

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

THE

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REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



2017

Has the World Turned Upside Down?

**America's Shadow War:
U.S. Military Engagement in Africa**

**The CRISPR
Revolution**

**Socialism:
America's Future?**

**Your Marriage
Can Be Happy!**

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VOL. XVI | NO. 1 | JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

A R T I C L E S

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■ **OVERSEAS:** U.S. soldiers conduct a drill in the French Notch area of Djibouti (Nov. 11, 2017).

PHOTO: AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ERIN PIAZZA

America's Shadow War: U.S. Military Engagement in Africa

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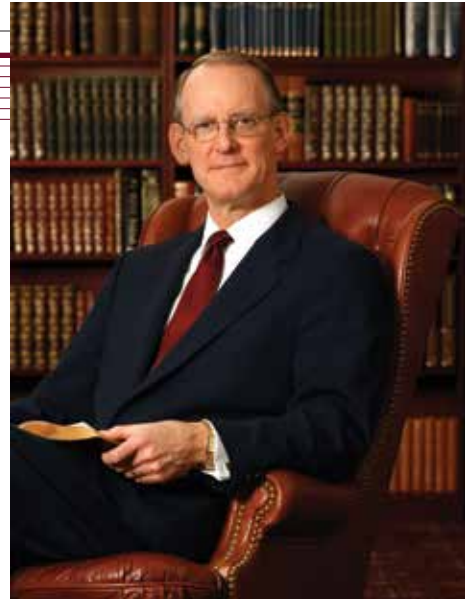
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



Your Marriage Can Be Happy!

THE WORLD IS exploding with problems. Much *knowledge* is available about most of them, but little *understanding*. The breakdown of marriage and the family is a classic example. Seemingly everyone knows it is happening, but no one knows what it *means*—or what to do about it.

Ever greater numbers of people are questioning the institution of marriage. Many are concerned about where current trends are heading. Some question whether marriage can even survive. Many get married on their own terms or only on a trial basis. Millions simply live together, unmarried—and increasing numbers now enter “same-sex” partnerships. Other millions have come to believe living single is the best state.

Why is all of this happening?

Religion, education, science and society do not know the true purpose of marriage. They do not even know if marriage *has* a purpose. And many couples do reflect that they are together with no purpose.

Most married people are *unhappy*—with many a virtual study in misery. They have no idea what to *do* about it, or where to turn for answers. Millions

stumble along, bouncing from one marital problem to another, never knowing *how* to address them—let alone solve them!

How many *really* happy married couples do you know?—and are you even sure of these? Is your marriage truly happy? Are you enjoying the life that you anticipated? Statistics suggest the answer is probably “no.”

Married life has been the brunt of endless jokes, where traditional conduct and the roles of husbands and wives are ridiculed—and depicted as a bondage only the foolish enter. Great numbers have come to equate marriage with surrendering “freedom” to a lesser, unhappy state of existence.

Others choose to marry, sincerely believing they will find perfect bliss—will “live on love”—only to discover that true happiness is far from automatic. Some even conclude—often within *days*—that marriage was the worst decision of their lives.

Sadly, so many enter marriage with no understanding, no preparation, no training, and no idea of how to achieve a lifetime of happiness with their chosen partner.

Most couples spend more time planning for a one-day *wedding* than for the lifelong *marriage* that should follow. As a result, half of all marriages fail, ending in divorce, often with former partners becoming *mortal enemies!* Other cou-

ples are just as unhappy, but perhaps can not afford a divorce, or stay together only because of the children or other social or business reasons.

How tragic! And how completely unnecessary!

Programmed to Fail

Why have so few been able to find even a measure of the enjoyment they originally believed marriage would bring? Why have so many others decided to simply live together, avoiding commitment, thus artificially reducing the already skyrocketing number of divorces? Why do so many openly admit that they do not *trust* their mates? Why do over 80 percent of marriages experience adultery? Why such confusion about marriage and its purpose?

What has brought the once sacred institution of marriage to such a *deplorable state*?

What happened is no accident.

Consider how marriage is routinely portrayed in the media. Wholesome television programs from the 50s, 60s and early 70s about the family—such as *Ozzie and Harriet*, *Leave It to Beaver*, and *Little House on the Prairie*—have been replaced by *All in the Family*, *The Simpsons*, and *The Osbournes*, or worse.

Books and movies have also accelerated this decline, and in every way. Fornication, cohabitation, adultery, homosexuality and every other conceivable “alternative lifestyle,” now including same-sex “marriage,” have been depicted uncounted thousands of times in the media. Invariably, programs, movies and books have portrayed immorality as exciting, fascinating, mysterious—and the virtual “norm” for what is now the large majority.

Their impact on marriage has been stunning. In fact, marriage has become a laughingstock. Wholesome images of marriages, families and role models of the past have almost disappeared. Sadly, millions have copied new, modern role models, discarding traditional marriages and families as obsolete relics that history has properly scrapped.

Recent generations have been conditioned to believe marriage is better

“the second time around.” By this logic, the *third* marriage would be even better!

Accompanying these trends has been a corresponding decline in traditional values and the importance of character. This trend is worldwide. Under constant attack, standards of right and wrong—good and bad—old-fashioned “righteousness” and “unrighteousness”—have been blurring and crumbling. How many people any longer even speak of character, once called virtue?

With the steep decline in the most basic character has come an unwillingness to remain committed to vows exchanged on the wedding day. With the near disappearance of ethics, standards and basic knowledge of right and wrong has come the assumption that when marriage difficulties arise—as they inevitably do with imperfect human beings—couples should simply take the easy way out—divorce!

The Author of Marriage

Why do so few understand there are great principles—transcendent spiritual LAWS!—governing what most think is merely a *civil agreement*? How many recognize that men and women have separate, different, God-ordained roles that must be understood for marriage to succeed? How many couples have been actively taught the real *purpose* of marriage? Most no longer even know the origin of marriage, let alone the vital answers to these and other important related questions!

The answers involve *revealed* knowledge—knowledge men *cannot themselves discern*. God must reveal it.

In place of revealed truth, modern education has taught the great evolutionary lie—that life is continually evolving to a higher state. Scoffers, preferring to believe that human beings are a product of dumb luck, dismiss the biblical account that God supernaturally created two actual people—Adam and Eve—and then identified them as history’s first married couple.

Of course, those who believe the unproven, and in fact easily disproven, *fiction* of evolution must also believe that, at some point, *men* devised the marriage institution. Believing oth-

erwise is incompatible with evolution. One cannot have it both ways. Either God created marriage—or men did.

But human beings did NOT create marriage! Therefore, apart from God, they cannot know its true purpose—or the KEYS to decades of happiness with the *same person*.

It is not our purpose here to prove God exists or that the Bible is His inspired Word. We have several booklets, brochures and articles that address these subjects. We start with the fact that the Almighty God, who designed and made the heavens and the Earth, also designed and created marriage.

Divine Institution

Though marriage appears to be merely a physical union, starting with a wedding ceremony performed by a man, it is actually a *divine institution*. As the true Author of marriage, God understands what makes it succeed, bringing supreme happiness and joy—or fail, bringing divorce and broken lives. This same God clearly reveals this knowledge in His Word.

For every effect, there is a cause. When a marriage experiences all the right effects, it is because right CAUSES have been understood and correct principles practiced. When a marriage is filled with problems of every sort, right causes have been either unknown or ignored.

The Creator God designed marriage to be a source of great happiness, something for which everyone yearns. *You* can have an exciting, happy, successful marriage—but only if you follow God’s prescribed formula. This Personal reveals the formula—the causes!—behind a happy marriage. It introduces the truth of how to build a wonderful, joyful marriage. There are basic principles unknown to all but a very few who are willing to truly study and believe God’s Word to see what He instructs.

God’s Instructions from the Beginning

The first reference to marriage describes Adam and Eve being brought together by God, forming the first marital union of a man and woman in history. Genesis

2 states, “The LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet [suitable] for him” (vs. 18).

God explains that men and women were not designed to be alone. People never work as well—are not as productive—when they are alone. Men were created—in fact, designed—to need an assistant, a help, a wife to stand beside them. Of course, wives are also aided by husbands in a variety of ways.

Studies show that the average person becomes happier after marriage. This increase has actually been measured, with studies revealing that, no matter the person’s prior level of happiness, he or she receives at least a small boost.

Genesis describes Adam inspecting all the animals God had created and finding none suitable for him. So God put him to sleep, took a rib from his side, and created the woman: “And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He [the Hebrew means “builded”] a woman, and brought her unto the man” (Gen. 2:22).

