



WOMEN FOR THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION NEWSLETTER

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President CJ's Letter

Dear Friends,

On July 4th, 2026, as the United States marks its 250th birthday, it's easy to think of history as something finished—something preserved in monuments, textbooks, and celebrations. But the real story of America has never been about what is completed. It has always been about what is still being built.

Imagine a small town where an old, silent clock suddenly begins to ring again after decades. At first, people are confused. The clock is broken, they say. It shouldn't work. But as the sound echoes through the streets, something deeper stirs—not just curiosity, but memory, responsibility, and possibility. The clock becomes more than a machine; it becomes a symbol of continuity, of generations connected by a shared decision to keep going.

Inside the clock tower, there are names carved into wooden beams—names of those who came before, each one representing a moment when someone chose to contribute, to build, to believe in something larger than themselves. At the bottom, there is space left open. That empty space is the most important part. It reminds us that history is not closed. It is waiting.

America at 250 stands in a similar place. The past is vast and complicated, filled with achievement and struggle, progress and contradiction. But the meaning of that history depends on what people choose to do now. Like the townspeople who slowly gather and decide to add their names, each generation is faced with a quiet but powerful question: will we participate, or will we stand back and let the clock fall silent?

The answer does not come all at once, nor from a single person. It comes from many small decisions—to care about

community, to take responsibility, to imagine something better and work toward it. These choices are not always dramatic, but together they shape the direction of the country.

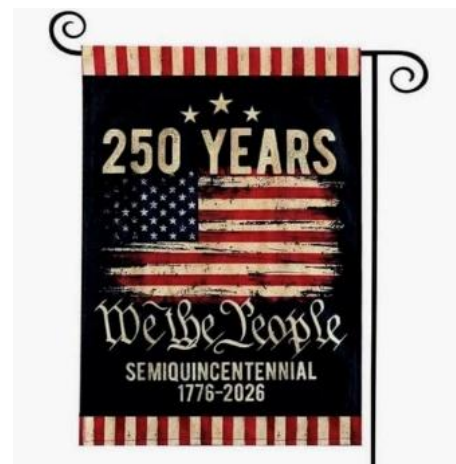
The 250th anniversary is not just a celebration of endurance; it is an invitation. It asks Americans to see themselves not as spectators of history, but as contributors to it. The story is unfinished, the space is still open, and the clock is still running.

What happens next is not already written. It depends, as it always has, on who is willing to step forward and add their name.

C.J. Hatcher, W.A.C. President



In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Women for the American Constitution is selling Garden Flags. Place one in your yard as a birthday card to our nation! To purchase, contact Rena Snow, Co-Chair, WAC Fundraising (renasnow@hotmail.com). Cost: \$14 per flag. WAC plans to donate all sales profits to the election of conservative candidates.



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In February, WAC Members Met for our Annual Membership Gathering. In February, Former Secret Service Agent Patrick Morrissey Spoke to Us about His Unique Career

On February 6, 2026, WAC members enjoyed getting together at the home of Jim and Tanya Skeen for our Annual Membership Gathering and discussing the upcoming 2026 elections and our plans for education and activism. We encouraged our members to volunteer their time helping to defeat a proposed Constitutional Amendment for the Commonwealth allowing Democrats to redraw the congressional map to gerrymander Virginia's congressional districts in ways that would eliminate four Republican seats, giving Democrats a 10-1 advantage. The gerrymandering referendum will be voted on in a special election on April 21, 2026. We also encouraged our members to help conservative candidates win seats this year in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. We appreciated a presentation from Bert Mizusawa who is running for election to the US Senate. He spoke about his campaign and efforts to unseat current Democrat Senator Mark Warner. We introduced and thanked several WAC members who volunteered to run for leadership positions on our Board. We very much appreciate their willingness to serve. New Board elections were held during our February luncheon. Congratulations to Michelle Miles who was elected Vice President, and Linda Faerber elected Treasurer. We also want to congratulate our newly appointed Membership Chair Laurie Hynes and our new Legislative Issues Chair

Marianne Gustafson. We have a lot to do this critical election year and it's wonderful to have so many passionate people willing to step up and work hard to effect positive change.

At our February luncheon, we enjoyed hearing from retired Supervisory Special Agent of the US Secret Service Patrick Morrissey. He told us about his interesting career as a secret service agent protecting former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, and Vice President Dick Cheney, among many other assignments including fighting counterfeit money operations and bolstering cyber security efforts. We appreciate his efforts protecting our Nation's leaders and ordinary citizens from those who would do them harm.







legality afterwards. This means that even if the voters of Virginia vote “Yes”, the Supreme Court could rule the entire election invalid, after spending millions of taxpayer dollars, second guessing the legislative branch and ignoring the voice of the people. What do you think are the chances of that happening? If the vote is “NO”, the issue is dead on arrival.

It is clear that we cannot depend on the courts to decide this important issue. A “YES” vote will significantly change Virginia’s district representation in Congress from 6 Democrat and 5 Republican, to 10 Democrat and 1 Republican. Of particular note is northern Virginia Fairfax County being divided into 5 districts bleeding deep into rural Virginia. This process completely ignores the Constitution of Virginia that mandates electoral districts must be composed of “compact and contiguous territory”. How is this fair representation?

Each one of us must vote and convince neighbors, family, friends and others in our circle of influence to vote “NO”. Even though this is an April election and Virginians are not used to voting at this time of year, we cannot depend on a low voter turnout, as originally opined. In the first week of early voting, Albemarle County voter turnout was almost 400 per day – much higher than even the November presidential election. Furthermore, as of March 26, more than 6000 residents have voted in person and more than 2500 have returned their absentee ballot. And supporters of the amendment are coming out strong - \$21 million dollars have already been raised to convince Virginians to vote “YES”. The only way to have a chance of winning is to have such an overwhelming “NO” turnout that the measure is defeated. We cannot be complacent – every vote counts – use your voice and together we will defeat this “power grab”, as former Virginia Attorney General, Jason Miyares, calls it.



A Note from Our Election Integrity Committee Chair Karen Juul-Nielsen:

Greetings, Patriots

The concept of Election Integrity is being pushed to the limit in this current election season. Not only are there serious legal questions about the process used to hold the election, but also the wording of the actual question being considered in this amendment is biased so as to confuse the voter with the phrase, “to restore fairness”.

