

→ I expose and lambaste the worldview that now dominates the U.S.

## “Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World”

This document reflects what I said in **Part 1** of this topic in the **November 2018** TV program in “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series, plus much additional information and sources of information at the end.

A different document will report on **Part 2** (the **December 2018** program).

**Part 1 (below) focuses mostly on problems.**

**Part 2 will focus mostly on solutions.**

Watch and read “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV Series on Glen’s blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County WA can watch the 1-hour programs on Thurston Community Television (TCTV) cable channel 22 every Wednesday 5:00 pm, and every Thursday 9:00 pm.

See TCTV’s complete schedule and other information at [www.tcmedia.org](http://www.tcmedia.org)

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35 The Republican Party has totally caved in to become the Trump Party, utterly subservient to the Great Leader with dangerous tendencies toward fascism.

**36 Non-profit organizations ask us to e-mail powerful people with the dominant worldview and tell them their decisions cause bad results. That's naïve. Those bad results are DELIBERATELY INTENDED. The bad results come from THE DOMINANT WORLDVIEW's sense of entitlement and an utter disregard for other people's lives, rights, health, etc., and utter disregard for truth, justice or the natural world.**

**37 Religion is being abused and used to hurt people and democracy. Honest religion suffers as a result.**

39 The Religious Right abuses prayer too.

**39 Trump has very severe psychiatric problems and is unfit for public office.**

**40 Many Democratic leaders also are subservient to Wall Street and militaristic foreign policy. They fail to expose Trump and mobilize public opposition that could protect us from his fascist policies.**

**40 This dominant worldview is actually DESTROYING America – and it is DESTROYING us too.**

**42 We must publicly expose and vigorously oppose the dominant worldview – and we must promote an ethical and humane alternative.**

**42 Closing thoughts for Part 1 (November 2018)**

**43 Many sources of information can help you.**

Alternative media and other general multi-issue sources of good information:

Organizations promoting good government and other relevant issues:

Nonviolence and other good worldviews: These will be listed in the December 2018 essay.

My blog - [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) - offers many resources on the topics discussed in this essay.

**My December 2018 TV program (Part 2 of this topic about worldviews) will propose a much better worldview that is the OPPOSITE of the dominant one. Part 2 also will propose ideas for how to accomplish that.**

**After the brief opening video that introduces this TV series, I welcomed viewers and introduced this month's topic. I contrasted the dominant cruel worldview (cruelty, oppression, entitlement, greed, corruption, etc.) with humane values that SHOULD shape public policy.**

This month's program on "Glen's Parallax Perspectives" TV series contrasts the dominant worldview (greed, corruption, cruelty, oppression, and so forth) with an alternative worldview that is humane, compassionate, peaceful, fair to everyone, and environmentally sustainable. These positive values SHOULD shape public policy instead of the nasty values that drive public policy now.

**This month's program is Part 1 of a two-part program I've titled, "Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World."** This hour focuses mostly on the problems in the worldview that exists now, but it will suggest a few solutions. **Next month – December 2018 -- Part 2 will focus more on solutions** – the worldview that we want instead of the problematic one that exists now.

For many years, public opinion polls have continually showed that most Americans think our nation is "on the wrong track." I explain some reasons why the public disagrees with our nation's direction, how the problems have worsened in the past few years, and the need to turn toward positive directions.

- **14 years ago**, my November 2004 TV program was titled "Competing Worldviews" because some Americans – especially the political and economic elites – have one set of values and promote public policies supporting greed, contempt for the working class, abuse of the environment, and a militaristic

foreign policy, while many Americans have more humane values and want more humane public policies. That was 14 years ago.

- **9 years ago**, our nation was becoming more polarized, especially when right-wing billionaires funded the Tea Party and started to seize control of the Republican Party. Therefore, I titled my September 2009 TV program “Stop the Bullying. Let’s Discuss Politics Civilly, Rationally, Compassionately.” That was 9 years ago.
- **Since then**, things have gotten worse. Right-wing extremism now dominates all three branches of the federal government, and many state and local governments. The right-wing worldview is rooted in some common assumptions that are hurting our society.

**But most people have better hearts and better sense. Public opinion polls keep showing that most Americans want progressive solutions to political problems:**

- Most people want good quality health care for everybody.
- Most people want to take care of the environment.
- Most people want peace instead of endless wars.
- Most people want fairness for racial minorities, sexual minorities, and religious minorities.

**The way you see the world will largely drive how you interact with the world. Your understanding of reality will largely drive what you do to reinforce or change the status quo.**

**The November 2018 TV program (fleshed out below) contrasts the dominant worldview with a humane worldview that would actually solve problems and help our society. Most of the November TV program and the essay you are reading now focus on problems, and most of the December 2018 program will focus on solutions.**

In recent years American society has experienced a serious upsurge of anti-government rhetoric, including more threats of violence against public officials. Trump has actually urged violence against ordinary people who disagree with him, and he has urged violence against journalists who report the truth.

We have seen an increase in hate crimes against racial minorities and religious minorities. We have seen a continuation of war, torture and human rights abuses by our government, cutbacks in vital social and health services, a mania for privatizing public services, intolerance of minority races and religions, and an overall breakdown in the sense of our common humanity.

Are these interconnected? Do they have common roots? Can we find solutions that will resolve these problems and restore our public ethics and our common humanity? How could we reduce fear and violence – and build a society that is secure and nonviolent? The November 2018 TV program examines these problems, and this essay fleshes them out with much more information and analysis, with sources of more information at the end. The December 2018 program (and its fleshed-out essay) will explore positive solutions.

**Let’s examine the worldview that is currently dominant -- the big picture of how many people understand the world around us and our social and political environments. Also, let’s explore alternative ways to understand the world and positive ways to rethink our social and political environments.**

I have prepared much more information – and links to other articles and sources of information – than we can squeeze into this 1-hour TV program. You can watch this TV program, read a much more thorough essay, and

see links to many sources of information by visiting my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Click the “TV Programs” part and click the link for this TV program’s title, “**Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World.**” Part 1 (November 2018) focuses on problems. Part 2 (December 2018) focuses on solutions.

- Let’s understand **two very different ways of understanding the world**. **One worldview** is greedy, corrupt, cruel, and oppressive. That worldview currently dominates the U.S.’s politics, economics, and power centers. In contrast, most people want public policies grounded in **the OPPOSITE worldview** – a worldview that values human rights, honesty, a fair sharing of resources, a clean environment, serving the broad public interest instead of selfish narrow interests, and so forth.
- In addition to working on specific issues, let’s also confront the dominant worldview at the macro level and explicitly promote the opposite worldview overall. This will provide context and support for our work on specific issues.
- Those two worldviews have been competing with each other for a long time, but the greedy, corrupt, cruel, oppressive one has grabbed much political power in the past few decades, and especially with Trump and the Republican Party grabbing control of all three branches of the federal government and many state and local governments. Some mainstream Democrats also are subservient to Big Business and the Military-Industrial Complex and Endless Wars, but the Republicans serve those more ruthlessly and add blatant racism and sexism and attacks on democracy and truth.
- **The corruption and cruelty we’re experiencing are NOT inadvertent by-products of otherwise benign policies. Rather, these abuses and cruelties are DELIBERATELY INTENDED. Our government has been hijacked by people who OPPOSE human rights, democracy, and truth itself.** Blatant lying, blatant corruption, and blatant cruelty are running rampant under Trump and the Republicans. Constitutional democracy is in very severe danger! I believe the U.S. is facing the most serious existential crisis in our nation’s entire history. The Civil War was about several states breaking away from the rest of the nation. But the current crisis directly threatens the U.S. Constitution and the basic principles of democracy. Trump is deliberately jeopardizing human civilization, not only by deliberately destroying the earth’s climate, but also by recklessly threatening to start a nuclear war.
- The Republicans also have hijacked religion to serve their purposes. In the 1970s the Republican Party and the Religious Right effectively merged, with each entity exploiting the other for its own ideological and power-grabbing purposes. The result has hurt honest religion in addition to hurting women, public health, democracy, and truth.
- Trump has very serious psychiatric problems and is grossly unfit for public office. The Republican Party – which during the 2016 presidential primaries was leery of this ignorant, unqualified, reckless charlatan – has succumbed to his exploitation and obediently enables his extremism. The Democratic Party pretends to disagree but fails to publicly expose the extreme, crazy, illegal and unconstitutional behavior for what it is, fails to reach out to mobilize public opinion to protect constitutional democracy, and fails to push hard for two constitutional remedies (impeachment and the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment). Neither of the two big political parties is behaving responsibly.
- At several points throughout this TV program and essay, I propose positive alternatives. I urge us to replace the currently dominant worldview with the OPPOSITE worldview – one that that values truth, fairness, compassion, human rights, peace, nonviolence, and environmental sustainability. These would solve many of our nation’s problems and create a society that would be much healthier and happier in many ways. The November 2018 TV program and essay analyze the problems. The December 2018 TV program and essay explore solutions. It’s all at the **TV Programs** part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Part 1 and Part 2 share the same title, “**Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World.**”

## What “worldviews” are – and how they shape public policy

A moment ago I used the term “worldview.” A “worldview” is the overall perspective from which a person – or a group of persons or a society as a whole – sees and interprets the world. A “worldview” reflects beliefs and assumptions about what is real and what is good – and therefore about what we should do.

A person who believes the world is inherently cruel and unjust will likely behave cruelly and unjustly in order to fit in. The person will feel powerless to eliminate cruelty and injustice. But a person who believes that we can indeed solve problems can learn how to organize nonviolently from the grassroots to make the world a better place.

As I said above, the way you see the world will largely drive how you interact with the world. Your understanding of reality will largely drive how much you reinforce the status quo – or how much you work to change it. You can indeed choose how skillfully and how vigorously you work to change the world to better reflect your values. These two TV programs and essays contrast the dominant worldview with a more humane worldview that would actually help our society. I help you explore alternative ways to understand the world and how to change our society in positive ways.

## The TV program on “Competing Worldviews” that I produced for November 2004 is still valid and more important than ever, so now – 14 years later – we can update its message. Let’s consider some assumptions and premises of the dominant worldview and let’s replace them with some assumptions and premises of a much better worldview.

My November 2004 TV program said one worldview is dominant in the United States. This dominant worldview largely controls our foreign policy, domestic policies, economic system, and many other aspects of modern America. **Here are some of the assumptions and premises that I said in 2004 were driving the U.S.’s dominant worldview:**

- It’s a tough world out there.
- You’ve got to arm yourself and fight hard.
- You’ve got to look out for #1.
- Success means dominating and controlling other people.
- The U.S. has a right to dominate other nations.
- It’s OK to use violence.
- Competition is good.
- Conquer nature.
- Use all the natural resources you want.
- A simplistic morality is based on absolute right and wrong.

**On the other hand, another worldview is possible.** In contrast to the worldview we just described, an alternative sees the world in much more humane and inclusive ways. The 2004 program proposed some alternative worldview’s premises and purposes:

- Include everybody.
- Make sure everybody’s needs are met.
- We can meet everybody’s needs if we share.
- Cooperation is better than competition.

- Practice nonviolence.
- Respect nature and natural environments.
- Use resources sparingly.
- Understand complexities and nuances to make informed decisions.

**Each of these two worldviews would lead to very different results in how we conduct our society and how we interact with the rest of the world.** Each worldview drives U.S. foreign policy, domestic policies, economic systems, how we treat other people and the environment, and other aspects of our society. We can use the assumptions and premises of this alternative worldview to significantly improve our nation and the whole world.

**NOTE:** Although many parts of this essay – especially toward the end – mention Trump, he is only the culmination of the dominant worldview that has been worsening over several decades. Trump has made the crisis extremely severe, but we must focus on changing the underlying worldview as much as we focus on taking away his personal power.

The **dominant worldview** assumes that “might makes right.” It assumes scarcity (instead of abundance), competition (instead of sharing), polarization and fear (instead of welcome and inclusion), militaristic foreign policy (instead of peace), punishment (instead of rehabilitation), greed (instead of sharing), a government that serves the powerful elites (instead of serving the broad public interest), and abusing the environment (instead of interacting sustainably with nature). The dominant worldview assumes that “might makes right.”

This essay (Part 1 of this topic) is about problems. The next 20 pages identify some features of the dominant worldview, with only a few mentions of alternatives. Starting on Page 27 I bring the dominant worldview up to date with recent (Trumpian) escalations.

Part 2 of this essay will flesh out my December 2018 TV program, focusing on solutions and how to create and achieve them.

**A lack of empathy allows selfishness, greed, cruelty and oppression to hurt other people. Powerful people have made our society more brutal.**

A major impediment that interferes with pursuing “the common good” is that many of our people lack empathy for other people. Many of our nation’s political, economic and social problems were caused by a shortage of empathy – a failure to recognize our common humanity. As a result, we blame people who are suffering instead of helping them. Also, we blame other countries for things that the U.S. also does, but we fail to recognize that the U.S. does those same things.

In contrast, a society that is civilized and fair to everyone must value and practice empathy for other people, including people who are different or poor or suffering in any way. A decent society recognizes that all people anywhere in the world are one human family, and we must protect vulnerable people.

Trump and many members of Congress continually express racism and sexism and contempt for immigrants, even refugees who are fleeing extreme violence and death threats in other countries. Trump and Congress’s Republicans want to take away health care from tens of millions of Americans, despite knowing that this would cause tens of thousands of Americans to die every year. They refuse to fund programs for people in need in the U.S. and elsewhere. Their worldview excludes empathy.

Trump is utterly subservient to big business and utterly contemptuous of public safety. Trump's regime even wants children to spray brain-damaging pesticides on our food crops: [https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-house-brain-damaging-pesticides-2613568873.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=54ea9e8c6c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-54ea9e8c6c-85369701](https://www.ecowatch.com/trump-house-brain-damaging-pesticides-2613568873.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=54ea9e8c6c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-54ea9e8c6c-85369701)

Trump and the Republican-dominated Congress are overtly hostile to women's rights and dignity. Trump bragged about sexually assaulting women and grabbing their private parts.

Some American elites, including political and business leaders, seem to feel entitled to exploit other nations and their natural resources for our own U.S.-based corporations instead of recognizing that other nations' people have a right to determine what to do with their own nations' natural resources.

People want to keep their taxes low, so they oppose paying for social services, mental health services, schools, health care, etc., that other people need. Instead of empathy, many Americans disparage and feel contempt for people who have financial needs, health needs, or other kinds of needs.

I keep saying that a budget is a numerical way to express our values – what we think is important vs. what we do not care about. The federal budget lavishly funds violence and the dominant worldview (war, prisons, surveillance, etc.) and keeps starving the programs that would serve humanity (eliminating poverty, providing health care, etc.). This article – “A World Designed by Playground Bullies” lays it out well: [https://www.com-mondreams.org/views/2018/07/26/world-designed-playground-bullies?cd-origin=rss&utm\\_term=A%20World%20Designed%20by%20Playground%20Bullies&utm\\_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20As%20Trump%20Misses%20Family%20Reunification%20Deadline%2C%20Children%20Protest%20%27Horrific%27%20Immigration%20Policy&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&cm\\_mmc=Act-On%20Software-\\_-email-\\_-News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20As%20Trump%20Misses%20Family%20Reunification%20Deadline%2C%20Children%20Protest%20%27Horrific%27%20Immigration%20Policy-\\_-A%20World%20Designed%20by%20Playground%20Bullies](https://www.com-mondreams.org/views/2018/07/26/world-designed-playground-bullies?cd-origin=rss&utm_term=A%20World%20Designed%20by%20Playground%20Bullies&utm_campaign=News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20As%20Trump%20Misses%20Family%20Reunification%20Deadline%2C%20Children%20Protest%20%27Horrific%27%20Immigration%20Policy&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software-_-email-_-News%20%2526%20Views%20%7C%20As%20Trump%20Misses%20Family%20Reunification%20Deadline%2C%20Children%20Protest%20%27Horrific%27%20Immigration%20Policy-_-A%20World%20Designed%20by%20Playground%20Bullies)

A lack of empathy leads to overt violence. Many Americans carry guns and are trigger-happy, but this only threatens everyone else's security.

More evidence of the dominant worldview's lack of empathy includes:

- In 2013 the Republican-dominated U.S. Supreme Court gutted the 1965 Voting Rights Act in order to allow unchecked discrimination, and 23 states passed racist laws to suppress voting, but Congress has refused to fix that abuse.
- Currently 140 million Americans live in poverty and 37 million do not have health care.
- Rev. Dr. William Barber said, “Corporations are treated like people, while people are treated like things.”

