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## Inside Track

### Polar Bears Doing Just Fine, According to New Report



*Alexey\_SeaFarer/iStock/Getty Images Plus*

Just in time for International Polar Bear Day — February 27 — came some good news for the hypercarnivorous, Arctic-dwelling species. Canadian zoologist Susan Crockford has published the *State of the Polar Bear Report 2020*, in which she concludes that the bears' allegedly dire situation is improving despite climate-alarmist concerns that the animal is almost assured of going extinct due to the scourge of anthropogenic global warming.

For years now, climate alarmists have been using images of polar bears supposedly “stranded” on ice floes as evidence that global warming is destroying the habitat of the apex predators, thus putting the species at risk of extinction.

But according to Crockford's report, published February 26 by the Global Warming Policy Foundation, polar bears, at least currently, are not so stressed. Global populations for polar bears appear to be on the rise.

In fact, 2020 seems to have been a banner year for the species, despite 2020 having the second-lowest September Arctic sea-ice extent since 1979. “This indicates summer sea-ice levels are not as critical to polar bear survival as USGS (United States Geological Survey) biologists assumed,” Crockford states in the report.

Despite the low level of summer ice in 2020, Crockford notes, “there were no reports from anywhere around the Arctic that would suggest polar bears were suffering as a result; no starving bears, no drowning bears, and no marked increases in bear conflicts with humans.”

Such reports suggest that summer ice may not be as important to polar bear survival as many researchers believe. “Indeed, contrary to expectations, several studies have shown that polar bears in many regions have been doing better with less summer ice, either because multi-year ice has been replaced with more productive seasonal ice, or because the increased primary productivity that has come with longer open-water seasons has been a net benefit,” Crockford writes.

Instead of being endangered, the global polar bear population appears to be growing or stable among



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most of the subpopulations of the species.

## Major Spike in Business Bankruptcies Due to COVID Lockdowns



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Almost a year after governments at all levels used COVID-19 as a pretext for forced quarantines for the non-sick, causing many businesses to fail, those that survived on loans are now declaring bankruptcy at an all-time high. Court records show that Chapter 11 filings were up nearly 20 percent in 2020 compared with 2019.

The increased debt has become just another liability to businesses who have out-borrowed any reasonable projection of repayment. The COVID debt bubble has burst for many of them, and is stretching to the bursting point for many others. This year will likely see many more businesses declare bankruptcy. The *Washington Post* reported February 26 on the spate of businesses bankrupted by government policies related to COVID. That article also pointed out, "Because bankruptcy filings lag other signals of economic distress, experts say the worst may be yet to come," adding, "Bankruptcies stemming from the 2007 financial crisis didn't peak until 2010."

As the *Post* article shows, the most recent batch of bankruptcies is far from being evenly distributed across the spectrum of businesses:

Bankruptcies filed by entertainment companies in 2020 nearly quadrupled, and filings nearly tripled for oil and gas companies, doubled for computer and software companies and were up 50 percent or more for restaurant owners, real estate companies and retailers, compared with 2019, data from the research firm show. There were 5,236 Chapter 11 filings in 2019, but 6,917 last year, a tally at least 30 percent higher than any of the previous four years.

What the *Post* did not point out is that, as a result of the COVID-regulation-related closures and bankruptcies, Big Business (Amazon as the perfect example) is doing fine while Mom and Pop are being crushed. The middle class is being squeezed out.



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## New Mexico Legislature Makes Abortion-on-demand Permanent



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The New Mexico legislature on February 19 passed a bill guaranteeing unlimited abortion in the state regardless of the fate of *Roe v. Wade*.

According to the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, by a vote of 40-30, with six Democrats and one Republican-turned-Independent joining all Republicans in opposition, the New Mexico House of Representatives approved legislation repealing a 1969 law that “criminalizes performing an abortion procedure as a fourth-degree felony, or a second-degree felony in the case of the patient’s death. It grants exceptions in cases where a pregnancy threatens the life or health of the mother, the child is likely to suffer a ‘grave physical or mental defect,’ or when the pregnancy results from rape or incest.”

The statute has not been enforced since 1973, when *Roe* was decided, but pro-abortion forces fear the Supreme Court could overturn *Roe* in the near future. The *Sun-News* reported that Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) has made repeal of the dormant law “one of [her] major legislative goals,” an indicator of just how skewed her priorities are.

Pro-life representatives, on the other hand, “argued abortions end the lives of unborn children who do not have a voice for themselves,” wrote the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Pro-lifers also argued that the bill “would repeal the only conscience protections for medical workers in the state,” reported LifeNews.com on February 22. “Currently, the statute protects medical workers from discrimination if they refuse to abort an unborn baby on moral or religious grounds.”

Republicans attempted to offer amendments to retain the conscience protections, but the amendments were rejected.

The bill now heads to the governor, who, of course, has said she will sign it. In so doing, she will also be consigning countless future New Mexicans to death before they ever lay eyes on the Land of Enchantment.