Adam realized the woman was literally part of him—that she had come *from* him: “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (vs. 23).

Next, God tells Adam and Eve what to do once married—in His first recorded instruction about the marriage institution: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (vs. 24-25).

Married couples are to live together, forming a new household, apart from their parents. The phrase “and they shall be one flesh” is speaking of sexual relations. The verse is defining where sex belongs—within marriage!

This account establishes marriage as God-ordained! This institution was created, designed and presented to the first human couple as the way that God intended the two sexes to live together.

Now notice this passage in Ecclesiastes describing the advantages

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of marriage: “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor” (4:9). And, “For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falls; for he has not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?” (vs. 10-11). This is in addition to, “If one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (vs. 12).

Notice the phrase “a threefold cord.” This establishes the minimum number to be a family. One child makes any couple “threefold.” To be a rope—a “cord”—a minimum of three strands is

required, making it possible to weave them together. Each additional child then further strengthens the marriage, makes the rope stronger, and binds the family more, making it harder for a couple to break up. God explains that producing a family is central to marriage. Adam and Eve were told, “Be fruitful, and *multiply*” (Gen. 1:28).

Husband’s Responsibility

The most crucial New Testament passage about marriage and the specific roles of husbands and wives is Ephesians 5:22-33. These 12 verses

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AMERICA'S SHADOW WAR

U.S. Military Engagement in Africa



With thousands of troops stationed on the continent, America is waging a war there that is primarily unknown, but still very deadly.

AFTER FOUR American Army Green Berets were killed in early October in Niger when their convoy was ambushed by terrorists, U.S. citizens were in shock. Yet it was less from the deaths themselves than the place where they were killed.

“Where is Niger?” people asked. “And why are American forces even in the country of 20 million when we are not at war there?”

It is a question that has more relevance now that the West African nation’s plight is in the spotlight.

On the Ground

The soldiers killed in Niger were four of the roughly 800 U.S. service members there who are part of a French-led mission to defeat extremists in West Africa.

The joint U.S. and Niger patrol had been asked to help a second team of commandos hunting for a senior member of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. A senior defense official said the ambushed team had asked to go to a location where the insurgent had last been seen to collect intelligence, but not search for him.

After conducting an overnight reconnaissance mission, the Army Green

Berets and about 30 Nigerien troops stopped briefly in a village to get food and water. Upon leaving, they were attacked by about 50 heavily armed enemy fighters, who also killed four Nigerien fighters and wounded two Americans and several Nigeriens.

The troops were just a handful of thousands who have been deployed across the continent to deal with an increasing number of threats from Islamic terrorist groups, political instability, and tribal clashes.

■ **NIGHT DRILL:** Soldiers fire M240 machine guns at targets in Djibouti (Nov. 1, 2017).

PHOTO: AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ERIN PIAZZA



“It’s a fight that takes place largely in the shadows, led by small teams of US special operations forces,” *Vox* reported. “In Somalia, Navy SEALs are hunting members of al-Qaeda and ISIS-linked militants from groups like al-Shabaab (one of the commandos died in a botched raid earlier this year). In Libya, they’re carrying out counterterror missions like the one that captured Ahmed Abu Khattala, a militant linked to the deadly assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi. And in Djibouti, the US flies armed drones out of a major airbase at Camp Lemonnier, which is also used for

counterterrorism and counter-piracy operations in the region.”

In many cases, U.S. troops are fighting in countries they did not expect to be in against an enemy—Islamic State affiliates—that did not exist years ago.

“At the moment, seventeen hundred members of the Special Forces and other military personnel are undertaking ninety-six missions in twenty-one countries, and the details of most are unknown to Americans,” *The New Yorker* reported.

“The missions rely on a broad array of legal authorities but have one particularly important thing in common: They have never been specifically authorized by Congress, let alone discussed and debated by the American public,” *Vox* stated. “Huge questions exist as to the strategic importance and relevance of all these missions, and whether they improve US national security enough to justify the high cost in blood and treasure. Since 2001, at least 36 soldiers have died conducting or supporting military operations in Africa, including Sgt. La David Johnson and the three others killed in Niger earlier this month.

“With 6,000 troops operating in Africa, and US commanders describing the continent as the next big battleground in the terror fight, the pace and number of American military engagements is certain to increase even more sharply. That raises legitimate new questions about whether the US has committed itself to unending and expanding war in Africa through missions that are taking place with nearly no political or public oversight.”

Increasing Missions

Virginian Democrat Senator Tim Kaine told *The Associated Press* that most Americans would be surprised by the extent of operations in Africa in which U.S. forces are involved.

“I don’t think Congress has necessarily been completely kept up to date and the American public, I think, certainly has not,” Mr. Kaine told the outlet after leaving a classified briefing

conducted by senior Pentagon officials on the assault in Niger.

And the number of missions appears to be growing.

According to *Vice News*: “In 2006, just 1 percent of all U.S. commandos deployed overseas were in Africa. In 2010, it was 3 percent. By 2016, that number had jumped to more than 17 percent. In fact, according to data supplied by U.S. Special Operations Command, there are now more special operations personnel devoted to Africa than anywhere except the Middle East—1,700 people spread out across 20 countries dedicated to assisting the U.S. military’s African partners in their fight against terrorism and extremism.”

The outlet wrote that the increase in America’s presence in Africa is in line with the growing number of violent extremist organizations that have formed over the years.

“Terror attacks in sub-Saharan Africa have skyrocketed in the past decade,” it stated. “Between 2006 and 2015, the last year covered by data from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland, attacks jumped from about 100 per year to close to 2,000.”

Despite the risks, United States Africa Command, which facilitates operations throughout the continent, said in its 2017 Posture Statement that it is especially important for the U.S. to work with local forces “to address the root causes of violent extremism, lack of accountable government systems, poor education opportunities, and social and economic deficiencies to achieve long-term, sustainable impact in Africa.”

“Africa remains an enduring interest for the U.S., and the fifty-three nations in the Africa Command Area of Responsibility look to the U.S. for assistance but, more importantly, for leadership—leadership that advantages our partners as they turn challenges into opportunities.”

Volatile Region

Before ISIS ever became a household name, *New York Times* reporter Jeffrey

Gettleman wrote a piece titled “Africa’s Forever Wars” for *Foreign Policy* in which he observed that the carnage occurring on the continent was seeming to get worse every year, not better, despite all the efforts to help its people.

“There is a very simple reason why some of Africa’s bloodiest, most brutal wars never seem to end: They are not really wars. Not in the traditional sense, at least. The combatants don’t have much of an ideology; they don’t have clear goals. They couldn’t care less about taking over capitals or major cities—in fact, they prefer the deep bush, where it is far easier to commit crimes. Today’s rebels seem especially uninterested in winning converts, content instead to steal other people’s children, stick Kalashnikovs or axes in their hands, and make them do the killing. Look closely at some of the continent’s most intractable conflicts, from the rebel-laden creeks of the Niger Delta to the inferno in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and this is what you will find.”

The piece concluded with the comment that many conflicts in Africa have become “circles of violence in the bush, with no end in sight.”

Now that violent extremist organizations and terror attacks by groups such as ISIS and al-Shabaab are commonplace, the plight of the continent appears to be even worse. A report by Special Operations Command in Africa detailed the problems across Africa, which painted a painful picture of its future.

“Each region of Africa has its own set of additional problems. In North Africa political instability and threats from violent extremist organizations continue to drive security dynamics here. In Libya, ungoverned spaces allow al-Qaida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Ansar al-Sharia elements, al-Murabitun and other violent extremist organizations to grow and gain negative influence. North Africa remains a significant source of foreign fighters to Syria and Iraq,

some of which are returning with greater capabilities.

“In western Africa, Boko Haram, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and criminal organizations strive to expand their networks. Ineffective governance promotes opportunity for socio-economic inequality to increase here. This produces conditions which encourage popular uprisings in this part of Africa, in turn creating new opportunities for violent extremist organizations to expand their reach.

“Central Africa remains a volatile region characterized by security shortfalls, human rights violations, corruption and government mismanagement, which create an environment conducive to insurgent activities, military coups and mass atrocities. In central Africa, the Lord’s Resistance Army and criminal organizations are factors to instability in the area.

“East Africa will remain characterized by conflict for the foreseeable future. This dynamic provides opportunity for al-Shabaab, currently active in Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda, and Ethiopia; and empowers new, ideologically motivated extremist groups seeking political change. Terrorism and foreign fighter flows; trafficking of persons, narcotics and illicit goods; and piracy is the chief transnational concerns in East Africa.”

Africa is just one continent out of seven! Think how much more could be said about other areas of the world that suffer from the same sorts of problems.

