



WOMEN FOR THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION NEWSLETTER

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President CJ's Letter:

Dear Colleagues,

In the 20 years since 9/11 much has happened in my life and in yours. I saw my infant grandson grow up to be a man – his entire life in the shadow of 9/11. I saw my other toddler grandson through many stages of life, now he too, a grown man. I saw my husband of 26 years pass away. My mother, sister, and brother-in-law, also, are no longer with us. I saw my sister and brother-in-law lose their home of 35 years due to Hurricane Harvey. I gained friends, lost friends, and reveled in the experience of my 50th high school reunion. I moved across country for the fourth time – then moved once more 5 years later. I cried for our 2 family dogs when they passed. I ran for office and lost. So many trials and stories to tell. 20 years is a long time.

Travel back 20 years. Post-9/11 was an era of unprecedented patriotism – the greatest in my lifetime. Streets, homes, farms, barns, small towns, big cities, all decorated with American flags. Compassion spread neighbor to neighbor – in the workplace, on buses, in elevators, on airplanes – all with the mantra to “let’s roll,” should anything happen again. We were united in one common purpose. Thousands of young men and women from all walks of life signed up to serve in the military.

President Bush immediately sent troops to Afghanistan. The U.S. mission in Afghanistan was clear, limited, and achievable: find and kill Osama bin Laden, destroy Al Qaeda. Had U.S. forces succeeded in capturing bin Laden in 2001, justice would have been served and the American military would have left for home. A war quickly finished. After bin Laden escaped, that mission escalated into something hazy and impossibly difficult (rebuild and reconstruct Afghanistan).

With the disappearance of bin Laden, something had to be done about radical Islamic terrorism. The Iraq War became THAT something in 2003. Terrorism would be addressed by seizing the “weapons of mass destruction,” thought to be held in Iraq. At any time, Saddam Hussein could transport them to an enemy Islamic country was the argument.

Initially, both political parties agreed with the Iraq War, but in the years that followed, Democrats denounced Iraq as the wrong war in the wrong place against the wrong enemy, and backed themselves into identifying Afghanistan as the right war in the right place against the right enemy. In 2009 President Obama approved a surge of 17K troops to Afghanistan and 30K more in December. Almost 65K were deployed in Afghanistan by the end of his first term. The so-called *Islamic State* was firmly established in 2014 in the weeks after Mosul (Iraq) was captured by ISIS. The Taliban commanders defected and swore allegiance to ISIS leader Aba Bakr al-Baghdadi.

20 years of radical Islamic leaders came and went – Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (Al Qaeda) captured in 2003, Saddam Hussein (Iraq) killed in 2006, Osama bin Laden (Al Qaeda) killed in 2011, Mullah Mohammed Omar (Taliban) killed in 2013, Aba Bakr al Baghdadi (ISIS) killed in 2019, Qasem Soleimani (Iran) killed in 2020 – and the endless war and presence in Afghanistan continued. It was time to leave with our pride knowing our troops fought valiantly and the Middle East will always be in a state of tribal civil turmoil.

In February of 2020, President Trump negotiated a deal to bring our entire military home, peacefully, by May 1, 2021, including equipment and civilian personnel. Biden rejected Trump’s plan when he took office; then, never initiated his own. The CIA warned Biden in April the Taliban were on the march. The intelligence community left for home at that time. Yet, Biden did nothing. His negligence has led to death and chaos – failing our troops, allies, the Afghan people, and our national security interests. It didn’t have to end this way. Americans could have left with integrity.

20 years of effort and billions of tax dollars in equipment handed over to the Taliban by a feckless pawn with his head buried in the sand. Though battles were won and challenges met in 20 years, it is impossible to look past the final horrific and catastrophic debacle, perpetrated by our own sitting U.S. President.

C. J. Hatcher, WAC President

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Statement: General Kellogg, John Ratcliffe, and Chad Wolf on the Latest in Afghanistan

August 16, 2021

America First Policy Institute's Co-Chairs of the Center for American Security, Lt. General (Ret.) Keith Kellogg and Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, and Chairman of the Center for Homeland Security and Immigration, Former Acting Secretary of DHS Chad Wolf offered the following statement:

"For the past 20 years, our men and women have served heroically in Afghanistan. We must never forget their sacrifice.

Sadly, this tragic end game in Afghanistan was entirely predictable and preventable. Ending America's longest war is appropriate, and how it needed to be done was critical.