Martin Luther King, Jr., said this in his famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech in Riverside Church, New York City on April 4, 1967:

“We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation, for those it calls ‘enemy,’ for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.”

This dominant worldview is huge and multi-faceted. Its lack of empathy is hurting Americans and people worldwide and our environment and our human spirits in many, many ways.

## **The dominant worldview's greed hurts individuals, society, and the environment.**

Instead of seeking a modestly comfortable life, our society is dominated by extreme greed. Powerful people feel no shame about cheating other people and stealing from them and destroying the environment.

The dominant worldview gives permission for unlimited greed. The capitalist system now dominates nearly the entire world, including “communist” countries such as China. Capitalism and greed know no endpoints,



so – seeking endless “growth” – they are inherently not sustainable, but instead are suicidal in carrying the seeds of their own destruction.

Capitalists have gained so much wealth – and, as a result, so much political power – that they have perverted democracies into serving only the richest people instead of serving the broad public interest. We must denounce this as grossly immoral and devise economic systems that will be humane and sustainable.

Big business’s domination of the U.S. has been coming on a long time:

- Corporate greed has significantly increased for more than a century. In 1886 a sloppy summary of a U.S. Supreme Court decision unwittingly established the doctrine of “corporate personhood” in a way that has plagued us ever since. Now business corporations have vastly more power than real, live human beings. Every human person physically deteriorates and dies, but corporations can live forever, continually acquiring more wealth and power. In recent years the U.S. Supreme Court has become increasingly subservient to big business and opposed to the civil rights of human beings.
- In 1873 former Wisconsin State Supreme Court Justice Edward Ryan stated: “There is looming up a new and dark power.... The enterprises of the country are aggregating vast corporate combinations of unexampled capital, boldly marching, not for economical conquests only, but for political power.”
- On December 3, 1888, President Grover Cleveland said this in his State of the Union Address: “Corporations, which should be the carefully restrained creatures of the law and the servants of the people, are fast becoming the people's masters.”
- Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis (1856-1941) wrote, “We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can't have both.” Clearly, the dominant worldview has sacrificed democracy in order to promote greed. Greed and its related perversions are destroying human rights and the environment and the climate too.

Actually, no one can say America is socialistic. With socialism, the government owns the businesses. Here, it is just the opposite.

Unlike presidents in the past several decades, Trump refused to release his tax records. Also, Trump is blatantly using his presidential powers to enrich himself and his family, in blatant violation of the “emoluments” clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits that. Although Republicans claim to believe in strict enforcement of the U.S. Constitution, partisanship trumps the Constitution, and the current batch of Republicans seem to be as greedy as any batch of Congress members we’ve had for a century or more.

After greedy Wall Street businesses crashed the U.S. economy in 2007-2008 (enabled by Democrat Bill Clinton and bi-partisan Congress de-regulating banks and failures of federal entities to monitor them), Congress made only minimal reforms, but now that the Republicans are running Congress and the Executive Branch, even those timid reforms are being rolled back. Banks with assets as high as \$249,999,999 are now free from some of the Dodd-Frank reforms: [https://www.democracynow.org/2018/5/23/we\\_are\\_lurching\\_toward\\_plutocracy\\_rep?utm\\_source=Democracy+Now%21&utm\\_campaign=e2211a10f2-Daily\\_Digest&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fa2346a853-e2211a10f2-191704661](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/5/23/we_are_lurching_toward_plutocracy_rep?utm_source=Democracy+Now%21&utm_campaign=e2211a10f2-Daily_Digest&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fa2346a853-e2211a10f2-191704661)

Author Naomi Klein wrote, “We are witnessing a transfer of wealth of unfathomable size. It is a transfer of wealth from public hands, from the hands of government collected from regular people in the form of taxes, into the hands of the wealthiest corporations and individuals in the world.”

**Now the richest 85 people on earth own more wealth than the 3.5 BILLION people at the bottom half.**

Naomi Klein also explained how the dominant worldview’s economic and political systems protect their unjust privilege from being corrected by locking the dominant worldview’s economic system into place:

“Indeed the three policy pillars of the neo-liberal age – privatization of the public sphere, deregulation of the corporate sector, and the lowering of income and corporate taxes, paid for with cuts to public spending – are each incompatible with many of the actions we must take to bring our emissions to

safe levels. And together these pillars form an ideological wall that has blocked a serious response to climate change for decades.”

### **The dominant worldview supports competition so powerful people can dominate vulnerable people.**

Capitalism assumes that competition is good. But Adam Smith and the early capitalists envisioned an economy with a great many small producers of goods and services truly competing with each other. In contrast, modern capitalism is dominated by truly gigantic corporations that are virtual monopolies. They squelch competition and buy up the smaller, more innovative companies that might challenge them. They violate the true spirit of capitalism and merely exploit the public.

Conservative business people keep saying they support a “free market.” But their mergers and monopolies violate that principle. Their talk of the “free market” is only a euphemism for avoiding regulations that would protect the public from their abuses.

Research and empirical evidence debunk the notion that competition is useful. I recommend the book authored by Alfie Kohn, titled, *No Contest: The Case Against Competition*.

The dominant worldview not only promotes but also justifies a widening gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots,” both in the U.S. and worldwide. In the U.S., the prosperity and economic justice that had been increasing since the 1940s has stopped. Now for several decades, poor and working class and middle class people are all suffering from the widening gaps of income and assets. Poverty is worsening. John Berger, a British writer born in 1926, wrote, “The poverty of our century is unlike that of another. It is not, as it was before, the result of natural scarcity, but of a set of priorities imposed upon the rest of the world by the rich. Consequently, the modern poor are not pitied, but written off as trash.” This, indeed, is the dominant worldview wreaking damage on real people and on humanity as a whole.

Communists used to call for “the dictatorship of the proletariat.” But now we are experiencing the dictatorship of the economic elite, the dictatorship of white straight men, and the dictatorship of the Religious Right.

TV evangelists promote the “prosperity Gospel,” the notion that if you had enough faith in their particular religious beliefs, you would become rich, so if you are not rich, it’s really your own fault. These TV evangelists tell you to send money to them, and God will reward you with wealth. The right-wing religious aspect of the dominant worldview is explored later starting on approximately page 36.

### **Polarizing into “us” vs. “them” hurts people and society as a whole.**

We have been polarized into thinking in terms of “us” vs. “them.” Oppressors polarize us by race or religion or sexual orientation or any other factor. Oppressors use this “divide-and-conquer” strategy in order to keep the oppressed people from joining together to empower themselves to nonviolently fight against the oppressors. We need to recognize what they are doing, refuse to let anyone polarize us, and join together across the demographic variables in order to promote social and economic justice.

I wrote an article about this and posted it to my blog. See <http://parallaxperspectives.org/to-achieve-social-justice-we-must-de-polarize-our-society-2>

Decades ago a researcher named Robert Sapolsky conducted an experiment in which he made rats feel helpless. When the rats felt helpless they started biting their neighbors. Oppressors in a society use that insight in a “divide-and-conquer” way to make the population (or at least significant parts of the population) to feel powerless in order to cause them to attack each other. The elites who benefit from the dominant worldview use this method to maintain their power by pitting people who feel powerless against other people who feel powerless.

Who feels powerless in our society? What demographic groups feel powerless? Where and how do people in the U.S. who feel powerless “bite” each other? Where do violence and crime occur? Right-wing politicians claim to white working class people who “played by the rules” and got left behind, so now they want to “bite” people of other ethnic groups and people who are poorer than them. In some prisons the guards like to pit prisoners of different ethnic groups against each other. Young people who feel they have no future join gangs to fight other young people who feel they have no future.

We need to replace the cruel, divisive worldview with a humane worldview grounded in the affirmation that all people are one human family – all people, regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or any other variable. If we start with the premise that all people are one human family, none of the cruelty we’ve been experiencing would be allowed to continue.

### **The cynical assumption that “might makes right” enables and entitles powerful people to dominate weaker people.**

Although people do not explicitly say that “might makes right,” this pervades the dominant worldview. It is a cynical “law of the jungle” assumption that implicitly allows oppression and injustice. People who can use physical power, economic power, military power, and so forth feel entitled to oppress, injure and kill people who lack those powers. People who assault and rape use this assumption. So do militaries and all kinds of bullies. The dominant worldview is full of this. Big business’s lawyers enable those companies to abuse workers and consumers and the environment. The list goes on and on.

Kurt Vonnegut wrote, “Dear Future Generations: Please accept our apologies. We were roaring drunk on petroleum.”

When Trump started his presidential campaign in 2015 his rhetoric emphasized bullying, and we’ve seen an increase in hate crimes and mass shootings. Instead of reducing his hateful rhetoric, Trump has been escalating it, and the hate crimes are dutifully increasing in response. Actually, the basic problem – the dominant worldview’s cynical assumption that “might makes right” – had existed long before Trump escalated the abuses and ratcheted up the oppression.

Oppressors try to beat people down in order to make them feel powerless, so they will feel too weak to fight back. This is the “shock and awe” strategy that Bush/Cheney used against Iraq in order to conquer the nation and prevent any fighting back. (In that case it did not work, because people found ways to fight back anyway through methods that the U.S. refers to as “terrorism.”) Occupying armies, dictatorships, abusive husbands, schoolyard bullies, and other oppressors try to intimidate people and cause people to feel powerless so they will not have the self-confidence to fight back.

This article explains the dynamics: <https://www.alternet.org/are-americans-broken-people-heres-why-weve-stopped-fighting-back-against-forces-oppression?src=newsletter1092898> The article provides a number of interesting and useful insights. For example, one paragraph says:

“U.S. citizens do not actively protest obvious injustices for the same reasons that people cannot leave their abusive spouses: They feel helpless to effect change. The more we don’t act, the weaker we get. And ultimately to deal with the painful humiliation over inaction in the face of an oppressor, we move to shut-down mode and use escape strategies such as depression, substance abuse, and other diversions, which further keep us from acting. This is the vicious cycle of all abuse syndromes.”

We who support human rights and democracy must counter that:

- We need to expose the truth of what is going on.
- We need to devise strategies to weaken the oppressors.
- We need to lift up and publicize examples of courageous behaviors and small victories.

- We need to help people break out of the vicious cycle of fear, pain, immobilization, and further weakening.

## **The criminal justice system uses the dominant worldview to hurt people instead of protecting society from crime.**

Trump tries to stir up fears about immigrants, so he and his Attorney General Jeff Sessions have a “zero tolerance” policy to prosecute and/or deport immigrants without proper paperwork. But why don’t they have a “zero tolerance” policy to prosecute the big businesses that violate laws and actually hurt us? Their enforcement against business law-breaking is even worse than Obama’s minimal efforts. This disparity between how immigrants and businesses are treated is grounded in the different worldviews. Who should be held accountable, vs. who should be excused?

Violent policing, harsh prison sentences and the death penalty all reveal a worldview steeped in cruelty and vindictiveness. The dominant worldview would rather punish people than actually reduce crime by using humane methods that have been proven to work. The dominant worldview chooses to bully people instead of solving the actual problems.

This essay’s two opposing worldviews lead to very different approaches to criminal justice. If we want our society to be civilized, safe and free, we must debunk the heavy-handed punishment-oriented criminal justice that does not help victims, causes prisoners to commit crimes again when they are released, and fails to protect society. Instead, let’s recognize that evidence-based research has proven that more humane strategies work better. Investing in better services for at-risk children and families will prevent crime and save tax dollars.

Part 2 of this long essay (expanding upon my December 2018 TV program) will explain “restorative justice” as a humane and effective alternative to the brutal “tough-on-crime” policies that are part of the currently dominant worldview. Other smart strategies provide healing for victims and offenders alike. Smart, humane strategies would reduce crime and save tax dollars. For more information, visit my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), and click the “**Criminal Justice**” category.

The death penalty does not deliver what it promises, but actually makes problems worse. See the February 2018 TV program and other information in my blog’s “**Death Penalty**” and “**TV Programs**” categories.

I’m glad that on October 11, 2018, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled our state’s death penalty unconstitutional because of its racial bias. We must also abolish the death penalty nationwide and worldwide.

On June 17, 2009, retired Florida Chief Justice Gerald Kogan wrote the following in *The Florida Catholic*:

“There is only one purpose of the death penalty – for society to wreak vengeance on the perpetrator. There’s never going to be closure. It doesn’t deter. Professional hit men are never caught. Most are crimes of passion with alcohol or drugs or mental disease involved. It’s a very, very expensive procedure. And the finality of the punishment is really final – if you find out you’ve made a mistake, you can’t rectify the mistake. There is no question in my mind at all that the death penalty has no place in a civilized society. We cannot, as human beings who are imperfect and in a system that is imperfect, try to come out with a perfect solution.”

I agree with Chief Justice Kogan that the death penalty makes no sense in a reasonable world. But it does serve the interests of people who are obsessed with inflicting the dominant worldview upon people whom they want to oppress.

Trump carries on the dominant worldview that is “tough-on-crime” with a strong “law and order” emphasis that goes back to Nixon’s 1968 presidential campaign and – with massive bi-partisan support – has caused the U.S. to imprison more people than any other nation in the world. The Trump regime is the latest example of the dominant worldview’s emphasis on enforcing laws against poor people and minorities while going very, very easy on business corporations and rich people who break laws.

In October 2018 Brett Kavanaugh, a rich white man who had tried to rape a young woman, was exonerated by a blatant, heavy-handed partisan scam and a phony-baloney FBI investigation and given a lifetime appointment as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. What irony! Law enforcement is yet one more sector in which the dominant worldview supports the political and economic elites while oppressing people who are already suffering. Even before Trump, federal agencies were only scarcely enforcing laws against businesses that broke them, but these already minimal enforcement actions have plummeted under Trump.

**U.S. foreign policy – and our endless, unwinnable wars – are based on the dominant worldview that keeps choosing violence instead of honestly seeking fairness and peace.**

The U.S.'s dominant worldview and our foreign policy have pretty much always been bi-partisan for a very long time, and our worldview and foreign policy continue to be bi-partisan now. Both of the big political parties – regardless of who runs Congress or who is Commander in Chief – have supported the U.S.'s military violence against other nations, and the CIA's worldwide abuses, and the endless wars and the endless abuse of the U.S.'s Guantanamo prison in Cuba: <https://truthout.org/articles/the-forever-prisoners-of-the-uss-for-ever-war/>

Empires are not sustainable. They always collapse. The bi-partisan U.S. Empire was already declining before Trump made it worse. Tom Englehardt wrote a great article saying “the U.S. has been sinking under imperial waves for decades.” Read the article here: <https://truthout.org/articles/empires-are-always-failed-experiments-and-the-us-is-no-exception/>

The dominant worldview asserts the premise of U.S. foreign policy that the U.S. is GOOD and the nations we oppose are all EVIL, so WE are justified in using violence but THEY are not.

When nations – or any political groups – are in conflict, each side sees it in absolute terms and does not understand the other side's perception of reality. Each new act of violence only reinforces the other side's fear and anger. Then it feels self-righteous in defending itself by retaliating. This perpetuates the cycle of violence. Each side justifies its own violence at the same time as it denounces the other's use of violence.

John K. Stoner, the Mennonite biblical scholar and author, wrote: “A country which has dangled the sword of nuclear holocaust over the world for (more than) half a century and claims that someone else invented terrorism is a country out of touch with reality.”

Since 1945 the U.S. has led a nuclear arms race that has come very close to destroying the world. Now the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock is showing that we are closer to Doomsday than ever. These scientists who are experts in nuclear weapons continually reevaluate the danger. They have identified Trump as a primary reason for setting their Doomsday Clock so close to midnight.

Now – in October 2018 – Trump is pulling the U.S. out of a very significant treaty that Reagan (the Republicans' idol) and Gorbachev had signed in 1987. That Intermediate-range Nuclear Force (INF) treaty had significantly reduced tensions in Europe, helped the U.S. and Russia interact more peacefully, and reduced the danger of global destruction. But now Trump is recklessly starting a new nuclear arms race. See information on my blog (<http://parallaxperspectives.org/trump-provokes-new-nuclear-arms-race-and-war-by-pulling-out-of-the-1987-inf-treaty-that-reagan-gorbachev-signed>) and here: <https://truthout.org/articles/experts-alarmed-over-trumps-plan-to-ditch-nuclear-arms-control-treaty/>

One expert called Trump's decision “reckless and stupid,” and others called it “an epic mistake” and “a colossal mistake.” Another expert said, “By declaring he will leave the INF Treaty, President Trump has shown himself to be a demolition man who has no ability to build real security.” This article also repeats the widely known news that the Trump regime opposes extending the 2010 New START Treaty, which has been limiting nuclear weapons. It's bad enough to have the dominant worldview promoting violence and nuclear weapons, but it's even worse to have a mentally deranged bully recklessly trusting his gut feelings and his narcissistic ego instead of practicing diplomacy.

