state internment camps.

Twenty-three-year-old Fred Korematsu refused to leave his home and was arrested for failure to report to a relocation center. Korematsu's loyalty to the U.S. was never at issue. The American Civil Liberties Union challenged the constitutionality of the order. The Supreme Court ruled that detention was a "military necessity" not based on race. Justice Robert Jackson's dissent asserted: "Korematsu ... has been convicted of an act not commonly thought a crime. It consists merely of being present in the state whereof he is a citizen, near the place where he was born, and where all his life he has lived."<sup>12</sup> He concluded that military expediency did not justify stripping the internees of their constitutionally protected civil rights.

Fellow dissenter Justice Frank Murphy wrote: "Such exclusion goes over 'the very brink of constitutional power.' It further deprives these individuals of their constitutional rights to live and work where they will, to establish a home where they choose and to move about freely."<sup>12</sup>

In 1983, a pro bono legal team re-opened the case in the San Francisco Federal District Court on the basis of government misconduct.<sup>13</sup> The government's legal team

had intentionally suppressed or destroyed evidence from government intelligence agencies reporting that Japanese Americans posed no military threat to the U.S. Although the district court cleared Korematsu's name, the Supreme Court decision still stands.

### **The State v. Gokal (Demoralization)**

What disease has overcome us that would prompt the prosecution of a well-respected physician over a perceived misuse of leftover COVID-19 vaccine? Dr. Hasan Gokal, who worked for the Houston Public Health Department, had 10 doses of ready-to-expire COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>14</sup> He documented that he contacted first responders and the like to administer these soon-to-expire doses and had no takers. At the 11th hour, he gave doses to at-risk people who were not on the approved government list. He was fired from his public health job and charged with theft of \$135 worth of vaccine. Sanity prevailed, and the judge dismissed the charges—after Dr. Gokal's name had been dragged through the mud. Like the proverbial dog with a bone, the district attorney signaled that he might continue to pursue the case. The wrong lesson may be learned from this episode of government lunacy. If you want to do the reasonable ethical thing, move underground and operate in secrecy. Demoralization at its finest.

### **Psychological Tools for Fundamentally Transforming America**

Numerous political books have been written about manipulating individuals to bring about radical change in society, including Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals* and Eric Hoffer's *The True Believer*.<sup>15,16</sup> After the Korean War, psychologists studied the physical aspects of communist "involuntary re-education" or "brainwashing" to change the ideological principles of our captive soldiers. One such study known as the *Biderman Report* discovered several techniques.<sup>17</sup> Of particular note were (1) isolation, depriving subjects of social support; (2) demonstrating omnipotence, showing who is in charge and the futility of resistance; (3) degradation, making resistance worse than compliance; and (4) enforcing trivial demands to develop the habit of compliance.

Similarly, the 1956 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) study on communist control techniques determined that the central key to controlling the victim was isolation.

A major aspect of his prison experience is isolation. Man is a social animal; he does not live alone. From birth to death he lives in the company of his fellow man. His relations with other people and, especially with those closest to him, are almost as important to him as food or drink.<sup>18</sup>

The CIA's own dabbling in behavior modification prompted a Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights study in 1974.<sup>19</sup> (Tellingly, such a subcommittee no longer exists). Subcommittee Chairman Sam Ervin, Jr., stressed the intrusion on individual rights:

When the founding fathers established our constitutional system of government, they based it on their fundamental belief in the sanctity of the individual.... They understood that self-determination

is the source of individuality; and individuality is the mainstay of freedom.... To my mind the most serious threat posed by the technology of behavior modification is the power this technology gives one man to impose his views and values on another.... If our society is to remain free, one man must not be empowered to change another man's personality and dictate the values, thoughts and feelings of another.<sup>20</sup>

There was a time in a galaxy not so far away when individual rights were paramount.

### **COVID-19 Lockdowns: Death by Any Other Name (Isolation and Destabilization)**

The prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns appear to have taken a page from the communist playbook. First, the various ministries of health instilled in us fear of certain death. While clearly not approaching the torture our prisoners of war endured, one of the "non-pharmacological interventions" employed to "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 pandemic was two weeks of lockdowns in one's own home, only leaving for state-approved "essential activities." The common folk were initially told that it was silly to wear a mask. Then despite evidence to the contrary, all of us were told to wear masks at all times—even in our own homes.<sup>21</sup>