The Trump administration developed a conditions-based withdrawal. According to this plan, no final withdrawal would have occurred until final successful peace negotiations took place between the Taliban and the Ghani government.

President Trump personally engaged with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who led the Taliban delegation, and clearly laid out what would happen in the event of any Taliban intransigence. They understood and respected this approach because we had established credible deterrence in the preceding years, which is why no U.S. soldiers were killed in Afghanistan in the final 11 months we were in office.

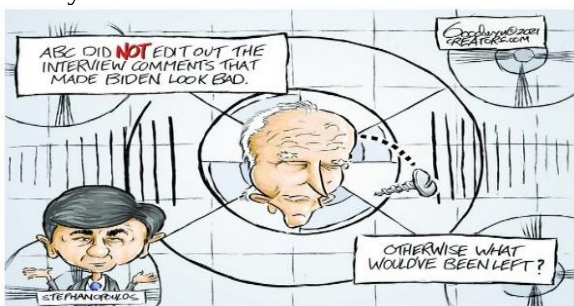
Similar engagement was made with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. This laid the groundwork for Afghans to take the future of their country into their own hands.

The difference between then and now is leadership. The Biden Administration alone owns this failure, adding Obama's Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, being "wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."



WAC September BBQ!!

Be sure to RSVP as soon as possible for our annual Red, White and Blue Picnic which will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at the Fraternal Order of Police's Thompson-Hall Lodge No. 5, 974 Michie Tavern Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22902, rain or shine! Time: 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. MISSION BBQ! Cost is \$18 / Children under 5 FREE! Our speakers will be local conservative radio celebrities Joe Thomas and Rob Schilling, as well as invited statewide candidates and our local candidates and representatives. RSVP by paying in advance! Send a check payable to W.A.C., Mail to: W.A.C., P.O. Box 5727, Charlottesville, VA 22905; or pay online through this PayPal link: www.paypal.me/wac1787. RSVP must be received by Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Bring your family and friends!!





Five Ways Our Afghanistan Defeat Will Weaken the United States

By Nadia Schadlow, Hudson Institute

The chaotic withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, which led to the collapse of a government with which we had fought for two decades, has produced a humanitarian and geostrategic catastrophe. While the immediate crisis should be our central focus at this time, our self-inflicted defeat will have five long-term consequences that risks diminishing America's influence in the world.

First, the bedlam in Kabul has added to the nagging sense of American decline that has been simmering for years. It drove a stake through one of the few remaining illusions about the United States: that we remained a competent nation, one that managed to get things done. This is no longer the case.

"I don't have the capability" to help stranded Americans by extending operations into Kabul, said Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, who presides over the world's preeminent military force and a defense establishment of some \$700 billion dollars. Combined with President Biden's astounding remarks about desperate stowaways clinging to the fuselage of American aircraft — dismissing the incident as unimportant because it happened "four days ago, five days ago" — this incompetence is colored by heartlessness.

This combination of incompetence and callousness corrodes another illusion: that America seeks to be a beacon of hope and a partner for those striving for a better life. America's support for liberty and respect for human life has always been an easy target of critics on the right and the left. For some on the right, advocating for human rights was a fruitless effort to impose American values; for some on the left, it was a mask for American imperialism, a naïve belief in universalism, or a task relegated to multilateral institutions with little real power — or will.

The reality was always somewhere in the middle. As the 2017 National Security Strategy noted, "No nation can unilaterally alleviate all human suffering, but just because we cannot help everyone does not mean that we should stop trying to help anyone. For much of the world, America's liberties are inspirational, and the United States will always stand with those who seek freedom."

Today, Biden's actions in Afghanistan speak louder than his words and starkly contradict the administration's slogans

about promoting "gender equity" and pursuing a "Build Back Better World" agenda — objectives cited in the most recent G7 communique.

Third, our alliances have been damaged by the administration's careless actions. Alliances provide economic, political and military "strategic depth" for the United States — in other words, they offer us options, while complicating the choices of our adversaries. While alliances of democratic powers involve working through the messiness of our political systems, they remain a competitive advantage for the United States.

For years, critics railed against former President Trump as he sharply cajoled allies to step up and do more. But Biden's failure to consult our NATO allies — who had forces and personnel on the ground — reveals the hollowness of his claim that "diplomacy is back." White House negligence put allied troops in harm's way and could lead to serious fractures in NATO. American requests will be met with hardened disdain by our NATO partners, and European governments will remain ambivalent regarding military and defense spending.