Practical procedures for resolving conflict are based on objective criteria and even-handed justice. In contrast, wars are based on overwhelming violence. War is simply the wrong tool to resolve conflicts. War is the epitome of the currently dominant worldview. It is morally bankrupt, and it does not work!

Some people think that peace supporters are naive. But for thousands of years wars have only led to more wars. (More than a century ago, World War I was promoted as “The War to End All Wars.”) So actually the people who really are naive and unrealistic are those who think that yet another war will solve the world’s problems.

In recent decades the U.S.’s foreign policy has diverged sharply from reality and has created its own bubble of alternative reality. In the early 1950s the Korean War ended without victory. Since then the U.S. military has been losing wars (*e.g.*, Vietnam) and failing to win wars. Despite more than half a century of failing to win wars, the U.S. military keeps winning public opinion with very high ratings and increasingly gigantic budgets and political power. Something truly weird and dysfunctional is happening – another way in which the dominant worldview diverges sharply from objective reality. See relevant information on the **Peace** part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), including a substantive article I wrote a few years ago about this. See it at <http://parallaxperspectives.org/de-militarize-u-s-foreign-policy-2>

For more information about the topic, see this article: <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-pentagon-has-won-its-most-important-war/>

In 2017 and 2018 millions of people were upset that Russia seems to have meddled in the U.S.’s 2016 election. The October 2018 issue of *Harper’s Magazine* reported that the U.S. “intervened” in at least 18 foreign elections from 1990 to 2000. Elsewhere in this essay I report that the U.S. has actually overthrown democracies in several nations. We’ve overthrown democracies in Iran, Guatemala, Honduras, and elsewhere, and tried to overthrow democracies elsewhere. When Vietnamese people kicked France out of their country in 1954, the Geneva Peace Accords required a nationwide election to occur in 1956, but President Eisenhower **prevented** the election because he knew Ho Chi Minh would win.

The dominant worldview’s foreign policy really is toxic to American democracy besides being toxic to democracy in other nations. “American democracy is decaying because freedom has been mortgaged to bear the costs of empire.” This quotation came from Marcus G. Raskin and A. Carl Levan, in *In Democracy’s Shadow: The Secret World of National Security*

Likewise, Chalmers Johnson wrote, “A nation can be one or the other, a democracy or an imperialist, but it can’t be both. If it sticks to imperialism, it will, like the old Roman Republic, on which so much of our system was modeled, lose its democracy to a domestic dictatorship.”

Decades ago, Richard McSorley, a Jesuit priest, said that the taproot of violence in the U.S. is our willingness to use nuclear weapons. Yes, all of these issues are interconnected in the dominant worldview.

See more information contrasting the current “national security” model with a humane, peace-oriented model for “TRUE Security” section near the end of this essay, and also at three categories on my blog: **Peace**, **International Affairs**, and **Nonviolence**.

Later in this essay see two sections that specifically focus on foreign policy and Latin America.

## **The dominant worldview includes “the arrogance of power.”**

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Senator William Fulbright denounced what he called “the arrogance of power.” The specific context was the Vietnam War, which he strongly opposed. “The arrogance of power” is a major factor in U.S. foreign policy and economic policy throughout the world. It also is pervasive throughout U.S. domestic society – and the dominant worldview.

The concept also extends beyond the international scene into other contexts in which powerful people assume they are entitled to abuse people with less power. This sense of “privilege” and “entitlement” causes

some men to abuse women, as we saw in 2018 when the Senate confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice even though he had tried to rape a woman. We see the arrogance of power over and over again throughout workplaces, the criminal justice system, and elsewhere.

We keep seeing “white privilege,” “male privilege,” “heterosexual privilege,” “rich people’s privilege,” and other forms of power plays over people without privilege. The oppressors and abusers feel entitled to dominate and abuse.

This “arrogance of power” and “privilege” and blatant intolerance and their related injustices and cruelties have increasingly become part of the dominant worldview in the USA.

Just imagine how pleasant and satisfying it would be to live in a society without such arrogance and abuse. We need a truly egalitarian society that respects the inherent human dignity of every person.

### **What is the role of government? The dominant worldview has a negative view. Ordinary people really do want the government to protect and serve us.**

In recent decades the radical right wing grew and make our political climate much angrier and more abusive.

Grover Norquist, who works with a conservative anti-tax organization in Washington DC was famously quoted as saying, “My goal is to cut government in half in 25 years, to get it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub.”

**The radical right really wants to destroy most of government – the parts that help people** – but they support the parts of government that punish and use violence (more violent policing, more prisons, and more violence in foreign policy).

In Washington State, Tim Eyman’s anti-tax initiatives have been part of this. They have prevented the Legislature from adequately funding public schools. They have cut funding for city bus services and other vital governmental functions. The list of right-wing attacks on legitimate government goes on and on.

P.J. O’Rourke once wrote, “Republicans are the party that says government doesn’t work and then they get elected and prove it.”

This anti-government mania has increased with Republican control of the U.S. Congress – and it increased again with Trump in the White House. They have slashed funding for useful services. Trump has appointed – and the Republican Senate has confirmed – utterly unqualified and incompetent persons to run a number of federal agencies.

Many of those are extremely corrupt business people who were hired to run the agencies that are responsible for protecting the public and the environment from abuses by big business. Over the decades Congress has passed laws to protect our health, our environment, our voting rights, the rights of consumers, and so forth. But some of Trump’s appointees are **deliberately** working – with approval by Trump and the Republican-dominated congress – to **destroy their agencies or at least prohibit them from fulfilling their missions**. Blatant corruption now dominates the Executive Branch.

Trump and the Republican-dominated Senate have put powerful leaders of horribly polluting industries in charge of federal agencies that are supposed to regulate those industries, and they have opened the floodgates for massive pollution with chemicals that have been proven to cause cancer, proven to disable children’s growing brains, and so forth. Ironically, this is the Republican Party that for decades has claimed to be “pro-life.”

When I was writing this article on October 24, 2014, another example occurred. Trump’s air pollution advisor actually denies that dirty air causes health problems. Here is an article about this: <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/trumps-air-pollution-adviser-denies-link-between-dirty-air-and-health-problems/>

Here is a 43-minute radio interview examining Trump's contempt for valid governmental functioning, and his preference for corruption instead: <https://www.npr.org/2018/10/02/653607732/michael-lewis-trumps-ap-proach-to-government-shows-neglect-and-misunderstanding>

For more information about the deliberate pattern to destroy governmental protections, see the article "The Calculated Destruction of America's Government" by Mel Gurtov on pages 41-42 of a recent issue of *Z Magazine* (<https://zcomm.org> and posted on January 20, 2017, to <https://zcomm.org/zmagazine/essay-for-the-new-year-the-calculated-destruction-of-americas-government/>). Another link is at the author's site, <https://mel-gurtov.com/2017/12/07/post-191-the-calculated-destruction-of-americas-government/>

They have tried many times to take away health care from tens of millions of Americans, even though their cruelty would cause tens of thousands of Americans to die every year. That is not "pro-life."

It's pure negativity. Pure corruption. Pure cruelty.

Trump is not "making America great." He is making America poor, polluted, and sick.

But Trump – and before him, the Tea Party Republicans – were enabled to slash useful governmental programs because of conservative Democrats such as Bill Clinton, who in the 1990s adopted Ronald Reagan's 1980s anti-government rhetoric and policies. President Clinton said in his 1997 State of the Union address, "The era of big government is over."

Sure enough, Clinton replaced the AFDC public assistance program with the cruel TANF program, and he de-regulated telecommunications companies. This led to the current horrible concentration of TV and radio station ownership and the loss of broadcasters' "Fairness Doctrine" and requirements that they serve the public interest, which also led to the increase of right-wing talk radio). Also, Bill Clinton got Congress to repeal the 1930s-era Glass-Steagall Act, so banks were free to gamble recklessly in Clinton's new de-regulation era. That led to the 2007-2008 economic crash, which caused horrible suffering nationwide.

In these and other ways, Bill Clinton and other conservative Democrats paved the way for much of our nation's current crisis and right-wing domination. Clinton's strategy was to adopt Republican policies, enact them, and claim credit for them, as if accomplishing Republican policies were something to be proud of – something the voters would like.

Trump's 2016 campaign was not entirely right-wing nonsense and racism. He recognized people's anger at dysfunctional government and promised a government that would serve the people, not big corporations. He promised massive infrastructure investment, promised to "drain the swamp" of corruption, promised "great" health care for everybody, promised to rein in the pharmaceutical company, and so forth. Of course Trump was lying, but he did recognize legitimate functions for government to perform. The public was fooled by that lying con artist. But the anti-government mind-set had long since been created.

## **We really do need good governmental laws, regulations, and services.**

If the government were to disappear or be seriously diminished, this would not give us more liberty. Rather, it would reduce our protections from corporate abuses and would hurt our quality of life. Without government to restrain them, big business and other thugs would be free to hurt us even more. Right-wingers and Republicans rail against governmental regulations as if those were bad. Actually, regulations protect us from dangerous foods, dangerous workplaces, dangerous harm to the environment, and so forth. When you hear a politician rail against "regulations," instead of "regulations" substitute the word "protections," and tell the politician and the audience why we need the regulations. **Truly, Republicans cause cancer!**

Trump and the Republican-dominated Congress want to weaken or abolish many laws and regulations that have been protecting the environment. This would cause more pollution. A polluted nation is not "great." A polluted nation is dirty, and it makes people sick. If we want our nation to be "great," we must demand that governments at all levels – federal, state and local – take strong actions to protect and sustain a clean and healthy environment.



After the Great Depression in the 1930s, the federal government started to regulate banks. President Bill Clinton (a Democrat) and Congress de-regulated the banks and allowed them to gamble in very risky ways. This led to the economic crash that started in 2007. Since then, Congress has passed only very trivial reforms, and now the Republican-dominated government is de-regulating banks even further, so people are predicting another economic crash. We urgently need to re-regulate the banks.

Wisconsin's Republican Governor Scott Walker and Republican-dominated state legislature slashed funding for public schools, seriously took away teachers' union rights, and seriously weakened Wisconsin's public schools. Now teachers earn less, many school districts can't find people willing to teach there, and students have suffered. This is the dominant worldview at work in one state. In many locations, privatizing schools has been proven to not improve student performance, but privatization has allowed for discrimination against students who have disabilities and are not right-wing Christians, and privatization also has reduced accountability to the voters and taxpayers.

People need governments and democracies in order to meet a variety of practical needs and to restrain the crooks and vultures that would attack us if accountable governments did not exist. Trump, his close assistant Steve Bannon, the Tea Party Republicans, and other vultures want to weaken and destroy the administrative state – our services and protections – so the powerful big business corporations and other exploiters and abusers will no longer be constrained from hurting us. Eliminating government's protections – “drowning it in a bathtub” – would not leave us in a blessed, blissful state of nature and liberty. It would eliminate civilization and threaten our lives in a “law of the jungle.” Powerful, rich, violent people and businesses would rule over us, and we would be defenseless against it. This is where the dominant worldview is pushing us.

Food would be less safe than it is now. Air and water pollution would significantly worsen. Workplaces would become more dangerous. Businesses would more easily rip off the consumers. People would lose health care. Employers would discriminate against women and various kinds of minorities. And on and on.

Many environmental organizations have been alerting the public to the Trump regime's reckless and destructive rollbacks of environmental regulations. These rollbacks serve no legitimate public purpose, but merely allow giant oil companies and other polluters to avoid accountability to the public in order to further enrich themselves at our expense. Trump repeatedly shows his utter contempt for the environment and for human beings. Exploding oil trains and public pressure caused Obama to create rules to make oil trains less dangerous. But in mid-October 2018 Trump abolished those safety rules, sharply increasing the dangers of oil trains to crash and explode. There was no valid public purpose for doing that. Trump endangered our safety purely to benefit giant corporations.

## **Taxes are how society works together to pay for what we need.**

Some people just rant and rave against taxes. Actually, taxes are how a society works together to pay for what the society needs. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “I like to pay taxes. With them I buy civilization.”

Anti-tax zealots have slashed funding for necessary public spending, starting with California's Proposition 13 in 1978 and continuing in many places, including Tim Eyman's initiatives in Washington State. Slashing public funding is one of the right wing's favorite ways to prevent the government from serving the broad public interest. Also, many tax cuts are regressive in allowing rich people and big businesses to save more money than poor and working class people. These tax cuts widen the economic gap between the rich and everyone else, besides depriving poor and working class people the public services we need.

In December 2017 the Trump/Republican tax cuts gave enormous amounts of money to the very, very richest people and the biggest business corporations. They ballooned the federal deficit by about one additional trillion dollars. Do you remember when Republicans used to rail against “deficit spending”? Now Republicans themselves are the biggest booster of deficits – but only if the deficit is caused by slashing the government's revenue from rich people and big business, and by wasting additional billions of dollars on endless wars and wasteful military weapons.

Their remedy is to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

We need a progressive tax system that would require rich people to pay a greater portion of the costs of the political and economic system that made them rich. Scandinavian nations do that, and they have relatively high taxes, but they save in other ways (e.g., health care for everybody without bankrupting anyone, generous family leave benefits, etc.), and Scandinavians always rank much higher in ratings of happiness than do people in the U.S.

### **Our current systems impose systemic, institutional violence.**

The currently dominant worldview is violent in obvious ways and also in subtle, systemic ways. We know that our nation has been fighting wars continuously since 1941. But much of the violence that Americans experience is actually within our nation – embedded in our national culture and the various systems and institutions that run modern America.

Some people have said that “war is a theft from the poor.” Indeed, our economic worldview inflicts violence upon a very large portion of the population. Sexism, racism, homophobia, and other denials of human rights also are inherently violent. The dominant worldview imposes violence upon us here at home in many ways, in addition to imposing violence upon other nations.

### **When ordinary people “blow the whistle” on abuses and organize for their rights, business and government violently fight back to protect the dominant worldview.**

When the Civil Rights Movement made great progress, Richard Nixon fought back with his “Southern Strategy” to win the 1968 presidential election, and the FBI created the “COINTELPRO” campaign to spy on – and disrupt – the people who were organizing for racial justice and other progressive campaigns. Chicago police murdered Black Panther leader Fred Hampton. FBI and various police efforts continue to oppose and subvert efforts for racial justice and political progress.

Karen Silkwood worked in a nuclear facility owned and operated by Kerr-McGee and discovered serious safety violations and radioactive contamination. She became active in her labor union and tried to report her findings, but the company rebuffed her. She put documentary evidence in a big envelope and was driving to meet a reporter to “blow the whistle” on the company when company thugs drove up behind her on the highway and pushed her car off to the side. She was killed, and her evidence was stolen.

Judi Bari was making great progress in protecting the environment – and she developed empathy with the forest workers she was organizing with as allies. This challenged the dominant worldview, so business interests and/or the FBI and/or others planted a pipe bomb in her car and seriously injured her when she was driving to an organizing meeting. The FBI and Oakland, California, police blamed her and she was prosecuted, even though she was the victim.

Workers in meat slaughterhouses, food processing plants, pharmaceutical companies, and other businesses are harassed, fired and punished when they blow the whistle on corporate abuses. Also, the federal government punishes whistleblowers who expose problems in the military and other federal agencies, despite federal laws to protect whistleblowers.

The dominant worldview protects its own interests from people who challenge it with the truth.

### **Privatization of public resources reduces quality and accountability.**

Real democracy requires accountability to the public. This should include public ownership of resources that serve the broad public interest. Instead, the dominant worldview – and Republican policies – have promoted private ownership of resources that should be owned by the public.

Some city governments own their own utilities for water, electricity, and so forth. These publicly owned utilities provide better service at lower cost than the utilities that are owned by capitalist business corporations.

Public schools are a great American tradition, but anti-government zealots (including many billionaires and Republicans) are promoting privately owned “charter” schools that divert tax dollars away from public schools but are free to exclude children of the “wrong” religions, children who are not heterosexual, children with disabilities, children who have been speaking a non-English language, and so forth.

Some states have “privatized” their prisons, and the federal government privatized more of their prisons (especially prisons for immigrants). The private corporations skimp on poorer quality food, health care and security, in order to cut costs and increase profits.

