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| --- |
| Jihad Report Sep 30, 2017 -Oct 06, 2017  |
| Attacks | 27  |
| Killed | 102  |
| Injured | 125  |
| Suicide Blasts | 5  |
| Countries | 17 |

**Russian Buoy Lands on Florida Beach**

If I told you this was the plot of a cold-war era spy flick, I would be lying.

A mysterious 12-foot Soviet buoy washed ashore on Dania Beach in southern Florida following Hurricane Irma, the [Sun Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-reg-soviet-buoy-20171003-story.html) reports, mystifying authorities who have struggled to explain where it came from, or how it ended up in Florida.

Do you think **The buoy was knocked loose by the 200 mile an hour winds of Hurricane Irma and floated the 350 miles from Cuba to Florida? Okay. Let’s say that’s right. So far, it has not been examined. It is huge, for a buoy. It is made of steel, and for all we know it is a satellite calibration marker. It could be a turning buoy for cruise missiles. It could act as a pylon around which a cruise missile would make its turn and head for targets more precisely without having to make a query to a GPS satellite to get its bearing at sea. That kind of signal could reveal its position.**

As the [Sun Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-reg-soviet-buoy-20171003-story.html) notes, the buoy looks like it belongs in a James Bond movie. **The Library of Congress says is Russian for Hydrometrical Service of the USSR - is painted in black on its side.**

The first word is an abbreviation for **“Gidrometricheskaia,”** which means **“water-measuring,”** like an instrument that measures water temperature, movement and depth, he said. Some Russian-language experts translate it as **“Hydrometeorological,”** referring to a branch of meteorology involving the study of water in the atmosphere.

Workers at Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park pulled the buoy off the beach just days after Hurricane Irma swept through town. **It almost immediately drew the attention of the Coast Guard, which tried to seize the buoy from the park.**

According to the [Sun Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/florida/fl-reg-soviet-buoy-20171003-story.html), Bill Moore, the park’s maintenance mechanic, spotted the buoy at the same time as the Coast Guard. He told the paper that his first thought was **“You don’t find that too often.”**

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Officials from an administrative Coast Guard building located right next to the park tried to seize the buoy, but Moore retrieved it before they could take it. Finder’s keepers when it comes to ocean salvage, remember. The buoy was too heavy to budge, so Moore tied a rope around it and with a skid-steer loader dragged it up the embankment and then brought it to the office’s parking lot.

**“They tried to confiscate it.”**

Robert Molleda, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the buoy could have come from Cuba, given the geographical proximity.

**“In Irma, the storm came from the south-southeast. And in a storm like that, something could get dislodged,”** he said. **“It could go adrift and easily wind up in Florida.”**

Since the buoy showed up, strange things have been happening at the park, according to one employee. At one point, a group of men claiming to work for the Navy investigative team came to inspect the buoy and offered to haul it away, but never returned.

**“I said, ‘leave your business card,’”** but the men left — without leaving a card — **and haven’t returned.**

Trump is obviously responsible. We expect that it will be appended to the Russia collusion narrative by Monday.

**Russian Hacking Update**

**Two weeks ago, we were treated to the alarming news that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** [**notified**](http://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/351981-dhs-notifies-21-states-of-they-were-targets-russian-hacking) **21 states their election systems were hacked by the Russians.**

**This was a twofer for the media** as it confirmed the “Russia did it” narrative behind Hillary Clinton’s 2016 election loss, and it gave the weekend talking heads something to chatter about other than the NFL.

**The alarm lasted four days, to the following Tuesday, when DHS** [**reversed**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-26/homeland-security-now-says-wisconsin-elections-not-targeted) **itself** and admitted the Russians did not hack Wisconsin's election system.

**Shoe #2 dropped on Thursday** when the California Secretary of State [rebutted](http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2017-news-releases-and-advisories/dhs-incorrectly-notified-california-secretary-state-about-russian-scanning/) the DHS claim and pointed out the DHS information was not just wrong but also a year late. On Friday, Texas [declared](http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Texas-denies-it-was-target-of-election-related-12241750.php) it “determined conclusively” it was not targeted by hackers and asked DHS to correct its claims to the contrary.

**Next time, DHS should hire the Geek Squad.**



**If Vladimir Putin is a religious man, he is praying that DHS keeps it up. DHS served up “fake news” so weak it was dead in one week.** By comparison, the Czarist-era Protocols of the Elders of Zion is still going [strong](https://www.amazon.com/Protocols-Learned-Elders-Zion-Sergiei/dp/1578987407) after a century.

This case will be unfurled in the future when DHS gets it right (I can dream, can’t I?) and catches Kremlin agent Boris Badenov Red-handed.

***It's fun to have a laugh at a hapless bureaucrat’s expense, but these public misfires affect our foreign policy.***

***In today’s networked world, no news is “for local consumption only.”***

DHS’s sloppy work allows the Russian government to highlight another example of the ongoing project by the secular, relativistic West to weaken Orthodox Christianity and Russian’s unique culture.

**This is not overly-dramatic. In the U.S. “fascist” has latterly (since 8 November 2016) meant “Republican”; in Russia, it connotes a serious menace they have not forgotten.** Russia lost about [14% of its population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_casualties#endnote_USSRtable) in World War II and felt its sacrifice in the defeat of (real) Fascism saved Europe from a negotiated peace with Hitler.

Russia has traditionally been invaded overland, to wit, the Mongols, the Swedish Empire, the Teutonic Knights, Napoleon, the Nazis. More recently it was menaced by Cold War NATO and the color revolutions. **Its national security** [**leadership**](https://www.ft.com/content/7e14a438-989b-11e7-a652-cde3f882dd7b) **now says war will be fought in the information space in addition to sea, sky, and land. The Kremlin assumes we are doing it the way they do it, only not as well.**

It’s irrelevant if Putin believes everything he says; he probably believes much of it (and has a “public position” and a “private position”), and the Russian voters believe it, too. They might all be wrong, but this is politics, not a physics problem.

The Russians surely snooped on the candidates in 2016 because that’s what governments do. **Putin may interpret our intramural fight over alleged Russian election hacking as the “provocation” to prepare the American people for sanctions and military action against Russia because that’s what he would do.**

We cannot expect every bureaucrat to think of the foreign policy implications of his work, but slip-ups may make an adversary over-confident or, conversely, force his hand in response to a popular outcry. If the government gets it right, the U.S. will not be gifting Mr. Putin a bushel of [whataboutism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whataboutism#Etymology_and_history_of_the_term).

***If Homeland Security had a year to get the word out, it had a year to get it right.***

**Politics: The Mechanism of Religion**

n politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way. –President Franklin D. Roosevelt

America, America what has happened to you? (Psalm 119:110) The NFL shows its true colors and Americans are angry, and what Americans are angry about is right. Yet, what was revealed was the hearts of the people, and what it is that they worship: THE NFL! (Jeremiah 11:13).  Where their treasure is, so will be their hearts be also (Matthew 6:21).

Grown up men with tights on fighting over a pig ball. How shameful!

Babies being slaughtered in the womb, sodomy, indoctrination of America’s posterity etc… Where is the uproar? The hypocrisy stinks to high heaven (Matthew 23).

Can you imagine a people that still feared the Lord (Proverbs 16:6) and were indignant when it came to correcting corruption in the Church and in the government?

Yet, it first starts with the individuals (Acts 20:21).

The political tactics are in full force against the controlled and deceived, who have not yet learned how “Real Life” lived out (Hosea 4:6) are once again being played by those that they complain about through led opposition.

While everyone is whining about the NFL, who, I ask you, is paying for the tickets that support these Communists? The government is hard at work behind the scenes attempting to pass unlawful healthcare legislation formerly named under Mitt Romney as Romney-Romney Care, Barrack Hussein Obama as ObamaCare, and now under a brand new administration, the American Health Care Act.

Whenever there is a big story in the media, look for what it is that they are trying to distract you from.