Below is the actual question on the ballot:

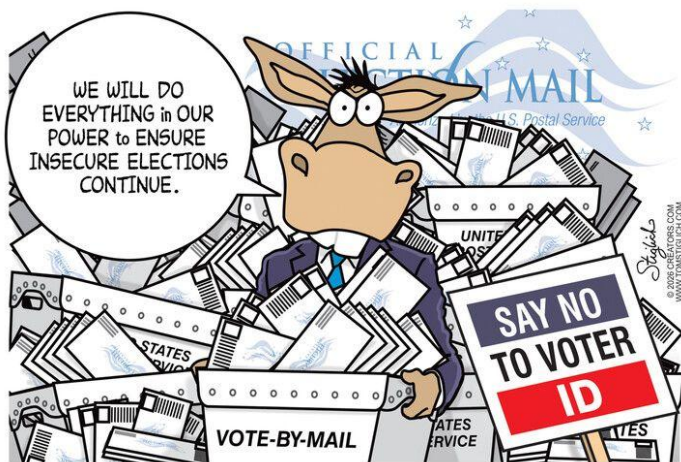
*“Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts **to restore fairness** in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia’s standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census?”*

After repeated jostling in the lower courts, the Supreme Court of Virginia decided to allow the vote to take place as Richmond legislators planned it, and then decide on the

Please let me know how you can help us – we still need Election Officials, poll watchers, and tent greeters – both during Early Voting and on Election Day. The School Board voted to close Albemarle County Schools for this election on April 21, so high school students can definitely help out at the tents as they will be out of school that day. And remember, Virginia law allows 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by the general election (November 3, 2026) to vote in primary and special elections. This means that almost all high school seniors and many juniors in Virginia can vote in the upcoming April 21 special election on redistricting. These young people can also serve as Election Officials and poll watchers. Voter registration deadline for this special election is April 14. Pitch in – together we can win!

For Liberty!

Karen Juul-Nielsen, 713-806-8385



Why the ‘Pursuit of Happiness,’ 250 Years Later, Remains the Declaration of Independence’s Most Novel Phrase

By Steven F. Hayward, *New York Post*, condensed

The primary obligation of any government, the Declaration of Independence tells us in its famous second paragraph, is the “safety and happiness” of its citizens. The necessity of securing safety is obvious (except to progressive politicians in big blue cities, who are often diffident about crime and disorder), but it is thought something of a novelty of the Declaration to set out “the pursuit of happiness” as one of the central “inalienable rights,” along with life and liberty.

It is well established that Thomas Jefferson and his collaborators in writing the Declaration (John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston) followed the language and logic of John Locke’s “Second Treatise of Government.” But Locke and other social-contract theorists of the era typically spoke of the inalienable natural rights to “life, liberty and *property*,” or “life, liberty and *estate*.” Why this change, and how should it be understood?

This innovation did not originate with Jefferson or the Declaration.

The swap of “happiness” for “property” can be found in a number of formal political documents and even in the Sunday sermons of clergy at the time. Historian Pauline Maier’s magisterial “American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence” (1997) observes that “references to happiness as a political goal are everywhere in American political writings as well, as anyone can see who bothers to look.”

The phrase appears in eight of the early state constitutions, for example.

Maier is among the many historians who take note of George Mason’s first draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written in May 1776, which proclaimed that the inalienable rights of man include “the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

Here, property is seen as an important means rather than an end in itself. Maier thought that Jefferson was merely being more economical than Mason, “sacrificing clarity of meaning for grace of language.”

But was it merely a rhetorical gimmick? The question of how the “pursuit of happiness” was understood in 1776, and how it’s fit into the larger American story ever since, is a fitting question to visit on the Declaration’s 250th anniversary.

“Happiness” is certainly a more capacious term than “property,” and what is more American than the pursuit of happiness, especially since it is typically thought of in highly individualist and materialist terms, which is to be expected in a commercial republic? The cornerstone of “the American Dream” is owning your own home or small business that enables more individual freedom.

And so the Declaration’s inclusion of the pursuit of happiness is regarded as a significant milestone in liberal individualism, with maximum autonomy to define for yourself whatever purposes or means will make you happy.

Today, “happiness studies” is becoming a full-fledged profession and academic field, and happiness is equated with “self-fulfillment.” What we call the classical-liberal tradition of the 18th century did represent a shift toward a “privatization” of happiness, in which achieving happiness was left to the individual rather than guaranteed by the community.

That is why the Declaration says “pursuit” of happiness, rather than a *guarantee* of happiness, just as the preamble to the Constitution says government should “promote” the general welfare rather than *provide* the general welfare.

This shift can be observed in a subtle revision of Pennsylvania’s state bill of rights in 1790, which changed a right of “obtaining happiness” to “pursuing their own happiness.”

But by degrees in the 20th century, the liberal-individualist understanding of the pursuit of happiness has become hard to distinguish from mere willful hedonism, with the popular understanding expressed in the clichés “Whatever floats your boat” and the more direct “If it feels good, do it” — practically the central mantra of the 1960s sexual revolution.

Of course, Jefferson indulged some spectacular sins of the flesh (as did Alexander Hamilton, Ben Franklin, Governor Morris — you get the idea) as was well known at the time.

But did Jefferson and the other founders mean for the “pursuit of happiness” to be understood hedonistically? And was it meant to replace or downgrade the place of property as a fundamental right, which the radical left much desires? Keep in mind the radical left has always hated the pro-capitalist American Constitution because it believes, in Proudhon’s famous phrase, that “property is theft.”

While Jefferson and many of his compatriots fell short of the highest standards of private virtue, there is no doubt the leading founders all understood and cherished the connection between virtue and happiness derived from both the classical and Christian traditions.

One of the most succinct summaries of this view came from George Washington, who remarked in 1789 that “there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness.”

Douglass Adair, a criminally neglected historian from two generations ago (d. 1968), argued boldly in “The Intellectual Origins of Jeffersonian Democracy” that Jefferson owed his ideas on happiness and virtue to Aristotle, in particular Aristotle’s “Nicomachean Ethics.”

Adair may overstate the case, but Jefferson did say in an 1825 letter to Richard Henry Lee that the inspiration for the Declaration owed to “the elementary books of public right, as Aristotle, Cicero, Locke, Sidney, etc.” — a seemingly unusual pairing of two ancient authors and two modern.

Certainly, classical Greek and Roman influences on the founders’ political philosophy and practical politics is undeniable. Just think of the Roman pseudonym “Publius” the three authors of “The Federalist Papers” chose.

Carli N. Conklin, professor of law at the University of Missouri, offers another thorough treatment of this question in her recent book “The Pursuit of Happiness in the Founding Era: An Intellectual History” (2019).

Conklin brings out especially the influence of British jurist William Blackstone. Blackstone follows Aristotle in understanding the realization of happiness to necessarily involve the individual’s harmony with natural law.