Republicans want to privatize Social Security, so the Wall Street wheeler-dealers who crashed our economy a decade ago will be able to gamble with our retirement savings and take a slice every year for “managing” (or mis-managing) it.

Republicans want to privatize the U.S. Postal Service. When George W. Bush was in the White House, his Republican-dominated Congress passed a law designed to force the USPS into near-bankruptcy. The Republicans’ federal law requires the U.S. Postal Service to pre-pay now the health insurance costs for its retirees 75 years into the future. In order to do that, the USPS has raised prices and cut service.

The Republicans’ scheme has several political benefits that serve their cruel interests. (1) It crushes a “socialist” function of the U.S. government. (2) It weakens the USPS competitively so private business corporations (UPS, FedEx, etc.) can siphon off some of the USPS’s customers. (3) It attacks a federal agency that has had a good record of hiring women and racial minorities. Trump and his high-level right-wing appointees are planning further assaults on the USPS.

This article explains Trump’s plan to privatize the U.S. Postal Service: [https://www.thenation.com/article/trumps-privatization-plan-destroy-postal-service/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily%2008072018&utm\\_term=daily](https://www.thenation.com/article/trumps-privatization-plan-destroy-postal-service/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%2008072018&utm_term=daily)

The dominant worldview seeks to centralize power in private (capitalist) hands rather than serve democracy and the broad public interest. Instead, we need public ownership and accountability to voters.

**Ordinary people’s incomes peaked in 1976 or 1977. People’s anger and fear about economic loss have been hijacked by the right wing and targeted at other victims instead of the real culprits.**

The dominant worldview’s economic policies have caused many people to feel anger and fear. But clever opportunists have deflected the anger and fear from the real sources and re-directed those feelings to target innocent victims, and some of the anger and fear have generalized into free-floating negativity that the right wing can draw upon and manipulate in various ways.

Income distribution in the U.S. has become like that of a third world country. A few obscenely rich people at the top exploit and crush the people at the bottom. The middle class is shrinking and heading downward.

In the U.S., wages peaked in about 1976 or 1977, and ever since then, wages have been stagnant or declining, compared to inflation. Our undemocratic economy has left many people chronically unemployed or under-employed. Corporations are squeezing people’s health benefits, looting their pension plans, polluting our air and water, and doing other bad things. People sense that many things are crumbling, and they have many valid reasons for feeling abused – especially when our governments protect the giant corporations instead of protecting us.

Unfortunately, at times like these when many people are gripped by anxiety and fear, right-wing demagogues come along to re-focus the fear and anger on scapegoats who have not caused the problems, but are

victims too. The feelings of loss, anger, fear, and resentment have been manipulated by right-wing demagogues to flow into the dominant worldview that hurts vulnerable people and protects big business from criticism.

Trump – always a lying huckster and charlatan – exploited those feelings and mobilized voters to hate Mexicans, immigrants, other minorities, governmental regulations, and other targets. He fooled many people.

After the 2016 election many people said Trump won by appealing to the white working class. Research and analysis have disproven that as a deciding factor, because **many powerful Democrats had long since abandoned the white working class in order to kiss Wall Street's butt**. For example, an article by Kevin Drum starting on page 58 of the Nov-Dec 2018 issue of *Mother Jones* magazine provided data showing that “white working-class votes who lean Democratic” have been declining from 1992 onward. Bill Clinton was elected that year promising “hope” and “change” and urging organized labor to support him. But once Clinton became President he stiffed workers and vigorously supported big business in many ways. Clinton caused white working class voters to distrust the Democratic Party, and that constituency started abandoning Democrats. There was a short upward blip for 2008, when Barack Obama campaigned as if he cared about the working class, but when he became President he too stiffed the working class in many ways and served big business instead, just as Bill Clinton had done, so the downward slide continued. **For decades the institutional Democratic Party has been showing the white working class that it was not on their side.**

Hillary Clinton was yet another Democrat utterly subservient to Wall Street, so Democrats knew not to trust her either. This allowed Trump to actually run to Hillary's **left** on a number of economic issues. Hillary campaigned on how great Obama had made the economy, even though the working class knew otherwise. Trump was smart enough to publicly say what everybody knew: the economy was stacked against workers.

The richest 1% of the U.S.'s population kept 95% of the national income created from 2009 to 2017, while only the remaining 5% of it was divided in very skimpy portions among the 99% of us. Politicians brag about the jobs that have been created recently, but a huge portion of those are part-time, temporary, contract, on-call and gig jobs that are low-paid and lack pensions or health care or other benefits.

In December 2017 Trump and the Republican Congress cut taxes (and expanded loopholes) for the very richest people (including themselves) and for rich business corporations. Republicans used to denounce the federal budget deficit when people wanted the budget to pay for good things, but Republicans vastly increased the deficits through Reagan's tax cuts, George W. Bush's tax cuts, and Trump's tax cuts. Trump's tax cut ballooned the federal deficit (an increase of almost \$1 TRILLION between 2017 and 2019), so now the Republicans want to cut Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid to pay for their economic perversion.

Actually, Social Security and Medicare are paid for with a separate tax. They add nothing to the national debt. Social Security has a \$2.5 TRILLION SURPLUS. Congress has been “borrowing” trillions from Social Security to pay for government spending, including the gigantic military budget. So when Republicans say we need to cut Social Security in order to balance the federal budget, what they really mean is this: “We've taken trillions from Social Security to pay for unfunded wars, tax cuts for the rich, and corporate subsidies. We need to cut your benefits so we won't have to pay it back.”

In mid-October 2018 Trump wanted to appoint a grossly unqualified person to be in charge of Social Security. Andrew Saul has absolutely zero relevant experience. Instead, he serves on the board of the Manhattan Institute, a racist, right-wing think tank that pushes for drastic cuts to the program millions of Americans rely upon. The Senate is likely to vote to confirm him after the November 6 midterm elections.

An article posted on October 12, 2018, is titled, “Justifiable Anger Fuels Trump's Hold on Power and Democrats Still Don't Seem to Get It.” Read it at this link: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/10/12/justifiable-anger-fuels-trumps-hold-power-and-democrats-still-dont-seem-get-it> The article says – as I've said in this essay – that both political parties caused the problem, but Trump was the only 2016 presidential candidate who actually spoke to the public about it. This quotation from the article makes that point:

“This is the central issue in politics today: the diminished prospects that Americans have experienced is a reality, and it has been a bi-partisan effort decades in the making, encompassing nearly every aspect of our economic, social and political world. So, of course people are angry. Trump tapped into that anger and rode it to victory. It doesn’t matter that his policies are in fact favoring the rich—there’s no one else even pretending to address it.”

### **We need to distinguish between contrived, manipulative fears and legitimate fears.**

Free-floating fears, anxieties and anger exist in our society. Nasty people exploit those by choosing people to be targets – and then deceiving the public into venting their emotions upon those people.

On a few pages above I discussed some fears that have been contrived and manipulated. Those fears are part of the dominant worldview. But some legitimate fears do exist. **The public really is justified in fearing for their economic security, health security, environmental security, civic security, etc.** Current and anticipated laws and policies are pushing most Americans downward, threatening our retirement plans, reducing our access to health care, worsening our quality of life, degrading our food supply, ruining our environment, restricting the media, corrupting our political processes, and so forth.

Although Trump whips up fear of immigrants, more than 500 of his Customs and Border Patrol employees were arrested for a variety of crimes, including domestic abuse in the past two years. But he avoids admitting that, and instead he keeps whipping up fear of immigrants, when hundreds of federal employees are real criminals. See this: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/15/1804536/-Hundreds-of-CBP-employees-were-arrested-for-crimes-including-domestic-abuse-in-past-two-years?detail=emaildkre>

The “War on Terror” does not reduce terror, but rather actually provokes more terror! The U.S.’s aggressively violent foreign policy actually undermines our security. People who are afraid for our national security need to question the dominant worldview’s assumptions and choose better alternatives. In the December 2018 TV program I’ll explain this and urge a, compassionate, peaceful and just foreign policy that would provide “TRUE Security.” See the parts of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), that deal with various aspects of international affairs, nuclear weapons, terrorism, and so forth.

The older Bush’s 1990-1991 “Gulf War” utterly devastated Iraq. The U.S. targeted water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants, so Iraq could not provide clean, safe water for its people. After the war, the U.S. (George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton) continued its economic sanctions against Iraq, so the U.S. prohibited Iraq from buying the equipment they needed to repair those plants. The U.S.’s cruel economic sanctions caused raw sewage to flow in city streets, and microbes to multiply in drinking water. The U.S. knowingly caused an epidemic of illnesses. The U.S. was deliberately causing water-borne diseases (“biological weapons”) that – along with other deliberate abuses such as prohibiting Iraq from buying medicines or even replacing windows and sheets in hospitals – caused **more than half a million innocent Iraqi children to die** in the next several years, including through Democratic President Bill Clinton’s administration, which continued and enforced the economic sanctions. A journalist publicly asked Clinton’s Secretary of State Madeleine Albright whether killing half a million Iraqi children was worth it, and she said yes.

This is the dominant worldview at work. Democrats hurt us, just like Republicans do. Even Democrats who say nice-sounding rhetoric such as Barack Obama have been guilty of horrible war crimes because they buy into the dominant worldview. The U.S.’s cruel, violent foreign policy is solidly bi-partisan – both at the White House level and in Congress.

Why do we have this kind of foreign policy? When the U.S. was founded, President Washington and Congress and the public opposed getting into wars, because they saw how Europe suffered from its many wars. But over the years, the U.S. developed its own sense of imperialist entitlement.

The selfish nationalistic worldview started long ago.

Nearly two centuries ago – in 1823 – President James Monroe issued a national policy (the Monroe Doctrine), which threatened Europe to stop colonizing the Americas, because that was an area for the U.S. to control. This was an imperialistic sense of “entitlement” and “arrogance of power” as described earlier in this essay.

But the U.S. imperialism expanded across the Pacific Ocean when the U.S. fought a ten-week war with Spain (the Spanish-American War) and the U.S. stole Spain’s colonies (the Philippines, Cuba, etc.).

After World War II the U.S. emerged as the world’s most dominant military and economic power. Those two features of the dominant worldview – military and economic power – are summarized in a statement made in 1948 by George Kennan, head of the US State Department’s Policy Planning Staff. He said:

“We have about 60 per cent of the world’s wealth but only 6.3 per cent of its population. In this situation we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity. ... The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts.”

This expresses the U.S.’s dominant worldview. Although the official propaganda says the U.S. wants peace and democracy, actually the U.S. government has overthrown democracies in Iran, Guatemala, Chile, Venezuela, and elsewhere, because those countries had democratic governments that wanted their own people to benefit from their own oil, minerals, and natural resources. The U.S. has installed extremely brutal dictators who would serve U.S. political, military and economic interests, and the U.S. has armed them with extremely deadly weapons and allowed the dictators to slaughter their own people over many years.

### **The bi-partisan dominant worldview opposes democracy and human rights in Latin America.**

This essay’s previous section mentioned the Monroe Doctrine, the unilateral U.S. expression of entitlement to dominate Latin America since 1823. And dominate we have! The U.S. has been exploiting Latin America for U.S. business interests and opposing democracy – not supporting democracy, but opposing it – in order to serve U.S. business and geopolitical interests. This has been bi-partisan and consistent, right up to the present day.

The U.S. supported Latin America’s corrupt military generals who did our dirty work for us and kept their people subservient to the economic elites. But the U.S. did send our military troops there many, many times.

The U.S. military occupied Nicaragua from 1909 to 1933. In Nicaragua, three different members of the Somoza family ran the country off and on for a total of 30 years from 1937 to 1979. When populist leader Augusto César Sandino was leading an uprising for economic and political reforms to help Nicaragua’s poor people, the oldest Somoza lured Sandino to peace talks but murdered Sandino in 1934 and claimed the presidency. This is the Somoza about whom Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt said, “He may be an S.O.B., but he’s our S.O.B.”

Another Somoza was Nicaragua’s president later, and finally another, who was finally overthrown by the grassroots Sandinista movement in 1979. The Somozas were not generals per se, but they did head the powerful National Guard military entity, starting with the first Somoza. They grabbed more and more power and put many of Nicaragua’s institutions under their direct control. Along the way the Somoza family practiced extreme corruption (including stealing much of the money sent to help the nation rebuild after the 1972 earthquake) and amassed a fortune of more than one billion dollars. The U.S. government kept supporting the Somoza dictatorship all along.

When the grassroots populist Sandinista group toppled Somoza’s dictatorship in 1979, the Sandinistas organized massive campaigns for literacy, public health, and local democracy. But the U.S.’s CIA organized and funded terrorists groups and pulled them together into what was known as the “contras” (counter-revolutionaries). The CIA and President Reagan vigorously supported these blatant terrorists. Reagan called these terrorists “freedom-fighters” and likened them to the U.S.’s Founding Fathers.

Likewise, for many decades El Salvador was dominated and exploited by a small economic elite (the “14 families”), so when poor people rose up to promote democracy and economic justice, El Salvador’s brutal government used its cruel, violent military to kill the nation’s dissidents, and the government also supported “death squads” that supplemented El Salvador’s military in terrorizing poor people and their allies. The U.S. knew El Salvador’s military and death squads were slaughtering people, but Democrat Jimmy Carter and then Republican President Ronald Reagan generously funded El Salvador’s slaughter.

Wikipedia reports:

“In February 1980 Archbishop Óscar Romero published an open letter to US President Jimmy Carter in which he pleaded with him to suspend the United States’ ongoing program of military aid to the Salvadoran regime. He advised Carter that ‘Political power is in the hands of the armed forces. They know only how to repress the people and defend the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy.’ Romero warned that US support would only ‘sharpen the injustice and repression against the organizations of the people which repeatedly have been struggling to gain respect for their fundamental human rights.’”

On March 23, 1980, Archbishop Romero delivered a sermon in which he called on El Salvador’s soldiers, as Christians, to obey God’s higher order and to stop carrying out the government’s repression and violations of basic human rights. On the very next day, El Salvador’s military shot Romero to death when he was saying Mass.

On December 2, 1980, members of El Salvador’s National Guard raped and murdered several American nuns and a laywoman. Although American military aid slowed briefly, Democratic President Jimmy Carter increased it again before leaving office. (Carter also supported CIA support for the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan, the predecessor of the Taliban. Despite his rhetoric favoring human rights, Carter’s actual record was very mixed. He did not really act consistently well until after leaving the presidency.)

Chile was Latin America’s oldest democracy, dating back to the mid-1800s. But President Richard Nixon and his cynical Henry Kissinger and their CIA actively destabilized Chile’s democratic government – and then they helped Chile’s military overthrow their democracy on September 11, 1973, partly for Cold War geopolitical reasons and partly in order to serve U.S. business corporations that were mining minerals there. In a classic statement exemplifying the dominant U.S. worldview, Kissinger famously said, “I don’t see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people. The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves.”

Nixon and Kissinger supported Chile’s military coup and their murder of the democratically elected president Salvador Allende, and the installation as dictator military General Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet brutally suppressed human rights and slaughtered and “disappeared” many, many, many people until 1990 when Chile returned to democracy.

Now as I write this essay in late October 2018 the tragedy of Honduras is in the news again – and it is yet another example of the U.S.’s dominant worldview of persistently abusing Latin America. A “caravan” of refugees fleeing Honduras are traveling through Mexico to seek refuge in the U.S. But instead of understanding the context, Trump and mainstream media are deceiving us yet again.

After a very long history of oppression, Honduras developed a democracy and they elected a progressive president, Manuel Zelaya, who was making improvements to serve the general public. But in 2009 Honduras’s business elite and military staged a coup and overthrew Honduras’s democracy. They kidnapped the elected president and overthrew Honduras’s democracy in violation of international law. The Organization of American States unanimously denounced it. But Democratic President Obama and his Democratic Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supported the coup.

For nearly a decade now, Honduras’s military and police have been murdering journalists, environmentalists, labor organizers, human rights defenders and other people – all with the blessing of the U.S. government. People who want democracy – or merely want to live without brutal oppression and violence – are fleeing

Honduras as refugees. Trump's U.S. is blatantly violating international law by denying people's right to seek asylum and refugee status here. Trump is sending some of those people back to their countries of origin where they will almost certainly be murdered. These dangers exist in a number of countries besides Honduras. Now – in late October 2018 – Trump is sending the U.S. military to our border with Mexico to prevent those refugees from entering the U.S., even though international law guarantees the right of refugees to seek asylum in other countries.