And that is not to mention the refugee crises resulting from religious and ethnic wars across the Middle East and Southeast Asia, deadlier storms across the Caribbean and United States, and violent unrest rattling South America—that seem to jump from the headlines—all requiring greater and greater amounts of money and resources to overcome. □



■ **TRAINING MISSION:** Soldiers conduct a live-fire exercise in Djibouti (Nov. 11, 2017).

PHOTO: AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ERIN PIAZZA

POPE'S VIEWS STIR CATHOLIC LEADERS

POPE FRANCIS is again making waves in the Catholic Church. Numerous leaders claim he is spreading heresy by emphasizing that faithful Catholics must follow their consciences over hard and fast Catholic rules that have been in place for centuries.

In November, Francis affirmed the need to use one's conscience to navigate tough moral questions. He did so in a video message to a conference organized by Italian bishops about his controversial 2016 document on family life, "The Joy of Love."

Since its release, the document has badly divided the Catholic Church. Some commentators warned that it risks creating a schism given its opening to divorced, civilly remarried, and unmarried cohabiting Catholics. Church teaching holds that unless these Catholics obtain an annulment—a church decree declaring their first marriage invalid—they cannot receive the sacraments since they are seen as committing adultery in the eyes of the church.

Following its publication, four prominent cardinals formally asked for a clarification to five "dubia," or doubts, they said had been spawned by the document.

In August, the group of traditionalist and conservative priests and scholars who formally accused Francis of spreading heresy issued a 25-page



PHOTO: FRANCO ORIGLIA/GETTY IMAGES

"Filial Correction" to the pope. The document stated that he has "effectively upheld 7 heretical positions about marriage, the moral life, and the reception of the sacraments, and has caused these heretical opinions to spread in the Catholic Church."

The last time such actions were taken was in the Middle Ages, when "Pope John XXII was admonished in 1333 for errors which he later recanted on his deathbed," the group wrote in a press statement. The letter, which was posted on their website, had been signed by 62 clergy (including one bishop) and lay scholars from 20 countries as of this writing.

Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, whom Francis recently removed as the Vatican's chief doctrinal watchdog, did not join the four "dubia" cardinals or the heresy accusers. But he warned in a recent book preface that "schismatic temptations and dogmatic confusion" had been sown as a result

of the debate over the document. He said such confusion was "dangerous for the unity of the church."

This is not the only time that the pope has been accused of being divisive. His positions of who should be considered sinners and who should not have caused controversy during his last four years as leader of the world's approximately 1.2 billion Catholics.

"Francis, the first non-European pope in modern times, and the first ever Jesuit pope, was elected as an outsider to the Vatican estab-

lishment, and expected to make enemies," *The Guardian* stated. "But no one foresaw just how many he would make. From his swift renunciation of the pomp of the Vatican, which served notice to the church's 3,000-strong civil service that he meant to be its master, to his support for migrants, his attacks on global capitalism and, most of all, his moves to re-examine the church's teachings about sex, he has scandalised reactionaries and conservatives."

While certain Catholic leaders have been vocal about the pope's changing views of the church's role, others have and continue to view the shift in Catholic philosophy as part of the religious process.

"Doctrine develops," German Cardinal Reinhard Marx told reporters at a 2014 Vatican press conference reported on by the *National Catholic Reporter*. "Saying that doctrine will never change is a restrictive view of things." □



SOCIALISM

America's Future?

Millennials are worried about their futures in a free market society, leading them to increasingly gravitate toward socialist ideology.

BY GREGORY E. K Aidannek

AMERICA—THE LAND of the free and the home of the brave.

Since 1776, this great country has been the bastion of freedom, wealth and prosperity. People from all over the world have risked their lives, and willingly left families behind to take part in this abundant and ideal society.

“Be all that you can be” and “follow your dreams” are phrases and individualistic ideologies taught to American children for decades and burned into the minds of millions.

The United States has been both the envy and the example to the entire world.

Vast stores of wealth can be obtained by private citizens in a free,

law-abiding society. The American Dream—what could be better? The campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again” capitalized on this established idea and led to U.S. President Donald Trump’s recent victory.

Many tens of millions of Americans, however, were stunned by the president’s victory in part because a different philosophy for American society has been developing quietly in the background. This model is not new, but it is one that would not have been as publicly accepted a decade ago.

Socialism, a form of government driven by collective control and typically enforced by strong government oversight, is now becoming widely embraced and threatens to become the new American ideal.

According to a recent YouGov study commissioned by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, socialism among millennials is on the rise. Forty four percent of American millennials surveyed would prefer to live in a socialist country versus only 42 percent who would prefer capitalism. Going even further, 7 percent would prefer communism. This is a very distinctive move leftward when contrasted with the entire study group of U.S. adults—34 percent prefer socialism and 3 percent communism.

The reason that these numbers are somewhat unsettling to some is that millennials (those 18-34 years) now make up the largest generation living in the United States.

Groups all over the U.S. are gaining steam from this youth move-

ment toward the left. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is one such organization riding the political coattails of self-proclaimed democratic socialist Bernie Sanders.

The DSA was originally established by Marxists in 1982. Its membership has nearly quintupled since the 2016 presidential race to nearly 30,000 while its median age has decreased from 60 to 35 (*Agence France-Presse*).

Why the Growing Trend?

Millennials, many of whom were children during the financial crisis of 2008, witnessed firsthand what the economic downturn did to their families and society. Capitalism, for all its apparent good, became dissatisfying to a growing number of young adults. Where has it failed?

Think of the current massive disparity between the upper class and the lower class, much of which has occurred under capitalism. According to Oxfam, the richest 1 percent on Earth have as much wealth as the rest of the world combined. This has led to a diminishment of middle class society and an increase in the working poor. These are the millions of hardworking families, living under the shadow of massive student loans, medical bills and other debts. Mired in modern drudgery, these people are unable to crawl out from life's financial hole to get ahead in life.

The Great Recession left a sour taste for many toward capitalism. One prominent millennial told *AFP* that the effects of the crisis left them ready to "embrace [socialism] and really fight with it publicly."

Capitalism's undeniable flaws have led to the honest consideration of its alternatives.

Professor Cathy Schneider of American University noted that socialism's negative reputation is fading. She told the news organization: "People no longer associate socialism with dictatorships in the USSR and China."

This trend is not solely confined to the U.S. In Australia, millennials

who were affected by the same global financial crisis are moving in a similar direction.

According to one millennial and member of the Australian Labor Party: "...the ideas that [Karl] Marx expressed in his writing have a lot of resonance today: ideas about automation, about a reserve army of labor, about massive inequality, about capitalism being a system that is prone to crisis...And traditional economic explanations don't really work, or people don't find them convincing."

What Do They Want?

Many who desperately want socialism do so for good reason. They generally want what everyone does—to ensure that everyone's basic human needs are met.

Bloomberg reported on a debate that took place in New York City at Cooper Union's Great Hall. The debate was between two popular socialists and two libertarian defenders of capitalism. Bhaskar Sunkara, founder of left-wing *Jacobin* magazine, argued that a socialistic society is one that helps people with life's basic needs such as food, housing, education, healthcare and childcare.

Notice these were all the needs negatively affected during last decade's financial crisis. People lost homes, jobs were scarce, millions were on food stamps as never before, and mounting healthcare bills went unpaid.

According to *The Washington Post* many budding socialists have Scandinavian countries in mind as their model states. Even though many of these countries are not technically socialist, they currently outrank the U.S. in the area of social welfare programs.

This thinking is the driving force behind groups such as the DSA, who do not care what party platform candidates run on but rather what they are promising. Democratic socialists, who largely supported Bernie Sanders' presidential run, are not necessarily concerned with any single politician but with larger core

values—universal healthcare, public investment in education and housing and labor protections (*AFP*).

These ideals, to be fair, are not unique to socialists. Many capitalists share similar desires for access to quality healthcare, good education, affordable housing and good jobs. They simply differ in how they should be achieved.

Understanding Socialism

Do millennials—and millions of others—fully understand what they are asking for in shifting away from capitalism?

There are concerns that this trend may be more harmful than what it appears. According to Satyaheet Marar, a 25-year-old in Australia, "a narrative has been sold to us that the Global Financial Crisis only happened because of capitalism and greed, and that led to horrible outcomes like banks being bailed out. In fact, it was a lot more complicated" (*ABC*).

Mr. Marar went on to state that "millennial socialists are naive about what life would be like under socialism."