The Gullibility of the American People!

“The typical American voter is so stupid, his dog teaches him tricks.” – Jonathan Gruber architect of Romney-Obama-Care
The American people have accepted Supreme Court sanctioned murder of the innocent.

They have accepted the redefinition of marriage by the likes of a radical lesbian named Elena Kagan, who has never judged a case a day in her life.

The list goes on concerning the Supreme Court’s attacks against America and Constitutional Law (Article 4, Section 4, The United States Constitution).

Apparently, these injustices seemed to have missed that which the law teaches in law school (1 Timothy 1:7).

“No enactment of man can be considered law unless it conforms to the Law of God!” –William Blackstone, Commentaries on the Laws of England

President Andrew Jackson said, “The Bible is the Rock upon which our REPUBLIC rests” (Exodus 18:21).

He was also the President that said, “If the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of what the Constitution says, then we have ceased to be our own rulers (Under God), and the Supreme Court is our ruler.”

Rather than getting caught up into the debate that they want you to get caught up into, the question that should be presented to those who call themselves legislators is, “Where are you deriving your authority from to implement these unconstitutional acts?”

It is a question that they simply cannot answer.

This brings me to this point: “[If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they do not have to worry about giving you the right answers](http://sonsoflibertymedia.com/bradlee-dean-can-get-asking-wrong-questions-give-right-answers/).”

Without further ado, let me bring to you Jonathan Gruber.  Again, this is the architect of Romney-Obama–care, or rather the clown that is laughing at you, America.

“Exploiting the stupidity of the American voter is fun and easy: kinda like squeezing a lemon,” said Jonathan.

He also said “Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically, that was really, really critical for the thing to pass” when speaking of Romney-Obama–care.

He also said, “When we’re done with employer-based health insurance, it will have as much life in it as Jimmy Hoffa.”

“P.T. Barnum said a sucker is born every minute, but his estimate was laughably low.”

America, your children and future generations are being enslaved by those who are committing crimes against you (Deuteronomy 28:68).

It is time for 318.9 million people to stand up and deal with those who are only entertaining the destruction of this country (Psalm 94:16).

Let those who profess to be wise (Roman 1:22) be taken by their own lawless counsel (Job 5:13).

In closing, Harriet Tubman said when asked of the slaves that have been freed by her hands, “I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew that they were slaves” (Hosea 4:6).

“Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. But the Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the Lord our God shall cut them off.” -Psalm 94:20-23
If America would only repent, then the joke would be on the lawless!

There is no in between. God or tyrants!

**The Real Russia Problem**

The World Gold Council has reported that the Central Bank of **Russia has more than doubled the pace of its gold purchases, bringing its reserves to the highest level since Putin took power 17 years ago**. **Russia’s desire to break away from the hegemony of the U.S. dollar and the dollar payment system is well-known.** Over 60% of global reserves and 80% of global payments are in dollars. The U.S. is the only country with veto power at the International Monetary Fund, the global lender of last resort.

Perhaps Russia’s most aggressive weapon in its war on dollars is gold. The first line of defense is to acquire physical gold, which cannot be frozen out of the international payments system or hacked.

With gold, you can always pay another country just by putting the gold on an airplane and shipping it to the counterparty. This is the 21st-century equivalent of how J.P. Morgan settled payments in gold by ship or railroad in the early 20th century.

**Russia has now tripled its gold reserves from around 600 tonnes to 1,800 tonnes over the past 10 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Even when oil prices and Russian reserves were collapsing in 2015, Russia continued to acquire gold.**

**But Russia is pursuing other dollar alternatives besides gold.**

***For one, it’s been building nondollar payments systems with regional trading partners and China.***

The U.S. uses its influence at SWIFT, the central nervous system of global money transfer message traffic, to cut off nations it considers to be threats.

From a financial perspective, this is like cutting off oxygen to a patient in the intensive care unit. Russia understands its vulnerability to U.S. domination and wants to reduce that vulnerability.

**Now Russia has created an alternative to SWIFT.**

The head of Russia’s central bank, Elvira Nabiullina, has reported to Vladimir Putin that ***“There was the threat of being shut out of SWIFT. We updated our transaction system, and if anything happens, all SWIFT-format operations will continue to work. We created an analogous system.”***

**Russia is also part of a reported Chinese plan to install a new international monetary order that excludes U.S. dollars.**

Under that plan, China could buy Russian oil with yuan and Russia could then exchange that yuan for gold on the Shanghai exchange.

***Now it appears Russia has another weapon in its anti-dollar arsenal.***

***Russia’s development bank, VEB, and several Russian state ministries are reportedly teaming up to develop blockchain technology. They want to create a fully encrypted, distributed, inexpensive payments system that does not rely on Western banks, SWIFT or the U.S. to move money around.***

This has nothing to do with bitcoin, which is just another digital token. The blockchain technology (now often referred to as distributed ledger technology, or DLT) is a platform that can facilitate a wide variety of transfers — possibly including a new Russian-state cryptocurrency backed by gold.

***“Putin coins,” anyone?***



**The ultimate loser here will be the dollar.** That’s one more reason for investors to allocate part of their portfolios to assets such as gold.

**Puerto Rico Could Become the Hong Kong of the West**

After a particularly devastating hurricane season, Puerto Rico has an uncertain future. Already mismanaged and saddled with debt, the island territory now faces the virtually insurmountable task of rebuilding its infrastructure and economy. But amidst the rubble and heartache lies one of the greatest opportunities in the modern era not just to rebuild, but to reimagine the possibilities for economic and political freedom.

**Two simple but powerful steps taken by Congress could hasten recovery and redefine the trajectory of the island’s future.**

First, the United States should assume all of Puerto Rico’s outstanding bond debt.

 Second, in exchange for debt assumption, the federal government should establish the island as an Economic Freedom Zone.

Within a year, these reforms would help rebuild Puerto Rico; within a decade, they could rebuild our conception of the free market in the Western Hemisphere.

**It is important to note that hurricane destruction has not created economic gain by boosting demand for construction. This** [**broken-window**](https://fee.org/articles/beware-the-broken-window-fallacy/) **view fundamentally misunderstands the nature of this potential.** Nor should this plan come at the expense of traditional disaster relief. Before infrastructure can be rebuilt, urgent human needs must be met with outside aid.

But rather than pursue traditional recovery with an eye toward returning to business as usual, this proposal seeks to fundamentally remake Puerto Rico into a modern and dynamic economy built to match and surpass any on earth.

### ****Puerto Rico's Debt****

**The first step would wipe the slate clean to rebuild from a neutral position.** The assumption of Puerto Rico’s debt would be both a relief effort aimed at freeing the local government’s limited resources and a signal to the world of our intentions to further the cause of freedom. Partly borne of mismanagement and partly of miscalculated federal policies, the territory’s debt can at least partially be attributed to the ambiguity of its relationship to the United States. Despite the political challenge of assuming the debt with a $20 trillion debt already on our books, absorbing the $74 billion debt would pay immediate dividends. Puerto Ricans, our fellow American citizens, would have immediate relief, and the freed cash flow would allow them to focus solely on rebuilding the island's infrastructure.

**The federal government’s assumption of a constituent government's debt would follow historical precedent.** As part of his First Report on the Public Credit, and later codified by the Funding Act of 1790, Alexander Hamilton proposed the assumption of state debts in order to both strengthen the financial position of the union and that of the individual states – allowing them each to lower their taxes and establish themselves on equal footing at the outset of our nationhood.

Our fledgling nation took on debt equal to 10 percent of our entire domestic product – a massive undertaking brought forth by visionary leaders. This set up the new federal government to be an instantly credible player on the world stage and made the phrase “backed by the full faith and credit of the United States” the closest thing to a guarantee as can be found in global finance more that 200 years later.

**By comparison, assumption of Puerto Rico’s debt by the U.S. in 2017 would be a mere 0.4 percent of our more than $19 trillion economy, a greater political consideration than fiscal.** As with the states in 18th century America, 21st century Puerto Rico would be in position to lower its taxes and the U.S. would strengthen its ability to back the reborn Puerto Rico.