### **Here are more insights about Americans' fears, terrorism, and foreign policy.**

The American people are afraid of terrorists. But they also have deep, troubling fears about the crumbling economy, the loss of civil liberties, the deteriorating environment, and the future our kids and grandkids will inherit. The dominant worldview keeps deliberately escalating the first kind of fears, but it unwittingly escalates the second set of fears. I discussed this somewhat on pages 20-21. Here is more now.

The so-called “war on terrorism” fails to address the underlying causes of terrorism. Instead, the Bush-Cheney regime and subsequent administrations have exploited the September 11 attacks to frighten the American people into supporting more militarism, giving up our constitutional rights, and letting the government claim dictatorial powers – all in the guise of “protecting” us. Militaristic and repressive reactions only turn more people into enemies and escalate the cycle of violence. I discussed this earlier in this essay.

**But ironically, while the dominant worldview promotes militarism and the centralization of power as solutions to the things that frighten people, these are actually the root causes of people's real fears in the first place!**

**This is not a partisan rant about a particular administration, because the dominant worldview controls both of the big political parties.** Rather, this is a hard look at changes that have been accumulating over a few decades, including the Bill Clinton years. Clinton, after all, maintained the brutal and deadly Iraq economic sanctions, illegally called large parts of Iraq “no fly zones” and bombed them repeatedly, bombed several other countries illegally, dismantled the welfare safety net, vastly expanded the death penalty and reduced defendants' appeal rights, promoted horribly undemocratic “free trade” agreements, etc. Such trends were well underway before the George W. Bush regime accelerated the pace of these abuses and carried them out more brazenly than ever before. Barack Obama largely continued the Bush/Cheney foreign policy, escalated U.S. militarism into additional countries, especially with new military outposts in Africa, and yielded to his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and overthrew Libya's government, with disastrous results. Trump, of course, is escalating the dominant worldview's foreign policy recklessly. **But this paragraph's main point is that the dominant worldview's foreign policy is bi-partisan. We must change our nation's foreign policy and dominant worldview, not just replace Republicans with Democrats.**

After 2001, Bush/Cheney and congressional Republicans and Trump did to Muslims what Senator Joe McCarthy and the fear-mongering McCarthyists did to “communists” in the early-to-mid-1950s. Juan Cole posted an insightful article in October 15, 2018, to [www.tomdispatch.com](http://www.tomdispatch.com) and [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org). See <https://www.alternet.org/heres-how-muslims-became-enemy-age-trump?src=newsletter1097074>

Oppressors often provoke the public to fear the people that the oppressors want to target. This familiar scheme is rampantly pursued now – against Muslims, Mexicans, immigrants, LGBTQ people, atheists, socialists, and other groups.

### **Understand and debunk the myth of redemptive violence.**

Many movies (Westerns, crime movies, spy movies, etc.) end with a big shoot-out or explosion or other violence at the end. This violence resolves the problems just before the movie ends. This is “**the myth of redemptive violence.**” Mainstream public opinion believes in “the myth of redemptive violence.” Our foreign policy reflects that myth. The US government – on a bipartisan basis – believes that the US military can



threaten violence and actually use violence – and this will bring peace. But in reality you CAN'T “fight fire with fire.” You must fight fire with WATER. Let's fight violence with **non**violence.

The mistaken assumption that violence solves problems results in overkill – including killing innocent bystanders. (Even the death penalty kills innocent people.)

At the local family or neighborhood or community level, people know that violence does not work. When I worked at a professional job for a Washington State agency, sometimes we disagreed with another state agency. But in our staff meetings, nobody ever said, “Let's get a bunch of guns and go over to their office building and start killing people until their agency will agree with us.” We knew better than that.

But at national and international levels, many people do believe “the myth of redemptive violence.” They don't see the immorality and stupidity of thinking violence will solve problems. Let's practice globally what we want to see locally on our jobs and in our families.

### **Politics have shifted to the Right.**

The dominant worldview really is dominant – in both of the big political parties – and it has shifted American politics and journalism toward the Right.

For decades people wrote about “dog-whistle” political rhetoric (*e.g.*, words and metaphors that racists would recognize and resonate with, but that ordinary people did not notice as such). Now Trump and similar Republicans are saying and doing extremely racist things explicitly and shamelessly. It has become politically OK to be very blatantly racist, very blatantly sexist, and very blatantly cruel.

Also, Trump has flaunted his corruption by refusing to release his tax returns, as all presidents had been doing for decades, and he is blatantly making money for himself and his family members through corruption he can engineer through his role as President of the USA. Decency, ethics, common sense, and truth have all been discarded. We are in a new era of contempt for everything decent.

Economic and political power have shifted significantly to the right wing. Moderate Republicans used to be common, but they have been forced to join the right wing or pushed out of the Republican Party. Mainstream Democrats (the Clintons and Barack Obama and the institutional Democratic Party) are largely where moderate Republicans used to be (accepting the New Deal, supporting business, allowing civil liberties, etc.).

But nowadays when journalists talk about political differences, when they say “Left,” they mean middle-of-the-road Democrats, because the “Right” has become Trump/Bannon neo-fascism. Journalists pretend that middle-of-the-roadism is “Left” and they ignore the true Left.

I wish mainstream media were doing its job and boldly, publicly expose the problems instead of retreating into mere stenographers who simply quote both sides. Although Trump calls journalists the “enemy,” I wish journalists really were the enemies of lies, secrecy, manipulation and corruption. Trump's abuse of journalists is something that fascists do.

Increasingly in recent years the right wing has bought major “news” media, including TV and radio stations, newspapers, and so forth. Fox News has always been just a cynical front for the Republican Party that promotes extremely partisan propaganda instead of reporting truth. Giant corporations owned by right-wing extremists have been saturating much of the nation with their propaganda, so people there never hear the truth. Instead, they are manipulated into supporting the dominant worldview and Republicans, even though the right wing's public policies actually hurt those people.

### **Deliberate lies have increased. Political conflict has become toxic.**

A few pages below I'll discuss Trump's lies in particular. But first, let's look at lying overall.

People have good reason to distrust the government. The Johnson and Nixon Administrations lied to us about Vietnam, the Bush Administration lied to us about Iraq and Afghanistan. The government has lied to us about many things over the years.

Businesses, banks, and other major institutions have lied to us and abused us too: Wall Street, mainstream news media, companies that hurt the environment, etc. So it's reasonable to distrust the government and other big institutions when they have betrayed us so many times.

Decades ago everybody saw the same media, so we had a common foundation of factual information. Now different political factions read only their own media, so people who are politically different from each other disagree about basic reality – what is true and what is fake. Huge numbers of Americans believed the right-wing propaganda that Obama was not born in the U.S., that he was really Muslim, and so forth.

A healthy democracy needs to seek the truth, promote civil dialogue, allow differences of opinion, and move toward solving problems. Instead, we have experienced an increase in deliberate lies, polarization, political anger and hatred, and extreme partisanship (really only on the part of Republicans, with Democrats acting defensively instead of proactively). Mainstream media has declined sharply, and right-wing media and “social media” have escalated without accountability or fact-checking.

Over the years a few billionaires and giant corporations have been buying up mainstream news media (newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations, and so forth. Many of these are extremely right-wing. Very few communities now have competing newspapers and fewer than before have competing broadcasters. Jobs for honest, professional journalists have been declining sharply. A preponderance of conservative and right-wing media have been manipulating the public and shaping public opinion and voting. Right-wing talk radio has fomented controversy instead of a thoughtful conversation.

To some extent, these right-wing media have become an echo chamber. Someone on Fox News will tell a lie, Trump will repeat it, and now the mainstream news media report it as something the President has stated.

See more about Trump's lies specifically in a later section of this essay, starting on approximately page 31.

**A classic propaganda technique is to tell a lie so often that people will believe it to be true.** People tell lies and repeat them endlessly on the radio and internet. They reach – and mislead – tens of millions of people. When their lies are disproven, they don't issue a correction, but simply continue to promote the same lies. They deceive tens of millions of people. Trump has been doing this extensively, and even though he has been “fact-checked” by mainstream media, he denounces those truthful journalists as “fake news” and “enemies,” and many millions of Americans side with Trump.

Trump and some other right-wingers actually threaten violence against people they disagree with. They want to disrupt and shut down legitimate conversation. Therefore, people of good will – people who believe in democracy – need to strategize and organize to change the political climate. It is not enough to merely vote Democratic.

Oil companies have known for decades that their emissions were damaging public health and the climate, but they spent huge amounts of money on propaganda denying that – and huge amounts of money on election campaigns and lobbyists so they could suppress the truth and hurt all of us so they could profit.

The danger is that when big institutions fall apart, people tend to retreat into tribalism (*e.g.*, my own family or local community, people of my own race or my own religion or my own political views). Trump has exploited this tendency for people in his own political base. He wants to destroy society in order to personally dominate the public so they will obey him because of their fears. This is what fascist dictators do. The fear-mongering “divide-and-conquer” strategy is dangerous for a free, democratic society.

Voltaire wrote, “Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.” This is what we are experiencing now under Trump's regime of replacing truth with blatant lies and cruelty.

Several recent articles have explained the drift toward fascism (rejecting rationality, exploiting fears, exploiting working class whites' fears of demographic shifts, etc.).

Some parts of my blog discuss these problems. Visit [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) and see the categories for **Media** and for **Conservatism and Right Wing**.

**Recently the dominant worldview has gotten even worse: more greed, corruption, entitlement, divide + conquer, racism, sexism, blatant lies, attacks on nature, attacks on democracy, attacks on independent free press, and so forth. These behaviors by leaders in business and government produced BAD RESULTS.**

In recent years – and especially since the Republican Party has grabbed control of Congress, the Executive Branch and the Supreme Court – the dominant worldview has become much more extreme and much more cruel, corrupt, dishonest, and blatantly partisan.

Instead of caring about the broad public interest (what's good for the nation as a whole), they ruthlessly serve their political base and their own selfish interests (and in Trump's case, his narcissistic ego). All they care about is winning, no matter how much you have to bully other people with bare-knuckled assaults, and no matter how much you have to lie and cheat, no matter how much you violate the principles of honest democracy or violate the U.S. Constitution. This cynical, destructive “win-at-all-costs” strategy was on display when the Republicans rammed Kavanaugh's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. (See the next section below.)

During the years when President Obama was our duly elected President, the Republicans did everything possible to prevent him from exercising his constitutional duties. They did this partly because he was a Democrat and partly because he was African American.

Obama never proposed bold or progressive legislations or appointments. Especially in his first four-year term, Obama kept practicing diplomacy with Congress's Republicans in order to gain their support for his modestly liberal proposals. But Republicans kept rebuffing him anyway.

This article says our fears about what Trump might do are actually coming true: [http://prospect.org/article/all-our-fears-about-trump-are-coming-true?midqs=UJhdHiO89AEvwK2x00R\\_Ig](http://prospect.org/article/all-our-fears-about-trump-are-coming-true?midqs=UJhdHiO89AEvwK2x00R_Ig)

**Trump and Republicans shamed themselves and seriously damaged the Supreme Court's credibility by rushing Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation in October 2018 in a blatantly partisan power grab, despite strong evidence against him and a deliberately, ridiculously skimpy FBI investigation. Their war against women and war against truth and war against honest government were all on display.**

During Obama's tenure, Senate Republicans refused to consider many of Obama's nominees for federal court judge positions. They let an enormous number of vacancies accumulate. This caused serious delays of justice in our federal courts. When Obama took office there were 54 vacancies on the federal judicial bench, but when Trump took office there were 105. The Republicans violated the Constitution's requirement that they consider the President's nominations. They did this to violate Obama's power and wait for a Republican president to appoint a huge number of right-wing extremists to federal courts. Most of Trump's appointees are young, so they will continue to inflict Trumpism upon us for many decades to come.

In February 2016 – nearly a year before Obama's term would end – a Supreme Court Justice died, so Obama nominated an extremely well qualified nominee, Merrick Garland, to replace him. But – in violation of the Constitution – the Republicans refused to consider him. Their blatantly ideological and partisan scheme was

designed to further disempower Obama and wait for a Republican to be elected in 2016 so another right-wing Republican could be nominated for the Supreme Court.

This, indeed, is what happened with Brett Kavanaugh, an extreme right-winger on virtually every issue, and an intensely partisan Republican too. Also, strong evidence suggests that he lied under oath on previous occasions when he spoke to Congress. Much specific information is on the internet, so I don't repeat it here.

The American people need the U.S. Supreme Court to be a neutral, impartial body of legal experts. While Democratic presidents have been nominating real experts to judicial positions on the Supreme Court, Republican presidents have been nominating blatantly partisan Republicans.

Brett Kavanaugh is taking this to an extreme level. After the 2000 election Kavanaugh was one of the lawyers for George W. Bush and the Republican Party who forced Florida to stop recounting the ballots. Al Gore would have won the recount. Instead, the Republican majority on the U.S. Supreme Court stopped the recount and merely appointed George W. Bush to become president. Kavanaugh helped make that happen.

Before that, when Congressional Republicans were conducting Ken Starr's blatantly partisan investigations of Democratic President Bill Clinton, Kavanaugh was one of the blatantly Republican attack dogs helping Ken Starr's witch-hunt.

Several women have accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault, but the FBI's skimpy – less-than-one-week – “investigation” refused to interview Dr. Christine Blasey Ford (who had DEMANDED to be interviewed) or Kavanaugh himself, nor the dozens of witnesses who wanted to provide corroborating evidence to support the allegations. According to the non-profit organization People for the American Way ([www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)), Senators were allowed only one hour to review a single hard copy of the inadequate FBI report in a secure room. The Republicans PREVENTED truth from coming out, and their UTTER SHAMELESSNESS proves their arrogance in the dominant worldview that is PURELY PARTISAN instead of honest.

And the Republicans are so clueless that they don't even realize how severely they have shamed themselves.

See more information at the **Judicial and Constitutional** part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

## **Big money and secret money can “buy elections.”**

Over the years several Supreme Court decisions have increasingly widened the floodgates for big money and secrecy in funding election campaigns. These decisions have seriously corrupted our electoral democracy. Both of the big political parties have been corrupted by Big Money.

The October 2018 issue of *Harper's Magazine* estimated that 54% of outside spending on U.S. state judicial elections came from “dark money” – funding sources that were hidden in secrecy. This is not how an honest democracy would work.

Many non-profit organizations have reported on the problems – and are encouraging people to take action to solve the problems, so I don't need to detail that information here. A few good organizations are listed at the end of this document.

## **Republicans support unpopular policies, so they win by using dirty tricks to win elections.**

Public opinion polls keep showing that a **majority** of the public takes progressive positions on many issues for which Republicans are on the wrong side. **Most** Americans want high quality health care for everyone, a path to citizenship for immigrants without documentation, equal rights for LGBTQ people, a clean environment, climate protection, an effective government that serves the broad public interest, and so forth.

Republicans are on the **wrong** side of these issues, so the only way they win elections is by illegitimately grabbing political power at federal, state and local levels. Republicans can't win elections honestly on the issues, so they win by corrupting the electoral process with big money, gerrymandering, preventing many

people of color and poor people and young people from voting (“voter suppression”), and other abusive gimmicks.

About 230 years ago the U.S. Constitution was written in ways that benefited the elites. The Constitution allowed each state to determine who could vote in its election. At first, only white men who owned land or paid taxes could vote. Bit by bit we have improved democracy to include more people. But some powerful interest groups – especially Republicans nowadays – want to prevent racial minorities and young people and poor people from voting, so many Republican-dominated states (especially previous slave-holding states) have passed laws with strict “voter ID” requirements.

Recently some states have reduced the number of polling places in minority communities, so people of color have difficulty getting out to vote. Some states also have reduced the number of voting machines in minority communities, so people of color sometimes have to stand outside for several hours in line waiting to vote. Those states provide white communities with plenty of polling places and plenty of voting machines.

Some Republican-dominated states have passed laws requiring specific kinds of ID that many poor and minority people do not have. Texas prohibits 600,000 registered voters from voting because they don’t have the precisely correct kind of ID. Some Republican-dominated states prohibit anyone with a felony record from voting. As of October 2018, more than 6 million Americans who had been convicted of felonies were prohibited from voting. That disproportionately affects poor people and people of color. Also, Republican-dominated states keep purging the voting rolls, kicking off people for various reasons, including not having voted very recently.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act protected all Americans’ voting rights, but in 2013 the Republican-dominated U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder* that the 15 states with horrible histories of racial discrimination no longer needed federal approval before changing their voting laws. Immediately some of the Republican-dominated states passed laws that were blatantly intended to significantly reduce voting by black people, poor people, young people, and other constituencies who would likely vote for Democrats if they were allowed.