The classical understanding of virtue and happiness is as distant as possible from today’s “anything goes” attitude in which happiness is completely idiosyncratic to every individual. The classical conception connects to a substantive and detailed idea of what makes for the highest human happiness. The ancient Greek term *telos* — “end,” “goal” or ultimate purpose of human life — was easily incorporated by

Christianity, and the Bible was equally an authoritative influence on the thought of Blackstone and the founders.

Here, the story gets tangled. Blackstone didn’t much care for Locke, and Jefferson didn’t much care for Blackstone, and Blackstone’s omission from Jefferson’s explanations of the Declaration means his influence requires some effort to detect. Conklin does this well and presents one of the most effective rebuttals to the many historians who think “the pursuit of happiness” is mere rhetoric or a “glittering generality” without much substance.

Equally defective is the idea especially beloved of progressive historians and political scientists for more than a century that the shift from “property” to “happiness” represented a major change from the Lockean elevation of property rights.

A hundred years ago, Vernon Parrington wrote in his influential “Main Currents in American Thought” (1927) that Jefferson’s swap was a “revolutionary shift” and a “complete break” that was “singularly fortunate for America” because it opened the door to socialism (though he doesn’t say this directly).

This and similar left-leaning interpretations are ahistorical, as Edward J. Erler explains in detail in “Property and the Pursuit of Happiness” (2019).

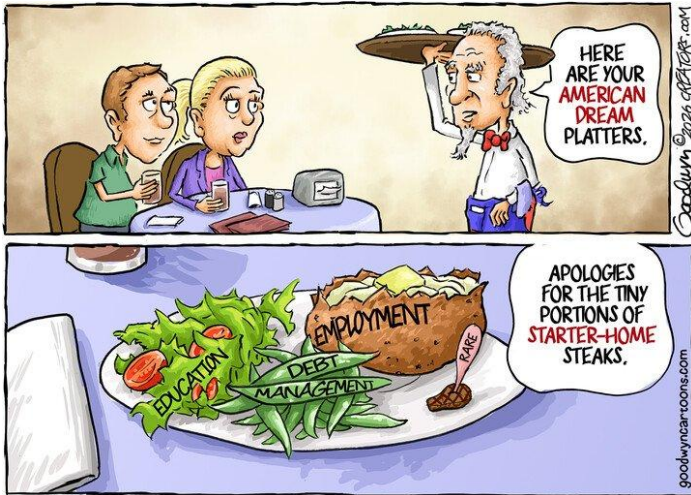
To the contrary, Erler assembles evidence from numerous leading thinkers of the founding era that property was considered a necessary condition for the pursuit of happiness.

James Madison perhaps put it best in his essay “On Property,” which connects property rights with every other fundamental right such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. His argument culminates with: “As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.”

But the final indication that “happiness” in the Declaration cannot mean simply maximizing pleasure or material acquisition alone comes from considering the document’s ending. There the signers “mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Recognize that this means the signers were willing to yield their material fortunes and even their lives — the first “inalienable right” listed at the Declaration’s beginning — in service of the one thing that cannot be taken from them: their honor, which is higher in rank than life itself.

That is a high kind of happiness indeed and very much worth recovering today.



How Trump Saved the Liberal International Order

By Bruce Gilley, *The American Mind*, condensed

Donald Trump has saved the liberal international order—and with it the promise of American global leadership. The bombing of Iran’s regime is the latest sign that a revived order will reassert the fundamental principles of muscular liberalism that defined the post-World War II era. Critics have spent the last decade bemoaning Trumpism as a threat to the post-war order. By now, however, it should be plain that they were wrong. The Trump Administration has rebuilt a system of effective deterrence against threats to international peace and security, and a grateful world will someday recognize his achievement.

Unlike Britain, our imperial tradition was born before, not after, our rise to national greatness. That means we never suffered the sclerosis of bureaucratic management in foreign affairs that eventually defeated the British Empire. George Washington helped himself to war-torn Indian lands after the Seven Years’ War. Andrew Jackson violated Spanish sovereignty to march on Florida during the War of 1812 because of Spain’s inability to control Indian and British abuses. John C. Frémont was a key actor when Mexican rule collapsed in California.

Our imperial tradition culminated in the construction of the liberal international order (LIO) after World War II, which was a *substantive* order, not a *procedural* one. The aim was to ensure peace and security, and to advance free and democratic societies. Whatever rules

and procedures accrued from that order were subordinate to its substantive aims.

This understanding of the LIO, borne of the war on Nazism, Communism, and fascism, persisted through the Cold War, when the stakes were even higher. The U.S. and its European allies moved against Communist subversion from Korea to Nicaragua, the votes at the United Nations be damned.

The end of the Cold War ushered in a new idea: a “rules-based” rather than “liberal” international order. Everything was to be “multipolar,” “fair,” and “legal,” like some middle school student government, or a world run by law professors. The substantive idea of the LIO gave way to a procedural one. Deterrence, muscular diplomacy, and leadership were out. International laws, organizations, and summits were in. Trade would hereafter be handled by the committees and procedures of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The U.N. Human Rights Council would pursue rights violations. The International Criminal Court would police war crimes.

The difference is clearest when comparing the first and second Iraq wars. The U.N. system robustly supported the eviction of Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991. But its pledge to disarm Saddam went wobbly. For the next decade, he made a mockery of the U.N. containment regime while the U.S. was left bearing the costs. European countries were trying to cash in their peace dividends and had no appetite for conflict.

When Saddam celebrated 9/11 and then snubbed U.N. weapons inspectors a final time, the U.S. acted. A coalition was forged that included our only reliable major allies, Britain and Japan, as well as other Western nations like Denmark, Australia, Italy, and Poland. The post-liberal countries like Canada, a bellwether for the abandonment of the LIO, sat on the sidelines and carped about “American imperialism.”

The Left widely criticized the second Iraq war of 2003 as an “illegal war.” But in fact, it was a return to the substantive notion of the LIO. The war signaled that the United States still viewed noxious and rogue states as legitimate enemies, regardless of what the procedural international system decreed. It was “part of an attempt of the United States to design a new deterrence mechanism that would be able to protect the existing order now that the old mechanism had become less relevant,” [wrote](#) Hebrew University’s Galia Press-Barnathan at the time.

While there was a legal case for the war, which British Prime Minister Tony Blair made, the justification was

substantive, not procedural: Saddam had bombed his people and his region once too often, and toleration was at an end. The electoral regime in Iraq today is far better for both as the country climbs out of the long nightmare that was Ba'ath Party rule.