### ****Economic Freedom****

**The second step of the proposal is the establishment of an** [**Economic Freedom Zone**](http://www.rexsresources.com/uploads/6/5/2/1/6521405/economicfreedomzones.pdf)**, which would set off an explosion of growth.** The zone would flatten or suspend numerous taxes and regulations, prompting an immediate increase in productivity. **The less restricted environment with more available resources would open the doors to investment and real estate development.** Velocity of money would increase at the same time as new money is infused and invested into the economy, as relatively wealthier locals combining with aide workers, construction crews, and business investors spend on the island economy.

Suspending or streamlining environmental regulations would allow expedited construction on essential infrastructure projects, and needless economic hindrances like the [Jones Act](http://www.aii.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/JonesActFormatted-1.pdf) would finally be dissolved. Serving as a case study on microeconomics, the federal minimum wage would be suspended to allow private actors to negotiate their wages during the rebuilding effort. The government would no longer rob the worker of his [bargaining power](http://cafehayek.com/2014/04/the-minimum-wage-and-bargaining-power.html) by mandating a price floor on labor.

**Taking inspiration from Hong Kong and Singapore, governance from a lean, honest, and efficient local government, combined with openness to international investment and trade, will allow Puerto Rico to capture business that would be regulated away in the States – if they were allowed to get off the ground at all.**

Proximity to the mainland provides access to wealth and high skill, while the separation and economic autonomy make it a distinctly productive business zone. The island is situated in the Caribbean Sea with access to multiple markets including developed and emerging economies and established trade routes. Starting from scratch, it could build a high tech integrated electrical grid and modernized ports, and with low taxes and regulations, attract highly skilled technical workers. At every level, innovation would dominate as free enterprise sets the agenda. Puerto Rico would essentially be liberated from the U.S. tax and regulatory burdens but protected by its legal system to secure property rights and thwart corruption, fraud, and cronyism.

**With government taking a backseat,** [**free markets would liberate the people**](https://www.prageru.com/courses/economics/there-only-one-way-out-poverty) **of Puerto Rico, restoring dignity alongside material wealth.** Allowing local government to make local decisions rather than being subject rules from Washington, D.C. would give control to those who know the island best. Favoring economic freedom to government regulation, resources would go to their highest valued use.

### ****Political Support****

***This proposal would gather support from both sides of the aisle in Congress. To begin, there is a bipartisan desire to help our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico after the destruction of their economy and infrastructure. Democrats in Congress would rally around debt assumption as relief, while Republicans would be eager to tap the potential of free market reforms. Wrapped up as a hurricane recovery package, the timing is right.***

On the mainland, we value the freedom of federalism, which allows different states to have wildly different policies and experiences. Just as states are the laboratories of democracy, Puerto Rico is poised to be a laboratory of both democracy and economic vitality. As the federal government has increasingly encroached on areas that were once the province of the states, much of the policy in America has become homogenized. Reestablishing the primacy of federalism to allow Puerto Rico to pursue low-regulation, fast-growth policies would provide a small-scale proving ground for the county to relearn what made America so successful.

**In foreign policy terms, this would extend American exceptionalism and economics toward the Latin American world.** With so much misguided focus on socialism and government control, the time has never been more critical to demonstrate the power of the free market and the value of freedom.

Rather than focusing on statehood or representation, this proposal frames Puerto Rico as an economic arena with the only priority being the prosperity of its people. In time, the politics that govern classification can be settled. The autonomy gained from the Economic Freedom Zone would simultaneously allow Puerto Ricans to forge a political identity and remain protected as U.S. citizens. The reforms will lift the citizens out of poverty, help reconcile pension obligations, provide a path for sustainable growth, and encourage local government stewardship that will render many of the statehood challenges moot.

### ****Puerto Rico Could Be the Hong Kong of the West****

**Puerto Rico would become a magnet for investment with money pouring in from around the globe.** As an Economic Freedom Zone, the local workforce would see a drastic rise in standard of living, while highly skilled and competitive human capital would expand economic potential. The unrestrained economic power of these reforms would bolster the political freedom of the island. Not only would Puerto Ricans be free from their current destitution, but they would get a taste of genuine political and economic freedom to truly engage with the world.

Having an economic power center so close to our shores would be a boon to our economy and would make theirs the envy of the world. Tourism, technology, luxury, and more would redefine Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico is needlessly impoverished, and we have a unique opportunity to reverse course, improving the lives of its residents while also broadcasting the appeal of economic liberty to the world.

**By restoring power to its people and unleashing the unbridled force of free market entrepreneurial capitalism, Puerto Rico will become a beacon of freedom and prosperity unparalleled in the Western Hemisphere. The invisible hand is knocking at the door. All it will take is for the federal government to open the door and get out of the way.**

**When the People Walk Away from Fascism**

Sunday was a day to remember, a remarkable display of people power, overwhelmingly choosing independence from despotic Madrid governance by a resounding 90% majority – despite state-sponsored violence unleashed against them.

Catalonia’s government said “(o)ut of the 2,262,424 ballots that were not seized, 2,020,144 were YES votes, 176,566 were NO votes, 45,586 in blank and 20,129 null votes.”

Police attired like combat troops, imported from other parts of Spain, turned Barcelona and other areas into battlegrounds – a futile attempt to prevent Catalans from exercising their right to vote, the UN Charter and other international law affirming their right of self-determination, the right of all people everywhere.

Nearly 900 people were injured, some seriously, the final tally perhaps higher. Police used rubber-coated steel bullets, brutal beatings with batons, and other forms of state-sponsored violence – viciousness on display for the whole world to see.

Late Sunday, Catalan President Carles Puigdemont said “(t)oday the Spanish state wrote another shameful page in its history with Catalonia. With this day of hope and suffering, the citizens of Catalonia have won the right to an independent state in the form a republic.”

Washington, Britain and Brussels failed to condemn Sunday’s violence. Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union states:

“The EU’s founding values are human dignity, freedom, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.”

Yet EU leaders were largely silent, ignoring Madrid-ordered police state viciousness in Catalonia. Trump’s tweets ignored it.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel was an exception, saying “violence can never be the answer! We condemn all forms of violence and reaffirm our call for political dialogue.”

UK Lib Dem leader Vince Cable tweeted: “Police in a democracy should never drag people violently out of polling stations, whatever the arguments for or against holding a referendum.”

On national television, Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy defiantly said “(t)oday we have not had a referendum for self-determination in Catalonia,” claiming Catalans were tricked into voting on Sunday, calling the vote a “path that leads to nowhere.”

He praised Spanish police for acting with “firmness and serenity.” Disturbing images showed otherwise, including people forcibly dragged from polling stations and women thrown down stairs, an outrageous display of state-sponsored violence.

Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras said “(w)e will be consistent with the democratic mandate that citizens have given us today. Catalonia has won its right to be a new republic if this is what the Parliament decides.”

Despite forced closure of polling stations and numerous ballot boxes seized, votes counted showed a remarkable 42.3% turnout – perhaps double this figure if ballots unable to be counted were included.

Hundreds of thousands were prevented from exercising their democratic franchise – revealing the true character of despotic Madrid governance.

Despite all-out efforts to prevent Sunday’s process, Catalans turned out en masse, courageously voting for independence from fascist Spain.

It’s the duty of their parliament to respect their choice.

**The Problem with Fascism**

the source of the problem is that most people wrongly assume that “collectivism” is somehow the same as community. This is entirely false, and those who make this claim are poorly educated on what collectivism actually means. It is important to make a distinction here; the grouping of people is not necessarily or automatically collectivism unless that group seeks to subjugate the individuality of its participants. Collectivism cannot exist where individual freedom is valued. People can still group together voluntarily for mutual benefit and retain respect for the independence of members (i.e. community, rather than collectivism).