The article at the following link explains how Republicans plan to win the 2018 mid-term elections by interfering with (“suppressing”) the voting by the kinds of people who are likely to vote for Democrats (African Americans, young people, poor people, etc.): [https://www.thedailybeast.com/republicans-have-a-secret-weapon-in-the-midterms-voter-suppression?utm\\_campaign=NeverPaid+-+Friday+Member+Newsletter+-+10.12.18+%28NSGNAJ%29&utm\\_medium=email&\\_ke=eyJrbF9lbWFpbCI6ICJnbGVuYW5kZXJzb25AaW50ZWdyYS5uZXQlCAia2xfY29tcGFueV9pZCI6ICJNSEFacGOifO%3D%3D&utm\\_source=Non-Paying+Members+Daily](https://www.thedailybeast.com/republicans-have-a-secret-weapon-in-the-midterms-voter-suppression?utm_campaign=NeverPaid+-+Friday+Member+Newsletter+-+10.12.18+%28NSGNAJ%29&utm_medium=email&_ke=eyJrbF9lbWFpbCI6ICJnbGVuYW5kZXJzb25AaW50ZWdyYS5uZXQlCAia2xfY29tcGFueV9pZCI6ICJNSEFacGOifO%3D%3D&utm_source=Non-Paying+Members+Daily)

A powerfully informative article by Robert Lowes (“How Voter Suppression Imperils the Midterms” begins on page 25 of the Oct/Nov 2018 issue of *The Progressive* magazine. See [www.progressive.org](http://www.progressive.org). The direct link is <https://progressive.org/magazine/how-voter-suppression-imperils-the-midterms/>

Now – as I write this essay in late October 2018, just before the mid-term election on November 6 – a number of black voters in Georgia have reported that when they used the touch-screen computers to vote for the progressive Democratic African American candidate for Governor, the computer screen was showing that they had voted for the blatantly racist white Republican candidate. By the way, that blatantly racist white Republican candidate for Governor happens to be the current Secretary of State, the official in charge of Georgia’s elections and voting machines. Decades ago researchers had discovered that these voting machines could very easily be hacked and/or programmed to switch votes in exactly this way, and that the business corporations that owned the voting machines were owned by extremely partisan Republicans, and that they have consistently prevented any honest audits of the programming on the grounds that their programming was “proprietary” information owned by those corporations. So here we are with a Republican blatantly stealing yet another election. Information about the 2018 abuse has been reported in many progressive sources, including this one: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/24/1806885/-NAACP-Files-Complaint-Georgia-Voting-Machines-Changing-Votes-From-Abrams-to-Kemp?detail=emaildkre>

As I write this in late October, the widely predicted “blue wave” seems to be diminishing – partly because of Republicans’ voter suppression schemes. For many years one of the best experts on electoral manipulations and abuses has been Greg Palast. He has written extensively and accurately. Now he says Republicans likely to win a number of crucial elections by suppressing voters. For example, as mentioned above, the Republican candidate for Georgia’s Governor is the current Secretary of State, the official in charge of elections. Greg Palast reports that he has prevented more than 300,000 persons from voting. Here is an article about that: <https://www.alternet.org/election-expert-greg-palast-thanks-gop-voter-suppression-democrats-may-have-effectively-lost?src=newsletter1097425>

Another expert, Thom Hartmann, said Republicans are scheming to win the 2018 midterm elections by promoting racism and by suppressing the voters who would vote for Democrats. Read his article “American Democracy Is on the Brink” at <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/thom-hartmann-american-democracy-is-on-the-brink/>

This article explains that Republicans’ strategy for winning in 2018 relies heavily on suppressing voters: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/17/1804835/-Republicans-2018-campaign-strategy-isn-t-voter-turnout-it-s-actually-massive-voter-suppression?detail=emailLL>

Also, the powerfully experienced and insightful journalist Chris Hedges (who has won a Pulitzer Prize) posted an article on October 23, 2018, explaining why Trump “Is the Product of a Failed Democracy’.” Chris Hedges’ new book examines some of the pathologies in our decayed culture that allowed Trump to gain power. See <https://www.alternet.org/pulitzer-prize-winner-explains-why-trump-product-failed-democracy?src=newsletter1097289> The article says Hedges sees Trump as embodying the U.S. society’s problems, but Trump is a symptom, not the cause. I had written similarly in a thorough essay I posted to my blog in 2017: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-we-got-into-our-current-crisis-and-how-to-get-out-this-thorough-essay-helps-us-understand-trumpism-and-stop-it>

An honest democracy would not allow extremely rich persons and big business corporations to “buy” elections. Increasingly in recent years, federal laws and court cases have allowed rich people and big business to corrupt democracy. Especially since the disastrous 2010 Citizens United decision, secretive groups have funneled nearly \$800 million in “dark money” into election campaigns, especially in order to favor Republicans. This is how the dominant worldview destroys democracy and imposes corruption upon our nation. A number of “good government” non-profit organizations have been organizing against that corruption, but the trend has been continuing. I list a few organizations at the end of this essay.

During the Watergate era, some people were saying that many presidents had done the sorts of things that Nixon had done, but some great historians researched the matters and said that Nixon’s crimes were unprecedented. Now the historian in the article at this link – <https://www.thenation.com/article/donald-trumps-debasement-of-american-democracy/> – tracked down those historians who were still alive, and here is what she wrote:

“I tracked down the historians who had worked on that project who were still alive. I asked them to compare what they had learned about the previous presidential administrations and the low-water mark that Nixon represented, and asked them the question, ‘Has any president been as bad as Trump?’ They had strong words about the unprecedented nature of what Trump has done. They focused not just on what Trump stands accused of – the allegations of collusion with the Russians, for instance – but also on Trump’s public defilement of democratic institutions and foundational American values. They focused less on constitutional violations and more on Trump’s debasement of our democracy. William Leuchtenberg, now 95, told me about Nixon that ‘what he did does not match the Trump presidency in its malfeasance, and in the depth of his failure as president.’”

**All of this is part of the dominant worldview that is overtly hostile to democracy and human rights.**

## **Trump and Trumpism are the dominant worldview on steroids. Trump does what fascists do.**

Donald Trump is mentally and emotionally incompetent. He is psychiatrically dangerous and unfit for public office in several crucial ways.

His grandfather was an immigrant who went into business, and his father Fred Trump was a sleazy real estate developer who made millions of dollars by cheating other people. Donald was born a rich spoiled brat, and he continued acting like a rich spoiled brat all of his life.

He seems to be only marginally literate. He very often misspells words and seems unable to write coherent sentences. He does not want to read anything longer than one page, and he likes bullet points and pictures instead of reasoned thoughts. He rejects rational information and instead makes decisions based on his gut feelings.

Many, many articles and some books have been written about how his top appointees need to dumb things down for him and treat him like a child so he does not have a tantrum and take reckless actions. You can search the web for much information. I have posted some on the **Trump and Trumpism** part of my blog.

Rob Reiner blasted Trump as a “classic fascist” and a con man and a criminal. See this article: <https://www.alternet.org/hes-con-man-and-criminal-rob-reiner-blasts-classic-fascist-donald-trump?src=newsletter1094068>

Trump is a fraud. An article about “Trump and the art of the con” is at this link: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/09/donald-trump-and-the-art-of-the-con/571528/>

Trump’s true believers have a seemingly unshakable faith in him – as if he were the leader of a cult and they had sold their souls to believe in his absolutism. An historian wrote an article about how Trump and the Far Right “weaponized ‘Chaos Magic’” in alarming and disturbing ways. See this article: <https://www.alternet.org/historian-explains-how-donald-trump-and-far-right-weaponized-chaos-magic-just-occult?src=newsletter1094336> This kind of behavior is extremely dangerous to a rational democracy. It really is the dominant worldview on steroids with a dangerous perversity built into it.

## **Subconsciously Trump actually knows he is incompetent, so he bullies people he perceives to be weaker (women, minorities, etc.) in order to make himself feel big.**

This is what bullies do. On a school playground, the bully picks on smaller kids, not people of equal size or strength.

Likewise, Trump’s subconscious feelings of incompetence cause him to want to be militaristic. Hence his desire for a military parade in Washington DC to honor him. Also, this causes him to bomb other nations even when the bombing he orders serves no military purpose. When he dropped the most destructive non-nuclear bomb ever dropped in wartime in Afghanistan, it served no military purpose. But many people in the mainstream media said this made him look “presidential.” That’s really what he wanted: an ego boost.

A great many professional psychologists and psychiatrists have written about his narcissism and sociopathic tendencies. They have said he is mentally unfit to hold a position of responsibility.

Among the many reasons why Trump is unfit for office is that he is a notorious liar. This essay gives examples showing that Trump has contempt for truth and vigorously suppresses the truth. Trump opposes honest science because it would interfere with his own biases and his corruption on behalf of big business.

The dominant worldview – especially the Trump regime – is hostile to a free press, honest journalism, and truth itself. Trump has repeatedly denounced journalists and even called them “enemies.” This is what dictators do. This is what fascists do. Instead, we need a humane worldview that supports truth and a free press.

On October 25, 2018, an article on Common Dreams ([www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)) reported: “More than 200 veteran journalists have signed a letter demanding that President Donald Trump end his repeated attacks on the news media in light of the attempted bombing at CNN’s New York offices, calling his open support for violence against reporters and media outlets ‘unconstitutional, un-American, and utterly unlawful.’”

The article continued with the 200+ professional journalists’ statement that “Trump’s condoning of political violence is part of a sustained pattern of attack on a free press – which includes labeling any reportage he doesn’t like as ‘fake news’ and barring reporters and news organizations whom he wishes to punish from press briefings and events.”

Trump’s rhetoric and bullying against journalists and other targeted kinds of people leads to actual violence against them. Every American should be alarmed and deeply concerned. See this: <https://www.alternet.org/heres-why-trumps-praise-violence-against-reporters-should-concern-every-american?src=newsletter1097242>

### **Is Trump a fascist? Clearly he is doing many things that fascists do.**

Trump and the Republicans intend to weaken constitutional democracy in order to solidify their hold on power, in order to serve Big Business, especially the corporations that hurt the environment and the climate in order to extract and consume natural resources.

They also are weakening constitutional democracy in order to serve their political “base,” which wants to suppress women and racial minorities, and to establish right-wing Christianity as the national religion. I’m not aware that Trump has ever said that he believes in Christianity. He simply uses the Religious Right as a political base, along with racists, sexists, and corrupt capitalists.

We don’t need the Russians to destroy the U.S., because Trump and the Republicans are doing that very effectively. Republicans rigged the process for appointing Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, and they bullied anyone with a different viewpoint. Trump acts a lot like Stalin or any other dictator, and the Republican Party and his right-wing political base loyally support this power grab.

During the 2016 campaign Trump and his followers kept shouting “Lock her up!” even though Hillary Clinton had not been convicted of a crime. They were hostile to honest democracy, which requires freedom for other candidates to compete. But Trump wanted to imprison – without due process – the other candidate. This is fascism, folks! Likewise, during the 2016 campaign Trump called for a Second Amendment solution to Hillary Clinton. He was actually putting out an explicit call for someone to assassinate her. This too is something a fascist dictator would do.

Trump has repeatedly denounced as “enemies” the honest journalists who expose Trump’s lies, and he has called for violence against them. Trump fails to adequately denounce other nations’ cruel leaders who use violence against their nations’ journalists. Ever since his campaign began in 2015 Trump has repeatedly called for violence against his political adversaries, and now while I’m writing this essay in late October 2018 some persons are actually mailing pipe bombs to prominent Democrats and other “enemies” of Trump. **Trump is literally provoking terrorism within the U.S.!**

The U.S. political establishment is utterly failing to recognize Trump’s fascist threat. <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/the-fascist-threat-our-political-establishment-wont-acknowledge/>

A Yale professor says fascism is a serious danger in the U.S., and that Trump and others are promoting fascism’s main points nowadays: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/16/1804749/--If-You-re-Not-Scared-About-Fascism-in-the-U-S-You-Should-Be-NYT-Video?detail=emaildkre>



## **More information about Trump's passion to destroy government, his lying and fraud, etc.**

Trump's animosity toward government is more extreme than that of Ronald Reagan and other Republicans. Trump appointed many people to become directors of agencies that those persons had hated and tried to destroy. Now they are destroying those agencies from the top down. Many of Trump's appointees were business tycoons and big business lobbyists who opposed regulating their businesses. Many have investments in businesses that their agencies would be "regulating." He has done this a lot to agencies that are responsible for protecting the environment and dealing with energy issues. You know about many of those cases: fossil fuel lobbyists, and so forth.

Some of Trump's nominees were utterly – and laughably – unqualified. He nominated Sam Clovis to be the USDA's Chief Scientist, even though Clovis is not a scientist at all. He is a racist, right-wing extremist with a talk radio program who had supported Trump's political campaign. Fortunately, public opposition and ridicule stopped that nomination.

You can watch or read about the interview I conducted: **"Base Public Policy on Honest Science"**

Just recently a blockbuster New York *Times* report provided compelling evidence that Donald Trump committed massive tax fraud. Reporters at the *Times* reviewed hundreds of pages of documents and found that the Trump family went beyond the usual tax avoidance schemes and used shell companies, illegal markups and undervalued properties to transfer millions from Fred Trump to Donald and his other children. The reporting not only explodes the myth of Trump the self-made billionaire, but the paper also comes right out and specifies what the report calls "instances of outright fraud."

So it's no wonder that – unlike previous presidential candidates in major parties – Trump refused to release his tax returns during his campaign so the public would know the truth about his suspicious financial dealings.

The *Times* report confirms that Trump used sleazy methods to avoid paying taxes, and that – contrary to his repeated claims that he is a successful self-made business person – he inherited most of his wealth from his father. Also, Trump kept horribly mismanaging his businesses and went bankrupt many times, so his father kept bailing him out of financial problems. Some of Trump's tax-avoiding schemes were sleazy and others were outright fraud.

## **Trump and Russia**

Contrary to Trump's claims that he is a smart, successful businessman, a great many of his business investments crashed, and he has repeatedly declared bankruptcy. As a result of his incompetent business dealings, he has become too risky to get loans from honest banks. Instead, he has turned to the extremely corrupt Russian crooks and oligarchs who use Trump for money-laundering. An article I posted to my blog makes a strong case: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/a-clear-insightful-and-convincing-explanation-of-why-trump-cozies-up-to-putin>

Much evidence exists that Russia tried to promote divisiveness and polarization within the U.S. in order to influence the U.S.'s 2016 election to give Trump an advantage. Robert Mueller's special investigation seems to be uncovering a lot, and Trump seems to be panicking as more evidence accumulates. More and more people at the highest levels of Trump's campaign and Trump's personal finances are indicted or plead guilty to various federal crimes.

But people who care about constitutional democracy and civil liberties should step away from the fantasy that Mueller – the former head of the FBI – is a friend of civil liberties. Ever since the FBI was given power nearly a decade ago, it has used all kinds of underhanded and corrupt methods to squelch dissent, oppress black people, entrap people it wanted to entrap, and violate laws and civil liberties and the spirit of freedom.

Actually, much of what was rotten in Trump's 2016 campaign and Republicans' abuses in recent years has been rotten for many, many years. White people suppressed black people's voting rights since after the Civil

War ended a century and a half ago, with Democrats doing most of that in the South for a full century. (Mississippi's Democratic Party actually prohibited black people from joining in 1964.) Finally in the mid-1960s Democratic President Johnson and the Democratic-led Congress passed the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act. At that time Johnson said this would flip the South into voting Republican. Sure enough, in 1968 Richard ("Tricky Dick") Nixon devised the "Southern Strategy" to convert the white racists from Democrat to Republican, and the Republican Party has been promoting racism ever since. Also Nixon also promoted "law and order" in his 1968 presidential campaign in order to appeal to white racists in the North who wanted to retaliate against northern blacks who has protested in cities for several years, and in order to retaliate against peace activists and other people who opposed the corrupt dominant worldview and its corrupt systems.

It is historically inaccurate to simply isolate Russia as the cause of the problem, without recognizing the long-standing other abuses of election campaigns. Let's not use Trump's corruption to start a new Cold War, as some Democrats seem to want. The world needs peace between the U.S. and Russia, but some Democrats are hawks running to Trump's political right in order to provoke a new Cold War.