Soon it became clear that lockdowns and isolation had caused more harm than good to the population and would likely lead to an increase in non-COVID-related deaths. A mere 2 months into the "2 weeks to flatten the curve" lockdown, liquor sales were up 55 percent.<sup>22</sup> Anti-anxiety prescriptions were up 34 percent.<sup>23</sup> Verifiable domestic violence doubled in 6 months.<sup>24</sup> Some 80,000 diagnoses of five common cancers might have been missed or delayed by June 2020 because of disruptions to medical care.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, despite increases in telemedicine, evaluations of cardiovascular risk factors have dropped by 50 percent.<sup>26</sup>

Along with the physical problems there is a drastic decline in mental health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 40 percent of thousands surveyed reported at least one adverse mental or behavioral health condition.<sup>27</sup> Thirteen percent started or increased substance use to cope with stress or emotions related to COVID-19 lockdowns. Eleven percent seriously considered suicide. The most vulnerable and impressionable—our children—have fared poorly. A FAIR Health study examining health insurance claims from January 2020 to November 2020 documented the doubling of pediatric mental health visits in March and April 2020.<sup>28</sup> (FAIR is an independent nonprofit that manages the nation's largest database of privately billed health insurance.)

In addition to mental health issues, the children lost a year of in-person education. Despite the CDC data that determined that attending school or child care was not associated with having positive SARS-CoV-2 test results, many states continued to deny children in-person learning.<sup>29</sup> Racial equity be damned, the learning gap for poor and minority students has widened based on these irrational policies. A large survey of parents across the country showed parents from low-income homes are twice as likely to say remote learning is going poorly or very poorly and were 10 times as likely to report that their

children are doing little or no remote learning.<sup>30</sup> Forty percent of the poorest students were participating in remote learning only once a week or less. Some of these children dropped out and may never regain the lost earnings potential.

Finally, even into 2021, people are suffering from the economic impact of the lockdowns. Forty percent of adults say their household experienced a job or income loss due to the coronavirus outbreak—including a majority of young adults. This crosses all racial lines.<sup>31</sup> The World Health Organization has admitted that lockdowns "make the poor an awful lot poorer."<sup>32</sup>

In many states, two weeks became several months. Businesses remained closed (forever in some cases), extended families remained separated, elders and patients died alone. We were teased with some business openings but soon many were shut down without cause while the privileged (government officials and lobbyists) dined at the most expensive restaurant west of the Mississippi. No scientific evidence supported lockdowns.<sup>33,34</sup> Despite pleas from internationally renowned scientists, the lockdowns continued.<sup>35</sup>

Given all this evidence, why maintain the lockdowns? As the CIA discovered, the isolated person feels "profoundly anxious, helpless, frustrated, dejected, and entirely uncertain about his future."<sup>18</sup> Lockdowns, randomly designating which businesses are "essential," and opening and closing business at the whim of the government is designed to keep us in line. Hiding one's face with a mask is not normal, yet the government messages that it is immoral to not wear a mask at all times. Unrealistic limits of family get-togethers further intrude into our personal lives. I thought the government was supposed to stay out of our bedrooms.

This is a wake-up call. Becoming a psychological cripple is not an option.

### **Cancel Culture (Degradation)**

"Cancel culture" is psychological isolation of folks who committed the mortal sin of expressing an alternative viewpoint. If our Supreme Court Justices can be swept up in hysteria or the political or social agenda of the moment, is it any wonder that ordinary folks are lured by the superior feeling of "canceling" someone? All these folks need is a little push by the all-seeing, all-knowing 21st-century masters of the universe.

The examples are legion and cross all occupational lines. Eighteen retail outlets dropped the product of a pillow manufacturer who publicly expressed his evidence-based concerns about 2020 election fraud.<sup>36</sup> A record label dropped a musician after he peacefully attended the January 6, 2021, President Trump rally in Washington, D.C.—prior to any mob unruliness.<sup>37</sup> A Stanford's Hoover Institution physician scholar (and Trump adviser) was exoriated in the widely read *Journal of the American Medical Association* for having an opinion that differed from that of the scientifically inconsistent Dr. Anthony Fauci.<sup>38</sup> A Northern California physician was relieved of his surgical directorship for the crime of expressing in writing his concern that his county's lockdown was resulting in more harm than good.<sup>39</sup>

Folks gripped by their own power are renaming schools because they determined that some actions of the schools'

namesakes are now socially unacceptable. Employing the “just one thing” test for offensiveness, including slaveowners, exploiters of workers/people, domestic abusers or oppressors, environmental abusers, and of course white supremacists, historical figures are erased after minutes of thoughtful deliberation. Accordingly, no more Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Vasco Núñez de Balboa, Father Junipero Serra, Herbert Hoover, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Louis Stevenson, or Dianne Feinstein.<sup>40</sup> COVID-19 to the rescue. The Stalinesque “show me the man and I’ll show you his crime” school-renaming plans were put on hold only because the mayor pointed out that formulating a plan to reopen schools should take precedence on the school board’s to-do list.<sup>41</sup>