This distinction matters because there is a contingent of political and financial elites that would like us to believe that there is no middle ground between the pursuits of society and the liberties of individuals. That is to say, we are supposed to assume that all our productive energies and our safety and security belong to society. Either that, or we are extremely selfish and self serving “individualists” that are incapable of “seeing the bigger picture.” The mainstream discussion almost always revolves around these two extremes. We never hear the concept that society exists to serve individual freedom and innovation and that a community of individuals is the strongest possible environment for the security and future of humanity as a whole.

Thus, the mainstream argument becomes a kabuki theater between the “ignorantly destructive” populists/nationalists/individualists versus the more “reasonable” and supposedly forward thinking socialists/globalists/multiculturalists. The truth is, sovereignty champions can be pro-individual liberty and also pro-community or pro-nation, as long as that community is voluntary.

Collectivists will have none of this, however, and despite their intellectual and “rational” facade, they will often turn to brutality in order to disrupt any movement to decentralize power.

The civil unrest in the Spanish region of Catalonia is an interesting example of the tyranny of the collectivist ideology. According to mainstream doctrine, Spain is supposed to be a “decentralized unitary state” made up of “autonomous communities,” all with their own statutes and self governing bodies “loosely” regulated by the Spanish constitution of 1978. Catalonia, along with a couple other regions and cities in Spain, has long fought for true autonomy from the central government in Madrid. This separatist culture was crushed under the heel of Francisco Franco’s dictatorial regime after the Spanish Civil War which started in 1936.

After Franco’s death in 1975, Spain began its “transition to democracy” (democracy being the tyranny of the majority rather than tyranny by military regime). Once again, Catalonia’s push for independence returned.

The reasons for a Catalan secession are multitude and are of course noble or nefarious depending on which side you talk to. From my research, it would seem the primary drive for Catalonia is economic. Spain is one of the more indebted member states in the European Union with a national debt near 100% of GDP. The “great recession” starting in 2008 struck Spain particularly hard, with around 21% of the general population officially in poverty and over 40% of all children officially in poverty. Unemployment according to government statistics hovers near 18%.

Catalonia is the most prosperous region in Spain’s economy, accounting for nearly 20% of total GDP. Catalans also assert that taxation in their region is a primary pillar for the Spanish government, which has not returned the favor with sufficient investment in infrastructure in the region. In essence, there is a “taxation without representation” feel to the conflict, and Americans in particular know very well how that kind of situation can end.

On the other side of the debate, it is clear that if Catalonia leaves the Spanish system on negative terms, then Spain’s already crumbling economy will be destroyed. The motivation for Spain to keep control of Catalonia is high just on the grounds of economic disaster.

Beyond the economic issue, another interesting side note on Spain is its intense social justice (cultural Marxism) programs. While Europeans often suggest Spain as being a “conservative” government, in policy and action this is simply not true.  Spain is notorious for being one of the most militantly feminist governments in the EU aside from Sweden, and this is saying something given the socialist nature of the EU. Gender laws and divorce laws in the country offer some of the most draconian double standards against men I have ever witnessed. Perhaps this will give you a kind of litmus test for the sort of culture we are dealing with here, and maybe it accounts for some discontent in certain portions of the Spanish population.

Catalonia itself is often cited as being “more liberal” in its political orientation in comparison to the rest of Spain. Of course, the term “liberal” can mean many different things in Europe depending on the nation, and American definitions do not necessarily apply. Just as Europeans tend to have no understanding whatsoever of what “conservatism” means in the U.S., Americans have a hard time understanding all the intricacies of the various levels of “liberalism” in Europe.

That said, what side of the political spectrum Catalonia sits on is irrelevant to greater discussion.

What I actually enjoy pointing out here is the fact that whether you look at the Franco era of nationalist totalitarianism, or the “semi” socialist and hyper-cultural Marxist era of today, the Spanish government STILL acts the same in its despotism against Catalan separation or independence.  It is not as if the socialists set out to right the wrongs of the Franco regime once it fell. Not at all. Instead, they merely perpetuated the same attitude of centralization while wearing a smiling face. Once again, we see that there is very little difference between fascism and communism/socialism when we get down to core behaviors and policies.

Collectivists, regardless of what other labels they use to identify themselves, have certain rules that they consistently follow in order to maintain power. One of those rules is that the collective is indivisible. They might pontificate endlessly about their superior democratic ideals, but when some people vote to leave en masse, either in polling booths or with their feet, the mask of benevolence always comes off and the true monster behind collectivism is revealed.

As we have seen in Catalonia, this monstrous behavior is undeniable. The Spanish government has set out to prevent not just separation, it has sought to prevent the very act of voting on separation using police and military force. In essence, martial law was been declared in Catalonia in order to stop the people from enacting the very democratic ideals the Spanish government claims it enshrines.

Despite the vicious measures of interference, reports suggest that the vote was still successful, with 90% of the citizenry in support of independence. What happens now is unclear, but I can tell you two things are relatively certain.

First, a 90% vote in favor will result in a militarized response from the Spanish government. If the vote was less overwhelming, the government might attempt to pit one side of the population against the other, causing internal strife and disrupting secession. This strategy is unrealistic given the mass movement for independence. So, the only other option for the government is full blown martial law.

Second, such a crackdown will result in a violent counter-response. This happened in the 1970s in Catalonia and I see no reason why it would not happen again. When you have almost an entire population in agreement on separation and you use force to stop them from attaining it, they will become violent. Civil war is inevitable if martial law is declared.

It is vital that we examine the root ideological catalyst in this scenario.

The most rational solution would be for the Spanish government to accept the Catalan vote (if they believe in “democracy” as they claim, then they have to accept it, otherwise they appear extraordinarily hypocritical). This could result in a more harmonious economic relationship and less drastic damage to Spain’s fiscal structure. However, this is not going to happen. Instead, Spain is going to use the age old collectivist tactics of intimidation and carnage to oppress the Catalan’s and subsume their economic production (as socialist governments always do).  When civil war erupts, and it will, production in Catalonia will grind to a standstill and Spain STILL loses 20% of its GDP.

You see, this is a lose/lose scenario for Spain, all because the collectivist doctrine demands a jackbooted reaction to any movement for decentralization. Collectivist systems are parasitic in nature; they see the citizenry as food, as units of production for the state that cannot be allowed to leave, for the “greater good of the greater number.” Collectivists rationalize their behavior as essential to the well being of the society at large, but this is dishonest, for their behavior more often harms society by crushing individual innovation and instigating wars that might not have ever happened in the first place.

There is at the same time the matter of sovereignty movements across Europe. The only people who benefit from stopping these movements are globalists/collectivists. They may also benefit by sabotaging these movements after the fact, making an example of them and holding them up to the rest of the world as symbols of the “failures of populism.”

It is important to point out here that Catalonia is not necessarily seeking independence from the EU, only Spain.  Some might argue that this makes the Catalan vote irrelevant.  I disagree.  If Catalonia wants to be separate from Spain but still retain ties to the EU, then I suppose that is their choice, which is really the issue here – choice. Everyone should be allowed to make good and bad decisions and hopefully learn from them both. If Catalan’s choice is meaningless because they will still be part of the EU, then the Spanish government should pull its national guard out and leave them to their own devices.

Some people might also argue that if secession happened in the U.S., the response would be the same. I would argue that just because it might happen the same way, this does not mean it is right. If leftist Californians, for example, followed through with their latest threats to secede from the U.S. and a massive shift of leftists and cultural Marxists move to the state, frankly I would be ecstatic. Let these people separate and congregate. Let them fail or succeed on the merits of their own ideas and ethics. If they are allowed to organizewithout interference and they fail, then this is simply more proof that their ideology was unsound and impractical. California’s large percentage of U.S. GDP would simply transfer to other states if in fact the productive people there are not leftists and they migrate away, leaving the separatists to wallow in their naive ideology.

