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Inside Track

Russia Says New World Order Will Replace the West



Vladimir Putin (Left) and Sergey Lavrov (Right)

kremlin.ru/events/president/news

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said April 12, at his annual meeting with students and professors at the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy, that "the Western, liberal model of society is dying, and a new world order is taking its place."

"The Western liberal model of development, which particularly stipulates a partial loss of national sovereignty — this is what our Western colleagues aimed at when they invented what they called globalization — is losing its attractiveness and is no more viewed as a perfect model for all. Moreover, many people in the very western countries are skeptical about it," Lavrov said.

In contrast, Lavrov hailed "a new geopolitical era marked by 'multipolarity,' stating that 'the emergence of new centers of power to maintain stability in the world requires the search for a balance of interests and compromises.' He said there was a shift in the center of global economic power to East from West," *Newsweek* wrote on April 12, providing further detail.

Newsweek continued, "'Unfortunately, our Western partners led by the United States do not want to agree on common approaches to solving problems,' Lavrov continued, accusing Washington and its allies of trying to 'preserve their centuries-old domination in world affairs despite objective trends in forming a polycentric world order.' He argued that these efforts were 'contrary to the fact that now, purely economically and financially, the United States can no longer — single-handedly or with its closest allies — resolve all issues in the global economy and world affairs.'"

Lavrov touted the necessity of "diplomacy," saying that in an effort to preserve their "dominance and recover their indisputable authority," the United States and its allies "use blackmail and pressure.... They don't hesitate to blatantly interfere in the affairs of sovereign states."

Espousing a seemingly utopian vision, Tass reported Lavrov as saying in 2013 that once the polycentric system is formed, "the world will use shared values from all religions: striving for the good, decency, freedom, responsibility, and respect for the elderly." Yes, and we'll all live happily ever after. The end.



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By Selwyn Duke

Communist Chinese Moving Into the Caribbean



Flickr/kevingenkelley

Only 55 miles east of Palm Beach, Florida, on Grand Bahama Island, a business based in Hong Kong (now controlled by the Chinese Communists) is spending \$3 billion on a deep-water container facility, known as the Freeport Container Port.

The concern is that the port will eventually become a Chinese naval base when the Caribbean island nation is unable to repay a loan for the facility. At that point, the United States will have to contend with warships of a communist superpower in our own region. Lou Dobbs raised the concern on his popular Fox Business Network program on April 4, stating, “China and Russia are engaging us in almost every quarter in this hemisphere. Russia and China in Venezuela, but China throughout the hemisphere and throughout the Caribbean.”

The Freeport facility’s stated economic purpose is to take advantage of the increased traffic expected after the recent expansion of the Panama Canal. But it is feared that this Chinese loan will lead to a repeat of what happened in Sri Lanka. There, the port of Hambantota was turned over to the Chinese with a 99-year lease when the government defaulted on high-interest loans it had received from China.

Of course, the Chinese already have military forces in the communist nation of Cuba, stationed at three locations once held by the Soviet Union. From there, it is believed they can intercept intelligence signals from the United States. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has referred to the installation at Bejucal, south of Havana, as a “Chinese listening station.”

Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific region, told the *Washington Examiner* April 10, “China’s goal is to displace the United States, and they can do that by wreaking havoc in the Western Hemisphere.... You’ve basically created a Chinese security surveillance state at our front door. Eventually it’s a naval base, eventually it’s more technology, and eventually colonialism moves from the economic side to the military side, and that is a danger the United States cannot accept.”

By Steve Byas



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Owing to “Flight Shame,” Some Swedes Feel Too Guilty to Fly



VladTeodor/iStock/Getty Images Plus

What a civilization feels guilty about speaks volumes. In Sweden, it's not stealing children and putting them in abusive foster care, proposing a special tax on just one sex, trying to compel boys to tinkle sitting down, or silencing dissent with hate-speech laws. But pangs of conscience over flying on airplanes and increasing your Carbon Footprint™ are a different story. In fact, Swedes even have a name for such shame: *Flygskam*.

As the AFP reported April 10: “Saddled with long dark winters at home, Swedes have for decades been frequent flyers seeking out sunnier climes, but a growing number are changing their ways because of air travel’s impact on the climate. ‘Flygskam,’ or flight shame, has become a buzz word referring to feeling guilt over the environmental effects of flying, contributing to a trend that has more and more Swedes, mainly young, opting to travel by train to ease their conscience.”

Spearheading the movement for trains-over-planes is Sweden’s own Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old climate school striker who refuses to fly, traveling by rail to the World Economic Forum in Davos and the climate summit in Katowice, Poland.

A growing number of public figures have vowed to #stayontheground, including Swedish television skiing commentator Bjorn Ferry, who said last year he would only travel to competitions by train.

And 250 people working in the film industry signed a recent article in the country’s biggest daily, *Dagens Nyheter*, calling for Swedish film producers to limit shoots abroad.

An anonymous Swedish Instagram account created in December has been shaming social-media profiles and influencers for promoting trips to far-flung destinations, racking up more than 60,000 followers.

One beneficiary of Swedes going off the rails mentally and to the rails literally may be national rail operator SJ, which “reported a 21 percent boost in business travel this winter,” the AFP informs.

Another beneficiary may be us. After all, since there isn’t yet a train from Stockholm to New York, at least the leftist Swedes may stay on their side of the pond.