Wokanistas beware! The first target of censorship is rarely the last. Despite her good deeds to all races, Eleanor Roosevelt’s calling black folks “darkies” and “pickaninnies” should count her out.<sup>42</sup> What about President Roosevelt? He appointed Hugo Black, an ex-Klansman to the Supreme Court. He did not allow black reporters at his press conferences. And he did not support anti-lynching legislation for fear of losing Southern support.<sup>43</sup> Somehow President Biden is allowed to forgive Communist China for its atrocities (including rape and torture) against the Uighurs as mere different “cultural norms.”<sup>44</sup> We cannot, however, understand or forgive the different cultural norms existing during the early times of American and European slavery.

Unbridled cancel culture has escalated to “re-education.” An attorney with Public Broadcasting Service (paid with our tax dollars) suggested locking up Trump voters and putting their children in re-education camps.<sup>45</sup> Former national news anchor, Katie Couric, recommended deprogramming Trump supporters.<sup>46</sup> These comments were not spoken in jest. Experts in cult deprogramming are offering their services to aid those who believe in “conspiracy theories.”<sup>47</sup>

Remember Sam Ervin’s words: “If our society is to remain free, one man must not be empowered to change another man’s personality and dictate the values, thoughts and feelings of another.”<sup>20</sup>

### **Playing Hide and Seek with the Truth**

Under the guise of seeking the truth on social media, Facebook’s and Twitter’s unidentified fact checkers brand opinions they do not like as misinformation, many times without explanation. YouTube scandalously deleted portions of videos of official U.S. Senate hearings discussing successful early treatment of COVID-19 from Senator Ron Johnson’s channel.<sup>48</sup> And to add insult to injury, Facebook and Twitter offered the Biden White House assistance in removing what the tech overlords consider COVID-19 misinformation.<sup>49</sup>

We would expect better from mainstream news media. However, they have effectively become *Pravda*. (*Pravda*, meaning “the Truth,” was a Russian newspaper established in 1912. When Stalin came into power, he turned the newspaper into a propaganda arm to hide the truth. By 1918, *Pravda* became an official publication of the Soviet Communist Party.)<sup>50</sup> Mimicking *Pravda*, the *Washington Post*, now owned by the richest person in the world, scrubbed an “inartful” joke by Kamala Harris after the election.<sup>51</sup> She had compared being

on the campaign trail to being a starving prison inmate. She said what she said. Let the people decide. ABC News edited out Sen. Chuck Schumer’s (D-N.Y.) embarrassing sexually tinged flub.<sup>52</sup> And the list goes on.

Americans are generally quite reasonable. With due cause, we have willingly submitted to government interventions, such as airport security measures after 9/11. The country would have accepted that COVID-19 could be a very nasty, contagious disease that you would not want to contract, and taken appropriate precautions. Instead, those in charge chose to persuade through incomplete information. The news presented COVID-19 deaths and “cases,” rarely making the distinction between those who are ill and those who simply had a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 but had no symptoms. Moreover, the survivability factors soon became clear. Survival rates range from 99.997% in the young to 94.6% in those older than 70.<sup>53</sup> Forty percent of deaths were in nursing home residents.<sup>54</sup> Additionally, 94 percent of persons who died had, on average, 3.8 additional conditions or causes per death.<sup>55</sup> We would have been happy to take extra precautions for our elders and allow other groups to use safeguards commensurate with their risk.

According to a peer-reviewed study of the CDC’s data-collection methodology, CDC admitted it had comingled data from the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test that detects viral RNA with antibody tests that detect past infections (and may pick up antibodies to the common cold).<sup>56</sup> Consequently, some infected persons were counted twice. Further, CDC’s new Mar 24, 2020, rule diverged from the 2003 *Coroners’ Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting* and *Physicians’ Handbook on Medical Certification of Death*. Post COVID-19, death certificates allowed unconfirmed COVID-19 to be listed as the cause of death rather than a contributor to death from an underlying condition. The study concluded the procedural change inflated COVID fatalities by at least 1,600 percent. Many deaths were of patients with serious underlying conditions or who were already in hospice and had weeks to live and coincidentally tested positive.