Fourth, the debacle has created the conditions for the resurgence of a jihadist state in the middle of Central Asia. While many expert analysts like to parse the differences across various terrorist groups, jihadists around the world are rejoicing. Under a Taliban government, they will have the resources — including captured U.S. military equipment — and a geographic location from which to project power and rebuild their operational capacity. According to one estimate, "the Taliban are believed to control more than 2,000 armored vehicles, including U.S. Humvees, and up to 40 aircraft, potentially including UH-60 Black Hawks, scout attack helicopters and ScanEagle military drones."

Having shattered the trust of current and potential on-the-ground partners in the region, President Biden's quixotic promises of "over-the-horizon" counterterrorism (CT) operations are bizarre: the White House just destroyed the CT mission under way.

Fifth, and possibly most significantly, Biden's chaotic withdrawal presents new opportunities for our strategic rivals. For the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the debacle is a net gain. CCP officials already have begun negotiating with the Taliban to advance Chinese interests — to include further access to Afghanistan's vast strategic mineral deposits. Estimates suggest that Afghans could be sitting on top of \$1 trillion in minerals, including the world's largest deposits of lithium, a vital input for the batteries needed to power the electric vehicles that Biden's White House is prioritizing. In addition, Beijing will use its bolstered position in Central Asia to further consolidate its Belt and Road Initiative.

While there are no silver linings of the debacle in Afghanistan, perhaps at least more Americans will once again become aware that we live in a dangerous world, and that messy conflicts do not simply disappear when we refuse to acknowledge them.



Biden's Disastrous Foreign Policy Instincts

By David Harsanyi, The Daily Signal

The unfolding disaster in Afghanistan is a bipartisan, transadministrational failure. It is a humiliation. The fact is that after 20 years, after thousands of lives were lost and hundreds of billions of dollars were spent on the military, police, training, infrastructure, and education, the country fell in days.

Whatever your position is on the presence of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, however, it is incumbent on President Joe Biden, and no one else, to competently conduct a military withdrawal of his choosing—and, at the very least, avoid humiliation. On this front, Biden catastrophically failed.

Then again, the president has never shown a morsel of wisdom or proficiency on foreign policy. As one former Obama Pentagon official put it not long ago, Biden isn't really a student of history; he is driven by "gut instincts."

Indeed. The problem is that his instincts are complete garbage.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wasn't kidding when he noted that Biden has "been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades." As a senator, he voted against the Persian Gulf War in 1991. More than a decade later, he didn't merely support the Iraq invasion in 2003, but he championed it.

Biden warned President George W. Bush, for example, that it was "unrealistic, if not downright foolish," to claim victory against terrorism until Saddam Hussein was toppled from power in Iraq. It was only after the campaign's popularity began fading that he purported to have been hoodwinked by Bush.

Biden was for a surge in Afghanistan before he wasn't, and against the surge in Iraq, even though it was perhaps the most successful post-Saddam operation in that nation. And it was Biden who was charged with implementing President Barack Obama's tragically incompetent withdrawal from Iraq, which was partially responsible for the rise of ISIS—or the "JV team," as his boss called it.

Then there is the Libya debacle. Trying to untangle Biden's ever-shifting positions on Authorization for Use of Military Force would take thousands of additional words.

Put it this way: On numerous occasions, Biden praised Obama's entry into the Libya conflict—calling it the "prescription for how to deal with the world as we go forward than it has in the past" in 2011. When the full extent of the failure was clear, Biden claimed to have "argued strongly" within the White House against getting involved.

In more recent times, Biden was a proponent of the failed Iran deal and a harsh critic of the successful Abraham Accords. As with the elimination of Osama bin Laden, Biden opposed taking out the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps terrorist leader Gen. Qasem Soleimani, accusing then-President Donald Trump of putting us on the precipice of an "endless war in the Middle East."

And, for the past 20 years, Biden has been on every side of nearly every position on Afghanistan—usually the wrong one at the wrong time. It's surreal that a person so uncannily incompetent, so tenaciously wrong on foreign policy, could rise to the presidency, but here we are.

Early in the Afghanistan campaign, Biden would often hit the Bush administration for its failure to send more troops and increase nation-building efforts. In 2002, after Bush had proposed handing off more policing operations to allies, Biden excoriated the administration for not sending more troops.

"Whatever it takes, we should do it," Biden said at the time. "History will judge us harshly if we allow the hope of a liberated Afghanistan to evaporate because we failed to stay the course."