If Catalonia separates without interference and succeeds economically and socially, then perhaps it is not for Spain to try to subvert or destroy the region, but to emulate their model and learn from them. If people wish to walk away from a community, they should be allowed to do so. This is very simple. Self determination is not dependent on political expediency or mutual benefit. It is an inherent human right.  Communities and borders should be based on principles that the population stands by and every system should remain voluntary. If they do not stand by said principles and they work to thwart voluntarism, then those communities are worthless and should not exist at all.

When a collective acts to stop people from leaving, all they are doing is exposing the fact that their reasons for existing are inadequate and unconvincing. This goes for Spain, it goes for the EU and it goes for the rest of the world. Globalists and collectivists should take note — decentralization is the true model for the future. In the long run, forcing people into participation in the system is a losing battle.

**The Death of the Middle Class: A Globalist Objective**

When people are dependent on the government they are much easier to control.  We are often told that we are not “compassionate” when we object to the endless expansion of government social programs, but that is not how the debate should be framed.  In America today, well over 100 million people receive money from the federal government each month, and the number of Americans that are truly financially independent is continually shrinking.  In fact, [only 25 percent](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-middle-class-is-being-destroyed-now-only-25-percent-of-all-americans-have-10000-or-more-in-savings) of all Americans have more than $10,000 in savings right now according to one survey.  If we eventually get to the point where virtually all of us are dependent on the government for our continued existence, that would give the globalists a very powerful tool of control.  In the end, they want as many of us dependent on the government as possible, because those that are dependent on the government are a lot less likely to fight against their agenda.

Back in 1992, the bottom 90 percent of American income earners brought in [more than 60 percent](http://money.cnn.com/2017/09/27/news/economy/inequality-record-top-1-percent-wealth/index.html) of the country’s income.  But last year that figure slipped to just 49.7 percent.  The wealth of our society is increasingly being concentrated at the very top, and the middle class is steadily being eroded.  Surveys have found that somewhere around [two-thirds of the country](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-tens-of-millions-of-forgotten-americans-that-the-u-s-economy-has-left-behind) is living paycheck to paycheck at least part of the time, and so living on the edge has become a way of life for most Americans.

Earlier today, I came across a [Business Insider article](http://www.businessinsider.com/there-is-no-plan-for-americas-economy-2017-9) that was bemoaning the fact that the U.S. economy seems to be rather directionless at this point…

* We do not have a real plan for health care, and costs continue to gobble up American wages.
* We do not have a plan for dealing with globalization and economic change, but that change continues to shape our economy.
* We don’t have a plan to update our decrepit infrastructure.
* The one plan we did have — the Federal Reserve’s post-financial crisis program — is about to be unwound, marking the end of the last clear, executable plan to bolster America’s economy.

Ultimately, the truth is that we don’t actually need some sort of “central plan” for our economy.  We are supposed to be a free market system that is not guided and directed by central planners, but many Americans don’t even understand the benefits of free market capitalism anymore.

However, that Business Insider article did make a great point about globalization.   Most people don’t realize that our economy is slowly but surely being integrated into a global economic system.   This is really bad for American workers, because now they are being merged into a global labor pool in which they must compete directly for jobs with workers in other countries where it is legal to pay slave labor wages.

Even down in Mexico, many autoworkers are only making [$2.25 an hour](https://wolfstreet.com/2017/09/29/repression-of-wages-in-auto-manufacturing-in-mexico/)…

Most of the workers at the new Audi factory in the state of Puebla, inaugurated in 2016 and assembling the Audi Q4 SUV, which carries a sticker price in the US of over $40,000 for base versions, make $2.25 an hour, according to the Union.

Volkswagen, which owns Audi, started building Beetles in Puebla in 1967 and has since created a vast manufacturing empire in Mexico, with vehicles built for consumers in Mexico, the US, Canada, and Latin American markets.

Volkswagen, Ford, GM, or any of the global automakers, which can manufacture just about anywhere in the world, always search for cheap labor to maximize the bottom line.

Would you want to work for $2.25 an hour?

Over time, millions of good paying jobs have been leaving high wage countries and have been going to low wage countries.  The United States has lost more than 70,000 manufacturing facilities since China joined the WTO, and this is one of the biggest factors that has [eroded the middle class](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-middle-class-is-being-destroyed-now-only-25-percent-of-all-americans-have-10000-or-more-in-savings).

In a desperate attempt to maintain our standard of living, we have gone into increasing amounts of debt.  Of course our federal government is now [20 trillion dollars in debt](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/debt-nightmare-does-anyone-actually-care-about-our-exploding-national-debt-these-days), but on an individual level we are doing the same thing.  Today, American consumers are [over 12 trillion dollars in debt](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-tens-of-millions-of-forgotten-americans-that-the-u-s-economy-has-left-behind), and it gets worse with each passing day.

The borrower is the servant of the lender, and most Americans have become debt slaves at this point.  This is something that Paul Craig Roberts [commented on recently](http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2017/09/29/us-economy-failing-paul-craig-roberts/)…

Americans carry on by accumulating debt and becoming debt slaves. Many can only make the minimum payment on their credit card and thus accumulate debt. The Federal Reserve’s policy has exploded the prices of financial assets. The result is that the bulk of the population lacks discretionary income, and those with financial assets are wealthy until values adjust to reality.

As an economist I cannot identify in history any economy whose affairs have been so badly managed and prospects so severely damaged as the economy of the United States of America. In the short/intermediate run policies that damage the prospects for the American work force benefit what is called the One Percent as jobs offshoring reduces corporate costs and financialization transfers remaining discretionary income in interest and fees to the financial sector. But as consumer discretionary incomes disappear and debt burdens rise, aggregate demand falters, and there is nothing left to drive the economy.

This debt-based system continuously funnels wealth toward the very top of the pyramid, because it is the people at the very top that hold all of the debts.

Each year it gets worse, and most Americans would be absolutely stunned to hear that the top one percent now control [38.6 percent](http://money.cnn.com/2017/09/27/news/economy/inequality-record-top-1-percent-wealth/index.html) of all wealth in the United States…

The richest 1% of families controlled a record-high 38.6% of the country’s wealth in 2016, according to a Federal Reserve report published on Wednesday.

That’s nearly twice as much as the bottom 90%, which has seen its slice of the pie continue to shrink.

The bottom 90% of families now hold just 22.8% of the wealth, down from about one-third in 1989 when the Fed started tracking this measure.

So how do we fix this? I will tell you how we don’t fix it. We do not confiscate the wealth of the richest people, and give it to the poor. That is a recipe for complete revolution and destruction. What has to happen, is regulations must be removed that do not allow these people to invest in new business. The regulations are set up to protect those global corporations, not to allow new business to be born and grow. That is where the middle class comes from.

We also, as a nation, need to go back to a non-debt based system that does not funnel all of the wealth to the very top of the pyramid.  Unfortunately, most Americans don’t even realize that our current debt-based system is fundamentally flawed, and it will probably take an unprecedented crisis in order to wake people up enough to take action. Unfortunately, it is a very similar event the globalists have planned for their competitors. They mean to evaporate the middle class by collapsing the money supply, again. The only way to survive that is to keep 50% of your cash in the house, with precious metals, so that when they do collapse the money supply, you can go to the marketplace and buy your way in. Believe me, the prices will be cheaper than you ever saw in your life.

**The Lobby Wars**

There are lobbyists for just about every cause that you can possibly imagine, and they are always working hard to influence members of Congress on their particular issues.  But when you are talking about a major tax reform bill, that is something that virtually every single lobbyist in the entire city will want to be involved in.  Our tax code is over two million words long, and the regulations are over seven million words long, and any changes to our immensely complex system could have absolutely enormous implications.  There will be winners and there will be losers with any piece of legislation, and lobbyists will zealously fight to defend the turf belonging to their particular clients.  Often lobbyists from different sides will literally be pitted directly against one another, and it won’t be pretty.  In fact, one analyst that works for Cowen Washington Research Group says that we could soon be watching [“the corporate hunger games”](http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-tax-reform-plan-deductions-rates-lobbyists-2017-9)…

Almost every industry, special interest, and consumer group has an interest in the tax code, especially if the package ends up being as ambitious as Trump and Republican leaders want it to be. Chris Krueger, an analyst at Cowen Washington Research Group, told Business Insider that the battle over which loopholes to keep and which to throw out could get nasty.