Indeed, the frenzy over "Russiagate" seems to be promoted by some Democrats as an excuse to appear "tough" on a "national security" issue and promote more spending on the military, nuclear weapons, space warfare, and so forth. Although Democrats warn that Trump is mentally unhinged, reckless and dangerous, they want a more confrontational foreign policy against Russia and some other nations. The U.S.'s military budget is rapidly escalating with bi-partisan support, including a recent \$6.5 billion increase to fully fund the "European Deterrence Initiative" to increase the U.S.'s militarism in nations near Russia's border.

In my thorough essay on my blog's **TV Programs** category I provide links to many articles with more information about Trump's lies, incompetence, corruption, cruelty, and psychiatric problems – and my blog's section on **Democracy, Electoral Reforms, Voting Rights** provides information about serious problems and how to fix those. The section on **Russia** also provides useful information and insights.

## **Trump lies. Trump has contempt for the truth and suppresses the truth. Trump suppresses truth and honest science.**

Presidents have lied to us before, but they hoped not to get caught. In 1964 Lyndon Johnson campaigned on a promise not to escalate the Vietnam War, even while he was secretly planning to escalate it. Nixon lied on many occasions. But they hoped to avoid getting caught.

In contrast, Trump tells outrageous lies blatantly and constantly. On January 22, 2018, when he was caught lying, Kellyanne Conway, the Counselor to the President, shamelessly referred to his lies as "alternative facts." Even when his lies are proven to be false, he repeats them over and over.

In August 2018 Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, publicly stated, "Truth isn't truth."

In saying this, Giuliani drew from the playbook that the tobacco companies and fossil fuel companies have been using for avoiding the truth: <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/truth-isnt-truth-giuliani-borrows-from-the-climate-denial-tobacco-company-playbook/>

Giuliani also explained why Trump did not want to answer questions from Special Counsel Robert Mueller. Giuliani said Trump did not want to get caught committing perjury. Apparently it never occurred to Trump or Giuliani that the best way to avoid committing perjury is to tell the truth.

Former Senator Daniel P. Moynihan said, "You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts."

Experts who fact-checked Trump's October 10, 2018, op-ed showed "almost every sentence contained a misleading statement or falsehood." Reliable sources provided these items about Trump's lies in that piece:

- In a laughably false op-ed in *USA Today* this morning, President Donald Trump attacked Medicare for All and baselessly attacked Democrats in a transparent appeal to his base. Here is the link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/10/10/donald-trump-democrats-open-borders-medicare-all-single-payer-column/1560533002/>
- The *Washington Post* fact-checked the piece and found that “almost every sentence contained a misleading statement or falsehood.” Read the fact-check here: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2018/10/10/fact-checking-president-trumps-usa-today-op-ed-medicare-for-all/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.240ba5a41ec1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2018/10/10/fact-checking-president-trumps-usa-today-op-ed-medicare-for-all/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.240ba5a41ec1)

George Orwell’s *1984* featured a governmental agency that eliminated truthful information. We are seeing this in Trump’s Executive Branch. It includes climate denial, purging scientific information from websites, and prohibiting some federal employees from using certain words that differ from Trump’s ignorant biases. Republicans throw inconvenient truths down Orwell’s “memory hole.”

A respected non-profit organization, the Union of Concerned Scientists ([www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)) published a report on August 14, 2018 (<https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2018/08/science-under-trump-report.pdf>) with data showing that employees at 16 federal agencies are deeply concerned about the Trump regime’s stance on science.

Trump has prohibited federal employees from saying certain words that differ from Trump’s biases. He has wiped scientific information from agency websites, assaulted the truth, urged violence against honest journalists, and so forth. A Republican congressman body-slammed a journalist, and Trump praised that violence. Trump said, “Anyone who can body-slam a reporter – that’s my guy.”

The **Trump and Trumpism** part of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), includes links to a number of powerful articles and examples of Trump’s blatant and repeated lies.

Earlier I mentioned that a classic propaganda technique is to tell a lie so often that people will believe it to be true. Trump has been telling lies and repeating them endlessly on the radio and internet, even after their falsehood has been proven. Instead of admitting that he is a chronic liar, Trump simply denounces truthful journalists as “fake news” and “enemies,” and many millions of Americans side with Trump. This is what dictators and fascists do.

Trump’s persistent, heavy-handed lying has been compared to something called “Gaslighting.” I pulled together some information about “Gaslighting” and posted it to my blog’s category on **Trump and Trumpism**. Look for the article about “Gaslighting” for some interesting insights.

Trump tries to undermine public trust in science, media, and other sources of truth, leaving him as our ONLY source of information.

See this article about the current condition of truth vs. lies in the age of Trump: <https://truthout.org/articles/learning-the-power-of-lies-facts-vs-falsehoods-in-the-age-of-trump/>

A psychologist explains Trump’s lies and reversals as part of his unprincipled and rudderless personality: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/07/30/trump-lies-reversals-rudderless-unprincipled-leader-psychologist-column/848728002/>

We must vigorously support truth, oppose lies, and help people understand truth and debunk his fakery.

George Orwell wrote, “In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

**The Republican Party has totally caved in to become the Trump Party, utterly subservient to the Great Leader with dangerous tendencies toward fascism.**

In 2015 and 2016 when many Republicans were running in their primary season, many Republican candidates denounced Trump strongly – and correctly – for his horrible attitudes, his horrible lies, and his horrible

behavior. But when he won, then they caved in to Trump's lies and cruelty. For example, the Republican Party has "normalized" Trump's racism: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/01/how-republicans-normalized-donald-trumps-racism/> The Republican Party had long believed in and practiced the dominant worldview, but now they are doing that on steroids in support of the Cult of Trump and Trumpism and his American fascism.

Historically the U.S. presidents have wanted to be presidents of all Americans, but now Trump and the Trumpists are so overtly hostile to Democrats and liberals that they rebuff the majority of the population who are not "true believers." This "cult of personality" in the Great Leader is a hallmark of fascist dictators. We have seen this before in other countries, and now we are seeing it again when some countries around the world are electing hateful right-wing extremists. Trump enthusiastically supports those cruel despots.

In Trump's eyes, he is America, so disagreeing with him equals disloyalty to America. He demands personal loyalty from his appointees, and he wanted a giant, expensive military parade in Washington DC to make the military march for the sake of his own glory as Commander in Chief.

During the 2016 campaign he made sure he was the subject of the top news stories, and at his inauguration he lied – and made his appointees lie – in claiming this was the biggest crowd of supporters at any inauguration.

Our political organizing and strategizing must seriously consider this Cult of Personality and how to wean away his absolutely loyal (and grossly brainwashed) believers and followers. **In order to solve the problem of Trumpism, we need to understand psychology as much as politics.**

A longstanding pundit and prolific writer from a strong Republican perspective wrote about the crisis in an article starting on page 11 of the Nov-Dec 2018 issue of *Mother Jones* magazine. The author expresses such alarm at the Republican Party's subservience to Trumpism that he now is saying, "we need to destroy the Republican Party." He sees the Republican Party's racism, corruption, and total wrong-headedness as so horribly bad that the party should stop existing.

Our nation's survival as a constitutional democracy is in existential danger.

**Non-profit organizations ask us to e-mail powerful people with the dominant worldview and tell them their decisions cause bad results. That's naïve. Those bad results are DELIBERATELY INTENDED. The bad results come from THE DOMINANT WORLDVIEW's sense of entitlement and an utter disregard for other people's lives, rights, health, etc., utter disregard for the natural world, and utter disregard for justice and truth.**

If you're like me, you receive e-mails from non-profit organizations asking us to send e-mail messages to powerful people in government and business. Usually those e-mails are addressed to people who hold the dominant worldview. **Those e-mails contain messages informing the oppressors that their policies are causing bad results. Those e-mails are naïve. Those oppressors already know that their greedy, corrupt and cruel policies cause bad results, but they do not care about the victims. For some of those powerful people, those bad results are DELIBERATELY INTENDED.**

- Trump, for example, enjoys being cruel to people, so telling him that immigrants suffer from being imprisoned is not news to him! He INTENDS to hurt immigrants!
- Telling Republicans that their voter suppression tactics deprive people the right to vote is not news to them. They INTEND to prevent minorities, poor people and other Democratic-oriented persons from voting.
- Telling Trump's agency heads that their policies are hurting the environment is not news to them. They INTEND to hurt the environment, because they want big business to get even richer at the expense of

the environment and public health. (One of Reagan's anti-environmental agency heads even believed that the sooner his policies destroy God's Creation the sooner he can force Jesus to return.)

Bad public policies come directly from the dominant worldview that comes from a sense of entitlement and an utter disregard for other people's lives, rights, health, etc., and utter disregard for the natural world and any sense of truth or justice.

The horrors the Trump regime is committing are not mere mistakes. They are deliberately and shamelessly corrupt and cruel. The Trump regime FULLY INTENDS to hurt people, to promote racism and sexism, to rip off the American people and destroy the environment for the benefit of big business, and so forth.

**For Trump's supporters, cruelty is the point!**

**It is OK to tell politicians that we see and know exactly what they are doing. But they are not shamed by our e-mails unless we significantly ramp up the wording – and take additional nonviolent actions that will be strategically effective and strong.** For example, we can publicly expose their hypocrisy – especially through letters to newspaper editors in their districts and by communicating with various segments in their political base. **For example, we can show their evangelical Christian base that Republicans violate what Jesus taught and did:**

- Republicans do the OPPOSITE of what Jesus did. Jesus fed hungry people, but Republicans cut funding for programs to cure poverty. Jesus healed the sick, but Republicans take away people's health care. Jesus welcomed strangers and immigrants, but Republicans oppress immigrants. Jesus broke down his society's barriers of discrimination, but Republicans discriminate against many kinds of people. Jesus repeatedly criticized greedy rich people, but Republicans are utterly subservient to greedy rich people and hurt the rest of us in order to give more to the rich.
- We can move the public toward our side if we ground our critiques in deeply held American values that Republicans keep violating. Remind Republicans' conservative Christian base about extensive Biblical principles about justice for the poor and examples such as the end of Matthew 25 shows they must take care of the poor and sick.
- Republicans' repeated attempts to take away tens of millions of people's health care proves that Republicans are NOT "pro-life."

Let's not assume that this is only a Republican problem. The Vietnam War, the U.S. Empire, our nation's violent foreign policy, and our nuclear weapons are bi-partisan. So also are many of the persistent problems arising from the dominant worldview. **These problems persist even when a Democrat is President, and even when Democrats control Congress. The dominant worldview is fundamentally bi-partisan.**

**Religion is being abused and used to hurt people and democracy. Honest religion suffers as a result.**

In the 1970s some opportunists organized the Religious Right to become a right-wing political force. **They effectively merged with the Republican Party for mutual gains.** The Religious Right needed a political vehicle to advance their agenda against modern social justice movements (women, gays, and so forth). The Republican Party needed a political base.

Together they attacked the separation of Church and State, which the Constitution's First Amendment had established. Their attacks on the separation of Church and State have continued in many ways. Since 1947 the excellent non-profit organization Americans United for the Separation of Church and State ([www.au.org](http://www.au.org)) has fought valiantly to protect politics and religion from hurting each other.

The right-wing politics practiced by the white evangelical political base causes horrible evils and violates authentic Christian values. Many of the “true believers” are absolutely devoted to Trump as their savior.

Trump and Republicans nationwide campaigned vigorously to get votes from the Religious Right and promised all sorts of payoffs in terms of national laws, regulations and policies that will serve the Religious Right’s political agenda for imposing their beliefs and biases upon the entire nation.

Trump created an Evangelical Advisory Board to tell him what they want, and he uses them as a tool to curry favor with this huge voting bloc. Trump’s Evangelical Advisory Board is operating in utter secrecy instead of with full transparency as required by federal law (the Federal Advisory Committee Act – FACA – which was passed by Congress in 1972). Trump’s board is overwhelmingly dominated by right-wing fundamentalists who hold extreme positions on “culture war” issues. See much more information and documentation at the website of an excellent non-profit organization, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State ([www.au.org](http://www.au.org)), specifically at <http://bit.ly/AUtimeline> and [https://www.au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/au-tells-trump-administration-shut-down-evangelical-advisory-board-until?utm\\_source=blogdigest&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/au-tells-trump-administration-shut-down-evangelical-advisory-board-until?utm_source=blogdigest&utm_medium=email)

Trump has appointed many, many right-wingers to powerful federal positions that are responsible for civil rights and human rights both within the U.S. and in global matters. Trump says he is promoting “religious liberty,” but really his appointees actually do the opposite. They use their powerful roles in the federal government to impose extreme right-wing “Christian” perversions upon our nation and the world, against women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, and so forth. In the guise of “religious liberty,” they actually suppress religious values that differ from their own.

In May 2018 Trump issued a new “Religious Freedom” order that actually undermines that principle. The great non-profit organization “Americans United for the Separation of Church and State” ([www.au.org](http://www.au.org)) pointed out the hypocrisy of Trump and the Religious Right in a post on AU’s blog. Read the short, informative article at: <https://www.au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/trumps-new-religious-freedom-order-actually-undermines-that-principle> One paragraph says: “Under the guise of religious freedom, this executive order further entrenches the Administration’s policies to allow religion to discriminate. At the same time, it strips the limited religious liberty protections that exist for individuals who use the government-funded social services.”

**Actually, the Religious Right (especially after merging with the Republican Party) has abandoned honest spirituality and has removed itself from God. It has merged also with the dominant worldview of corrupt capitalism,** worship of wealth (look at the multi-millionaire TV evangelists who flaunt their jewelry and lavish lifestyles!), sucking up to rich and powerful people instead of practicing the humility that Jesus taught, and lack of empathy for LGBTQ people and other people whom Republicans despise.

What would Jesus say about politicians who claim his endorsement but violate his ethics? What would Jesus say about people who claim that we are “a Christian nation” but violate Jesus’ ethics? What would Jesus say about presidents who make speeches declaring war and end them by saying, “God bless America”?

Jesus never said anything against abortion of LGBTQ people, but the Religious Right have made it seem that those were the core principles of Christianity. The Religious Right has merely wrapped bad theology around their own biases. Actually, Matthew 6:24 quotes Jesus saying, “You cannot serve both God and money.” I never hear the Religious Right quote any of Jesus’ many, many strong condemnations of greedy rich people. Why don’t they denounce greedy wealth?

The Old Testament prophets and Jesus lambasted religious hypocrites who paid lip service to orthodoxy but failed to practice the deeper, more valid aspects of faith. In modern America the Religious Right is the opposite of what Jesus taught. They worship nationalism and capitalism and patriarchy and xenophobia and privilege instead of standing with Jesus in solidarity with the poor and the outcasts. The Religious Right has sold its soul to the dominant worldview and has no spiritual value. **Jesus would lambaste those hypocrites.**

The Religious Right has indeed sold its soul to Trump: <https://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/come-uppance-evangelicals-who-sold-their-souls-trump-coming?akid=16563.2186.sHKrW9&rd=1&src=newsletter1087134&t=22>

Some Christians are blowing the whistle on Trump's abuse of conservative Christians. One evangelical pastor blasted religious leaders who are violating Jesus and morality in order to support Trump and Republicans. See this article: <https://www.alternet.org/evangelical-pastor-blasts-religious-leaders-trading-their-moral-core-support-trumps-gop-antithetical?src=newsletter1097260>

### **The Religious Right abuses prayer too.**

Many conservative persons and government officials (including some in charge of public schools, as well as local, state and federal governments) want prayers at local government or legislative meetings – or in public schools. **These government-sponsored prayers actually undermine authentic religion.**

Prayer should be a personal communication with God, but making it mandatory or obligatory – or a mindless public ritual – destroys the personal faith aspect and makes it a meaningless governmental routine. Prayer should have **spiritual** value. But **imposing** prayer upon people in schools or at governmental meetings destroys prayer's spiritual value and makes it just an oppressive governmental regulation. How ironic that some of the same conservatives who oppose “big government” want “big government” to force us to pray in a certain way. Although they claim to support “religious liberty,” they are taking away our liberty to choose any religion or none at all.

If someone wanted to destroy authentic religion, a good way for them to do that would be to make the government impose it upon us.

Jesus also told people NOT to conspicuously pray in public. He said that is self-seeking rather than honest connection with God. (Matthew 6:5-8)

### **Trump has very severe psychiatric problems and is unfit for public office.**

A few pages earlier, I said that bullies compensate for their feelings of inadequacy by picking on vulnerable people. During his 2016 presidential campaign and while he was in office, Trump has often ridiculed and harassed people with disabilities. That, of course, is wrong.

