



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on August 24, 2020

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Correction, Please!

Media Don the “Moderate” Mask on Biden, Even as His Extremist Policies Prove Otherwise



Item: *In its July 4-10 issue, with a cover story on Joe Biden called “Retro or radical?” the Economist touts the potential Democratic president’s “instinctive caution.” It is, asserts the London-based publication, “Mr Biden’s caution that opens up the possibility of more change than a real radical would.” The conclusion of the magazine said: “It is by cleaving to the centre that he can best lead America in a new direction.”*

Item: *The leftist Washington Post carried a July 12 editorial entitled “Mr. Biden sets a mostly moderate economic course.” “On the whole,” asserts the Post, “Mr. Biden has managed to keep a relatively moderate policy course even as he acknowledged ... that current crises create a ‘tremendous opportunity for the nation ... an opportunity to address fundamental inequities of our nation, the growing gap between the very wealthy and everyone else.’”*

Item: *With an eye toward those even further to the left, the New York Times on occasion adapts the narrative a bit. A July 7 article (“Inching Left on Climate, Biden Woos Progressives”), the Times took note of Biden’s move to “engage younger, more liberal voters — and to ensure that they turn out in November.”*

Item: *In his Bloomberg News outlet, Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City and erstwhile left-wing presidential candidate, praised Biden for his “clean energy” plans. In a July 16 piece, Bloomberg said the former vice president “has drastically ratcheted up his ambition for the fight against climate change.”*

Bloomberg went on: “If elected, [Biden] now promises to spend \$2 trillion over four years to give the U.S. a mighty shove toward emissions reductions in not only electric power but also transportation, buildings, housing and other areas.”

He also extolled Biden for his promise to “give the auto industry incentives to develop electric vehicles, subsidize the retrofitting of millions of polluting buildings, plug abandoned oil and gas wells, promote climate-friendly agriculture, and invest in emissions-free public transit and intercity rail.”

Item: *In a July 5 tweet, Joe Biden (or someone on his team who actually knows how to work the Twitter machine) proclaimed: “We’re going to beat Donald Trump. And when we do, we won’t just rebuild this nation — we’ll transform it.”*



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Correction: Some might call an assurance to transform the entire United States a promise. However, when you vow that the debt-ridden federal government will expend multiple trillions of tax dollars in largely unconstitutional fashion to alter the nation's very foundation, that pledge is more accurately described as a threat.

The former vice president, you see, doesn't want to solve problems; he wants to subsidize them — with funding ripped out of our pockets and redistributed by a meddling government that (even before the pandemic) was already borrowing nearly \$2 million every minute.

Biden has ballyhooed about a “breathtaking opportunity.” His mounting spending designs are indeed enough to take one's breath — with numbers that beggar both belief and wallets.

As it is, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal budget deficit was \$2.7 trillion in the first nine months of fiscal year 2020. That is \$2.0 trillion more than the deficit recorded during the same period last year. As chief executive, Joe would go higher, much higher: He's already promulgated spending plans approaching \$10 trillion.

In mid-July, a *Wall Street Journal* breakdown revealed that Biden's spending plans for housing, education, and health, among others, would total around \$7 trillion over the next decade. About \$4 trillion of that would come from tax increases. The schemes for a spree are just getting started. Following is a summary from the *Federalist*. Later in July, writes Tristan Justice,

Biden unveiled a new \$775 billion proposal for government-run childcare with additional taxpayer programs for the elderly. The latest program comes just days after Biden announced a \$2 trillion package to ensure “environmental justice” hashed out with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' team to pile onto the \$7 trillion in spending already proposed, according to a *Wall Street Journal* analysis. The total price tag for the Biden agenda now stands at nearly \$10 trillion with more on the way, which is already triple what was put forward by 2016 Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

Remember when Bernie Sanders was considered too radical for most Democrats? Well, the party is now promoting Sanderism, albeit without Bernie on the top of the ticket.

In early July, Biden's campaign folks released the 110-page “Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force Recommendations”; this was the work of six joint task forces appointed in May by the former competitors. “The goals of the task force were to move the Biden campaign into as progressive a direction as possible, and I think we did that,” Sanders told NPR. “On issue after issue, whether it was education, the economy, health care, climate, immigration, criminal justice, I think there was significant movement on the part of the Biden campaign.” That is fodder for progressive voters.

The “centrist” tag often draped around Biden by the mainstream media is a disguise — a “moderate” facade for non-radical voters, while the operative policies go to the Sanderista wing of the party.

Some are not fooled by the moderate mask. Notably, consider that former Communist Party USA national candidate and Black Panther Angela Davis has publicly endorsed Joe Biden. Not surprisingly, that got little media play. In mid-July, the Marxist academic and Lenin Peace Prize recipient told RT (formerly Russia Today), a Moscow-funded propaganda outlet, that Biden is the candidate who “can be most effectively pressured into allowing more space for the evolving anti-racist movement,” her euphemism for revolutionary action. “Biden,” said the radical, “is far more likely to take mass demands seriously.” How reassuring.



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On the other hand, if you want the U.S. economy to run efficiently, don't look to the Biden-Sanders plans. They are big on, among others, greenie favorites wind and solar and inimical toward the fossil fuels that largely power the land. Eco-activists are enthused over subsidizing energy sources that fizzle when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Richard Epstein, a senior fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, points out that the "total contribution" of wind and solar to the U.S. energy mix is

about 6.94 percent and 2.7 percent respectively, whereas fossil fuels amount for about 80 percent of total energy. Standing alone, these numbers do not convey either good or bad news. If those relative yields are the result of competitive forces, then renewables represent a useful addition to the portfolio of energy resources. But that's not so if those numbers reflect market distortions introduced by the use of subsidies for fossil fuels and clean energy sources.