In 2004, Biden called a tour of a new school in Kabul "a catalytic event" that defined his philosophy forevermore. We needed to export liberal democracy and embrace a "Prevention Doctrine," Biden argued. And both were contingent on expansive American commitments abroad.

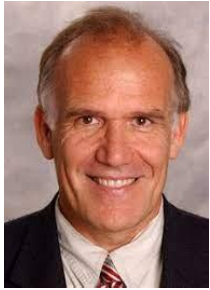
Many people will, no doubt, argue that Biden's positions change to comport with the facts on the ground. Even if that were the case, Biden helped get into the war and then championed the nation-building and troop buildups.

In truth, the only "catalytic events" that really propel Biden are changes in public polling. By October 2009, when sentiment had shifted against nation-building, Biden had become a leading voice to get out of the Middle East. Despite Biden's alleged skepticism on the matter, Obama had escalated American involvement soon after taking office, sending 30,000 additional military personnel there—a nearly 50% jump.

Biden claimed to be a leading voice in the administration. And yet, troops only peaked in 2010. In 2012, there were

still 68,000 troops in Afghanistan. Obama and Biden claimed we could leave because there were hundreds of thousands of highly trained Afghan troops and policemen ready to defend the nation.

They weren't. They still aren't.



Woke Nonsense Is Warping Everyday Life

By Victor Davis Hanson, Real Clear Politics

Americans are growing angrier by the day, but in a way different from prior sagebrush revolts such as the 1960s Silent Majority or the Tea Party movement over a decade ago.

The rage this time is not just fueled by conservatives. For the first time in their lives, Americans of all classes and races are starting to fear a self-created apocalypse that threatens their family's safety and the American way of life.

The border is not just porous as in the pre-Trump past. It is arguably nonexistent. Some 2 million people may cross illegally in the current fiscal year, according to reports -- with complete impunity. There is zero effort to stop them. Officials hector Americans daily to get vaccinated and tested for COVID-19. But they are mute about illegal entrants, some of them no doubt infected with the virus.

Have we ever had a president who made no pretense about destroying federal immigration law and asking of Americans what he does not ask of those entering the country illegally?

Joe Biden has also conceded that his moratorium on housing evictions defied a Supreme Court ruling. He added that he probably didn't have the legal authority to ignore the court but didn't really care.

As in the case of demolishing immigration law, the president seems either unaware or proud that he is insidiously dismantling the Constitution.

America has also never before seen such overt and multifaceted efforts to undermine the foundations of free-market capitalism.

At a time of resurging GDP, low unemployment and record worker shortages, Biden has announced that renters can continue to avoid paying what they owe their landlords -- even after a prior year of free housing.

In a rebounding economy amid record debt, the government is still sending workers unemployment benefits that are

more remunerative than the paychecks they would earn if employed.

Such insanity not only means that labor-short employers can't provide goods and services to American consumers; the new ethos also institutionalizes the pernicious idea that it is smarter to stay home and be idle than to get a job and be productive.

Biden is also considering further extending exemptions for the repayment of \$1.7 trillion in student loans. That amnesty will only further mainstream this growing notion that borrowing money entails no legal or moral obligation to pay it back.

No one seems to acknowledge that both students and the universities that lured them to borrow knew the risks they were taking. Meanwhile, millions of American youth, the working classes who choose not to attend college, and those who paid off their loans or whose parents saved enough over the years to cover their tuition obligations will subsidize the debt evaders by paying higher taxes.

Inflation is roaring back. Soaring prices are a direct result of incentivizing the unemployed not to work, while discouraging manufacturers and producers of food, gas, oil, timber, mineral and metals.

Rising crime rates are likewise not accidental. Increasing crime is the logical result of releasing thousands of criminals from prison, defunding and defaming the police, and empowering woke mayors and prosecutors to contextualize crime as the fault of society, not the criminal.

In response, millions of Americans now simply avoid the mayhem of big cities in blue states.

Race relations have regressed 50 years. Under the fad of critical race theory, the color of our skin is now deemed essential to who we are.

Most Americans still integrate and assimilate, and many intermarry. But the current woke revolution is an elite, top-down effort to smear a self-critical and always improving nation as some sort of contemporary racist hellhole.

George Orwell would say of these cultural Marxists that they grab power in the present to reinvent the past in order to control our futures.