Recognizing the millions of deaths and other atrocities that took place in the USSR under Josef Stalin and Vladimir Lenin and the scores of millions of deaths in China under Mao Zedong, he concluded that many millennials "don't approach left-wing ideas with the caution they should."

The truth is that most millennials do not actually understand true socialism. For instance, in the same YouGov poll, many failed to know the difference between it and what is considered its extreme form—communism.

The survey revealed that only 33 percent of millennials surveyed recognized the real definition of socialism: economic and social systems characterized by social ownership and state control of the means of production, as well as political theories and movements associated with them.

Please see **SOCIALISM**, page 29



THE CRISPR

Scientists are now editing DNA with high hopes of healing every disease. The techniques are rapidly advancing and incredibly promising—but the ethics are murky.

BY JEFFREY D. DAVIS

DESCRIBED AS A word processor for DNA, CRISPR is a tool that can edit the DNA of living creatures. This is no longer simply interesting research and cutting-edge science, it is now being considered for practical medicine. The uses for this technique are widespread: curing genetic diseases and cancer, reversing and stopping aging, as well as subtler and potentially concerning changes to genes such as changing eye color, or making children smarter and stronger.

As with every new technology there are overexuberant enthusiasts who feel CRISPR can solve nearly all of mankind's problems, from disease to war. Likewise, there are critics and skeptics who do not accept that this is really happening or who assume that it could never work.

However, this is not something happening years from now that we can speculate on. Scientists—as well as amateurs—are altering the DNA in living human beings today.

Bacteria's Immune System

CRISPR is an acronym for “clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats.” While this sounds complicated, it is a technology based on the defense system of bacteria. Some bacteria and other microorganisms contain DNA that serves as their immune

REVOLUTION

system against viruses. Using a built-in matching mechanism, the bacteria can identify and compare the genetic code of viruses against the list of viruses within their immune system. If a match is found, the bacteria cuts up or “edits” the invading virus’ genetic code, rendering it harmless. The process has been compared to the “cut and paste” feature of a word processor or more accurately its “find and replace” function.

The breakthrough came when scientists found that they could use this same technique to edit DNA in other organisms. Editing DNA was possible before CRISPR but what CRISPR has done is provide a much more accurate method of doing so, making it much cheaper and easier.

Bioengineering at Home

An introductory CRISPR kit can be purchased online for about \$160. Anyone can buy one and carry out their own simple experiments. More advanced sets are available, but still relatively affordable.

While the basic kit walks you through a process to make specific edits to bacteria, the more advanced ones allow greater control over the entire genome. Some are really pushing the envelope and trying, as one blogger said, to make it so that “anyone has an inexpensive way to take any gene from any organism and effectively insert it into human cells.”

It is only a matter of time before people attempt to do things such as insert animal traits into human beings.

The prospect of the average person having the ability to edit human DNA has invigorated a biopunk and transhuman subculture that encourages a do-it-yourself ethic and seeks to improve people to the point of “post-human” abilities.

During a small presentation that was filmed and posted to the internet,

one biohacker injected himself with edited DNA with the hopes that it would eventually transform some cells in his body and give him bigger muscles. He also gave those present baggies so they could inject themselves.

While DIY biology is a notable trend, medical science has not yet accepted people seeking to improve their abilities. However, what they are interested in is addressing previously untreatable diseases.

Medical Advancements

Work is already underway to cure devastating diseases such as cancer and AIDS. Human trials to treat lung cancer were first started in China in August 2016. A year later, an international team of researchers used CRISPR to correct a disease-causing mutation in dozens of human embryos. The study was described by *Nature.com* as “a significant improvement in efficiency and accuracy over previous efforts.”

CRISPR was also recently seen as a viable way to treat Huntington’s disease, a fatal condition caused by the breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. Researchers have used DNA editing to reverse the effects of the disease in mice and are looking forward to starting human trials. We may soon see the first debilitating disease simply deleted from a living human being.

Research has begun for using CRISPR to remove the genes linked to certain types of blindness and muscular dystrophy, along with a myriad of other genetic diseases. These treatments are in various stages but all of them are promising and appear likely to succeed. The major hindrance initially was the occasional prevalence of unintended mutations. However, this is being addressed with a new form of the protein that guides CRISPR, the Cas9 molecule. This new form, HiFi Cas9, is much more

accurate and results in a very low rate of unintended edits.

Vigorous work and investments are pushing toward CRISPR cures for every form of cancer and even ways to combat aging. With each development, the question shifts from “What *can* we do?” to “What *should* we do?”

No Moral Framework

The reality of cheap and easy DNA editing is new territory for humanity. Most have never considered that we would be editing our genome in our lifetimes, let alone what sort of editing would be a good idea.

Most of the public is either unaware or does not fully understand the scope of what is occurring. This is leaving the scientific community to decide for itself what is the right path forward—regardless of what the public thinks.

The Hastings Center, a non-partisan, bioethics research institute, sponsored an October 26 symposium that met before the World Conference of Science Journalists in San Francisco and discussed whether parents should be editing the DNA of their children.

Mildred Solomon, who is president of the institute, introduced the topic by explaining the importance of the discussion: “The Hastings Center wanted to create this session because we believe that you, the world’s science writers, are key to helping humanity harness its transformative new powers.”

Director of research for the center Josephine Johnston presented the case that this should be decided by parents: “We will be having a conversation about whether or not parents have a right to make germ line [DNA that is passed on to children] modifications... the laws that prohibit this are likely to fall in the face of scientific advancements...The question will eventually be up to the parents...what kind of parent do you want to be? How much

control do you want to have over future persons?”

Xiaoxue Chen, who is an editor for science journal *The Intellectual*, explained that using germ-line editing for “treating serious diseases is allowed in China but...enhancement is forbidden.”

The discussion went on to include questions about whether it would be ethical to modify animals for food or to make better pets as well as the responsibilities of reporters in communicating ethical concerns.

According to Julian Savulescu, an ethicist at the University of Oxford, editing a baby’s genes will become mandatory. He argued that parents should be required to keep children healthy, and that editing their genes is no different than giving them medicine or a vaccine.

At the symposium, Ronald Green of Dartmouth agreed with part of Mr. Savulescu’s assertion: “I fully support the reproductive use of gene-editing technology for the prevention and elimination of serious genetic diseases...If we could use gene editing to remove the sequences in an embryo that cause sickle cell disease or cystic fibrosis, I would say not only that we may do so, but in the case of such severe diseases, we have a moral obligation to do so.”

However, Dr. Green argued that there are limits on what should be allowed: “...while I believe that parents have a stern obligation to try to prevent harm to their child, it is not clear to me that they have an obligation to provide that child the best life.”

The questions are endless and the discussion about how to deal with these issues has hardly started. Some scientists are discussing what changes are good ideas and what government regulations should be controlling the progression of human trials and medicine. But the broader discussion about what sort of DNA editing is right is not yet occurring widely in the general public.

Unintended Consequences

It is easy to think that all the power that CRISPR gives human beings will make everything better and there will be no problems. However, human history shows that this is unlikely. New technology has always led to new dangers. The use of nuclear energy led to the atomic bomb. Rockets opened the way for man to walk on the moon as well as ICBMs. The internet can inform and entertain yet also expose impressionable minds to pornography and radicalization.

We do not yet know what the unintended consequences of CRISPR may be. History proves it is likely

mankind will attempt to use CRISPR to manufacture previously unthinkable plagues, or develop and unleash unstoppable super soldiers.

Some of the problems may be unintentional. For instance, one arena that is currently being discussed is that of eliminating some or all the mosquitos that can infect people with life-threatening diseases. Such a misguided but well-meaning change, however, could lead to the collapse of an ecosystem that would reduce the global food supply and lead to famines and eventually wars.

All of this might seem terrifying and at the same time presents a conundrum. CRISPR could greatly benefit mankind, or it could be incredibly destructive.

As with all important challenges mankind faces, it all comes down to individuals making the right decisions. Regrettably, human beings—driven by lust, envy, vanity and greed—always find a way to make what turn out to be the wrong decisions. This trait is part of our “spiritual DNA” and makes up what is known as human nature.

For more on this subject, as well as its ultimate source, read our booklet *Did God Create Human Nature?* available for free at rcg.org/dgchn. It will give you a new perspective on what lies within. □

What’s Next for CRISPR?



FOOD AND LIVESTOCK MODIFICATION

Researchers have already created plants and mammals with edited genomes. It is hoped such technology will help boost productivity and improve food security.



GENE DRIVE

Some genes are more likely to be passed on than others. If an “edit” is linked to these genes, it will quickly spread through a wild population. Some hope this could be used to eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitoes.



