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Inside Track

Media's Liberal Bias May Backfire in Elections



Just three days after Pew Research reported on September 11 that nearly two-thirds of Americans think the news stories they read, hear, and watch are biased, along came Gallup on September 14 with a similar conclusion.

Pew found that 63 percent of its respondents doubted the veracity and neutrality of the stories they get from the mainstream media, a full 10-percent decline just since 2007. Pew also reported that the mainstream media finds itself in increasing financial difficulty owing not only to increasing distrust by its readers but competition from Internet-based sources.

For instance, newspaper advertising dropped by 29 percent during just the first six months of 2016, while ad revenue on broadcast stations declined by 12 percent in the same period. Radio advertising also took a hit, falling by 23 percent from January through July.

According to Pew, "The news media's credibility has been eroding since 1985. Back then, 55 percent of those polled believed newspapers and broadcasters generally got things right. By 1999 that number had fallen to 37 percent," while the latest poll found just 29 percent believing that the news they were reading could be trusted for accuracy and neutrality.

On September 14 Gallup reported, "Americans' trust and confidence in the mass media to 'report the news fully, accurately and fairly' has dropped to its lowest level in Gallup polling history ... down eight percentage points from last year."

Gallup showed the loss of trust is across all demographics, including age and political party. In the last year, Republicans' loss of trust in the media dropped from 32 percent to just 14 percent, while Democrats' fell from 55 percent to 51 percent. Independents also lost trust in the mainstream media, with their trust falling from 33 percent to 30 percent.

As that loss of trust continues to grow, it's possible that the liberal media bias could actually work against itself, particularly in the upcoming November presidential elections.

By Bob Adelman



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Taxpayer Dollars Buying Immigrant Votes for Democrats



The Obama administration continues to devote taxpayer dollars to register new immigrant voters (i.e., Democratic voters) in time for the November election. After spending \$19 million early this year on the registration efforts, the administration dedicated another \$10 million in September.

Judicial Watch reported September 6, “The money is distributed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Homeland Security Agency that oversees lawful immigration, to organizations that help enhance pathways to naturalization by offering immigrants free citizenship instruction, English, U.S. History and civics courses.”

The agency has spent a significant amount of money on these grants, \$63 million since 2009, to prepare more than 150,000 immigrants for citizenship, according to Judicial Watch.

Judicial Watch contends that the program is clearly intended to qualify “as many immigrants as possible to vote since they tend to cast ballots for Democrats.” The \$10 million grant is targeting more than a dozen states, including Ohio and Florida, both of which are key swing states that can make a big difference in November.

A 2014 report from the Center for Immigration Studies revealed that increased immigration amounts to a growing Democratic voter base. “The enormous flow of legal immigrants into the country — 29.5 million from 1980 to 2012 — has remade and continues to remake the nation’s electorate in favor of the Democratic Party,” concluded the report. “As the immigrant population has grown, Republican electoral prospects have dimmed, even after controlling for alternative explanations of GOP performance.”

Meanwhile, at the same time that the Obama administration is pouring taxpayer dollars into recruiting new Democratic voters, it is simultaneously fighting state voter ID laws that seek to prevent voter fraud. In other words, even when the administration cannot turn enough immigrants into legal voters, the absence of voter ID laws can ensure that illegal immigrants can cast their ballots in November.