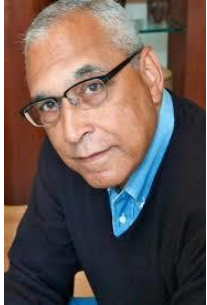
All this multifaceted chaos is not just faculty lounge stuff. We are beginning to see the collective craziness filter down to disruptions in our everyday lives.

Airliners cannot take off due to fuel shortages. Automobiles, houses, gas and lumber are in short supply.

Consumers can't get their roofs fixed, their houses painted or their trees trimmed, as employers plead with their idle, government-subsidized employees to come back to work.

Many Americans have lost faith in the FBI, the CIA, the Pentagon, the CDC and most of the other federal bureaucracies, which are as politicized as they are incompetent.

What started out as elite woke nonsense now warps daily life. If we don't wake up from wokeness, we will continue on our sure trajectory to self-inflicted, systemic paralysis -- followed by civilizational collapse.



Bad Faith

By Eli Steele, Fox News

On the flight from Los Angeles to Chicago, there was an older, well-dressed man in the aisle seat and he leaned toward me to ask what my business in Chicago was. I told him that

I do documentaries and wanted to know what Pastor Corey Brooks on the South Side thought of the critical race theory controversies sweeping the nation. The man hesitated before revealing that even his tech company had not been spared. Then he said, "As a White man..." and let his voice trail off as if no further explanation was needed. I pushed back. Why say White? I expected him to somewhat acknowledge the absurdity of his words, but he eyed me as if I was the absurd one. "If I speak up, I could lose my job." We did not say another word to each other.

But I thought of the man as I drove my Jeep rental into the Woodlawn community on the South Side. I could not figure out what bothered me but there was something hollow and inauthentic about him. He seemed to have abandoned his principles for cheap conformity to external political and racial pressures. He may have kept his paycheck coming, but at what cost? I had met many folks like him in recent years and I often wondered where the rot that reduced them to skin color came from.

As I walked across the parking lot through the heavy humidity into the coolness of the New Beginnings Church and was greeted by Pastor Brooks, I knew I was in the presence of an entirely different kind of a human being. The pastor stands nearly six-foot-four and there is a spring to his step, despite being chosen by God to carry one of America's heaviest burdens.

Every day he deals with gang members, senseless deaths, graduation ceremonies, the vengeful, the aspirational, new births, illiterate adults, newly released convicts, the hungry, overburdened single parents, wayward children, and every

imaginable human condition. The pastor wakes up each morning not knowing if the day will bring joy or tragedy or both, and yet he wakes up each morning.

I told the pastor that I thought of him as I watched elites battle other elites over critical race theory in private schools and wealthy communities I had never before heard of. Several writers argued that we should heed these elites — the wealthy professionals to the academics in ivory towers — because their children would run America one day. But there was a strangeness, a kind of disconnect to these battles.

On one hand, the elites opposing critical race theory and its sister constructs seemed to have little idea that the battles they are fighting are rather old ones. On the other hand, the elites promoting these ideas in the name of what's-best-for-Blacks seemed blind to how far removed their beliefs are from the needs of the very people they claim to want to help.

Pastor Brooks smiled with tired eyes. Sometimes the man on the bottom sees far more clearly than the man on the top. The pastor said that he wished that these elites would experience the day-to-day reality in the South Side. They would then "discover that liberalism has not been our best friend."

The pastor spoke of liberalism not as a political ideology, but rather as an existential condition that coldly shapes one's life. And the pastor knew that many Americans fighting today's culture wars failed to realize that they are fighting an old enemy well known to Blacks: bad faith.

In the documentary, "What Killed Michael Brown?" (and in the mini-documentary accompanying this opinion piece), my father, Shelby Steele, describes this bad faith as faithlessness. He notes that racism in America has always made the classic struggle between good faith and bad faith much harder for Blacks. How does a young boy on the South Side keep good faith in America when he is constantly told that he is oppressed, a victim of White supremacy, and that he needs outside forces to help him? This bad faith disbelieves in the power of Blacks to make a life and disbelieves in America and her principles — to the point that one often ends up giving up even before starting.

Where does this bad faith come from? Ironically, much of it comes from post-60's liberalism which was far more about White guilt than Black development. Unlike classical liberalism, with its focus on principles like freedom and equality, post-60s liberalism derives its legitimacy from America's original sin, which was not slavery, but simply the use of race as a means to power.

There was a profound blindness to post-60s liberalism from the very beginning. It only saw Black people

symbolically—not people like themselves. It failed to recognize the gradual, upward progress that many Blacks made in the first half of the 20th century.