GENE THERAPY

Genetic diseases could be treated by introducing gene editing systems into affected cells. Researchers in the U.S. are testing this to treat HIV by knocking out the gene for the specific T-cell receptor that the virus targets.



HUMAN GERM LINE

Modifying human embryos, sperm or eggs would introduce changes to the genome of future generations. Some argue that other techniques, such as embryo screening, can just as effectively prevent genetic disease.



DESIGNER ORGANISMS AND MORE...

In the future, could babies be “designed” with a genome of our choosing? Could amateur biologists do their own gene editing outside regulatory systems?

Source: J. Levin W./CC BY-SA 4.0



2017

Has the World Turned UPSIDE DOWN?

IN THE FIRST hours of 2017, a gunman opened fire at a nightclub during New Year's celebrations in Istanbul, Turkey—39 were left dead and 70 wounded. The city's governor said the gunman "rained bullets in a very cruel and merciless way on innocent people who were there to celebrate New Year's and have fun."

For those in nations like America, such a body count seemed rare when the year rang in. Yet several months later a gunman in Las Vegas sprayed more than 1,100 rounds into a crowd of 22,000 concertgoers—58 dead and 546 injured.

These are just two tragic incidents that took place during a year when everything seemed to flip upside down.

Events were topsy-turvy the world over: Nuclear war is again a real possibility, decades-long govern-

ment reigns ended, the U.S. and Caribbean were hammered by the worst hurricanes in over a decade, neo-Nazis *and* anarchists in the group Antifa openly protested on American streets.

It did not stop there. A Nobel Peace Prize winning world leader had a terrible spate of ethnic cleansing in her own nation. The U.S. president—inaugurated in January—was derided in the media while the Dow Jones Average was at record highs. While the Islamic State terror group was ousted from all its major strongholds in Iraq and Syria, the two nations are left to cope with bombed out shells that were once vibrant cities, and more terrorist attacks have been committed across the globe in the name of ISIS.

Normalcy that ensued for years—decades even—all seemed to flip. The events of the last 365 days cry out that something needs to change.

1



Alt-right

2



America's political divide grew to chasmic proportions during the year. A Pew Research Center study revealed that differences between political parties in 2017 were three times greater than any other category such as race and religion.

Political groups with radical leanings made violent waves during the year, namely in clashes that erupted during an "alt-right" protest against the removal of Confederate monuments in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 12. The clash included far-right groups such as white supremacists and neo-Nazis and leftist groups including the anti-fascist Antifa and the Revolutionary Communist Party.

According to *NPR*, both sides "faced off, kicking, punching, hurling water bottles at and deploying chemical sprays against one another." That single event left 30 injured and one dead.

Racial tensions also boiled over in 2017 after a number of white police officers were found not guilty in the shooting deaths of black men. In September, peaceful daytime protests in St. Louis turned violent at night and led to more than 120 arrests and dozens of injuries.



1. White nationalists, neo-Nazis and members of the alt-right exchange insults with counter-protesters as they attempt to guard the entrance to Emancipation Park during the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia (Aug. 12, 2017).

2. A silver Dodge Charger moments after it was driven into a crowd of counter-protesters (Aug. 12, 2017).

3. Battle lines form between protesters and counter-protesters (Aug. 12, 2017).

4. Anti-fascist counter-protesters wait outside Emancipation Park in Charlottesville, Virginia, to hurl insults as protesters at the “Unite the Right” rally are forced out after it was declared an unlawful gathering (Aug. 12, 2017).

PHOTOS: CHIP SOMODEVILLA/ (1,3,4); MATTHEW HATCHER/ (2) GETTY IMAGES



After ISIS





The Islamic State terror group lost all of its major strongholds in Syria and Iraq during the year including the cities of Raqqa and Mosul. An affiliate group in the Philippines was also routed from Marawi by the Southeast Asian nation's army.

While ISIS continues to radicalize new members via the internet, the battle against the group in the Middle East and its three-year pursuit of a caliphate has effectively reached an end. Yet this victory gave way to stark realities.

All that is left in the wake of these conflicts is essentially rubble. The de facto ISIS capital of Raqqa has been destroyed. Craters left by airstrikes mark places where apartment buildings once stood. Aerial images reveal rows of what were once homes, as well as factories and high-rises turned into indistinguishable piles of debris.

With a common enemy defeated, old rivalries are flaring up in Syria, with Russia, the United States, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kurdish separatists all seeking political influence in the unstable region.

And even though ISIS has no strongholds left, its influence will no doubt continue as families and governments attempt to pick up the pieces.

A member of the Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by the U.S., looks out from a building at the frontline in Raqqa (Oct. 16, 2017).

PHOTO: BULENT KILIC/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



1. Rescuers work in the rubble in Mexico City after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake (Sept. 19, 2017).

2. A man walks down a flooded street in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria (Sept. 25, 2017).

3. Firefighters monitor flames on the side of a road as the Detwiler fire rages on near the town of Mariposa, California (July 18, 2017).

PHOTOS: RAFAEL S. FABRES/ (1); JOE RAEDLE/ (2); JOSH EDELSON/AFP/ (3) GETTY IMAGES





Nature Unleashed

Entire neighborhoods in Northern California were burned to the ground in 2017 in wildfires that left at least 40 dead and destroyed nearly 6,000 structures. All that was left were charred outlines of places that families called home. Blazes also raged near Los Angeles, burned historic giant sequoias in Yosemite, and charred more than 1 million acres of forest in Montana in what was described as one of the worst fire seasons in U.S. history.

Beyond California's hazy, flame-lit skies, the world was hit hard by the other end of the spectrum of natural disasters—water. The Atlantic hurricane season was the costliest in history and the most powerful in terms of wind and storm surge force since 2005. In a matter of weeks, Hurricane Harvey inundated Houston, Texas, and hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated Florida, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands.

In addition, an earthquake in Iran killed 540 and injured nearly 8,000, and a quake near Mexico City killed 370 people. Monsoon floods in Southeast Asia caused more than 1,200 deaths, and a landslide in Sierra Leone caused 500 deaths.



Ethnic Persecution

1. A Bangladeshi border guard controls a crowd of Rohingya Muslim refugees waiting to proceed to camps after crossing the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar (Nov. 2, 2017).

2-3. Rohingya refugees desperate for aid crowd as food is distributed by a local NGO near the Balukali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (Sept. 20, 2017).

PHOTOS: KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES





The lives of more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims were utterly turned upside down beginning in late August, when Myanmar security officers began “clearance operations” that included burning Rohingya villages. The action came after an attack by an insurgent group.

The thousands of Rohingya, who are not considered citizens in the Buddhist-majority nation, fled to Bangladesh from what the United Nations labeled ethnic cleansing, with accounts of Rohingya men being executed, women raped, and infants murdered.

In Africa, international officials warned of genocide in South Sudan as the country’s four-year civil war continued. In February, the UN reported that 1 million people were at risk of starvation as a result of the South Sudan government’s scorched earth methods of warfare.



Decades of “strategic patience” with North Korea’s nuclear program morphed into heated brinkmanship throughout the year. The North’s leader Kim Jong Un has launched more missiles than all of his predecessors put together and has reportedly tested the nation’s first hydrogen bomb.

U.S. President Donald Trump promised to “totally destroy” the rogue state if forced during a UN address, to which Mr. Kim responded with a televised statement to the world vowing to take the “highest level of hardline countermeasure in history.”

The nuclear threat loomed over Mr. Trump’s Asia visit in November, during which he and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to further sanctions against North Korea. Later, Washington re-designated North Korea as a state sponsor of terror.

Beyond the political arena, public concern is mounting over Pyongyang’s apparent ability and willingness to use nuclear weapons. A Pew Research Center poll released in early November revealed that the majority of Americans (71 percent) feel their government should take North Korea’s nuclear threats “very seriously,” an increase from 56 percent in 2013.



Nuclear Face-off



3



4

1. U.S. President Donald Trump listens as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, after North Korea reportedly fired a ballistic missile (Feb. 11, 2017).

2. North Korea launches its Hwasong-15 missile, which it claims is capable of reaching all parts of the U.S. (Nov. 29, 2017).

3. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issues a public address in response to President Trump's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, during which he said the U.S. would "have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea" if it is "forced to defend itself or its allies" (Sept. 21, 2017).

4. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (Nov. 29, 2017).

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/ (1); KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY VIA KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AFP/ (2) GETTY IMAGES; KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/KOREA NEWS SERVICE VIA AP (3,4)

Terror & Sorrow



Terror attacks and mass killings also punctuated the year. The U.S. had its most deadly shooting in Las Vegas after a gunman opened fire on a crowd attending a music concert in October: 58 dead, 546 injured. In November 5, a man opened fire in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas: 26 killed, 20 more wounded.