President Barack Obama and his “third term” under Joe Biden represented a frightening abandonment of the U.S. commitment to a liberal world order. Smitten with international bureaucrats, we joined an international tax treaty, the Iran nuclear agreement, and a U.N. climate change panel. Furthermore, we poured money into every madhouse U.N. agency we could find, such as the World Health Organization, just as China was manufacturing the biggest global plague since Spanish influenza.

Problems quickly appeared. Russia's first invasion of Ukraine came under Obama, and the second under Biden. Iran's nuclear advances proceeded, Hamas terrorists who had trained in Malaysia attacked Israel, and China increased its menacing behavior in the South China Sea, initiating a series of soft military actions against Taiwan. Venezuela entered its second decade of spewing drugs, crime, and migrants into the Americas. Bad actors used this new procedural order as cover for ugly behavior. Institutions like the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights began pushing an illiberal, anti-Western agenda under the rubric of “colonial reparations.”

Third World governments (as well as Russia) perverted the LIO for their own ends, attacking the institutions as tools of Western greed and duplicity. It was nothing more than “the dollar-centric finance system, Western-led security alliances, transnational corporate value chains, and Anglophone knowledge networks,” in the words of three South African scholars. One would think they would be thrilled by Trump's destruction of the procedural LIO if this were true. Instead, such voices are suddenly its most vocal defenders. Russia, of all places, is convening discussions on how to uphold it.

Institutional capture of the procedural LIO by its enemies turned it into a manifest threat to peace and security. The use of the U.N.'s relief facilities and staff in Gaza by Hamas is the most recent vivid example. China rendered the WTO a toothless tiger in dealing with its state-directed economy by claiming “developing country” status. NATO allies used proceduralism to constantly shirk their 2% of GDP defense spending commitments, while the U.S. and the U.K. were the only countries to uphold them by 2014.

It was inevitable that the U.S. would respond. “Trump himself is not the author of big events, he's being carried by big events,” former Singapore foreign minister George Yeo said last year. “I describe him as fast-forwarding the future.”

In both his first and second terms, Trump has reacted to the procedural LIO's failure by making moves to reconstruct a substantive LIO based on securing interests and taking action when warranted.

The Trump Administration started by calling out Western allies for their suicidal tendencies with mass migration, censorship, national loathing, over-protected and regulated markets, demilitarization, “green” energy, and degrowth. The bad cop, good cop versions of this critique, lodged by JD Vance and Marco Rubio respectively at the Munich Security Conference, shared the same pressing concern with upholding Western civilization— “centuries of shared history, Christian faith, culture, heritage, language, [and] ancestry,” as Rubio called it. After all, there would be no point in a substantive LIO if there were nothing of substance behind it. U.S. support for the besieged democracies in Israel, Taiwan, and Ukraine is of a piece with this. So is Trump's seething criticism of Canada, a country barreling toward irrelevance under the weepy grandmother who heads its military and the Davos technocrat who heads its government.

Another critical plank to restoring the substantive LIO is the Trump Administration's curtailment of asylum claims and re-vetting of over 200,000 refugee resettlement cases. International systems for asylum and refugees were developed after World War II to protect individuals facing substantive life and death threats. They then became procedural loopholes for mass migration. That's why so many countries in Asia and elsewhere simply reject them outright. If they bring sanity back, Trump's actions will restore, not destroy, those once-noble policies.

Trump has taken a multitude of other actions in the foreign policy realm. Maduro is currently in a Brooklyn jail cell, and Venezuelan drug boats are on the run, if not at the bottom of the sea. Iran has been bombed multiple times and airstrikes will continue, “regardless of what so-called international institutions say,” noted Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on March 2. Israel, a key forward base for global peace and security in the Middle East, is safe and getting safer through the Abraham Accords and the Board of Peace. And the U.S. has put NATO into storage until it can prove itself a worthy ally.

The International Criminal Court is sanctioned, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change debunked, and the WHO penniless. These organizations were threats to the substantive LIO, not its emissaries. For proof, just look at how they treated the three most besieged democracies in the world: the ICC seeks to punish Israel for defending itself against Hamas; the U.N. climate mavens want Ukraine, whose war damages are now equivalent to three times its annual GDP, to achieve carbon neutrality; and the WHO denies Taiwan participation in public health discussions.

Fortunately, Marco Rubio has rightly reorganized the State Department's human rights work around the idea that rights are a substantive result of free societies that embrace the Western model, not a procedural gift of lawyers and advocates (most of whom, like Harvard's human rights center head Mathias Risse, insist that the West is an egregious human rights abuser).

All of which make Trump's bold reassertions of substantive interests more than sensible. It is the U.S.—not Europe—that is convening critical conversations on the Arctic and strategic minerals. Trump's tariffs, though curtailed somewhat by the U.S. Supreme Court, are rebuilding the liberal trading order. World trade must be free and mutually beneficial, not a cover for China's state incubus nor for Europe's jealous attacks on U.S. tech companies.

While these policies are sold to American voters as “America First” or “in the national interest,” they are major U.S. contributions to a substantially freer and safer world.

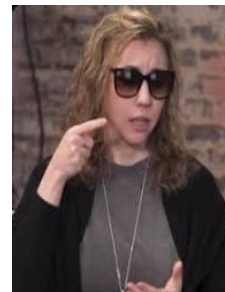
The rebuilt substantive LIO may exclude Canada and other traditional members like France and Germany. So be it. They have been complicit in the procedural order that allows threats to liberty to fester. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz admitted as much in a remarkable March 1 press briefing when he dismissed legal concerns about the Iran war as having “relatively little effect” when such questions “remain largely inconsequential.” He continued: “Over the years and decades, appeals from Europe, including Germany, condemning Iran's violations of international law, and even extensive packages of sanctions have had little effect. This is also due to the fact we were not prepared to enforce fundamental interests with military force if necessary.”

France meanwhile, from what we learned from Saddam's generals after his overthrow, was singularly responsible for the failure of coercive diplomacy in the second Iraq crisis by promising in advance that it would not support a U.N. war resolution. These are nuisance

countries at this point, smothered in cosmopolitanism and national decay. The U.S. has instead invested in tried-and-true allies like Britain, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Poland, and new ones like Argentina, Indonesia, and India. Others are free to seek their “new world order,” as Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called his plans.

The world, Singapore's Yeo added in a separate interview last year, “should want MAGA to succeed,” because a strong America is good for everyone. Often forgotten, Singapore joined the second Iraq war, an important indicator for those who trust the strategic vision of the city-state's leaders.

Davos internationalists who bewail the end of the liberal international order should think again. As Yeo suggests, we are witnessing its painful rebirth under Trump.