The pastor's eyes glowed as he recalled how Woodlawn and nearby communities like Bronzeville had doctors, dentists, businessmen, and jazz musicians walking the sidewalks. Many of these Blacks, including my grandfather, bought homes for their largely intact families. These Blacks possessed good faith even as segregation reigned everywhere.

Instead of extending this progress, post-60s liberalism ushered in an era of dependency and created, for the first time, a Black underclass. Suddenly, many Blacks found themselves in a world of housing projects, man-in-the-house rules, racial preferences, school busing, and so on. After nearly 70 years of this liberalism, when one steps outside the pastor's church one sees a world of social services, failing schools, boarded up homes, businesses owned by outsiders, and police cruisers sitting in the medians of streets. It is a world created by bad faith.

Because post 60's liberalism's power can only be sustained only as long as America continues to be racist, there is an insistence that America has made no moral evolution because at its very core it is racist. It has developed an entirely new lexicon of oppression to explain the present day struggles of many Black people and to insist America repair these deficits—thereby perpetuating Black dependency, bad faith and liberal-progressive power.

The "White man" that Pastor Brooks hears daily on the streets of the South Side became "White supremacists." "The system" or "the man" became "systemic racism." "White people" became "White privilege" or "White fragility." "Acting White" became "merit is White supremacy." "Racism is everywhere" became "critical race theory." All of these mantras lead to one end product: bad faith.

Now many Americans are feeling what Blacks have long felt. Bad faith gnaws at our belief in what is right and wrong. It casts doubt on our belief in America and her principles. And it makes us disbelieve that we are making progress as a people and as a nation.

But perhaps the worst thing about bad faith is that it conditions us to show deference to race, the lowest of human qualities. That is why the man on the plane ride to Chicago bothered me. He yielded to racial pressures and placed himself into the White box. He comforted himself with the lie that he had no choice. But one always has the freedom of choice, no matter how narrow the margin is. And what made his choice damaging was that he gave the forces behind post-60s liberalism exactly what they want: an

unimpeded path to further deepen the reach of bad faith into our society.

On the South Side far from the limelight of the critical race theory wars, Pastor Brooks works every day to spread good faith and his task is a daunting one. The pastor's non-profit community center, Project H.O.O.D., offers countless bootstrap programs from construction to electrical engineering in hopes of inspiring as many people as possible to move away from the claustrophobic world of bad faith into the world of possibilities that is known as good faith.

It is this good faith that instills in us individual initiative, self-belief, delayed gratification, discipline, hope, and all the things that one needs to make a life of meaning. The stronger the individual makes oneself, the more of an asset that individual is to family, friends, and society at large, and that is why the path of good faith is the only option.

As I was getting ready to leave, I asked the pastor how he felt about the fact that he would not get one dime of the billions of dollars pouring into the diversity, equity, and inclusion industry, the nation's leading pusher of bad faith. He could only shake his head and smile, "I can't pay attention to none of that. I got too much work to do."

Then I asked him if there was a Biblical quote that reflected his predicament. He said what came to his mind instead were the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. The pastor spoke of how he hoped we could create a world where all of God's children would be judged not by their color but by the content of their character. I admit that my first reaction was that these words were cliché. But as I listened to the pastor on how he strives to live by King's words every day, I realized that he was talking about a man who gave America the best expression of good faith ever seen. King and his legion of foot soldiers marched for decades to become full and equal members of the American society and they did so against a vicious White supremacy that showed no signs of relinquishing power. They believed in America and they wanted into America. It is this good faith that we are in danger of betraying today.



Time to Overturn Roe v. Wade

By Star Parker, Daily Journal

In May, the Supreme Court put abortion on the docket for its upcoming session [which begins this October] by agreeing to hear Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

The high court's decision to hear this case registered on the seismometer of every American who carefully follows the abortion issue. It means *Roe v. Wade*, which has defined abortion reality in the country since 1973, is open to review and could be overturned.

The Mississippi law in question, which bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, was struck down by an appeals court in 2019. The state then appealed to the Supreme Court.

[In late July], Mississippi's attorney general submitted its brief to the Supreme Court. A central point of contention will be the issue of viability. Viability — the point at which the unborn child can survive outside of the womb — has been the legal criterion for drawing the line beyond which a woman's alleged right to destroy the child within her is no longer assumed.

