





Inside Track

Continuing Cultural Cave-in: Boy Scouts Welcome Girls

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced October 11 that it will acquiesce to "requests" that it allow females into its ranks, welcoming girls into its Cub Scout program (traditionally for younger-aged boys) and offering "a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout," according to a BSA press release.

In a statement, BSA CEO Michael Surbaugh insisted that the move "is true to the BSA's mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting — trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave, and reverent, for example — are important for both young men and women." He added that it was necessary for the BSA to change "how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best — developing character and leadership for young people — to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders."

The latest move is consistent with a conspicuous cultural cave-in the BSA has suffered over the past several years. While for over a century the Boy Scouts steadfastly maintained a policy against immoral behavior and lifestyles, in 2014 BSA officials announced that the organization would allow boys who self-identify as homosexual to join its ranks.

However, many others have responded to the BSA cultural cave-in by ending their involvement in the Boy Scout program and putting their boys into alternative programs such as Trail Life USA, which states that its mission is "to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure."

Among those criticizing the latest BSA policy change is the leadership of the Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA), which understandably fears that the welcoming of girls into Boy Scouts will result in fewer girls joining GSUSA. But it is also ironic, since the Girl Scouts' own cultural slide from traditional values has led to many parents choosing alternative youth programs such as American Heritage Girls.

EV Revolution to Drive Oil to \$10 a Barrel, Says Forecaster

Chris Watling, the CEO of Longview Economics, told CNBC on October 12 that Saudi Arabia should hasten the sale of part of its Aramco oil company while the price of crude is still high: "I think they need to get it away quick before oil goes to \$10 [per barrel]." Added Watling: "We forget, don't we? 120 years ago the world didn't live on oil. Oil hasn't always driven the global economy. The point is, alternative energy in some form is gathering speed.... Things are changing."

Watling's views coincide with those of Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) in their 2017 Long Term Electric Vehicle Outlook, which concluded that by 2040 — less than one generation from now — more than half of all new car sales in the world will be electric vehicles (EVs), and a third of the world's total car fleet will be EVs.

BNEF's forecast is that EVs will be price-competitive with gasoline-powered vehicles, on a non-subsidized basis, in less than seven years, and that by 2030 the "tipping point" will have been reached, after which adoption of the new technology will be complete. BNEF's conclusion was revealing: "Fossil



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fuel demand will be displaced by the growing fleet of EVs. We project that [EVs] will displace up to 8 million barrels of transportation fuel per day."

France and the United Kingdom have already put in place mandates eliminating gasoline-powered vehicles from being sold starting in 2040, while China is pouring billions into EV development with a goal of seven million EVs sold annually by no later than 2025. India is on board as well, with its intention of pushing EVs exclusively for its citizens shortly. Scotland just announced that it would ban the sale of diesel and gasoline vehicles by 2032, beating France and the U.K. by eight years.

Carmakers are getting on board. It is estimated that there will be no fewer than 65 new EV models for sale by 2022. Competition and technological improvements will increase that number while reducing their prices in the future.

U.S. Natural Gas Exports to Add Jobs, \$73 Billion to Economy

The latest estimate from American Petroleum Institute (API) is that increased exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) over the next 20 years could add 220,000-450,000 jobs to the American economy and \$73 billion to the country's gross domestic product. "This report confirms that increasing U.S. LNG exports would bring great benefits to American workers and consumers and the U.S. economy. Increasing the use of U.S. natural gas throughout the world means more production here at home, cleaner air, and increased energy security for our nation and our allies," Martin J. Durbin, API's executive vice president and chief strategy officer, stated October 3.

The fracking revolution that has transformed the development of America's crude-oil reserves is also revolutionizing the production of natural gas. Natural gas is the country's largest source of energy production, representing a third of all energy produced in 2016. It has been the largest source of electrical power since July 2015. And the United States has been the world's largest producer of natural gas since 2009.

Now that technology has reduced the cost of liquefying natural gas so it can be transported around the world competitively on ships, other countries will shortly begin enjoying the same type of economic benefits. At present, there are 170 LNG tankers traversing the high seas, up from 150 just a year ago. And demand for natural gas is growing at four times that of crude oil. It's expected that the volume of LNG — up 22 percent in three years — will rise another 21 percent by 2020.

The technology continues to surprise: There are now even *floating* LNG facilities. They cost less than permanent on-shore facilities, can be built in a fraction of the time, and can be moved to where the best opportunities lie. The first floating facility was christened in 2005. Today there are 25 of them.

And not only will the United States continue to enjoy greater economic activity as the demand for natural gas continues to increase, but foreign countries will enjoy similar benefits as LNG drives down their energy costs.

UN: United States Owes Reparations to African-Americans

The United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent issued a report on October 16 stating that the United States owes Americans of African descent reparations for slavery and other incidents of mistreatment, up to the present day. The group suggests that the reparations could come in the form of educational opportunities, psychological rehabilitation, cancellation of debts, and formal





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apologies.