The Fall of the NGO-Administrative Complex

By Jennica Pounds, *The American Mind*, condensed

At first glance, it seems that the Western establishment should welcome Operation Epic Fury. The entire post-World War II order has been built on the premise that global security depends on the spread of democracy (or the downfall of tyrants at the very least). As United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a 2001 speech, there is “a need for more democracy on the global level, which is what the United Nations has been about from the very beginning.”

The global order is no fan of Iran. *Atlantic* writer and former National Endowment for Democracy board member Anne Applebaum has consistently named Iran,

alongside Russia and China, as one of the three greatest autocracies threatening the world. Senator Chris Murphy, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a speaker at the Council on Foreign Relations, drew an explicit parallel during the 2022 Mahsa Amini massacres, declaring, “Just as we stood together with the people of Ukraine during their revolution of dignity, the United States must continue standing with the people of Iran.”

One might think that these defenders of democracy would celebrate the removal of the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a brutal fundamentalist religious totalitarian.

Instead, those same voices are now loudly condemning the airstrikes. Murphy’s reaction offered no sympathy for the thousands of Iranians killed by the regime—only outrage at Trump: “In America, we don’t allow one doddering, self-obsessed old man to waste our money on a dangerous, disastrous overseas war.” Similarly, Applebaum has criticized Operation Epic Fury’s supposed lack of strategic coherence, not the target.

What is louder than the condemnations of the establishment now is what they failed to do over the previous four decades. They never deployed the same aggressive democratization strategies toward Iran that they’ve applied across the Middle East and Africa. Instead, successive administrations released billions in frozen Iranian assets, negotiated the infamous Iran nuclear deal, and—as *Politico*’s 2017 Project Cassandra investigation documented—deliberately limited prosecution of Hezbollah drug trafficking networks operating inside the United States to protect those negotiations.

In short, those backing the so-called “rules-based liberal international order” actually wanted Ali Khamenei’s regime to remain in place. Actions speak louder than words. For an order that defines itself by the spread of democracy, this is a striking paradox.

The instinct is to reconcile it through a conventional foreign policy lens: BRICS versus the West. Since Iran is a member of BRICS, the Western establishment should welcome action against it. But that model breaks down immediately. The Council on Foreign Relations, the Atlantic Council, and Carnegie—all institutions lamenting the ongoing strikes in Iran—are among the most aggressively pro-NATO voices in Washington. They have no sympathy for Russia or China. Yet Iran, a member of the same bloc they oppose, has enjoyed their implicit protection for decades.

To resolve the paradox, I do what I’m known for best: follow the money.

In January 2025, the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft published a foreign funding transparency report calling out Qatar and the UAE for pouring money into American foreign policy institutions. On its face, it was a principled stand against foreign influence. But the same report makes no mention of Chinese money flowing into those same think tanks—despite China representing a far larger geopolitical adversary. Quincy also routinely calls for restraint in Ukraine, placing it at odds with the NATO-aligned establishment that funds it.

Quincy co-founder Trita Parsi also co-founded the National Iranian American Council, an organization whose internal communications, obtained through federal court proceedings, revealed extensive coordination with Iranian government officials. And yet Quincy attracts institutional funding from the same Western-aligned order it critiques: George Soros’s Open Society Foundations and Charles Koch’s network provided its founding capital, with additional backing from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and others.

And this pattern repeats everywhere. The Soros-backed Indivisible coalition regularly organizes alongside anti-NATO revolutionary groups such as the ANSWER Coalition in the anti-ICE protests that have erupted across America. The think tank world and the street activist world appear to operate from opposite ends of the establishment spectrum—yet they coordinate, share funders, and converge on the same targets.

This pattern becomes undeniable when examining not just where the multilateral order directs its intellectual fire, but where Iran has directed its actual fire.

Over the past decade, Iran and its network of proxies have conducted strikes against a remarkably consistent set of targets: Israel, which was struck directly by Iranian ballistic missiles in Operation True Promise in April and October of 2024; Saudi Arabia, whose oil infrastructure at Abqaiq was devastated in the 2019 Houthi drone strikes—one of the most significant attacks on the global energy supply in modern history; the United Arab Emirates, struck by Houthi drones in January 2022 in Abu Dhabi; Bahrain, subject to sustained Iranian influence operations and support for armed opposition movements seeking to destabilize the Sunni monarchy; and Qatar, which has maintained its own working relationship with Tehran, but also hosts a major U.S. military base.

Look at those countries again: Israel. Saudi Arabia. UAE. Bahrain. Qatar.

Now look at where America parks its military: Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar—CENTCOM's forward headquarters, home to roughly 10,000 U.S. troops; Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE—a hub for American air power and surveillance across the Gulf; Naval Support Activity Bahrain—headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Fleet; Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia; and a deep, decades-long military partnership with Israel that includes pre-positioned American equipment and intelligence infrastructure.

Iran has spent over 40 years targeting the architecture of American military presence in the Middle East. The Quincy Institute has spent six years targeting the intellectual infrastructure that justifies it. Different instruments—one fires missiles, the other publishes white papers—but an identical target set.

What the money shows is that the relevant organizing principle of global foreign policy is not which civilizational bloc you belong to. It is whether you believe the United States should maintain a sovereign military presence and bilateral relationships in the world—or whether American power must be subordinated to multilateral frameworks and institutional consensus.

On one side are the countries hosting American bases. On the other hand, there's Iran's proxy network, anti-NATO revolutionary protest networks, and establishment voices calling Operation Epic Fury a catastrophic mistake.

The multilateral framework has a structural flaw, however, that it cannot acknowledge. To function, it requires what I call "legible adversaries"—states whose demands are known, whose behavior is predictable, and whose continued existence makes negotiation possible. The Iran nuclear deal required a counterpart. Gulf security architecture required regional stability. For 47 years, Khamenei provided both. He was brutal, but he was manageable. He was the right kind of authoritarian: one whose survival was more useful to the framework than his removal. The 36,500 Iranians documented in the regime's own massacre records were, from this perspective, an acceptable cost.

Trump's faction rejects that calculus. Supranational interests have systematically eroded American sovereignty from within—through NGOs, foundations, and the institutional apparatus. Operation Epic Fury is the inverse of that story: a sovereign nation acting in its own interest, without multilateral permission, against

an adversary the global order had quietly decided to protect.

The network that safeguarded Ali Khamenei for four decades is the same NGO-Administrative Complex, the same foundations, the same NGOs, the same multilateral frameworks—that has increasingly controlled American domestic life on immigration policy, energy regulation, education standards, election infrastructure, and more. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund does not choose between funding the Quincy Institute's Iran engagement advocacy and funding domestic climate and democracy initiatives. It does both because to them, it is all one single project. George Soros does not choose between the Open Society's foreign policy work and its domestic electoral investments. It is the same apparatus, operating at every level simultaneously.