Only days earlier, New York City's deadliest terror attack since 9/11 occurred when a driver plowed a truck through a bicycle path on October 31: eight dead, 11 injured.

Across the Atlantic, the United Kingdom suffered a spate of stabbings at Westminster and London Bridge, as well as a bombing at a Manchester stadium in May that killed 22 and injured over 100.

Sadly, the attacks in the West pale in comparison to those in Africa and the Middle East. At least 512 were killed and 316 injured in Mogadishu, Somalia, after a suicide truck bombing in October. Just a month later, Egypt experienced its deadliest attack in modern history when gunmen used explosives and opened fire on worshippers in a mosque, killing 311 and injuring 122.

Perceiving an uptick in random, senseless violence, many are asking: Is anywhere safe?



2



3

1. Emergency services personnel attend to a person injured in a terror attack on London Bridge (June 3, 2017).

2. Broken windows are seen on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino after a lone gunman opened fire on a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada (Oct. 2, 2017).

3. The widow of a slain Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer and their son attend a vigil at Police Memorial Park (Oct. 5, 2017).



4

4. Investigators inspect a truck following a terror incident in New York (Oct. 31, 2017).

PHOTOS: DANIEL SORABJI/AFP/ (1); DAVID BECKER/ (2); ETHAN MILLER/ (3); SCOTT OLSON/ (4) GETTY IMAGES



1



2

1. People wave “Estelada” or pro-independence flags in Barcelona, Spain, after Catalonia’s regional parliament passed a motion that declared an independent Catalan Republic (Oct. 27, 2017).

2. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe inspects a guard during Heroes Day commemorations at National Heroes Acre in Zimbabwe (Aug. 14, 2017).

3. A supporter of Kenya’s opposition leader mans a burning barricade during clashes with police after presidential election results were announced in Nairobi, Kenya (Oct. 30, 2017).

PHOTOS: AP/SANTI PALACIOS (1); JEKESAI NJIKIZANA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (2); AP/BEN CURTIS (3)

Unexpected political shake-ups gripped the world in 2017. Kenya’s presidential elections were fraught with violence as opposition leader Raila Odinga called on supporters to resist the outcome of President Uhuru Kenyatta remaining in office. More than 30 died in the months-long bloodshed.

To the south, the Zimbabwean military forced strongarm President Robert Mugabe to resign, ending his 37-year tenure.

Other leaders across the globe consolidated their power. China’s Xi Jinping positioned himself to become the nation’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan assumed greater authority after a controversial referendum to rewrite the constitution. Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro held a similar contested election to oust opposition officials amid widespread protests against massive inflation and food shortages. Many speculate the move could allow him to stay in office indefinitely.

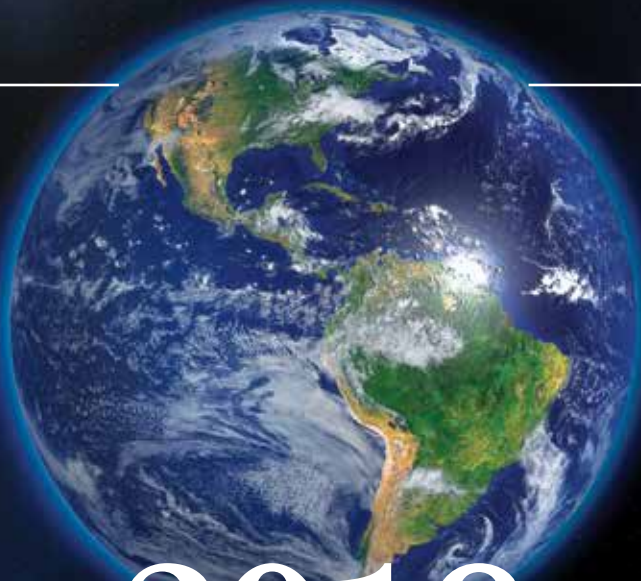
Meanwhile, other nations began to splinter. Movements for independence by the Catalonians in Spain and Kurdish peoples in northern Iraq, Syria and Turkey were met with fierce resistance from their host countries.



3

Power Shifts





2018 and Onward

The lesson from 2017 may be the timeworn adage of “expect the unexpected”—especially as the problems of last year spill into the next.

While protestors in Charlottesville, Virginia, have long dispersed, the event represented America’s ever-worsening political partisanship, with those on the far-right and left growing in number.

ISIS has lost nearly all of its important land holdings, yet it will continue to wage violent jihad through the citizens it has radicalized.

More than 5 million Iraqis have been displaced since ISIS took territory in 2014, according to the UN. They join the 66 million worldwide in exile as a result of violence, persecution, food insecurity, or poor governance in countries such as Myanmar, South Sudan, and Syria. And within that group is an entire generation of children growing up without a proper education and scarred by experiences of brutality, poverty, disease and homelessness.

North Korea’s threats are poised to ratchet up, as Pyongyang claimed it will be able to produce a missile capable of reaching the United States with a nuclear warhead as early as mid-2018. More officials are saying war with North Korea is unavoidable since, according to *National Interest*, “The United States will not live with a North Korea that can destroy American cities with a nuclear-tipped ICBM...”

Though the hurricane season is over, experts are predicting more powerful storms in the near future. With them will come a host of humanitarian and economic crises that could bring nations to their knees—not able to recover before the next storm blows in.

Puerto Rico illustrates this perfectly. It has been in recession since before the 2008 financial crisis. With the devastation from Hurricane Maria, one economist predicts it may take over 10 years to fully recover. Others put the number at 20-30 years.

The upside-down world of 2017 *will* continue into 2018. Add to this that 21st century problems are often more complex, confusing and pervasive than ever before. Given this, the prospects for next year seem grim and hopeless.

But how can you look past today’s constant stream of bad news and make sense of the events and trends?

Keep reading *The Real Truth* and following its website rcg.org/realtruth. Not only will it continue to display events that are important for you to know, it will also bring clarity to these issues.

This publication provides a unique perspective, pointing to the solutions to the problems mankind faces. It will help ensure you do not lose sight of the *good news* buried underneath today’s stream of bad news! □

SOCIALISM

Continued from page 9

Twenty-two percent thought this was the definition of communism.

Equally concerning is that 71 percent could not properly distinguish the proper definition of communism: socioeconomic order structured upon the common ownership of the means of production and the absence of social classes, money and state. A whopping 31 percent thought this to be the definition of socialism.

After soaking in these facts for a brief moment, it becomes apparent that a large percentage of millennials are willing to blindly accept socialism or communism in order to replace what they have now. Worse yet, a large percentage of millennials unwittingly prefer communism given their misunderstanding of what they think is socialism.

These findings are scary considering that communism is responsible for over 100 million deaths over the last century!

Yet this movement to the left could simply be a knee-jerk reaction—one made without all the facts. For instance, a Reason-Rupe poll showed that 54 percent of millennials preferred a larger government offering more services. However, when this form of government was described as needing more tax dollars, the support dropped to 41 percent (*The Washington Post*). Once given the facts, many retreated in their position and instead preferred the status quo.

As in all other areas of life, the choices we make have effects—both positive and negative. Yet some calling for socialism want to have their cake and eat it too.

Careful What You Wish For

Venezuela and Zimbabwe are two socialist nations in the news recently and not for good reasons.

Venezuela once thrived with a large middle class and strong oil-based economy. Now the South

American country, which still possesses the world's largest crude oil reserves, is in economic free fall and has been since 2013.

Under socialist Hugo Chavez, the Venezuelan government seized control and ownership of the country's oil, creating a powerful monopoly. Initially, national poverty was reduced and literacy increased, both due to an abundance of resources and money controlled by the government and made available to the people. Yet this prosperity was short-lived, partly because the government attempted to become an oil and gas expert overnight. It eventually saw a large drop in oil-based income, rendering its social programs unmanageable.

This led to massive food shortages and shortages of medical supplies. Over the last year, the average Venezuelan lost 19 pounds due to starvation.

Today, the country sits \$196 billion in debt that it cannot repay. Inflation is skyrocketing and there is no end in sight. Current expectations are for 720 percent inflation in 2017 and over 2,000 percent in 2018 (*CNN*). These problems, many due to attempts to finance socialist programs, are unsustainable and will no doubt cause more hardship to the average Venezuelan citizen.

Zimbabwe is another example. It was the richest and most productive country in Africa just a few decades ago. Socialist dictator Robert Mugabe dealt with his nation's resulting inflation problems by declaring inflation illegal and crushing those who spoke against his socialist policies.