By Selwyn Duke



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Retired Pope Benedict XVI Places Blame for Sexual-abuse Scandal



AP Images

“It could be said that in the 20 years from 1960 to 1980, the previous normative standards regarding sexuality collapsed entirely, and a new normalcy arose that has by now been the subject of laborious attempts at disruption,” wrote Joseph Ratzinger, the retired Pope Benedict XVI, in an essay of 6,000 words, published Thursday in the German monthly *Klerusblatt* and by the Catholic News Agency.

The former pope’s essay was an analysis of the causes of the sexual-abuse scandal that has rocked the Roman Catholic Church in recent years in several countries, including Ireland, Chile, Australia, France, and the United States. The effects of the scandal have been enormous, including a swing away in devotion to the Catholic Church in Ireland, which helped to flip that nation from a pro-life country on the abortion issue to a nation that ignored the teachings of the church to pass laws legalizing the grisly practice.

Benedict listed three main causes of the scandal — the effects of the “sexual revolution” of the 1960s, homosexual cliques in Catholic seminaries, and a general collapse of morality.

“Why did pedophilia reach such proportions?” Benedict asked in his essay. “Ultimately, the reason is the absence of God.”

He also took aim at the formation of “homosexual cliques,” which he charged “acted more or less openly and significantly changed the climate.”

Some took exception to Benedict’s hard-hitting essay. Christopher Bellitto, for example, a church historian, argued that the abusive priests were from across “the ideological spectrum,” and that the abuse was occurring long before the sexual revolution of the 1960s. Bellitto challenged the charge that pedophilia was mostly a homosexual problem.

Others, however, contend that Benedict’s essay is more accurate in its diagnosis of the problem. While there has no doubt been some sexual abuse in the Catholic Church for centuries, it is probable that a more lenient stance toward sexual sin not only in the Catholic Church, but in Protestant Christianity and the culture in general, has greatly increased the severity of the problem.



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“Moderate” Democrats Terrified of Party’s Hard-left Move

Such is the leftward lurch of the Democratic Party that its “moderates,” such as they are, believe the out-and-out kookery voters are hearing from Democratic presidential candidates will lead, as the *Washington Post* put it on April 11, to “disaster” in 2020.

Thus are the “moderates” desperately trying to inject at least a few sane ideas into the coming debate over who will face President Trump next year.

Problem is, the “moderates” don’t seem to understand how far out the party is, and how much control the radical fringe has, if what the *Post* reported as their concerns is correct.

The *Post* correctly reported that moderates believe “the latest wave of far-left ideas ... could lead to electoral disaster in 2020,” and say the moderates offer ideas not nearly as nutty as those from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and her mentor, communist apologist Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

“Environmentalists are drafting alternatives to the Green New Deal,” the *Post* reported. “Candidates who have endorsed Medicare-for-all are open to backing more incremental plans. And the economic strategist who helped steer the last two Democratic presidents is warning that liberal tax proposals could backfire.”

“Moderates” such as failed Senate candidate “Beto” O’Rourke, former Vice President Joe Biden, and Senators Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Michael Bennett of Colorado “all have promised campaigns that will appeal to liberals without dramatically expanding the federal role in the economy.”

Thus, “instead of the government health care for all proposed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), they are pushing public options or marginal Medicare expansions. Instead of colossal government spending to solve climate change, they are offering market-based solutions. Instead of heavy taxes on the ultrarich, they are focused on closing loopholes and expanding tax breaks for the middle class.”

The *Post* noted that “moderate voices were sidelined in the first months of the 2020 campaign by a group of charismatic liberals who have found traction ... with policy ideas far more disruptive than anything ever embraced by former president Barack Obama, the party’s longtime standard-bearer.”

But the *Post* piece focused principally on healthcare, the environment, and the economy, and ignored the party’s radicalism on the social issues.

The party resolutely opposes bills that would stop infanticide. Democrats in the House and Senate have, on 10 occasions, blocked legislation that would criminalize murdering infants who somehow survive an abortion.

The party has also thrown in with the LGBTQ lobby. Democrats in the House want to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include “transgenders” as deserving protection from “discrimination.” The bill would require public schools to give boys who claim they are girls access to locker rooms and girls’ sports teams.

All of the serious Democratic presidential candidates support a bill that would “study” reparations for slavery, a plainly stupid idea that most voters oppose, polls show.



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Why the *Post* didn't mention those matters is anyone's guess. Yet a good guess might be that the Democrats are so far gone on infanticide, deviant sex, and racial socialism that advocating them doesn't seem all that radical. Thus the focus on what "moderates" think are the real problems: Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, and ruinous taxes on the wealthy and productive.

In other words, the "moderates" the *Post* describes might be wasting their time. To the degree they support infanticide and racial socialism and deny the reality of biological sex differences, they are part of the problem.

Besides that, calling O'Rourke a moderate rather explains how far gone the party and its media auxiliary are as well. In addition to supporting reparations for slavery, he wants to tear down all barriers between the United States and Mexico.

Old-time Democrats are indeed worried about a repeat of 1972, when President Richard Nixon shellacked George McGovern 49 states to one, 570 electoral votes to 17. Echoing MSNBC's liberal talker Chris Matthews, Democrat Larry Summers, former secretary of the treasury, says the party, as the *Post* paraphrased his view, "has been down a similar road in the past, with painful results." Because of their anger at Nixon and disappointment in Hubert Humphrey's performance in 1968, Summers said, Democrats "gravitated to radical redistribution economic policy, focused on turning out their activists and failed to focus on the middle. The result was the political catastrophe of Richard Nixon's reelection."

Maybe 2020 will be another "catastrophe" and end in the reelection of Donald Trump.

By R. Cort Kirkwood



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