One might also conclude that the the sudden disappearance of influenza this season might be due to flu cases being given the diagnostic code for COVID-19.<sup>57</sup>

Are we getting the facts or the “official story”? Relying on their common sense, some are ignoring the government recommendations and defying mandates that have proven to make no sense. Because the censors bury the facts, many less informed Americans continue to be taken in by government manipulation. Honest, complete information is what we need to make rational decisions.

### **Censorship and COVID-19 (Tyranny of Experts)**

Pol Pot, Stalin, and Mao killed millions with bullets, forced labor, or starvation to achieve their goals and to silence dissenting opinions. But as Vladimir Lenin noted, “ideas are much more fatal than guns.”<sup>58</sup> Thus, where propaganda and media bias do not succeed, censorship will. Physician proles are being censored, our polite version of “disappearing” dissidents.

We now have thousands of studies on the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19. There is a real-time database and meta-analysis of many studies and reports documenting success of early treatment with safe, low-cost, readily available medications.<sup>59</sup> Favoring costly new experimental drugs, Dr. Fauci disdainfully damned these studies' validity as merely "observational." They had not met his gold standard of randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

Unfortunately, busy physicians and the general public are likely unaware of the favorable history of patient "observation." More than 150 years ago, when defending the advantages of ether over chloroform in childbirth, Dr. Walter Channing wrote:

They know that these remedies of pain have been widely used, and with a success which attaches to no other known remedy in practical medicine. They look to the facts. They collect these; and, when the time for philosophizing has come, they will with great pleasure use physiology, and all other collateral aid, in their important generalizations.... But in the very imperfect condition of this noble science, they are willing to take the guidance of simple fact, of daily observation, in the conviction that, if wisely followed, it will never lead them astray.<sup>60</sup>

Current reviews have validated Dr. Channing's observation. A comparison of observational studies and RCTs of therapeutics over the last 35 years found "little evidence that estimates of treatment effects in observational studies...are either consistently larger than or qualitatively different from those obtained in randomized, controlled trials."<sup>61</sup> Indeed, many thousands of deaths might have been averted had the bureaucrats heeded the advice of clinicians on prophylactic or early treatment rather than using our lives to make political points or sell more expensive and less effective drugs.<sup>62</sup>

If Dr. Fauci was so enamored of randomized controlled trials, why did he not follow the results of the RCT to determine the effectiveness of community mask-wearing with 6,000 participants?<sup>63</sup> The study found that wearing a mask offered no statistically significant benefit: after the one-month study period, about 2 percent of the mask wearers and the non-mask wearers had a positive PCR test. Despite the study validating years of observational studies, he then recommended wearing two masks. Why? Because he's showing you who is the boss.

These studies coupled with the CDC survival data would call for a more measured response appropriate for the risk involved. Let the young and healthy live their lives with preventive precautions like hand washing and "respiratory etiquette," i.e., coughing/sneezing into the elbow, and staying home if sick. Protect the elderly and immunocompromised, consider prophylaxis, and provide early treatment to those who are symptomatic.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination as a Means of Control**

In the often cited 1905 case of *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a city ordinance requiring that all adults be vaccinated against smallpox, subject to a \$5 fine.<sup>64</sup> The Court noted that the liberties guaranteed by the Constitution are not absolute and that the police power of the state is justified. In this case, the state board of health had

determined that it was necessary for public health and safety. Although decided in 1905, the case is considered "good law."

Many current discussions of *Jacobson* as precedent for the constitutionality of mandatory vaccines miss a key issue addressed by the Court. At the outset of his ruling, Justice John M. Harlan II asked, "What results were intended to be accomplished by [the ordinance]?"<sup>64</sup> Distinguishing between facts and opinion, Justice Harlan noted that both the "common belief" and the opinion of most medical experts was that the vaccine was necessary to protect the public health.<sup>64</sup> He noted that *Jacobson* had not presented facts that indicated vaccine was not the "best mode for prevention of smallpox" and necessary to protect public health.<sup>64</sup> This implied that facts contrary to the "common belief" could have changed the outcome.

As noted above, there are many papers documenting the successful prophylaxis and early treatment of COVID-19. Additionally, COVID-19 cases and deaths are already waning—well before any effect from the vaccines could kick in.<sup>65</sup> As the *per curiam* Supreme Court opinion in *Brooklyn v. Cuomo* wrote, "even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten."<sup>66</sup> Were such evidence presented to an unbiased court, they would likely find that mandatory COVID-19 vaccination was not necessary for the health and safety of the public.