And on that score, Epstein notes, cash subsidies for such renewable sources "have increased in recent years, with 80 percent of the \$100 billion subsidy coming in the last decade."

Meanwhile, the Biden-Sanders energy plans are about more than electricity: The package even creates a new "Environmental and Climate Justice Division" within the Department of Justice. Isn't that uplifting? And, as pointed out in *Axios*, Biden's latest climate-change and clean-energy plan "mentions the word union more than it does the climate itself." (More on unionization is below.) With \$2 trillion to distribute, there's also plenty of potential "green pork" in the climate plan too, as has been discussed by columnist Holman Jenkins, Jr.

The plan "connects tackling climate change with the economic recovery from the coronavirus crisis, while also addressing racism," in the words of the *New York Times*. Jenkins is not impressed. "Serious problems deserve to be treated seriously. If your surgeon told you he was going to address racism and the economy along with your coronary blockage, you would get off the table and run away."

This is apparently what happens when you intend to "transform" the entire country with Bernie-style socialism. Biden himself has repeatedly talked about having an "FDR-style administration" — parroting the fiction that huge spending and more intrusive government rescued the United States from the Depression. It didn't; the economy didn't recover until federal regulations and "aid" were curtailed after WWII.

The Great Depression endured *after* the New Deal began — and the Second New Deal. The median unemployment rate was 17.2 percent from 1934 to 1940. Moreover, unemployment did not go below 14 percent throughout the 1930s (*FDR's Follies: How Roosevelt and His New Deal Prolonged the Great Depression*, Jim Powell, 2003).

We should have learned that massive expenditures and intervention are not the way for us to go. Biden-Sanders policies would simultaneously cost more and hurt the economy. Investment advisor Philip DeMuth, author of the *Overtaxed Investor*, has explained:

If a President Biden has his way, the top capital-gains tax rate will be 39.6% — the same as for ordinary income. This could be a triple whammy: cutting the estate tax exemption in half, eliminating the capital gains reset to fair market value, and then doubling the capital-gains tax rate. A small step for the government, a giant loss for the American family.

It would be one thing, continues DeMuth,



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if Mr. Biden were campaigning on a return to fiscal probity, a sound dollar, balancing the budget, and slashing the national debt, but he isn't. The former vice president's ambitious spending programs would more than offset any new revenue from his tax proposals. The nonpartisan Tax Foundation concludes the Biden tax plan would reduce the size of the economy by 1.51% over the long run and lead to 585,000 fewer full-time equivalent jobs while lowering after-tax income for all income quintiles. This isn't a debate between growing the pie vs. redistributing the pie; it is about everyone settling for a smaller pie.

Some people, to be sure, would do better under a Biden administration — including certain government employees and union bosses. Should his agenda prevail, it would be a bigger payday and a payoff for organized labor, especially public-sector unions. The Biden-Sanders "unity" folks want to get rid of right-to-work laws (currently in 27 states and Guam) and end secret ballots in union elections.

The *City Journal's* Steven Malanga, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, observes that if Biden is elected,

he would look to pass national legislation requiring state and local governments to recognize and bargain with government unions. No Democratic president supported by a Democratic Congress has ever seriously pushed this idea; it's among the most radical proposals in a platform that would rewrite much of U.S. labor law, including for government workers.

Indeed, as Malanga notes, Franklin D. Roosevelt "famously observed that strikes by government workers would be 'unthinkable and intolerable,'" while labor leader George Meany said "it is impossible to bargain collectively with the government."

There are plenty of other items in the "unity" agenda promulgated by the Sanderistas that would damage the economy. These include the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps and requirements to spend wildly on retrofitting cars and buildings to the government's liking. It will take more than a tax on the "rich" to fund such programs. A study by the Competitive Enterprise Institute reveals that the retrofitting of buildings and cars would cost the average family thousands every year.

Many radical progressives undoubtedly preferred Bernie Sanders to Biden. But most will support the Sanderista socialism in the unity agenda. For example, the political action executive director of the extremist MoveOn organization (which backed Sanders in 2016) has acknowledged that Biden is "running on the most progressive platform in Democratic Party history," saying his election "would create an opportunity for the big, structural changes this country needs. MoveOn members are proud to mobilize to support him." How nice for them.

Biden doesn't call himself a socialist, but he is essentially running under the socialist standard — even as the mass media call him a moderate. He also swears that his views are not pie-in-the-sky dreams. Actually, when it comes to government intervention and spending, it seems that the sky is the only limit.

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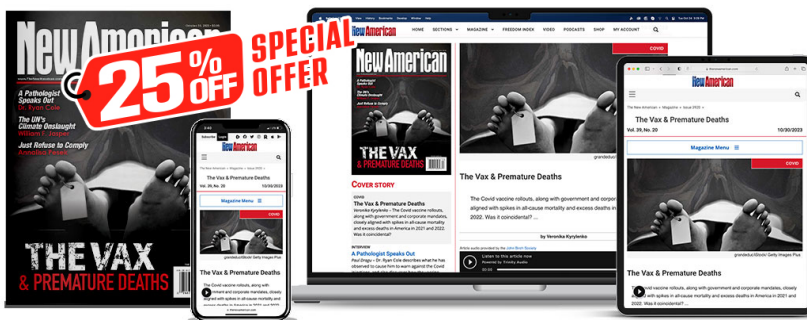
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