There is no separate foreign policy establishment and domestic policy establishment. There is only one establishment.

This is why the establishment's condemnation of the Iran strikes is so disproportionate to the event. They are not mourning Khamenei. They are recognizing, with alarm, what Trump is actually doing. The regime change Trump is attempting is not Iran's. It is theirs.

Every act that reasserts American sovereignty—on Iran, on trade, on immigration, on energy—is an act of regime change against the supranational order that has governed American life, foreign and domestic, for at least 70 years. The strikes on Khamenei's compound are a demonstration that a sovereign nation, acting in its own interest, does not need institutional permission. The Trump Administration just showed that the veto that the multilateral order spent decades embedding into American foreign policy—through think tanks, through NGOs, through carefully managed BRICS adversaries—can simply be ignored.

This is how the NGO-Administrative Complex dies. One sovereign act at a time.





Trump Needs to Take Greenland

By Kelly Sadler, *The Washington Times*, condensed

Earlier this year, the Europeans were aghast at President Trump's persistence that the U.S. should control Greenland as a national security interest. After European leaders rebuked Mr. Trump's request for help in countering Iran recently, it's clear our "special relationship" with Britain is dead and the U.S. must go it alone in defending the West.

The U.S. is the only superpower with the fortitude, muscle and willingness to use force to safeguard our republic and provide deterrence against the tyrannical governments of Iran, China and Russia.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer blocked Mr. Trump from using the Diego Garcia air base to carry out U.S. strikes on Iran. Worried about the international legality of the strikes, Mr. Starmer made clear that the "United Kingdom played no role" in the joint U.S. and Israeli effort that killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

This, as the Iranian regime backed more than 20 potentially lethal attacks on British soil in the past year alone.

When asked directly whether Britain supported the U.S. and Israeli strikes, Defense Secretary John Healey refused to answer directly. He said Britain played no role and would do what is necessary to "prevent further escalation."

In a joint statement after the strikes, the leaders of Germany, France and Britain pressed the Trump administration to return to the negotiating table with Tehran, reiterating their commitment to "regional stability and to the protection of civilian life."

The joint statement was akin to asking the Trump administration to negotiate with Nazis. The Iranian regime has been the world's largest sponsor of terrorism, having waged war on the West for the past 47 years. The mullahs in Iran held American hostages for 444 days, murdered 241 Marines in Beirut, killed 603 U.S. troops in Iraq, fired ballistic missiles at U.S. bases and had assassination plots on Mr. Trump in play on U.S. soil.

In the past year alone, Iran carried out 170 attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, all while expanding its nuclear program and building long-range missiles to threaten global stability.

Iran was given time to negotiate with the Trump administration before the strikes. It refused to do so in good faith after massacring more than 30,000 of its own people in a crackdown on nationwide protests in January, crossing one of Mr. Trump's "red lines."

It was only after Iran started indiscriminately launching widespread civilian strikes against at least 10 Middle Eastern countries, placing European lives at risk, that Mr. Starmer agreed to allow the U.S. to use British bases to destroy Iran's missiles.

Former British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace lashed out at Mr. Starmer, accusing the "two-dimensional lawyer" of treating the Iranian conflict like a legal brief. Alex Armstrong, a British pundit at GB News, wondered on social media, "Is it going to take British troops to lose their lives before this Prime Minister gets his backside off the fence!?" and starts to help U.S. and Israeli action.

Former British Attorney General Michael Ellis said it wasn't international law that is to blame for British inaction; it was Mr. Starmer's "pathetic weakness."

Meanwhile, the European Union, headed by Ursula von der Leyen, was largely quiet. Ms. Von der Leyen pledged to convene a "special Security College [in a couple of days] for regional security and stability."

So, rather than immediately jumping into the fight with its U.S. ally, the EU decided to plan a meeting 48 hours later. This, as four U.S. service members were killed and Iranian ballistic missiles were dropped over Israel, killing civilian families.

Then there is Spain. Spain is protected under the NATO alliance despite not meeting NATO's defense spending targets. It banned the U.S. from using its military bases for the attacks on Iran.

"Spanish bases are not being used for this operation, and they will not be used for anything not included in the agreement with the United States or for anything that is not in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations," said Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, speaking to Spanish broadcaster Telecinco.

What good are "friends" like these?

Our European allies have failed to counter Russian aggression in Ukraine despite the conflict being in their backyard for the past five years, and now flinch when it comes to countering Iran.

So spare us the lecture on Greenland. The U.S. needs complete sovereignty to operate without impunity in the Western Hemisphere.

We're the only superpower with the backbone to counter tyrannical regimes, and we'll do so — with or without Europe.



Trump's Second Term is Not 'Chaotic'

He's just accomplishing a lot and the leftist media can't stand it.

By Jack Hellner, American Thinker

Donald Trump always appears to be working on a hundred or a thousand things at a time. Joe Biden appeared to be unable to handle one at a time.

The center of Trump's policies has always been financial and about energy. He knows that to defeat opponents, you need to weaken them financially, and reasonable and reliable energy is necessary for everything to thrive.

The media and other democrats continually pretend Trump doesn't plan for contingencies and adapt.

Here is an abbreviated list of things he has worked on in his first and second term.

First Term

Cut taxes substantially for individuals and businesses. Allowing the private sector to keep more money and power is what has always made America strong.

Continually reduced regulations.

Drill, drill, drill, which kept energy and inflation low and weakened Russia and Iran.

Pulled out of the destructive Paris Climate Accord, which weakened America and strengthened China.

Pulled out of the worthless Iran agreement, which strengthened Iran, Russia, China, and North Korea.

Getting NATO nations to spend more money on their own defense.

Continually worked with Mideast countries to isolate Iran. Started with Abraham Peace Accords. Moved the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Poverty hit a record low during Trump's first term because of rapidly rising real wages, not because of government dependency and handouts.

The second term has been a whirlwind of achievements, which the media and other Democrats pretend is chaos.

First off, Trump had to close the border to stop criminals, gang members, terrorists, and cartels.

He's working to take career criminals, including illegals, off the streets. This has greatly reduced murders and mass murders in his first year.

Drill, drill, drill. The government has stopped trying to destroy the oil, natural gas, and coal industries.

Again, he pulled out of the Paris Climate Accord.

He got rid of CO2 regulations that pretended a clear, non-pollutant gas is destroying the planet. These regulations cost trillions.

He got rid of the requirement to buy electric cars, buses, and trucks.

He used tariffs for peace and to bring back manufacturing. He understands the importance of the supply chain in America instead of relying on China and other companies.