**“Welcome tribunes to the corporate hunger games!” Kruger said in an email. “Only one-sixth of lobbyists were involved with health care (give or take — assuming it is one-sixth of economy). Six-sixths of lobbyists are involved in taxes.”**

There is so much at stake, and if the Republicans are able to get something passed it probably won’t look much like the plan that Trump originally proposed.  But it is so important to do something, because today Americans spend more on taxes than they will on food, clothing, and housing [combined](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/hate-taxes-you-certainly-are-not-alone).  That is morally wrong, and we desperately need tax relief.

Trump’s tax plan would nearly double the standard deduction, and that would be a wonderful thing.  It would provide instant tax relief to working class Americans, and that is something that I would greatly applaud.

Trump’s tax plan would also great reduce the tax rate for corporations.  Our big corporations certainly don’t need the help, but we do want to get our rate more in line with the rest of the planet.  Because our corporate tax rate is one of the highest in the world, it actually encourages companies to set up shop some place else.  Being more competitive with the rest of the world would likely mean more jobs for the American people.

Trump’s tax plan would also reduce the number of tax brackets for individuals.  Instead of seven, now there would just be three tax brackets of 12 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent.  To me, those rates are way too high, but of course I would like to eliminate the individual income tax [entirely](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/when-i-say-cut-taxes-i-dont-mean-fiddle-with-the-code-i-mean-abolish-the-income-tax-and-the-irs-and-replace-them-with-nothing).

Many are criticizing Trump’s plan for proposing to raise at least a trillion dollars over the next decade by getting rid of the deduction for state and local income taxes.  For those that live in very high tax states such as California, that deduction [is a really big deal](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4932944/Trump-promote-tax-plan-address-manufacturers-group.html)…

High-income Californians, for instance, pay as much as 13.3 per cent of their income to the state in addition to their federal taxes. New Yorkers can pay up to 8.82 per cent.

Just seven U.S. states have no personal income taxes, including Texas, Florida and Nevada.

Hopefully the Republicans can pass some sort of tax reform in the short-term, because the status quo is definitely not acceptable.

When the income tax was first introduced in 1913, the vast majority of taxpayers were being taxed at a rate of just one percent.  The following comes from [Politifact](http://www.politifact.com/texas/statements/2012/jan/31/ron-paul/ron-paul-says-federal-income-tax-rate-was-0-percen/%22%20%5Co%20%22Politifact%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)…

The 1913 law imposed a tax of 1 percent on income up to $20,000, for both individual and joint filers. However, exemptions from the tax — the first $3,000 of income for individuals and the first $4,000 for joint filers — meant “virtually all middle-class Americans” were excused from paying, according to W. Elliot Brownlee’s book, Federal Taxation in America. The law also put in place a graduated surtax on incomes above $20,000; the highest rate paid, 7 percent, applied to Americans making more than $500,000 (about $11.4 million in 2011 dollars).

Today, Americans are being taxed into oblivion.  It has been reported that we spend more than 6 **billion** hours a year on our taxes, and I once wrote an article detailing [97 different ways](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/a-list-of-97-taxes-americans-pay-every-year) that various levels of government extract revenue from all of us.

Every year government just gets bigger and bigger on the federal, state and local levels.  And the bigger government gets, the more oppressive it tends to become.

Personally, I would love to start starving the beast that the left has created, and a great way to do that would be to completely eliminate the federal income tax.

A lot of people could not even imagine a world without a federal income tax.  But the truth is that our country once thrived under such a system.  In fact, the greatest period of economic growth in U.S. history was between 1872 and 1913 [when there was no income tax at all](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/during-the-best-period-of-economic-growth-in-u-s-history-there-was-no-income-tax-and-no-federal-reserve).

And we could do it again.  Today, the individual income tax only accounts for [about 46 percent of all federal revenue](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/what-are-sources-revenue-federal-government), and if we reduced the federal government to a size that our founders would have wanted, we would be more than okay.

But even if we can’t greatly reduce the size of the federal government in the short-term, we can at least go to a very basic [flat tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat_tax) or a [fair tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FairTax), and both of those systems would be far superior to what we have today.

If we can’t get a flat tax or a fair tax right now, we should at least try to dramatically reduce tax rates and simplify the tax code as much as humanly possible.

But if we do get a short-term victory, the battle is definitely not over.  In the long-term, we need to be very clear that our goal should be to abolish the income tax, [the IRS](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/when-i-say-cut-taxes-i-dont-mean-fiddle-with-the-code-i-mean-abolish-the-income-tax-and-the-irs-and-replace-them-with-nothing) and [the Federal Reserve](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-federal-reserve-must-go) entirely.  Anything short of that is not good enough

**Star Tram**

Ever ride an EM roller coaster? Well, in 1961, while stuck in traffic, James Powell, a young researcher at Brookhaven National Laboratory came up with the idea of using powerful magnets to lift and propel massive passenger-carrying cars. Over the next seven years, he and his colleague Gordon Danby spent their spare time piecing together a concept. They obtained a patent for the breakthrough in 1968. Powell and Danby's magnetic levitation, or [maglev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maglev#Technology), technology must have seemed like magic back then, but it is now being used to move large trains at speeds up to 375 miles per hour!

Not content to rest on this sole accomplishment, the 84-year-old Powell now has grander ambitions for his maglev breakthrough. In 2001, he teamed up with [George Maise](http://www.startram.com/startram-inventor), an aeronautical engineer and 23-year veteran of Brookhaven National Laboratory, to put forth an idea to revolutionize space launches: [StarTram](http://www.startram.com/home).

[StarTram](http://www.spaceagepub.com/pdfs/Powell_2.pdf) is just as audacious as its name implies. It boils down to building a maglev train to outer space. Here's how it works: Magnetically-levitated spacecraft will be propelled inside a curved tube aimed skyward. All air will be evacuated from the tube in order to eliminate drag. Craft will exit the lengthy tube at a speed of 8.8 kilometers per second in order to escape Earth's atmosphere. A generation-1 StarTram design intended to launch cargo vessels will feature a 81-mile tube built up the side of a mountain to reach a launch altitude of 12,0000 to 20,000 feet. The Andes Mountains of Chile or the White Sands Missile Range of southern New Mexico might be ideal locations. Powell estimates that spacecraft could be launched every hour, carrying upwards of seventy tons of cargo per launch at a cost of just $20 to $50 per kilogram. An even more ambitious generation-2 StarTram design capable of ferrying hundreds of thousands of space tourists each year will feature a tube track between 620 and 930 miles long (to give more time for acceleration to minimize g-forces), likely situated in remote regions of Canada or Antarctica, reaching heights of 70,000 feet – almost twice as high as the cruising altitude of most passenger planes – to avoid drag when vessels exit the tube. The final 150 or so miles of the track will be magnetically levitated using powerful superconducting cables. This awe-inspiring highwire act operates on the [exact same physical principles used to levitate trains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrodynamic_suspension#Trains).





[There are four key hurdles](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxzdGFydHJhbXByb2plY3R8Z3g6NDI1YjVjZmMwZmRjY2VlMg) that need to be overcome for StarTram to work. First off, to propel spacecraft to necessary speeds, a massive amount of power will need to be stored and discharged over roughly thirty seconds, think between 50 and 100 gigawatts! That's equivalent to the power output of around 50,000 commercial wind turbines.