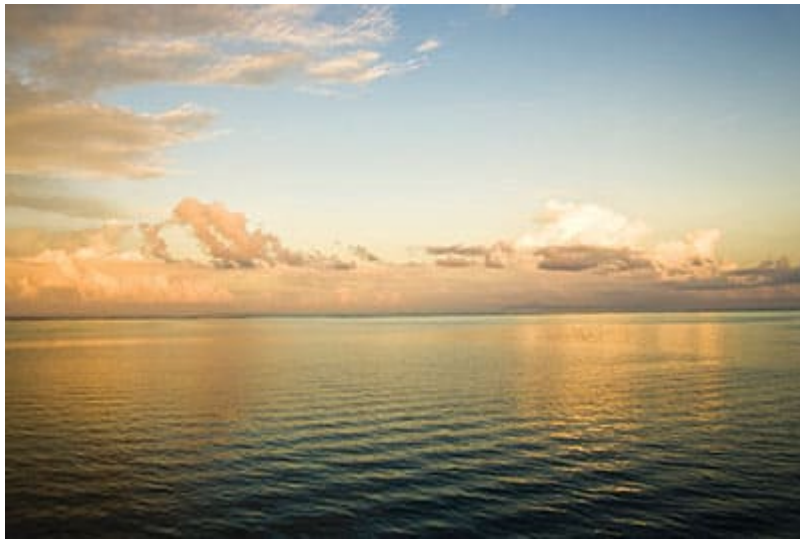
By Raven Clabough

No Rising Seas Due to Global Warming



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Despite the gloom-and-doom predictions often made by pundits associated with the environmental lobby, several recent studies show that there is no evidence to indicate that alleged global warming caused by human activity has contributed to the rise of sea levels.

A September 14 report from CNS News compiled citations from “four peer-reviewed studies,” as well as other reports concluding that there was “no observable sea-level effect of anthropogenic global warming.”

The first report cited by CNS, written by environmental specialist Kenneth Richard, was posted on September 1 by NoTricks-Zone, a website specializing in climate-related topics. Richard cited Dr. Nils-Axel Mörner, whom he described as “a renowned sea-level expert who has authored over 200 peer-reviewed scientific publications during his career,” who “recently confirmed there has been a lack of climate-related sea level rise in areas of the world where disastrous climate-related sea level rise has been assumed to already be occurring: the Maldives and along the coasts of Bangladesh.”

Another study cited by CNS was a paper published on May 18 by a team led by Dr. Hindumathi Palanisamy. Palanisamy noted that by studying “sea level spatial trend patterns in the tropical Pacific and attempting to eliminate signal corresponding to the main internal climate mode, we show that the remaining residual sea level trend pattern does not correspond to externally forced anthropogenic sea level signal.”

In addition, noted CNS, the Earth’s coasts actually gained land over the past 30 years: A team of researchers led by Gennadii Donchyts from the Deltares Research Institute in the Netherlands found that the Earth’s surface gained a total of 22,393 square miles of land during the past 30 years, including 13,000 square miles in coastal areas — areas where rising sea levels would be expected to decrease land area.

Another point not taken into consideration in these reports is that human activity may have no direct effect on global warming, and many scientists maintain that global warming (whatever its causes may be) has ceased.

By Warren Mass



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North American Oil Discoveries Continue to Frustrate OPEC



Apache Corporation, the sixth-largest independent oil and gas producer in the United States, announced September 7 that it has found a new gargantuan reserve of oil and natural gas in West Texas that could be one of the largest energy finds in the last decade. At the low end, the new “Alpine High” field could contain two billion barrels of oil plus massive natural gas reserves. More importantly, especially to OPEC members gearing up to find ways to raise prices, the company’s estimated profit margin is 30 percent after taking into account all expected development costs, even with crude selling at below \$50 a barrel.

Apache has already drilled 19 wells into the new field and has committed one-fourth of its capital budget this year to develop the field further. The profit potential for natural gas is nearly off the charts: The company’s break-even point is just 10 cents per million British thermal units (BTUs) while the market price for natural gas closed Tuesday at \$2.72.

The discovery is also going to turn OPEC’s plans to cap production in order to drive prices higher upside down. OPEC is currently plotting ways that it can drive the price of crude higher in response to increasing pleas from members such as Venezuela and Algeria for higher prices.

Acceptable or not, oil prices are headed lower, according to both Morgan Stanley and Bank of America. Earlier this year, Morgan Stanley estimated that the price of crude would move higher, but just cut its third-quarter forecast from \$50 a barrel to \$45. On August 25, Bank of America estimated that demand for crude would decline further than expected.

OPEC is now in a pickle of its own creation: If it cuts production in order to drive prices higher, this will only further encourage U.S. producers to bring more rigs online. If they continue to flood the market, their budget deficits will get even larger while still losing precious market share to the Americans.

By Bob Adelman



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