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## Inside Track

### State Department Issues First “Gender Neutral” Passport



*Evgenia Parajanian/iStock/Getty Images Plus*

The United States has officially issued its first “gender neutral” passport. The State Department announced the milestone on October 27. Citizens can now choose an “X” on their passport application to show that they don’t “identify” as the customary “F” for female or “M” for male.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the changes to the passport application back in June, but October 27 marked the first time a person has received a passport with the “X” designation.

According to Jessica Stern, the State Department’s special diplomatic envoy for LGBTQ rights — a position left vacant during the Trump administration — the new passport option is more in line with the “lived reality” of people who believe they are neither male or female.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said, “The Department of State continues the process of updating its policies regarding gender markers on U.S. passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs) to better serve all U.S. citizens, regardless of their gender identity.”

“I want to reiterate, on the occasion of this passport issuance, the Department of State’s commitment to promoting the freedom, dignity, and equality of all people — including LGBTQI+ persons,” Price added.

The State Department has not released the identity of the “X” passport recipient, but AP speculates that it may be Dana Zzyym (formerly known as Brian Orin Whitney), a Navy veteran and trans-activist who sued then-Secretary of State John Kerry in 2016 for refusing to give “them” a passport because “they” (Zzyym’s preferred pronouns are they, their, and them) refused to be classified as either male or female. “I’m not a problem. I’m a human being. That’s the point,” Zzyym said.

The new passport option is in line with the Biden administration’s recently released National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality — a document that reads more like an LGBTQ wish list than a government directive.

by James Murphy



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## Three Maryland Counties Request to Join West Virginia



*Lady-Photo/iStock/Getty Images Plus*

Feeling abandoned and neglected by their own state government, the three mountainous counties that comprise Maryland's panhandle have requested to join the neighboring state of West Virginia. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice has announced that he would be all for the counties joining his state.

A group of six Republican lawmakers representing Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties at the extreme west end of Maryland wrote to the West Virginia Legislature, asking them to consider the move. The three counties have a combined population of just over 250,000.

"We believe this arrangement may be mutually beneficial for both states and for our local constituencies," wrote the lawmakers. "Please advise on next steps."

While acknowledging the long odds of the political maneuver, one of the signers of the letter, Wendell Beitzel, who represents parts of Garrett and Allegany counties, claimed that the request was a serious one — not simply a political stunt. "We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't feel there is a strong sense of unrest and unhappiness among people in our rural area of the state," Beitzel said.

In an October 22 press conference, Governor Justice, a Republican, enthusiastically opened the door for the three Maryland counties to defect to the Mountain State. "We want everyone to always know that we're absolutely standing here with open arms, we'd welcome ... these counties and be tickled to death to have them and the great folks of that incredible state," Justice said. "For Garrett County ... for Allegany County and for Washington County, we would welcome you in every way," he continued.

The proposal stems from a feeling in the three counties that the values of the more populous, eastern portion of the state take precedence in Maryland's state government, with Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties' wishes being largely ignored in the legislature. Among key issues that have angered western Maryland are the state's hard line against fracking, and its support for mask mandates and the teaching of Critical Race Theory in public schools.

by James Murphy



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## Studies Claim Recent Global Warming Not Driven by Humans



*thekopmylife/iStock/Getty Images Plus*

A trio of recent studies published from June through September of this year have concluded that observed warming in the first two decades of the 21st century is more likely due to increases in absorbed solar radiation than human emissions of greenhouse gases.

A study released in June by Norman G. Loeb, Gregory C. Johnson, Tyler J. Thorsen, John M. Lyman, Fred G. Rose, and Seiji Kato has determined that a positive trend in Earth's Energy Imbalance (i.e., warming) is "primarily due to an increase in absorbed solar radiation associated with decreased reflection by clouds."

Scientists from NASA and NOAA studied data from NASA's Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) and Argo, a global array of ocean floats that record the oceans' temperature and salinity.

"The two very independent ways of looking at changes in Earth's energy imbalance are in really, really good agreement, and they're both showing this very large trend, which gives us a lot of confidence that what we're seeing is a real phenomenon and not just an instrumental artifact," said Norman Loeb, the lead author of study.

While the study does contend that mankind's emissions have an effect in observed warming, data shows it to be a small one effectively offset by cloud influence.

The study also cites another natural factor for an increase in temperatures — the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). This natural and normal ocean variation shifted into a warm phase around 2014 and continued until 2020. Scientists speculate that this change led to a reduction in cloud cover over the ocean, leading to an increase in absorption of solar radiation.

In another study, done by Hans-Rolf Dübal and Fritz Vahrenholt in Germany, the authors believe that man's emissions might actually be having a cooling effect. Their own conclusions to the CERES data "conflict with the assumption further global warming originates mainly from the LW [longwave] radiation capture caused by greenhouse gases, i.e., a decline in outgoing LW."

by James Murphy



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## **Pastor Must Read Disclaimer When Speaking Against COVID Mandates**



*YouTube*

Pastor Artur Pawlowski of the Cave at Adullam church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and his brother, Dawid Pawlowski, were arrested “in a dramatic highway takedown” in May for defying “a government-mandated health order to keep [their] services at reduced capacity and enforce social distancing and mask-wearing,” The New American reported at the time. The two men spent three nights in jail before being released on bail.