Second, levitating the generation-2 StarTram to the required 14-mile height would be a technical feat unlike any ever attempted. Powell says there are two ways to accomplish it. "The first is to construct the launch tube on the surface, together with its superconducting cables and restraining tethers, and then slowly energize the cable, levitating it over a period of days. The second option is to erect the cable and tether system, and then lift the launch tube into place using additional lifting tethers." He further notes that, "The real trick is not levitating the launch tube, but getting the cost of the superconducting cables down to an acceptable level." Energizing the cables will also require a significant amount of current, around 200 million amperes!

Third, maintaining a vacuum inside the open tube, which is needed for spacecraft to reach high speeds, would require a [plasma pump device](http://newatlas.com/startram-maglev-to-leo/21700/) at the exit point to keep air out. Similar devices exist, but they have never been built for an application such as this.

The final hurdle is one that advocates of world-changing, futuristic projects are well aware of: cost. The generation-1 StarTram is projected to cost $20 billion. Generation-2 could cost upwards of $60 billion. Since these estimates are likely optimistic, we can probably add at least $10 to $30 billion to each.

But despite the drawbacks, there are plenty of reasons to think that we could actually build a functioning StarTram. First and foremost, none of the [underlying principles are science fiction](https://www.nasa.gov/topics/technology/features/horizontallaunch.html). [The technologies for StarTram exist today](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/search.jsp?R=20000103883); we just need to scale them up big time. Moreover, the costs are not insurmountable. The $20-40 billion required for a gen-1 design is far less than the $196 billion spent on the Space Shuttle program over its 30-year lifetime, and a pittance compared to the $600 billion the United States spent on defense in 2015 alone.

"The overall feasibility and cost of the StarTram approach was validated in 2005 by a thorough 'murder board' study conducted at Sandia National Laboratory," [John Rather](http://www.rciginc.com/RCIG/Dr-John-D-Rather.html), a former Assistant Director for Space Technology at NASA, [said of the project](https://web.archive.org/web/20120323091323/http%3A/www.ias-spes.org/SPESIF2010/Plenary%20I/Rather_abs.html) at the 2010 Space, Propulsion & Energy Sciences International Forum held at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.





Looking to the future, StarTram could open up a whole new world of possibilities in outer space. Carrying cargo into low-Earth orbit the old-fashioned way – with rockets – presently ranges in cost between [$4,600 and $20,000 per kilogram,](https://www.quora.com/Rockets-What-is-cost-of-sending-1-kg-weight-into-space) although [SpaceX thinks they can get that down to $1,400](http://www.spacex.com/about/capabilities). StarTram could take that down to just double digits. Moreover, it could achieve multiple launches in a single day. Powell [pondered](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxzdGFydHJhbXByb2plY3R8Z3g6NjBhZmQ1YTE3MzY2MTA0Mg) on what that would mean for nascent industries like space-based solar power and space tourism.

Launching just 100 Space Solar Power Satellites per year at a launch cost of $20 per pound would yield a revenue of 40 billion dollars per year, enough to pay off the StarTram facility in a couple of years. 1 million space tourists per year – 1/30th of the visitors to Disneyland – at $5,000 per passenger, would bring in 5 billion dollars annually. Other large markets appear possible.

[Dr. John Rather went further](https://web.archive.org/web/20120323091323/http%3A/www.ias-spes.org/SPESIF2010/Plenary%20I/Rather_abs.html), suggesting that StarTram could lead to "utilization of near-earth asteroids for habitats immune to ionizing radiation (together with protection of the Earth from impacts), safe space tourism, and development of the moon, Mars and the outer solar system. Synergistically, ground transportation on the Earth can be revolutionized, leading to enormous reduction in energy consumption and creation of millions of jobs."

Rockets have dutifully carried Earthlings into outer space for many decades, but they are [fundamentally constrained](http://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2017/07/06/if_earth_was_50_larger_we_might_be_stuck_here.html). There are [limits to the energy we can extract](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition30/tryanny.html) from chemical propellants. And if we want to build a larger rocket with more payload space, we have to jam in more and more explosive fuel. StarTram is a game changer, doing away with explosions, propellants, and chemistry in favor of pure physics. It's a shining example of an idea that could take humanity into a new technological era.

**A Type and a Shadow: Bribery in Politics**

We have been shocked on an almost hourly basis as the Menendez trial goes forward. Every witness, every question, and every piece of evidence entered into the record is jaw dropping as to the scope of bribery in Washington. How is it get so bad? Because it is SOP in DC. In my new book Charm of Favor, I show you how the Clintons perfected this process. But now, there is another 10-term Congressman who is being taken down for the same thing.

Pennsylvania congressman Bob Brady is under investigation for allegedly orchestrating a bribery scheme. The case involves Brady’s campaign allegedly giving $90,000 to a Democratic primary opponent in exchange for dropping out of the race.

Former Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge Jimmie Moore ran against Brady in the 2012 Democratic primary. Insufficient campaign cash and a failure to gain traction led Moore to ultimately drop out of the race — at least that was the public assumption at the time.

Not much consideration was given to that race in the years that followed.

#### Related Stories

* [Ted Cruz Posted 17 Tweets In A Row To Tell Why He’s So Excited About Trump’s Tax Plan](https://www.westernjournalism.com/ted-cruz-posted-17-tweets-in-a-row-to-tell-why-hes-so-excited-about-trumps-tax-plan/)
* [Democrats Investigate Trump’s Plans For Their Big Campaign Donors — Public Employees](https://www.westernjournalism.com/democrats-investigate-trumps-plans-big-campaign-donors-public-employees/)
* [New Report Offers New Revelations Surround GOP Baseball Shooter](https://www.westernjournalism.com/new-report-offers-new-revelations-surround-gop-baseball-shooter/)

Brady, a longtime representative of Pennsylvania’s 1st Congressional District, has been a stalwart force in Philadelphia Democratic politics.

He has been a member of Congress since 1998 and has served as the Chairman of the Philadelphia Democratic City Committee since 1986. He was also a local union leader before entering Capitol Hill.

However, Brady has been under increasing hot water since the Justice Department in July [unsealed](https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/philadelphia-woman-pleads-guilty-charges-causing-false-statements-federal-election) details of a bribery investigation involving his campaign.

Carolyn Cavaness, a former political aide to Moore, pleaded guilty to playing a role in the payoff scheme and falsifying documents to the Federal Election Commission to keep it under wraps. Cavaness’ testimony was part of a plea agreement with federal prosecutors.

The former aide stated in court that Brady’s campaign team agreed to pay Moore’s campaign $90,000 in order for him to drop out of the 2012 Democratic primary contest.

According to the [testimony](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/philadelphia/ex-aide-to-brady-rival-admits-scheme-to-pay-off-challenger-20170725.html), Moore ordered Cavaness to create a bogus company for the sole purpose of receiving funds from Brady’s campaign to be used to pay Moore’s campaign debts. The payments in question were funneled through two political consults who allegedly made a paper trail to justify the payouts.

Cavaness admitted to creating false statements to the FEC — none of the payments in question were ever recorded in Moore’s campaign finance reports.

The investigation had already been underway for months, but prosecutors [revealed](https://www.rollcall.com/politics/former-aide-says-rep-bob-brady-paid-opponent-to-drop-out) that they requested to keep it sealed because of fear that Brady would interfere in the investigation. Prosecutors warned he posed “significant danger” to the case.

In a new development earlier this week, Moore admitted involvement in the bribery investigation. The 2012 Democratic challenger to Brady agreed to cooperate with federal investigators and verified a timeline of events that preceded and followed the $90,000 payout.

“(Brady) and the defendant agreed and understood that the payment from (Brady’s) campaign … would be disguised,” the document [states](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/city/former-judge-admits-concealing-payments-from-bob-brady-campaign-20171002.html), “and the deception would include hiding at least some of (Brady’s) funds as the purchase of a poll analyzing the primary matchup between (them), notwithstanding the fact that (Brady) was already in possession of this same poll,” according to Moore’s plea agreement document.