Trump is working to make sure the U.S. gets our own supplies of rare earth minerals instead of relying on China.

He got Panama to kick China out of controlling the ports in the Panama Canal.

He understands the importance of not letting China and Russia control Greenland and the Arctic circle.

He works on peace agreements around the world with the help of tariffs. The Deep State, the U.N., Europe, Biden, Obama — none of these got peace.

Again, he chastised NATO countries into spending more for their defense.

He substantially reduced the number of people working for the government.

He substantially increased the number of recruits in our military.

He is rebuilding the military and concentrating on winning instead of social causes.

He is working on fraud, waste, and abuse.

He is still continually working with Mideast countries to isolate Iran.

Again, he worked on destroying Iran's finances after Biden and Obama built them up.

He has worked on weakening Iran's terrorist proxies.

He formed the Board of Peace.

He took out the leader of Venezuela, which has weakened South American ties to Iran, Russia, North Korea, and Cuba. Cuba should be free of communism soon.

After weakening Iran and its proxies, and building up relationships with other Mideast countries, we are finally destroying Iran quickly. It will make the world much safer. The other Mideast countries and NATO countries are now supporting the mission.

Trump is also working to fix our very expensive education system, which has not been educating the kids.

He is focused on making sure children are not destroyed by life-changing surgery.

He is trying to make sure government food programs aren't wasted on junk food.

He is saving women's sports from men.

He is saving the Kennedy Center from financial ruin.

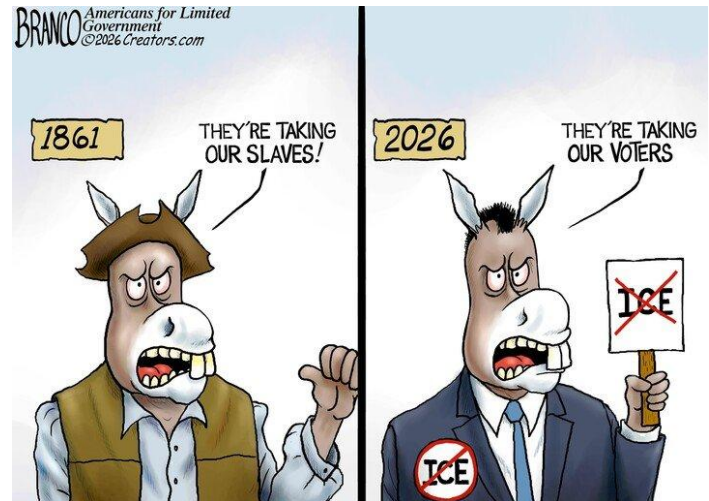
He is sensibly trying to protect election integrity by having voter IDs and making sure that only citizens vote.

He is also trying to protect Christians in Nigeria and elsewhere.

The above is an abbreviated list. Trump is very focused. It is not chaotic.

He has done this while the media and other Democrats have sought to destroy him every day for ten years.

Thank goodness the public had the common sense to vote for Trump and Vance instead of agreeing with over 90 percent of the media and voting for Harris and Walz, which would have resulted in a downward spiral.



The Abysmal Quality of the GOP Senate Caucus Is the Real Issue, and the SAVE Act Mess Has Made that Clear

John Thune is responsible for an absolutely worthless GOP Senate majority.

By Scott McKay, The American Spectator

The *Federalist's* Sean Davis did an excellent job of summing up the predicament the Republican Party finds itself in at the moment, with lots of time until the 2026 midterms (but no real indication that will make much difference):

The whole quote:

"Understand what Thune is doing right now. It's not enough for him to kill the SAVE America Act. Thune has to kill it while also protecting his worst RINO colleagues from being exposed for opposing it."

"How does Thune accomplish his? By avoiding a simple majority vote at all costs. Thune knows a public vote where Republicans get less than 50 votes—with people like Tillis and Curtis and McConnell and Murkowski voting against IT—is electoral poison. He doesn't want it to pass, but he

also can't have it die at the hands of his own puke colleagues.

"So how does Thune do this? By refusing to move to the already-passed House bill (this only requires a simple majority because the House message is privileged) and instead moving to a new, standalone Senate bill. A new Senate bill is not privileged, and therefore the motion to proceed to it is debatable, meaning it requires 60 votes.

"Thune needs to kill the SAVE America Act, not expose any of his GOP colleagues as being against it, and be able to pretend that he tried. This is the actual Senate GOP trifecta—doing nothing while pretending they tried everything and protecting the worst of the worst the whole time.

"So when you watch the GOP Senate bring up a brand new SAVE America Act bill and hold a single vote on a motion that needs 60 to pass, know that they're doing it because they think you're stupid."

Nothing about Davis' statement is off-base. If anything, he's underselling the situation.

Let's remember that more than four in five Americans want the SAVE America Act passed. Why? Because it's a basic, obvious piece of common-sense legislation that installs voter ID and proof-of-citizenship requirements so as to keep our elections from being polluted by noncitizens, not to mention the undead, from voting.

Without election integrity, there is no point to holding elections. You aren't a representative republic anymore. You're a mere facsimile of that. Your entire political system is a fraud. And Americans are increasingly aware that could be — is, if you prefer — what we have already.

With some 20 million illegal aliens residing here — some three million are reported to have departed since President Trump's second inauguration, which is a nice start to fixing this problem but nowhere near enough to save the country — it's no secret what a crucial issue election integrity is.

The polls are all over the place on the issue, but a large fraction, if not a majority, of Americans think the 2020 election was decided wrongly on the basis of illegal or fraudulent votes. Recent legal developments in Arizona and Georgia have done nothing to allay those concerns.

Nor do the utterly brazen words and deeds of the Democrat Party, who can't possibly signal their intentions any louder.

You're aware that the Department of Homeland Security is currently shut down thanks to a Democrat filibuster of its funding bill in the Senate, right? Are you aware of why the Democrats are keeping DHS shut down — which manifests

itself most prominently in TSA agents not being paid and staging intermittent sick-outs at airports while we're in the middle of an armed conflict with the world's largest sponsor of terrorism — at present?

It's not a secret. They're telling us why. They want a guarantee that no ICE agents will show up at polling precincts in November.

On its face this is an absurd demand. Why would ICE agents need to be at polling places? You have to be a citizen to vote, right? So why would ICE have any reason to be at polling places; there wouldn't be any illegals for them to deport at those places. And the people voting would all be citizens, so it's not like anybody should care if ICE was there.

What a colossally strange thing to cause a government shutdown over!

Unless, of course, it's your plan to send illegals to the polls and you want to do so with alacrity.

