New American

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Inside Track

UN-linked "Elections Monitors" to Oversee U.S. Election

A swarm of hundreds of United Nations-linked "international election monitors," many of them hailing from nations ruled by repressive dictatorships, will descend on the United States this year to supervise and "monitor" America's elections. The horde of international bureaucrats for the November elections will be 10 times larger than the smaller "monitoring" mission that sparked a national uproar in 2012. Last time around, Texas even threatened to arrest the monitors, and for good reason. The mission of the international outfit, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), founded in large part by Yugoslavian and Soviet communists, is supposedly to combat alleged "voter suppression" by conservatives.

A coalition of radical anti-American organizations and Hillary Clinton supporters claims that the UNlinked monitors are needed in case of Republican efforts to rig the vote — especially after the courts struck down as unconstitutional various federal schemes related to the misnamed "Voting Rights Act." The news about the massive international observer mission comes amid growing fears about the Obama administration, which has been lawlessly supporting Clinton with federal resources while openly threatening to illegally nationalize America's election systems under the guise of declaring them "critical infrastructure."

The revelations about the international "full-scale" mission of "elections monitors" is likely to add fuel to the fire of concerns among Republicans and Trump supporters, especially since many of the "elections monitors" are actually agents of brutal communist dictatorships, including the ones enslaving Belarus, Azerbaijan, and other oppressed nations.

The ironically titled OSCE "Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights" announced a plan to deploy 100 "long-term" agents and 400 "short-term observers" to supervise U.S. elections on November 8. Incredibly, the outfit claims the United States "has an obligation" to submit to having its elections "observed" by the controversial globalist entity. The OSCE has also claimed it would monitor "compliance" with unspecified "international obligations" supposedly applicable to the United States.

The United States should withdraw from any and all international organizations that include brutal dictatorships as members — and especially those that would seek to interfere in America's internal affairs, such as the OSCE and the UN.

EU President Juncker Calls Borders "Worst Invention Ever Made"

Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission (the executive branch of the European Union), said during a talk at the Alpbach Media Academy in Austria on August 22, "Borders are the worst invention ever made by politicians."

Juncker's take on borders came in the context of a statement in which he said, "We have to fight against nationalism. We have the duty not to follow populists but to block the avenue of populists."

Juncker, speaking to the members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on September 9, 2015, had asked EU members to each accept 160,000 migrants.

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While Juncker's pitch to the European Parliament members began with the obvious statement, "As long as there is war in Syria and terror in Libya, the refugee crisis will not simply go away," his words also made plain how much national sovereignty member states have surrendered to the EU.

A report in Britain's *Telegraph* for August 22 quoted a response to Juncker's statement from the office of Prime Minister Theresa May: "This is not something that the Prime Minister would agree with and, indeed, you have heard the Prime Minister talk about the views that the British people expressed in the referendum. The British people think that borders are important, having more control over our borders is important, and that is an issue we need to address."

The *Telegraph* noted that May and French President François Hollande reached a "very clear" agreement last month to keep Britain's border controls in Calais, France, in a move to assuage fears that they could move to Dover after Brexit is completed. Calais is the site of a large refugee camp where thousands of migrants from North Africa and the Middle East reside in makeshift camps.

Billionaires Buy Baltimore Police Department Secret Spy Plane

On August 24, the *Baltimore Sun* reported that "a Texas-based private donor supplied \$120,000 intended for the city surveillance project but delivered to the nonprofit Baltimore Community Foundation, which manages at least two charitable funds for police."

Thomas E. Wilcox, president of the foundation, told the paper he had no idea how the money was being used to spy on citizens. "We did not know anything about a surveillance program," Wilcox said. "We do 3,000 grants a year. Someone asks us to give a grant to an organization, whether it's Wounded Warrior or the YMCA, we make the grant." Of course, neither Wounded Warrior nor the YMCA conduct warrantless, secret surveillance of hundreds of thousands of Americans without even the slightest suspicion of wrongdoing.

In an August 24 article describing the program, *Bloomberg* reported that "since January, Persistent Surveillance Systems has been flying planes high over Baltimore and gathering footage across 30 square miles at a time. The footage can be reviewed to try to gather information about crimes. The firm's founder referred to the technology as being like "Google Earth with Tivo capability."

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, the Baltimore surveillance program was funded by Texas-based billionaire philanthropists Laura and John Arnold. "We personally provided financial support for the aerial surveillance tool being piloted in Baltimore," the couple said. "As a society, we should seek to understand whether these technologies yield significant benefits, while carefully weighing any such benefits against corresponding trade-offs to privacy."

That is a false dichotomy. There is no constitutional contemplation of balancing privacy with "significant benefits" of unwarranted surveillance of thousands of individuals, none of whom is under reasonable suspicion of any wrongdoing.

Baltimore will serve as a test case for the acceptability of these partnerships between the police and the very wealthy for extra-constitutional programs. And if Baltimore is any indicator of how such schemes will be set up, the arrangement will be created and carried out without being subject to deliberation by the people or their elected leaders, even when such consideration is mandated by law.

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Britain's *Daily Mail* observed that the unpopularity of Juncker's comments criticizing European nationalism "will further undermine Mr. Juncker's precarious position as European Commission President."

Fully Self-driving Cars by 2021, Says Ford CEO

On August 16, during a hectic day of media interviews about the coming revolution being caused by autonomous vehicles (AVs), Ford's CEO Mark Fields told Wall Street analysts that such vehicles "could have just as significant an impact on society as [Henry] Ford's moving assembly line did 100 years ago." He told workers at a Ford plant in Palo Alto, "This is a transformational moment in our industry.... It is a transformational moment in our company. We are making people's lives better by changing the way the world moves."

He said that his company's foray begins with e-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft and will expand to the consumer market by 2021 if not sooner.

He's not alone. Johann Jungwirth, Volkswagen's head of digitalization strategy, said in April that he expects the first completely self-driving cars to be on the market no later than 2019, just three years from now. GM's Richard Holman, head of the company's "foresight and trends" division, agrees, telling the *Wall Street Journal* in April that they "will be on the road by 2020, or sooner."

Uber just might beat them all to the punch. By the end of this month, customers in downtown Pittsburgh will be able to e-hail self-driving vehicles through their Uber phone app. And those rides will be free in order to acquaint them with the new technology. Uber's goal, according to John Bares, who joined the company from Carnegie Mellon University's robotics department last year, is to replace every one of Uber's more than one million human drivers with self-driving cars "as quickly as possible."

Fields could be more correct than he knows. The moving assembly line turned the world upside down 100 years ago. The AV revolution is likely to do the same.



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