The report links injustices found in American history with what was argued as present injustices. "In particular," it states, "the legacy of colonial history, enslavement, racial subordination and segregation, racial terrorism and racial inequality in the United States remains a serious challenge, as there has been no real commitment to reparations and to truth and reconciliation for people of African descent."

It appears that even though slavery was outlawed throughout the United States with the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865, the United Nations agency is blaming the present U.S. government and its people for slavery in America, dating back to 1620.

The fact of the matter is, slavery existed in Africa for centuries, and is still practiced in some parts of the continent even today. Most of the slaves imported to America throughout the course of the colonial period (it became illegal to import slaves into America in the early 1800s) were already slaves in Africa, and were sold by African leaders to European slave traders.

American slavery is not a proud chapter in our nation's history, but slavery has existed in one form or another in all parts of the world. It is probable that almost all people alive today could count a slave among their ancestors. But expecting reparations for an injustice that happened to one's ancestors decades or even centuries ago would be ludicrous.

So what are we to make of this report by the UN? For one thing, it should alert all Americans, regardless of ethnicity, of the dangers of the United Nations. Like all Marxists, its members are looking to take wealth and redistribute it. That is your wealth, if you are a middle-class American. The only good solution is for the United States to get out of the United Nations — and to get the United Nations out of the United States.

United States Exits UNESCO

On October 12, the U.S. State Department formally notified the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that the United States is leaving the organization, a decision the State Department said "was not taken lightly." The reason for the decision, officials said, includes "U.S. concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organization, and continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO."

The Trump administration said the U.S. government "indicated to the Director General its desire to remain engaged with UNESCO as a non-member observer state in order to contribute U.S. views, perspectives and expertise on some of the important issues undertaken by the organization, including the protection of world heritage, advocating for press freedoms, and promoting scientific collaboration and education." But pursuant to UNESCO's constitution, the United States will withdraw, with the decision taking effect on the last day of 2018 — despite intense lobbying by globalists and foreign powers.

Speaking about the Trump administration's decision, widely criticized UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova issued a statement touting UNESCO and expressing regret over the U.S. government's move. "At the time when conflicts continue to tear apart societies across the world, it is deeply regrettable for the United States to withdraw from the United Nations agency promoting education for peace and protecting culture under attack," she said. "This is a loss to the United Nations family. This is a loss for multilateralism." Multilateralism is another term for globalism.





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Even before the Trump administration announced an "Amexit" from UNESCO, though, relations were already strained. Thanks to 1990s federal laws banning U.S. funding of international organizations that admit the "State of Palestine" as a member, even under the Obama administration, the U.S. government was forced to cut off most American financial support to the UN agency. Of course, Obama tried hard to get around that — and even found creative ways to illegally send U.S. tax money — but the hole in UNESCO's budget, close to 25 percent of its budget, was still catastrophic. UNESCO claims U.S. taxpayers "owe" it about half a billion dollars at this point. Other major donor governments, reacting to UNESCO's extremism and corruption, also withheld funding.

Among the most serious problems identified by critics around the world was UNESCO boss Bokova, a longtime communist operative from Bulgaria, infamous worldwide for lawlessness and corruption. She originally joined the Bulgarian Communist Party as a youth member, despite the party's track record of mass murder and brutality. She later served in senior posts in the communist regime, which murdered hundreds of thousands of people — something for which she has never apologized.

Even the "legitimate" activities of UNESCO under Bokova's leadership have drawn fierce criticism from defenders of liberty, national sovereignty, common sense, education, science, culture, Christianity, biology, and more. Consider, for example, a recent report disgorged by UNESCO that demands propaganda in textbooks pushing globalism, statism, the "LGBT" agenda, and other "values" that the UN agency claims all children must possess. The UN agency has also been working to sexualize children as young as four years old with perverse and wildly inappropriate "sex education."

UNESCO has long been criticized for its obsession with demonizing the tiny Jewish state of Israel. Most recently, the UN outfit came under criticism for adopting a resolution last year describing Israel as an "occupying power" while downplaying the historical Jewish connections to the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and more. Also sparking outrage was the resolution's reference to the "Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif" as holy Muslim sites, completely erasing the historical and religious links of Jews to the sites. In 2015, UNESCO passed a similar resolution purporting to rename famous Jewish historical and religious sites with Arabic names, again sparking global outrage.

The Trump administration made a very wise decision in exiting UNESCO. But it is not enough. While it is a key agency, UNESCO is merely one tentacle of the globalist-controlled monster that is the UN dictators club. To protect the liberties and self-government of the American people over the long term, Congress must act. Fortunately, there is legislation already introduced in Congress, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 193), that would end all U.S. government involvement with the dictators club. Now it is up to the American people to push the effort over the finish line by educating their communities and their elected representatives.







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