The current COVID-19 vaccines do not prevent infection but rather attenuate the disease, and there are many other avenues for protecting the public from moderate or severe COVID-19 illness. Nonetheless, various types of COVID-19 vaccine trackers are proliferating. These range from a smart-phone "Vaccine Passport" app that collects your medical record information to a "Daily Pass" to attend school.<sup>67,68</sup> No sane person should submit to such an intrusion on personal privacy.

The fully vaccinated will become a new privileged class, creating another way to divide us and keep us begging for favors. Adding to the mental chaos, the experts told us life will come back to normal once we have vaccines. We have vaccines, but now are told that even if you are vaccinated, you should still wear a mask because it is not really a vaccine that keeps you from getting infected. Fear and anxiety make us easier to control.

### **Authoritarianism as the "New Normal"**

It is well-known that the private tech companies, Google, Twitter, and Facebook are continually sharpening their algorithms to root out what they determine are "hate speech" and "misinformation." We can take it upon ourselves to avoid social media and comb the internet for diverse and reliable news sources. But now COVID-19 has emboldened Congress to join in overt censorship. The "COVID-19 Misinformation and Disinformation Task Force Act of 2020" was introduced Aug 6, 2020, for the purpose of rooting out foreign misinformation and disinformation.<sup>69</sup> After its two readings it was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Who is fooled by this foreign meddling nonsense? Let's note how quickly the word "terrorist" became equated to

white supremacists, with nary a mention of politically favored destructive groups.<sup>70</sup> According to the new Left's ethnic worldview, all white people and certain black and brown people are white supremacists at heart. It is within the realm of possibility that soon anyone with a divergent opinion can somehow be shoe-horned into that toxic category.

After getting the public accustomed to government meddling regarding COVID-19, it becomes easier to quietly transform authoritarian absurdities into reality. U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Jerry McNerney (D-Calif.) proudly announced their attempt to purge the airwaves of content they find unacceptable. They sent a letter to 12 cable, satellite, and streaming TV companies urging them to combat "lies and misinformation" on the channels they host. "Misinformation on TV has led to our current polluted information environment that radicalizes individuals to commit seditious acts and rejects public health best practices, among other issues in our public discourse."<sup>71</sup> This language reads as though it was extracted from a "how-to for tyrants" manual.

These House members asked of the cable television providers, among other things:

4. What steps did you take prior to, on, and following the November 3, 2020 elections and the January 6, 2021 attacks to monitor, respond to, and reduce the spread of disinformation, including encouragement or incitement of violence by channels your company disseminates to millions of Americans?

5. Have you taken any adverse actions against a channel, including Fox News, Newsmax, and OANN, for using your platform to disseminate disinformation related directly or indirectly to the November 3, 2020 elections, the January 6, 2021 Capitol insurrection, or COVID-19 misinformation?...

7. Are you planning to continue carrying Fox News, Newsmax, and OANN on [your cable channels] both now and beyond any contract renewal date? If so, why?

When the "fundamental transformation" arrives, these obsequious politicians think they will be spared. Think again. History tells us that such useful idiots are uniformly eliminated. Very few make it to the politburo.

All has been quiet on the eastern front. Yet razor wire indefinitely surrounding the Capitol is sending a message. There is a new sheriff in town. Stay out of "the People's House."

## Freedom Is Endangered

As President Ronald Reagan reminded us, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."<sup>72</sup>

We cannot allow COVID-19's legacy to be the dawn of total government control not only over our health but our daily activities. We are kept guessing and off guard and in a state of chronic fear for our future health and our livelihoods. We have been reduced to pleading for permission to exercise our civil rights. We do not want to fall into the trap of becoming a purposefully balkanized society that pits black neighbor against white neighbor, the vaccinated against the unvaccinated, the masked against the unmasked, the compliant against the critical thinkers, and where "social distancing" becomes a habit.

Free speech is the bedrock of our human and constitutional rights. Open discussion with divergent opinions is vital to advancing discourse in society and science. Physicians must be free to discuss options and treat their patients without fear of repercussions from government bureaucrats. The government medical arm has not merely refused to acknowledge, but has silenced open scientific discussion of the advantage of various protocols for the early treatment of COVID-19 with proven safe medications affordable by anyone. More perniciously, the people behind the curtain try to sully the reputations of individuals who have not succumbed to groupthink.

Politicians, government bureaucrats, social media, software owners, vaccine manufacturers, and pharmaceutical companies are not in charge of health and medical care. We all want to do our part to attenuate the number of serious COVID infections in our communities. But we cannot hand over our bodies and lives to the government. We may never get them back. Frederick Douglass warned us years ago: "Power concedes nothing without a demand.... Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them."<sup>73</sup>

It's time to wake up and look at the road ahead.

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