Today, the nation is rife with poverty, social unrest and political turmoil. People in Zimbabwe are now 15 percent poorer than they were in 1980 (*BBC*).

Most recently, a military coup took control leading to Mr. Mugabe's resignation. His former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa has succeeded him. Mr. Mnangagwa is a longtime member of the same ruling Zanu-PF political party, which follows a socialist ideology. One wonders how much more prosperous Zimbabweans will

be while continuing along the same socialism path?

Other socialist states from history include the USSR and its satellite nations. How long did it take for those countries to recover after their extreme socialist governments were overthrown?

Clearly, these examples are stark modern reminders of socialism's inability to solve overall problems.

A Coming Solution

While many are staunch capitalists or die-hard socialists, others see flaws in both systems—even among millennials. One 31-year-old told *Bloomberg* that “capitalism and socialism might ideally be ways to improve the world, but both can fall short when applied to the real world.” Neither form of government offers lasting solutions.

On one side, socialists are willing to overthrow the current societal order in search of change. Those on the other side doggedly hold to capitalism because they see it as the reason for America's success.

Both sides, however, recognize the importance that administrative structure or oversight plays in ensuring the prosperity of a people. In other words, *government*—not in the bureaucratic, red-tape sense, but instead in the sense of how a nation is organized and its policies are implemented—is the key to realizing lasting solutions.

Government *is* the key to solving mankind's persistent problems. And there is a government—also known as a *kingdom*—coming to fix what is wrong with the world.

This kingdom was foretold to be perfect, fair, equitable and just. It will have many of the best things that current human governments have to offer—yet so much more. This flawless system is just over the horizon and will transcend nations to eventually cover the entire Earth.

To learn more about this coming government, read our free booklet *How God's Kingdom Will Come – The Untold Story!* at rcg.org/hgkwc.

Those young and old looking for a solution *will* find one—and soon. □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 3

introduce the most fundamental understanding that each partner *must* bring to the marriage.

“Husbands, *love your wives*, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (vs. 25). This emphasizes the importance of husbands showing real, sincere, deep love for their wives!

The husband’s first and greatest responsibility is to unfailingly love his wife! Initially, many husbands try to do this, but their effort wanes over time. Men often begin to take their wives for granted, not realizing they are to love them “as Christ loved the church.” This is the extremely high standard that God sets—an unending, boundless love, paralleling the way Christ cares about His bride, the Church. Christ never gives up on the Church, but rather forgives, understands, is patient with, and works with His wife-to-be.

Wife’s Responsibility

What about wives? Let’s read their most crucial obligation—understood by so few: “Wives, *submit yourselves* unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:22). Society has completely reversed, and denigrated, the Bible. Yet this is what God requires of the woman. Remember, the Author of marriage knows what works.

Most women are taught today that they are equal in authority to their husbands. Certainly, women *are* equal before God as human beings. Men are not more important or better than women. But God places the man in charge of the marriage.

The Bible is plain.

The typical marriage counselor laughs at this, seeing it as archaic and out-of-step. Few brides-to-be enter marriage having been taught anything about being subject to their husband’s loving authority. Most would ridicule and outright *reject* this idea!

How It Works

Today, many men are unwilling to take the lead in marriage. Of course, many

get married only to find their wives have no intention of letting them lead. These are separate problems, and both are very *real*.

Society has seen the near disappearance of strong leadership, with most men no longer knowing how to lead. This creates a crucial void in the marriage—and it frustrates women, who were designed by God to most naturally follow the strong but loving lead of a wise man. Women were designed to need to know their husbands love them, and will provide for and take care of them. A woman should feel that, if necessary, her husband will defend her with his life! (Reread Ephesians 5:25.)

Understanding these things leaves a woman much more secure and comfortable in the role of follower.

A woman married to a man who will not lead will spend her marriage frustrated, unable to know when to passively accept indecision or to speak up and take action because her husband will not. Many women are forced to step into a leadership void in their homes, because the man will not fill it—and somebody has to. Someone must take the lead whenever any two or more people do *anything*!

On the other hand, some husbands view their role like a drill sergeant over raw recruits. They try to *drive* their wives, bossing them around, frustrating and squelching them.

No woman wants to feel her opinions do not count—that her views do not matter, because the man “knows everything.” This is no better, and is even in some ways worse, than a marriage in which a man will not lead. For a marriage to achieve the peace and happiness that God intends, both extremes must be avoided.

Husbands should gently and lovingly lead their wives, drawing them out, asking their advice—and using it when appropriate. A wise husband knows that his wife is his *best advisor*—that she knows him best and knows how to compensate for his areas of weakness.

This verse repeats and adds to the husband/wife instruction: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love

your wives, and be not bitter against them” (Col. 3:18-19).

The wife’s role is given first because family government must be established before anything productive can be accomplished. Again, the husband must *lovingly* lead the wife—and that is why God inspired Paul to record this twice. But if the wife does not submit, the marriage will not last. All the love in the world from the husband will not keep a marriage together if the wife is determined to be in charge. Also, all the family government in the world will not keep it together if the husband does not truly love his wife.

No successful marriage can have one—*either* one—without the other!

Another vital point. Since obviously the wife must also love her husband, the husband must also periodically be willing to yield to the wife’s wiser position or view on any given matter. He must be humble enough to take her advice when her plan is better than his own. Incidentally, feeling appreciated, understood and valued, the woman’s love for her husband then *grows*!

Husbands, be wise enough and willing to seek your wife’s counsel. Train yourself to *want* her ideas. Realize that two partially good ideas can become either one good, very good, or even wonderful idea! Your wife has much to offer, but you must be willing to receive it.

The Fine Art of Right Communication

Miscommunication, bad communication, or lack of communication is one of the leading causes of divorce. The role of the husband is to take the lead in proper communication with his wife.

Husbands must understand that the wife has often been home all day with the children. She may be frustrated, and in desperate need of conversation with someone above the age of 12—or maybe even three. The husband who comes home from work not wanting to talk, but rather to just sit down, have a beer, read the paper, and watch the news, has effectively cut off his wife from communication with another adult.

Do not forget about her needs. Talk to her. Find out about *her* day. Allow her

to open up. Show interest in what she has accomplished and what may have happened with the children.

Wives, be sure you DO open up to your husband. You may be by nature “more verbal” or “less verbal” than he is. Depending on which is the case, strive to do a little more listening, or a little more talking. The couple should strive to find a balance in communication, with each expressing an opinion about the things on their minds.

Husbands and wives should both always remember to discuss their problems with each other, while relying on God for ultimate spiritual understanding. All problems should always be discussed with God. Wives, in particular, should discuss their spiritual problems with their husbands, while never neglecting to remember that God is the One ultimately guiding and helping them spiritually. Your husband cannot grant you salvation.

Also, avoid arguing *at all costs*. NOTHING productive *ever* comes from heated exchanges. The devastating effect of this kind of “communication” lasts longer, and bites deeper, than the couple doing it even begins to realize.

If you are wrong, always apologize. Defending the indefensible is silly—and unproductive. Never store up feelings, and then dump them in a heated moment of release. The Golden Rule—“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”—is also the greatest rule of communication within marriage!

Manage Your Finances Together

Another point: all wage earners are paid a specific amount of money. Whether large or small, this is the amount they must live on. Financial problems—usually caused by couples living beyond their means—along with poor communication and sexual problems—form the “big three” causes for marital break-up.

A few helpful points:

■ First, develop the habit of systematic, monthly saving early in your marriage.

■ Next, avoid credit-buying. It is a trap far deeper than it appears. If you do

use credit cards, pay them off immediately every month.

■ Finally, plan your purchases. Develop *priorities* so that you do not try to buy everything at once. Then, determine to buy quality as much as possible. Practice patience. Be willing to wait. You will be glad you did!

The Truly Happy Marriage

God tells husbands: “*Live joyfully* with the wife whom you love all the days of [your] life” (Ecc. 9:9). For this to be possible, the wife must be doing the same—and this should be the daily goal of every married couple. None of the principles in this article will bring true, complete happiness unless *both* mates are diligently applying them. Successful marriages are always the product of *two* people working *together* toward the same purpose in the same way—with the same understanding.

If you have a wonderful husband or a wonderful wife, you are truly blessed—and are much more unusual than you may think. But if you do not have a good husband or a good wife, then strive to grow as much as you possibly can, understanding that your mate may follow your example.

God says this to husbands who have been blessed to have found a wonderful wife: “Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the LORD” (Prov. 18:22).