Given that viability is assumed to occur at 24 weeks, the 15-week provision of the Mississippi law upends this standard.

The Mississippi attorney general questions the relevance of the viability standard, challenging particularly that there is any basis for it in the Constitution.

But we must dig deep here because we're not just dealing with the question of viability of the unborn child. We are dealing with questions about the viability of our society and our country.

Can we really function as a society and as a nation while turning away from the most central issue any society faces — awe of the mystery of life?

There might indeed be a point in time when an unborn child can be removed from its mother and physically survive. But although there might be a point when that child might not need its mother to survive, it still needs others. Someone must take care of that child, meaning someone must care about that child's life. If not, that child will die.

So, the legal idea of viability that has been sustaining the *Roe v. Wade* world really has no meaning.

In 2014, the Vatican hosted an international colloquium on "The Complementarity of Man and Woman."

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the former chief rabbi of the U.K., gave an address about marriage. He spoke of "the idea of the love that brings new life into the world." Sacks observed "life begins when male and female meet and embrace."

It is hard to believe in our nation today, when there is so much outrage about racism, many of those who see racism as a problem do not see indifference to the sanctity of life as a problem.

But if all life is not sacred, if every human being is not a unique creation in the image of God, what is wrong with being a racist?

Why would slavery be a problem if every human being is not a divine creation?

It is no accident that after the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, we have seen a collapse of the American family and now the general collapse of birth itself.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week: "In half of all states last year, more people died than were born, up from five states in 2019. Early estimates show the total U.S. population grew 0.35 percent for the year ended July 1, 2020, the lowest ever documented, and growth is expected to remain near flat this year."

A society without family and children, with increasing drug overdoses and suicides, with reports of far too great a frequency of individuals pointlessly murdering people they don't know, is a society whose soul is in bad shape.

Restoring sanctity of life in the womb is a good place to start turning things around.

My prayer is the U.S. Supreme Court will agree.



12 Steps to Raising a Conservative Daughter – From My Very Wise Daughter

By Kate Obenshain, Fox News

After reading Michelle Easton's excellent new book, "How to Raise a Conservative Daughter," I thought I'd ask my conservative daughter, Lucy, what in the world I did, if anything, to contribute to her world view.

According to Lucy, we parents have very much to do with the eventual philosophical persuasion of our daughters. In fact, she thinks not enough parents are actively passing their values on to their children, resulting in the disastrous sway culture has over them.

She says it's high time for parents to step up and teach their daughters how to be courageous defenders of individual freedom. As Michelle Easton says, don't assume osmosis will make our daughters conservative. Just because we are, doesn't mean they will be. It takes intentionality.

So here's my 18-year-old's parenting advice (hey, don't knock it yet) on raising conservative daughters:

Never suggest to your daughter that she's oppressed. Or a victim. It will taint her entire worldview. Instead of feeling brave, optimistic and hopeful, as if she can accomplish anything, she will become timid, angry and despairing. You will instill feelings of weakness, powerlessness, and entitlement.

Talk about ideas and events around the dinner table. Your girls will learn that ideas are important and they'll know how to talk about them and things other than their feelings or their day at school.

Don't protect your daughter from current events. Help them understand what's happening in their country and the world, and that it's important.

Start early. You can't expect your daughter to start standing up for her beliefs in front of her peers or authority figures in high school when she's never really thought about what they are in the first place. They have to become HER ideas in order for her to risk defending them.

Set an active example – live out your ideas. Go to rallies. Take your girls to hear conservative speakers. They are never too young! They may not understand the content, but they see you engaged and caring.

Don't let your girls be wimpy. There's an epidemic of wimpy girls who want, at all cost, to be liked. Not to offend. Let them experience some conflict and disappointment. Teach them that conflict can be navigated, rather than avoided.

Help your daughter separate what is personal from objective points. Girls take differences of opinion personally. They will follow the crowd to avoid being perceived as wrong. Unless you have raised them to be strong, and to understand ideas, and not to take differences personally, they will absolutely post the black square on Instagram (having no idea what BLM actually stands for) because they will care more about the popularity contest.

Tell your daughter she is smart. Lucy says, "I was told I was pretty, but mostly I was told that I was smart. And strong. And brave. That became what I wanted to live up to."

Never tell your child to moderate her opinion in order not to offend someone. Don't tell her that her teacher won't appreciate it or her grades may suffer. Defend her, and teach her to defend herself and her ideas. Tell her, "You are strong and brave. And smart. Now go get 'em!"