And that isn't a secret, either.

Chuck Schumer says it out loud. He's on the wrong side of an 85–15 issue. Ordinary politics says (1) you don't want to be responsible for shutting down TSA when we're at war with the Iranians, who'd love nothing more than to hijack a plane and fly it into the Capitol or White House or Times Square and (2) if you're going to be on the wrong side of an 85–15 issue you really don't want to invest too much political capital into that fight.

No. This isn't ordinary politics. This is about breaking open the elections system so that you can dragoon a dependent underclass of low-wage, low-skill noncitizens to the polls and change America forever.

Think this is beyond Schumer and the Democrats? Why? They've already said when they get full power in Washington again they'll nuke the filibuster to make D.C. and Puerto Rico into states, pack the Supreme Court, blow up the Second Amendment, and do a host of other things that put paid to the concept that we're the republic most of us grew up in.

The Democrats have shown us who they are. The problem is that so have the Republicans.

Thune's response to the demand of the entire Republican voting base and the majority of the rest of the country to pass the SAVE America Act was to say this was just the product of advocacy by a bunch of loudmouthed social media influencers. And when that did not go over well, he said there was no majority in the Senate to pass it.

And that he was at the mercy of the Democrats to get an “outcome.”

Nobody believes this.

Especially since the bill came over from the House on a privileged motion, which means by Senate rules there should not be a filibuster available.

He can call a vote and then he needs 50 out of the 53 senators in his caucus to vote yes. Vice President Vance is available to break a tie if one presents itself.

Instead, he’s pretending the Democrats can filibuster the bill, and alleging that he doesn’t have the votes to produce a talking filibuster.

All the while demanding that Trump endorse the members of his caucus who create this problem. For example, John Cornyn of Texas, who claims to be a co-sponsor of the SAVE America Act but wasn’t a proponent of the means to pass it until his opponent Ken Paxton, who is leading by a 49–41 count in one poll of that primary runoff race, volunteered to withdraw from the race should the act pass.

For his part, Trump said that the bill was the most popular piece of legislation to come through Congress that he’d ever seen, and stated that Thune would have to “be a leader” to get it to his desk.

Trump certainly isn’t wrong.

When you’ve got a bill this politically valuable, when over the strident opposition of the other party you can do the will of more than four in five Americans, it’s time not to break arms but to amputate them. If Thom Tillis, Mitch McConnell, Lisa Murkowski, and whoever else won’t do the will of their constituents — remember; if this bill has 80 percent support nationally it almost assuredly has numbers better than that in the red states — and go along with treating the bill as a privileged motion or instituting the talking filibuster, then the proper response is to take away their office space, suspend their committee assignments, and impose every other punishment imaginable until they cry “Uncle.”

Schumer, McConnell, and Harry Reid certainly didn’t have any concerns with using their power to impose agenda items on their caucus and the body as a whole. In McConnell’s case, there were legitimate questions as to what that agenda really was.

Nothing much has changed, apparently.

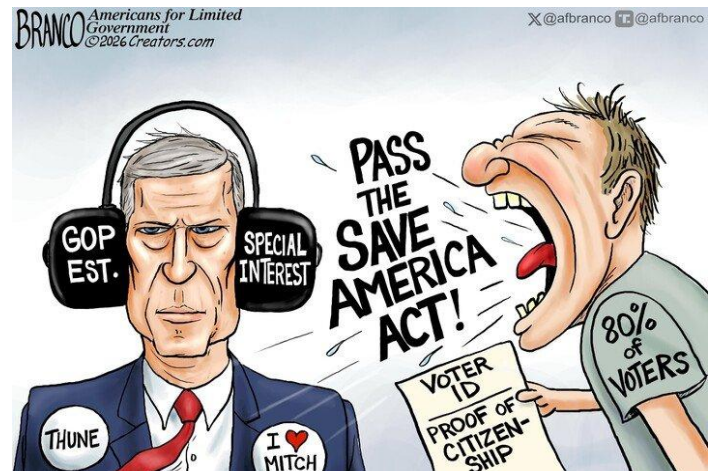
And Thune isn’t fooling a soul.

He’s responsible for an absolutely worthless GOP Senate majority, the poor performance of which has utterly demoralized the Republican base when it has the resources to do important, consequential things to preserve or restore our republic and make it so that the radical Left are the ones demoralized in advance of the midterms.

Instead, he’s a step-n-fetch-it for the establishment and corporate class at the expense of the country. And he’s made himself the face of American political failure.

There are no words too harsh for a man like this. Either Thune chooses to stop being that man or he will deserve all the ridicule, opprobrium, and disrespect that comes his way.

Be a leader, Senator. Be a leader and force this bill through or resign your position as majority leader before there is no majority to lead.



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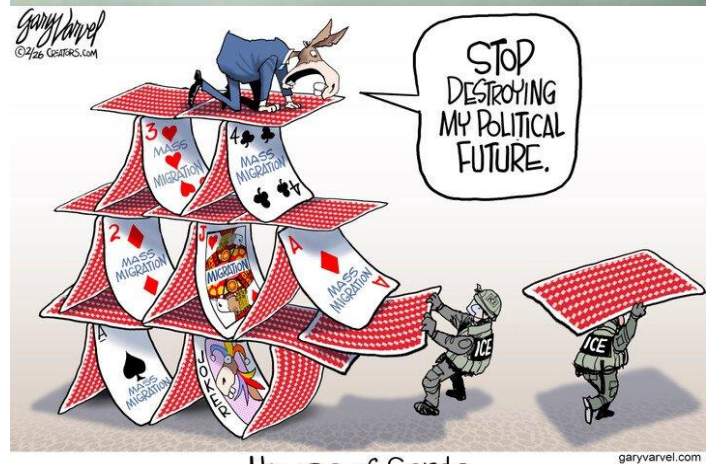
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Upcoming Events

April Speakers Forum and Luncheon -- Thursday
April 23 -- Greencroft Club, Registration begins at
11:30am, Speaker TBD

May Speakers Forum and Luncheon -- Thursday, May
28 -- Greencroft Club, Registration begins at 11:30am,
Speaker TBD



House of Cards





Women for the American Constitution Membership Form 2026

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_____ Associate Member (\$20.00) Men; Will be eligible to serve on committees but are ineligible to vote.

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LOCAL ISSUES: As part of our education goal in "local policy" for 2026, each WAC member will be asked to attend one Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Meeting or one Albemarle County School Board Meeting during 2026. (There are 2 of each per month, so a member will choose to attend at least one of the 48 available meetings. She (and others who attend the same meeting) will give a brief report to the membership at the following monthly Speakers Forum / Lunch Meeting.