A virtuous wife *is* wonderful—“a good thing”—and wise husbands-to-be will diligently search for such a woman before getting married. Special favor from God is just one benefit that comes from marrying a woman of great character.

Wives, strive to be special in every way that you possibly can. Husbands, strive to be worthy of such a woman. You may discover that God has sent you one.

The couple that *works* at their marriage will find that their marriage *works!*—and far better than they had ever dreamed!

On your wedding day, you promised—probably vowed!—before God to spend the rest of your life married to the same person. Do not let this com-

mitment wane or blur in your mind. It was “for better or for worse.” It is easy for a couple to remain committed when times are “better,” but not so easy during a “worse” phase. A close relationship with God, based on a deep recognition that He knows how to produce all the best and most wonderful things in both marriage and life, has no substitute. No matter what difficulty your marriage is facing, bring God into it. He has all the true and lasting solutions.

Commitment is the bedrock foundation of every strong marriage. Remember, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” The rewards that flow from dedication to your wedding vows will bring joy beyond words.

Happiness depends far more on what *you* do than on what your mate or anyone else does. No matter the current state of your marriage, you *can* improve it. Take responsibility. You can grow—and it can get better. Remember, GOD instituted the marriage covenant—and the *principles* governing its success. Without them, *real* happiness is impossible! With them, *you* can experience a boundless *joy* you have never known!

The Restored Church of God, the publisher of this magazine, offers more helpful material—and truth—ALL FREE—on marriage and the family than any other church on Earth. And this would have to be the case with wherever is the one Church that Jesus Christ built.

The place to start is our essential booklet *You Can Build a Happy Marriage* (rcg.org/ycbalm). We also have material regarding keys to childrearing, proper dating and courtship, the God-ordained purpose of sex, the family unit—and divorce and remarriage. Also examine our extraordinary magazine for teenagers, and another for families, plus seven Bible story books—and lessons in seven levels—ALL vital for teaching the truth of God’s Word to children and teenagers of all ages.

The family is under assault as *never* before. Take time to explore the vast cornucopia of truth we have available on every conceivable question you could ask about these subjects—but also many, many others. You will be so very glad that you did. □

MIDDLE EAST

German Weapons Exports to Saudi Arabia and Egypt Increase Fivefold



■ **FOR SALE:** Members of the German Armed Forces Bundeswehr carry a “Taurus” cruise missile at the International Aerospace Exhibition in Schoenefeld, Germany (May 30, 2016).

PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Germany sold more than \$520 million worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia and Egypt from July through September. This figure, which was announced by the German Economy Ministry after a member of parliament requested the information, is more than five times the arms sales during the same period in 2016.

According to the numbers, Egypt purchased more than \$350 million in German arms, making it Germany’s top weapons importer. Saudi Arabia received \$175 million in military supplies, likely including patrol boats and military trucks.

Since the second world war, Germany has had self-imposed restrictions on

selling weapons to countries that are at war, and has more recently opposed the Western strategy of toppling regimes in the Middle East. Yet since the 2011 Arab Spring, Berlin, with the intention of helping stabilize the region and fight terrorism, agreed to a multibillion-dollar arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The Saudis purchased hundreds of German tanks and other military supplies.

The latest weapons sales figures reveal Germany continues to be involved with conflicts in the Mideast—and it is a point of contention between parties in the Bundestag, the nation’s parliament.

The opposition Left Party has spoken against the weapons sales to Saudi Arabi and Egypt, both of which are involved in the civil war in Yemen fighting against Houthi rebels.

Left Party member of parliament Stefan Liebich stated: “There were times when it was completely ruled out for Germany to deliver weapons to countries that were participating in wars. That only changed in the last two governments. It started with Turkey, which was sold weapons despite its war with the Kurds—that was a controversial discussion at the time” (*Deutsche Welle*). □

HEALTH ISSUES

Nearly Half of U.S. Cancer Deaths Caused by Unhealthy Behaviors

New York (AP) – A new look at cancer in the U.S. finds that nearly half of cancer deaths are caused by smoking, poor diet, and other unhealthy behaviors.

That is less than commonly cited estimates from more than 35 years ago, a result of new research methods and changes in American society. Smoking rates have plummeted, for example, while obesity rates have risen dramatically.

The study, conducted by the American Cancer Society, found that 45 percent of cancer deaths and 42 percent of diagnosed cancer cases could

be attributed to what the authors call “modifiable” risk factors. These are risks that are not inherited, and mostly the result of behavior that can be changed, like exposure to sun, not eating enough fruits and vegetables, drinking too much alcohol and, most importantly, smoking.

Smoking was the leading risk by far, accounting for 29 percent of deaths. Excess body weight was next at 6.5 percent, and alcohol consumption was third at 4 percent.

The authors ran separate calculations for different types of cancer by age group and gender to try to account for

how risk factors affect different groups of people, then added them together to understand the national picture.

Among the findings:

■ Smoking accounted for 82 percent of lung cancers.

■ Excess body weight was associated with 60 percent of uterine cancers and about one-third of liver cancers.

■ Alcohol intake was associated with 25 percent of liver cancers in men and 12 percent in women; 17 percent of colorectal cancers in men and 8 percent in women; and 16 percent of breast cancers in women.

■ Exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight or tanning beds was associated with 96 percent of skin cancers in men and 94 percent in women. □

Energy-efficient LEDs Increasing Global Light Pollution



Cape Canaveral, Florida (AP) – The world’s nights are getting alarmingly brighter—bad news for all sorts of creatures, humans included.

A German-led team reported on November 22 that light pollution is threatening darkness almost everywhere. Satellite observations during five Octobers show Earth’s artificially lit outdoor area grew by 2 percent a year from 2012 to 2016. So did night-time brightness.

Light pollution is actually worse than that, according to the researchers. Their measurements coincide with the outdoor switch to energy-efficient and cost-saving light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. Because the imaging sensor on the polar-orbiting weather satellite cannot detect the LED-generated color blue, some light is missed.

The observations, for example, indicate stable levels of night light in the United States, Netherlands, Spain and Italy. But light pollution is almost certainly on the rise in those countries given this elusive blue light, said Christopher Kyba of the GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences and lead author of the study published in *Science Advances*.

Also on the rise is the spread of light into the hinterlands and overall increased use. The findings shatter the long-held notion that more energy efficient lighting would decrease usage

on the global—or at least a national—scale.

“Honestly, I had thought and assumed and hoped that with LEDs we were turning the corner. There’s also a lot more awareness of light pollution,” he told reporters by phone from Potsdam. “It is quite disappointing.”

The biological impact from surging artificial light is also significant, according to the researchers.

People’s sleep can be marred, which in turn can affect their health. The migration and reproduction of birds, fish, amphibians, insects and bats can be disrupted. Plants can have abnormally extended growing periods. And forget about seeing stars or the Milky Way, if the trend continues.

About the only places with dramatic declines in night light were in areas of conflict like Syria and Yemen, the researchers found. Australia also reported a noticeable drop, but that is because wildfires were raging early in the study. Researchers were unable to filter out the bright burning light.

Asia, Africa and South America, for the most part, saw a surge in artificial night lighting.

More and more places are installing outdoor lighting given its low cost and the overall growth in communities’ wealth, the scientists noted. Urban sprawl is also moving towns farther out. The outskirts of major cities in

developing nations are brightening quite rapidly, in fact, Dr. Kyba said.

Other especially bright hot spots: sprawling greenhouses in the Netherlands and elsewhere.

Photos taken by astronauts aboard the International Space Station also illuminate the growing problem.

Franz Holker of the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin, a co-author, said things are at the critical point.

“Many people are using light at night without really thinking about the cost,” Dr. Holker said. Not just the economic cost, “but also the cost that you have to pay from an ecological, environmental perspective.”

Dr. Kyba and his colleagues recommend avoiding glaring lamps whenever possible—choosing amber over so-called white LEDs—and using more efficient ways to illuminate places like parking lots or city streets. For example, dim, closely spaced lights tend to provide better visibility than bright lights that are more spread out.

The International Dark-Sky Association, based in Tucson, Arizona, has been highlighting the hazards of artificial night light for decades.

“We hope that the results further sound the alarm about the many unintended consequences of the unchecked use of artificial light at night,” Director J. Scott Feierabend said in a statement. □

THE WORLD TO COME

WITH DAVID C. PACK



On *The World to Come* program, *Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack brings plain understanding of the *causes* behind the *bad effects* reflected in today's headlines—and points to the **GOOD NEWS** of the only possible solution, now just over the horizon! Watch on WGN America or online at rcg.org/worldtocome or youtube.com/restoredcog.

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