Teach your daughter about the founding of our country – that it was a radical experiment, for the first time acknowledging that individual liberty comes from God, not

government. Honor the United States and her Founding Fathers in word and celebration.

Lucy, having grown up from age 4 to 14 with a single mom, has a special warning for two-parent, stable families – I was fascinated by this one. Do not shield your daughter from an understanding of what it took to achieve that stable life. We can make it look easy, but it's not obvious to our children. They need to understand the value of hard work. Of what it takes to have a happy, healthy marriage. Traditional values, too often taken for granted, need to be instilled through discussion.

Introduce her to God from the beginning, and make Him the loving, fun, very real center of your family life. Make sure she knows He created her just the way He wants her to be, and He loves her. That, right there, will give her all the courage she'll ever need.

Wise counsel, I think, from Lucy, who finds herself surrounded by girls who are trying to figure out for themselves what to believe in and what will make them happy. If they look to culture to figure that out, any conservative inklings they have will be obliterated.

Michelle Easton knows the danger culture and the Left present for our daughters. Her book addressed that threat, head on, and is a primer – detailed, eminently readable and profoundly inspiring – helping parents instill "the right pillars of belief in your daughter and then strengthening those beliefs through practical, consistent, real-life application."

Bottom line: if you want your daughter to grow up to be a conservative, raise her to be brave.

Easton recounts in her book that her father didn't send her out the door every morning telling her to "Have a good day." Rather, he told her to go out there and fight for what she believes in. She sure did. And still does. He clearly gave her the courage and wisdom to do just that. Now she's helping the rest of us to do the same.

Points of Interest

- **The upcoming General Election** is November 2, 2021.
 - **Offices on ballot:** Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, some local offices (varies by locality).
 - **First day of in-person early voting** at [local voter registration office](#): Friday, September 17, 2021.

- **Deadline to [register to vote, or update an existing registration](#):** Tuesday, October 12, 2021.
 - **Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you:** Friday, October 22 2021. Request must be received by [local voter registration office](#) by 5:00 p.m.
 - **Voter registration offices open Saturday,** October 23, 2021 and October 30, 2021 for early voting.
 - **Last day of in-person early voting at [local voter registration office](#):** Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
 - **See who is on your ballot** by viewing the [candidate lists](#).
 - **Register to vote or apply for a ballot online** using the [Citizen Portal](#).
- **2021 Changes to Virginia’s Election Laws** – The General Assembly made numerous changes to Virginia’s election laws during 2021. Some of the changes include:
 - Witness signatures are no longer required on absentee ballots for any election during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat.
 - General registrars are now allowed to contract with a third party for printing, assembling, and mailing of absentee ballots.
 - The establishment of drop-off locations are codified at the office of the general registrar and each voter satellite office in a locality as well as at each polling place on election day. Registrars can choose additional drop-off locations.
 - A formalized cure process allows voters to correct procedural errors on absentee envelopes.
 - Emergency absentee ballots are authorized for voters who cannot vote in person on Election Day due to the hospitalization, illness, or death of a loved one.
 - Curbside voting is expanded to allow any voter to vote curbside during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat.

A summary of these and other changes to Virginia’s election laws can be found via this link:
https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/election-administration/electionlaw/2021-Changes-to-Virginia-Election-Laws_FINAL.updated.pdf.

- **Albemarle County Gun Ban** – On August 18, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the banning of guns on county property. The ordinance prohibits firearms, ammunition, and components in county owned or operated buildings, parks, and recreation or community centers. While there is an exemption for firearms in private vehicles, they must be in a container or compartment, not carried while occupying the vehicle. There is also no exemption for concealed handgun permit holders. Because this ban includes “components,” citizens may find themselves in legal trouble for accidentally entering one of these “gun-free zones” with something as simple as a shell casing forgotten in a pocket or accidentally left in view in a vehicle. The full text of the ordinance can be found here:
<https://albemarle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9705739&GUID=8ECB1DC0-5E0A-4254-B755-958ACCE6502A>

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Upcoming Events/Announcements

- **WAC’s Annual Red, White and Blue Picnic** -- Saturday, September 18, 2021 at the Fraternal Order of Police’s Thompson-Hall Lodge No. 5, 974 Michie Tavern Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22902, rain or shine! Time: 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. MISSION BBQ!
- **WAC Action Committees Sign-Up** – We need members to be involved! Contact: Rena Snow (renasnow@hotmail.com)