On October 13, Alberta Justice Adam Germain sentenced the Pawlowskis for contempt of court. Although Germain rejected prosecutors’ requests for jail time for the men, he did fine them both heavily, place them on probation, order them to perform community service, and prohibit them from leaving Alberta without their probation officers’ permission.

Perhaps most shocking of all, though, was his demand that “whenever they are opposing the ... Health Orders in any public forum..., they must also place the other side of the argument on the record” in the form of this statement:

I am also aware that the views I am expressing to you on this occasion may not be views held by the majority of medical experts in Alberta. While I may disagree with them, I am obliged to inform you that the majority of medical experts favor social distancing, mask wearing, and avoiding large crowds to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Most medical experts also support participation in a vaccination program unless for a valid religious or medical reason you cannot be vaccinated. Vaccinations have been shown statistically to save lives and to reduce the severity of COVID-19 symptoms.

“Welcome to Chinada 2021,” Artur Pawlowski quipped after leaving court. “[Now] every time I open my mouth to the public,” he said, “I have to lie ... stating that vaccinations are saving lives, that masks work, that doctors and scientists are all for restrictions.”

by Michael Tennant



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## **Putin Calls Youth “Transgenderism” a “Crime Against Humanity”**



*AP Images*

In a fiery speech on October 21, Russian President Vladimir Putin railed against liberalism, slaughtering leftist sacred cows with abattoir-level abandon. Among his targets were cancel culture, anti-Western revisionist history, and so-called transgenderism.

As the *Washington Post* reported October 22:

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Putin stressed that his country should adhere to its own “spiritual values and historical traditions,” while steering clear of “sociocultural disturbances” in the West.

Some Westerners believe “the aggressive deletion of whole pages of their own history, reverse discrimination against the majority in the interests of minorities ... constitute movement toward public renewal,” Putin said. “It’s their right, but we are asking them to steer clear of our home. We have a different viewpoint.”

Putin, who told the *Financial Times* of London newspaper in 2019 that liberalism had become “obsolete,” has loudly advocated for what he considers to be traditional family values. In his Thursday remarks, he said the notion that children are “taught that a boy can become a girl and vice versa” is monstrous and “on the verge of a crime against humanity.”

Elaborating on this trespass of having a child “choose” his sex (an impossibility), which is sometimes done without parental consent, Putin said, “You push the parents aside and make the child take these decisions that can destroy their lives.”

“Putin also discussed how liberals in the West want to eliminate what he called ‘traditional interpretation of such basic values,’ which include designations such as ‘mother, father, family, and the distinction between sexes,’” related Town Hall on October 23, providing more detail.

“The proponents of new approaches go so far as they want to eliminate the whole notions of men and



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women, and those who dare say that men and women exist and this is a biological fact, they are all but banished,' he said," the site continued. "Parent number one, parent number two, or the parent that has given birth, or instead of breast milk, you say human milk. And you say all of that, so the people who are not sure of their sexual agenda ["identity"] are not unhappy."

My, it sounds as if Putin knows more about what's going on in America than Attorney General Merrick Garland does.

But such remarks aren't unusual for Putin. In fact, it's ironic: The Soviet Union used to call the West decadent while we called it godless.

Now Putin has been criticizing the West for being decadent and godless. "Many Euro-Atlantic countries have moved away from their roots, including Christian values," he said in a December 2013 State of the Nation speech.

"Policies are being pursued that place on the same level a multi-child family and a same-sex partnership, a faith in God and a belief in Satan. This is the path to degradation."

This roughly coincided with Russia's enactment of laws prohibiting homosexual propaganda, and was a salvo against both the West's Great Sexual Heresy and what enables it: relativism.

In another shot at relativism, Putin also stated in 2013, "Society is now required ... to accept without question the equality of good and evil, strange as it seems, concepts that are opposite in meaning."

The Russian president then took aim at multiculturalism: "Today, many nations are revising their moral values and ethical norms, eroding ethnic traditions and differences between peoples and cultures."

This was followed in 2014 by the release of Russian Culture War 2.0. In a document called "Foundations of the State Cultural Policy," the Kremlin doubled down and wrote, "Russia must be viewed as a unique and original civilization that cannot be reduced to 'East' or 'West.'... A concise way of formulating this stand would be, 'Russia is not Europe.'" The document goes on to state that Russia rejects "such principles as multiculturalism and tolerance" and "projects imposing alien values on society."

Now is it clear why our Left hates Putin so much? He's white, male, at least nominally Christian, straight, and absolutely unwoke.

While Putin is certainly an authoritarian leader who is no friend of the liberties championed by patriotic Americans, he understands that vice — or "openness to new lifestyle choices," as the leftists would put it — degrades societal fabric. After all, he was once part of the KGB, an entity that used to encourage "liberal" ideas (e.g., acceptance of perversion) in America as part of a "demoralization" process.

by Selwyn Duke



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