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## **Trumpism Is the New Conservatism: What CPAC 2021 Really Taught Us**

On the road outside Orlando's Hyatt Regency hotel, hundreds of exuberant conservatives lined the sidewalk bearing Trump signs, waving Trump flags, and sporting Trump hats and Trump-themed T-shirts as they engaged in ecstatic chants in eager anticipation of the 45th American president's arrival on Sunday, February 28 to deliver the closing speech at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, or CPAC.

The environment inside wasn't much different. A common theme tied together the various speeches and panels that took place during the conservative movement's four-day equivalent of the Super Bowl: an unabashed dedication to the principles espoused by President Donald Trump.

On Friday, February 26, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared that "we cannot, we will not, go back to the days of the failed Republican establishment of yesteryear. We reject open borders and instead support American sovereignty and the American worker. Building a movement on amnesty and cheap foreign labor is like building a house on a field of quicksand."

Later the same day, Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Florida's former governor, likewise railed against open borders, while Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) spoke of "oligarchs" using mass migration, Big Tech censorship, and the offshoring of American jobs to make the country poorer and less free.

President Trump himself openly took shots at Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and, in one of the highlights of his speech, named a list of "grandstanders" in the House and Senate who voted to impeach and convict him. He insinuated that they should be defeated by primary challengers, even as he confirmed reports that he is vetting candidates whom he will endorse and financially back against establishment incumbents.

"It has just been stated that President Trump's endorsement is the most powerful asset in politics," Trump declared. And it's hard to argue against that statement.

A look at the CPAC crowd shows that, at least when it comes to the fight for the heart of voters, the battle is over, with Donald Trump winning overwhelmingly.

## **After Bombing Syria, Biden Cites UN Charter**



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*AP Images*

In a letter to Congress purporting to justify his February 25 air strikes in eastern Syria, President Joe Biden cited the United Nations Charter, among other sources, as the supposed authority for bombing a foreign nation. Under the U.S. Constitution, however, only the U.S. Congress has the legitimate authority to declare or authorize American involvement in a war.

Responding to outrage among lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, Biden sent a letter on February 27 to congressional leaders to meet the requirements of the War Powers Resolution, explaining the strike and the rationale behind it. According to the document, Biden ordered U.S. military forces to conduct “a targeted military strike against infrastructure in eastern Syria used by Iran-supported non-state militia groups.” Biden also claimed those “militia” groups were “involved” in recent “attacks” that injured a U.S. serviceman in Iraq as well as some contractors. He did not mention that at least 22 people were killed in the U.S. strike on Syria, or that the alleged perpetrators denied involvement.

Perhaps the most chilling element of the letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Pro Tempore Senate President Patrick Leahy was the reference to the UN. “The United States took this action pursuant to the United States’ inherent right of self-defense as reflected in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter,” wrote Biden, as if the UN Charter, authored by a disgraced body chaired by Soviet spy Alger Hiss, were more important than the U.S. Constitution. Of course, the U.S. government has no need for the UN Charter to justify its inherent right of self-defense.

In addition to referencing Article 51, and totally ignoring the clear text of the Constitution, Biden cited a variety of imaginary authorities. “I directed this military action consistent with my responsibility to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad and in furtherance of United States national security and foreign policy interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct United States foreign relations and as commander in chief and chief executive,” Biden claimed.

Biden also cited the unconstitutional “War Powers Resolution,” which purports to allow the president to launch military action for 60 days without congressional approval if the United States is attacked.

Critics from across the political spectrum slammed the illegal bombing of Syria. Former Congressman Ron Paul, who gained a national following of millions of passionate Americans with his presidential runs, called for Biden to be impeached.

More than a few Democrats in Congress have expressed outrage over Biden’s lawlessness, too. “We ran





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on ending wars, not escalating conflicts in the Middle East,” fumed Representative Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), who similarly blasted Trump when he launched unauthorized attacks in the Middle East. “Our foreign policy needs to be rooted in diplomacy and the rule of law, not retaliatory air strikes without Congressional authorization.”

In the U.S. Senate, while neocons such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell approved, a number of top Democrats expressed alarm. “The American people deserve to hear the Administration’s rationale for these strikes and its legal justification for acting without coming to Congress,” said U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.) in a statement. “Offensive military action without congressional approval is not constitutional absent extraordinary circumstances. Congress must be fully briefed on this matter expeditiously.” Other leading Democrats were similarly upset.

On the Republican side, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) highlighted the hypocrisy of the Democrats who are now remaining silent. “When President Trump launched an attack against an Iranian general in Iraq, the Democrats offered a resolution to assert that any further attacks against Iran would require the proper approval of Congress,” said Massie, one of a handful of Republicans who supported that resolution. “Now that President Biden has launched an attack directed toward Iran in a sovereign country without permission, I wonder if Speaker Pelosi will be consistent and offer a similar resolution to assert the Constitutional authority of Congress to decide when we go to war?”

Abusing America’s military, bombing a foreign country without authorization, and being a raging hypocrite are all bad enough. But to then cite the UN charter as justification for it all is beyond inexcusable. The Biden administration must be held accountable by Congress, the courts, and the American people before the “War Party” gets the United States embroiled in yet another illegal no-win war for the Deep State.



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