Trump himself has very severe psychiatric disabilities. We should not use his cruel tactics and ridicule him for his disabilities. That would be sinking to his low level of ethics. We must stop cruelty, not perpetuate it.

But this does not mean that we should allow Trump to stay in office, because his severe psychiatric disabilities pose extreme dangers for the American people, our constitutional democracy, and the rest of the world.

In September 2018 a Yale psychiatrist wrote an article explaining that Trump is “unable to tolerate reality.” The psychiatrist's article makes the case that Trump's mental condition is getting worse. The author of best-selling book *Dangerous Case* says an urgent intervention “was indicated long ago.” After explaining the problems with Trump's deteriorating psychiatric problems, the article says Trump is getting increasingly likely to use nuclear weapons. See this alarming article: <https://www.alternet.org/trump-unable-tolerate-reality-yale-psychiatrist-makes-case-presidents-mental-state-getting-worse?src=newsletter1096436>

Trump has repeatedly broken federal laws and violated the U.S. Constitution. In order to protect our nation and our world, we must remove Trump from office through either of two remedies provided by the Constitution: impeachment or the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Yes, Vice President Mike Pence is bad too. But Pence will not have a 3:00 a.m. tantrum and launch nuclear weapons. Let's get rid of Trump first. We can deal with Pence next.

## **Many Democrats also are subservient to the dominant worldview, especially big business and militaristic foreign policy. They fail to expose Trump and mobilize public opposition that could protect us from his fascist policies.**

The problem is not just the Republican Party. The mainstream Democratic Party does many bad things too. U.S. foreign policy and all of our wars and nuclear weapons are truly bi-partisan. Briefly in 2018 the Democratic National Committee stopped taking money from fossil fuel companies, but they promptly reversed that and started taking it again.

Clinton, Bush and Obama were cruel to immigrants before Trump escalated their cruelty. Obama deported millions of immigrants – more than any previous president. Clinton and Obama were Democratic presidents.

Democrat Hillary Clinton has been utterly subservient to Big Business. She kept supporting more wars and a violent foreign policy. Hillary Clinton supported the status quo with only a few minor tweaks. But the voters knew the status quo was broken, so they wanted a very different kind of person in the White House. Bernie Sanders was truly a populist who campaigned for a different worldview. Mainstream media refused to cover Bernie Sanders adequately, but he energized the voters and won their enthusiasm – especially people who had not voted before.

Voters were angry about the status quo that Hillary Clinton supported. When the national Democratic Party prevented Bernie from becoming the Democratic candidate, voters turned to the other rebel, Donald Trump, and elected Trump.

If the Democratic Party had let the people prevail, Bernie would certainly have been elected, and he would have had long coat-tails that would have elected many Democrats for Congress and for state and local offices. Bernie would have led a genuine “blue wave” in 2016 that would have elected Democrats to huge numbers of offices at federal, state and local levels. But the Democratic Party was stuck in its own corrupt worldview, prevented the public from electing a true progressive populist, and allowed Trump to win.

Hillary lost in 2016 partly because of what President Bill Clinton did in the 1990s. This article provides information: “A Fabulous Failure: Clinton’s 1990s and the Origins of Our Times” -- <http://prospect.org/article/fabulous-failure-clinton’s-1990s-and-origins-our-times>

Ralph Nader says Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama “enabled” Trump to gain power. See this article from mid-October 2018: <https://www.alternet.org/ralph-nader-democrats-are-weak-corrupt-and-could-still-blow-it?src=newsletter1097074>

## **The dominant worldview is actually DESTROYING America. It is DESTROYING us too.**

The worldview that has been dominating the U.S. for several decades – and has escalated horribly in the past few years – is actually DESTROYING our nation. **The dominant worldview is destroying not only the U.S.’s land, waters, air, and climate, but also the U.S.’s grasp of reality, its sanity, its core values, and its soul.**

**It is turning the U.S. into a “rogue nation”** that is horribly corrupt and cruel – an outlier among the world’s nations, notable now for its ignorance, depravity and cruelty. No longer is the U.S. a “beacon of liberty” or a role model of democracy and freedom and prosperity for other nations. The self-congratulatory rhetoric is so blatantly false that everybody else in the world sees it. Now our people suffer with widespread poverty and despair without adequate health care or hope for the future.



This article says more about authoritarian as a deliberate intention: <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/authoritarianism-is-rotting-america-from-the-inside-out/>

This article says, “The things the Right truly wants cannot be achieved legislatively.” The article says Trump’s supporters were not seeking specific laws and policies, because Trump did not really have any sense of public policy. Rather, they voted for Trump because they wanted to promote cruelty and oppression – to fight back against the liberals and minorities and women that they thought were pushing them down. Whether or not you agree with the article, it seems worth reading so we can understand what’s behind Trump’s dominance and the dangers we face now: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/11/1803615/--The-things-the-Right-truly-wants-cannot-be-achieved-legislatively?detail=emaildkre>

Yes, cruelty really is the point. This article points out that harsh reality: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/10/3/1801285/--The-Cruelty-Is-The-Point-Adam-Serwer-for-The-Atlantic?detail=emaildkre>

Near the end of that article, author Adam Serwer is quoted:

“Trump’s only true skill is the con, his only fundamental belief is that the United States is the birthright of straight, white, Christian men, and his only real, authentic pleasure is in cruelty. **It is that cruelty, and the delight it brings them, that binds his most ardent supporters to him, in shared scorn for those they hate and fear: immigrants, black voters, feminists, and treasonous white men who empathize with any of those who would steal their birthright. The president’s ability to execute that cruelty through word and deed makes them euphoric. It makes them feel good, it makes them feel proud, it makes them feel happy, it makes them feel united. And as long as he makes them feel that way, they will let him get away with anything, no matter what it costs them.**” [*The emphasis was in the original article.*]

Sarah Silverman’s video in less than 3 minutes lambastes billionaires and corporations causing the climate crisis. In just 2 minutes, 42 seconds, comedian Sarah Silverman lays out the hard reality that Trump, the Republicans, and a few of the biggest corporations and billionaires are destroying life on earth. Her profanity is bleeped out from this video: [https://grist.org/article/is-sarah-silverman-comedys-new-climate-champion/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=daily](https://grist.org/article/is-sarah-silverman-comedys-new-climate-champion/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

**Many Americans do not want to believe the crisis is as severe as it really is. We must devise ways to counter their denialism.** Decades ago I knew an elderly man who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s. He told me that he saw what was coming, so he tried to warn the German people, but they denied it on the grounds that Germany was a very civilized nation – a nation of philosophers and musicians and scientists, so Germany would not in danger from the cruelty that my friend told them was coming.

Also, a Holocaust survivor recently issued a warning about Trump’s America and compared it to Berlin in 1929-1930: [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/holocaust-survivor-on-far-right-in-trumps-america-its-1929-or-1930-berlin\\_us\\_5acb8aa3e4b0337ad1ea5a71?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Politics\\_040918&utm\\_content=Politics\\_040918+Version+A+CID\\_759b98dd5207c7a546431759bf50167f&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Holocaust%20Survivor%20n%20Trumps%20America%20Its%201929%20Or%201930%20Berlin&ncid=newsltushpnews\\_Politics\\_040918](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/holocaust-survivor-on-far-right-in-trumps-america-its-1929-or-1930-berlin_us_5acb8aa3e4b0337ad1ea5a71?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Politics_040918&utm_content=Politics_040918+Version+A+CID_759b98dd5207c7a546431759bf50167f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Holocaust%20Survivor%20n%20Trumps%20America%20Its%201929%20Or%201930%20Berlin&ncid=newsltushpnews_Politics_040918)

When filmmaker Michael Moore was interviewed on Democracy Now!, he asked whether we would be like the “Good Germans” who allowed Hitler to rise to power: <https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/21/michael-moore-are-we-going-to?autostart=true>

Trump's behavior could lead to the death of democracy in the USA: <https://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/former-white-house-adviser-says-trump-could-lead-death-democracy-america?akid=16908.2186.XoxJ9C&rd=1&src=newsletter1090742&t=38>

It is hard to inform and mobilize the public about hard, scary issues such as nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, and Trumpism’s escalating fascism. Typically, we throw facts at people, but people too fearful and powerless to open themselves up psychologically to hear those facts, let alone act upon them. **The document I wrote and linked in the next paragraph can help the public empower themselves to work on serious issues, including the hardest and most frightening issues.**

In order to really engage the public on these hard and frightening issues, we must deliberately strategize how to address the public's fears, feelings of powerlessness, and other psychological barriers that inhibit them from learning about and acting on these issues. In order to make progress, we must pay at least as much attention to the public's psychological factors as we do to the issues' hard facts. **I wrote this one-page flyer to help us understand this and devise smarter strategies:** <http://parallaxperspectives.org/outreach-ideas-for-hard-scary-issues>

Thoughtful people must ask how extreme the dominant worldview can extend before it becomes too toxic to continue – and becomes downright cruel and fascistic. I believe we have reached that point, so **I call upon this essay's thoughtful and humane readers to stand up and take strong nonviolent action. Part 2 of the TV program and essay (December 2018) will help us understand and take figure out our next steps.**

## **We must publicly expose and vigorously oppose the dominant worldview – and we must promote an ethical and humane alternative.**

The problems are indeed big and scary, but we can deal with them. You're reading the essay about Part 1 (the November 2018 TV program titled, "Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World." Part 1 provides solid information about the problems. Look for Part 2 in December 2018, when I'll propose solutions on TV and in that essay.

### **Closing thoughts for Part 1 (November 2018)**

Our nation is in a horrible mess. In many ways the mess has gotten worse now that the Republican Party ruthlessly controls all three branches of the federal government and many state and local governments. Even worse, Trump is doing many of the cruel things that fascist dictators do.

Certainly we must oppose each specific public policy proposal that is stupid or cruel.

But we must also figure out how to publicly expose the stupidity and cruelty in the worldview that has been dominating our nation for the past decades. Its stupidity and cruelty have escalated in the past few years.

Ordinary Americans have better sense – and better hearts – and better values – than the currently dominant worldview. Let's help ordinary Americans activate their brains and their hearts to replace the dominant worldview with a worldview that supports peace, human rights, a sustainable environment, and truth.

We do not need to settle for an "us vs. them" world. We are all in this together! As the World Social Forum says, "Another world is possible!" We can replace the dominant worldview with one that is thoroughly positive and humane. Watch the December 2018 TV program and read the related essay for solutions to the problems I've laid out here.

I always end my TV programs by affirming:

We're all one human family,  
and we all share one planet.  
We can create a better world,  
but we all have to work at it.  
The world needs you! You can help!

→ See information resources on the next pages.

## Many sources of information can help you.

Some non-profit organizations provide information and also protect constitutional democracy and governmental reforms. Some non-profit organizations promoting nonviolence and better worldviews. Listed below are a small sampling of the many resources available.

Also, various parts of my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), provide good information from fresh perspectives and links to additional resources. To watch this TV program and/or read this very thorough essay – and/or Part 2 for December 2018 – visit [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click “TV Programs,” and then click the “Worldviews” episode.

### Alternative media and other general multi-issue sources of good information:

AlterNet [www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)

Common Dreams [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

Democracy Now! [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)

*Dollars & Sense* (a left-oriented economics publication) [www.dollarsandsense.org](http://www.dollarsandsense.org)

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) critiques media bias and provides good info. [www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org)

*In These Times* (a nationwide magazine for progressive policies, esp. including labor) [www.inthesetimes.com](http://www.inthesetimes.com)

*Mother Jones* (a great progressive magazine) [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)

New Internationalist (a British-based international magazine with fresh info and insights) [www.newint.org](http://www.newint.org)

*The Nation Magazine* [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)

*The Progressive* (an excellent, truly progressive magazine) [www.progressive.org](http://www.progressive.org)

Truthout [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org)

*Washington Spectator* [www.washingtonspectator.org](http://www.washingtonspectator.org)

*Yes! Magazine* [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org)

### Organizations promoting good government and other relevant issues:

Alliance for Democracy [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org)

Alliance for Global Justice [www.afgj.org](http://www.afgj.org)

American Civil Liberties Union (national level) [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

American Civil Liberties Union (Washington State) [www.aclu-wa.org](http://www.aclu-wa.org)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) (a Quaker-based peace & justice org) [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

Americans for Tax Fairness [www.americansfortaxfairness.org](http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org)

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State [www.au.org](http://www.au.org)

Amnesty International USA [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

Avaaz (They do great work on international solidarity and social justice issues.) [www.avaaz.org](http://www.avaaz.org)

Center for Constitutional Rights [www.ccrjustice.org](http://www.ccrjustice.org)

Children’s Alliance [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org)

Color of Change (They work against racism.) [www.colorofchange.org](http://www.colorofchange.org)

Common Cause (Since 1970 they've worked to reform government in many ways.) [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org)

Corporate Accountability International [sss.stopcorporateabuse.org](http://sss.stopcorporateabuse.org)

Credo (A progressive communications company provides free advocacy opportunities.) [www.credoaction.com](http://www.credoaction.com)

Demand Progress [www.demandprogress.org](http://www.demandprogress.org)

Democracy for America [www.democracyforamerica.com](http://www.democracyforamerica.com)

Earth Justice [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)

Fair Vote (They work to reform electoral systems to provide better democracy.) [www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org)

Faith Action Network (They work in WA State for social justice, especially at the Legislature.) [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org)

Faithful America (They protect honest religious values from right-wing abuse.) [www.faithfulamerica.org](http://www.faithfulamerica.org)

Fix Democracy First (This WA statewide org works to make elections more fair.) [www.fixdemocracyfirst.org](http://www.fixdemocracyfirst.org)

Food & Water Watch [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

Foreign Policy in Focus (very smart info here) [www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org)

Free Speech for People (They also work to impeach Trump) [www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (a nationwide Quaker-based lobby for peace & justice) [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)

Friends of the Earth [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org)

Governmental Accountability Project (They work against corruption and to protect whistleblowers.) [www.whistleblower.org](http://www.whistleblower.org)

Greenpeace [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

Institute for Policy Studies (multi-issue and progressive, with substantive info) [www.ips-dc.org](http://www.ips-dc.org)

Just Foreign Policy [www.justforeignpolicy.org](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org)

MoveOn ([www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org))

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org)

People for the American Way (this multi-issue progressive org tackles bias, etc.) [www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)

People's Action Institute [www.peoplesaction.org](http://www.peoplesaction.org)

Popular Resistance [www.popularresistance.org](http://www.popularresistance.org)

Project on Governmental Oversight (POGO) (They work against corruption.) [www.pogo.org](http://www.pogo.org)

Public Citizen (founded by Ralph Nader – and very multi-issue against corruption, etc.) [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)

Roots Action [www.rootsaction.org](http://www.rootsaction.org)

Sierra Club and its various state-level and local branches [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Southern Poverty Law Center (They work for civil rights.) [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org)

Washington Community Action Network (Washington CAN) (They work for social, racial, gender, economic justice in WA State.) [www.washingtoncan.org](http://www.washingtoncan.org)

## **Nonviolence, peace and other good worldviews:**

→ Look for an excellent list of peace and nonviolence groups in the Part 2 essay for December 2018.

**My blog - [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) - offers many, many additional resources on the topics discussed in this essay.**

**This month's TV program has focused mostly on the problems with the worldview that currently dominates our nation. Next month's TV program – December 2018 – will focus on solutions. Be sure to watch Part 2 on the topic, "Choose a Better Worldview to Build a Better World." Both parts will be posted to my blog, [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Visit [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), click "TV Programs," and then click both of the "Worldviews" episodes. Right now you're reading the thorough essay that fleshes out Part 1. Please also read the thorough essay that fleshes out Part 2.**

**Also, I enthusiastically recommend a very thorough essay I wrote in 2017 titled "How We Got into Our Current Crisis – And How to Get Out." It recognizes Trump as a symptom of long-standing problems, recognizes that the current crisis is not sustainable, and urges us to affirm our best values and use nonviolent grassroots organizing to solve the problems, and those solutions include removing Trump from office by impeachment or through the Constitution's 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment. See this great, informative essay at this link: <http://parallaxperspectives.org/how-we-got-into-our-current-crisis-and-how-to-get-out-this-thorough-essay-helps-us-understand-trumpism-and-stop-it>**

Also, dozens of my blog's issue categories provide fresh information and insights about the issues we've been discussing here, and also about other vital issues. See the list of issue categories on the right side of the home page at [www.parallaxperspectives.org](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

If you would like to learn how to organize nonviolent grassroots movements for social and political change, please contact me. I'm offering a series of six workshops that will inform and empower you.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence by phoning me at (360) 491-9093