Moore’s lawyer, Jeffrey Miller, reveals that the former judge has been working with prosecutors for months. However, Miller did not opine as to what Moore’s involvement could mean for Brady.

“There is a vast amount of evidence out there,” Miller explained to the Philadelphia Inquirer. “Whether it points to the congressman doing something illegal or exculpates him, I can’t say.”

For his part, Brady has maintained his innocence despite the evidence mounting against him.

He does not deny the payments were made. However, the longtime Democratic congressman insists the money transfer to Moore’s campaign was completely legal and well documented. When asked about the investigation, Brady refers inquiry to the consultants who handled the transaction.

“It looks bad for the congressman, and both fact and rumor suggest that the allegations are genuine. As for the result, need to see charges,” remarked Daniel Pearson in a statement to Western Journalism. Pearson is currently a board member for the Philadelphia Federation of Young Republicans.

“Philadelphia needs to move past Brady style politics.,” Pearson said of the Democratic lawmaker.

The motive for the bribe still confounds investigators.

Pennsylvania’s 1st Congressional District leans heavily Democratic and Brady never has received formidable challenges during primary season. During the time of the alleged payout, Moore carried less than $5,000 in campaign funds, while Brady touted a campaign war chest of $750,000.

Brady follows former Pennsylvania Rep. Chakka Fattah — who is currently [serving time](http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/01/25/chaka-fattah-begins-10-year-prison-term/) in federal prison for corruption — as the latest Philadelphia lawmaker to be placed under investigation by the FBI.

**The China Real Syndrome**

One of the most devastating revelations in my new book, Charm of Favor, is the authority Hillary Clinton gave the Chinese to use eminent domain over US properties to back 10 trillion dollars in loans that Obama needed to buy votes to stay in office. The American people threw out his policies in 2014, and they meant to throw him out in 2016, except the Republican candidate quit the race two weeks before the election.

So, not what is the problem? Obama is out of office. Well, there is a little issue of repaying that debt.

## Self-exiled Chinese real-estate mogul Guo Wengui blasted what he called the “kleptocracy” running China, and warned that a wave of Chinese spies are being dispatched to “decimate” the United States – where Guo is currently sheltered.

CNBC [reports](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/05/exiled-chinese-billionaire-blasts-kleptocracy-running-china.html) that his remarks come as the Chinese government has doubled down on its allegations against the billionaire, accusing him of crimes including corruption and rape – crimes he firmly denies.

“What the U.S. ought to do is take action, instead of just talking to the Chinese kleptocracy,” Guo said through a translator at an event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

“They are just a tiny group of Mafia, pure and simple,” said Guo, who also goes by the name Miles Kwok on social media. “I would like all the members of the Chinese Communist Party to wake up and say no to this ruling clique.”

Guo [applied](http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/09/07/billionaire-guo-wengui-asks-u-s-asylum-accusing-top-chinese-officials-corruption/) for asylum in the U.S. this month after arriving on a tourist visa. He is currently working out of a $78 million penthouse in New York City as he fights off the accusations from the Chinese government surfacing after he accused powerful officials of serious corruption, including the head of the Communist Party’s anti-corruption board.

Although his social media accounts have been wiped on occasion, he has managed to often restore them and continue his barrage of attacks against the “kleptocracy.”

Guo himself is no stranger to corruption. As part of his rags-to-riches story, he befriended a Chinese intelligence official who later was accused of taking $8.8 million in bribes from Guo.

The 50-year-old has promised to continue as he wants to “change China” even in the face of the lengthy accusations against him. The *Wall Street Journal* [reports](https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinese-fugitive-amasses-war-chest-to-battle-beijing-1507023004) that he has amassed a $150 million war chest with which to fight back.

“The U.S. is the last land of justice,” Guo told the *Journal*. “I would not be alive were it not for the U.S.”

However, he is still having issues in America. His Facebook account was taken down over the weekend, purportedly for violating terms of service and CNBC [reports](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/05/exiled-chinese-billionaire-blasts-kleptocracy-running-china.html) that a planned speech on Tuesday at the Hudson Institute was postponed.

In his remarks this week, he said he was aware of multiple attempts by the “kleptocracy … to weaken the United States, to bring about turmoil in the United States and to … decimate the United States.”

**Establish Republicans are Also Being Marked for Exposure**

Julian Assange is in exile, a wanted man by the FBI, for telling the truth. That’s all he has ever done. The secrets are sent to him by whistleblowers, who he has faithfully protected no matter what. Their documents are vetted, thoroughly. Then, they are posted. Period. There is no commentary. There is no massive marketing plan. It is the purest and most sacred reporting on Earth. He has been an inspiration for countless other news outlets, like X-Squared Radio. And Breitbart News.

Of course, Breitbart has been successful. Here is what they have accomplished in the past few months. They are saving America from the criminal organiations set up by the Clintons.

## In three short weeks Breitbart News reporting drove two of the three leading establishment Republicans in Tennessee out of the state’s 2018 U.S. Senate race.

First up was incumbent Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), who made a [surprise announcement on September 26 he would not run for re-election](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/26/sen-bob-corker-wont-seek-re-election/), one day after a Breitbart News report about his [sweetheart deal](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/26/sen-bob-corker-announces-retirement-one-day-after-breitbart-reports-on-his-3-million-swamp-deal/) in an Alabama retail center development in which Alabama taxpayers are set to pay him [more than $3 million over 20 years in sales tax incentive rebates](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/26/sen-bob-corker-announces-retirement-one-day-after-breitbart-reports-on-his-3-million-swamp-deal/).

Though his announcement that he would not seek re-election was couched [in terms that claimed](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/26/sen-bob-corker-wont-seek-re-election/) it had been made “[a]fter much thought, consideration and family discussion over the past year,” its suddenness–and the fact that Corker felt [compelled to offer](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/26/sen-bob-corker-announces-retirement-one-day-after-breitbart-reports-on-his-3-million-swamp-deal/) a lame and incomplete explanation for his investment in a deal that epitomizes the swamp in which the political elite thrive–underscores the potency of the Breitbart News report.

Then came Gov. Bill Haslam, like Corker a “moderate” establishment Republican from East Tennessee.

With Corker out of the race, all eyes turned to the scion of the wealthy Haslam family, whose personal $2.5 billion net worth derives from his inherited ownership interest in the Pilot Flying J national truck stop chain.

In nine brief days, Breitbart News turned the bright light of sunshine on Haslam’s political vulnerabilities in a way the compliant and complacent Tennessee media, dominated as it is by the Gannett-owned USA Today Tennessee group–which now owns the Tennessean (in Nashville), the Memphis Commercial Appeal, the Knoxville News-Sentinel, the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, and the Daily News Journal (Murfreesboro)–has never come close to even attempting. In rapid fire, Breitbart New brought all of these vulnerabilities front and center on the national stage:

* The [ongoing investigation and trials](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/29/haslam-owned-pilot-flying-j-employees-trial-next-month-federal-fraud-charges/)of executives at the Haslam family-owned business, Pilot Flying J, on charges of fraud and illegal kickbacks.
* [Gov. Haslam’s record as a vocal opponent of President Trump](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/tn-gov-haslam-praises-brother-owner-nfls-cleveland-browns-attacked-trump-anthem-kneelers/), who called for him to withdraw from the race just one month before his stunning victory over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 general election.
* Questions surrounding [potential conflicts of interest](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/10/01/conservative-republicans-tn-gov-haslam-family-owned-pilot-flying-j-appears-benefit-gas-tax-increase-pushed-through/) involving the governor’s push for a gas tax increase and Pilot Flying J.
* [Anti-Trump comments made by brother Jimmy Haslam](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/tn-gov-haslam-praises-brother-owner-nfls-cleveland-browns-attacked-trump-anthem-kneelers/), owner of the NFL’s Cleveland Browns, related to the national anthem protests involving kneeling players.
* [Anti-Trump comments by Senator Bob Corker](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/10/05/tennessee-pals-bob-corkers-anti-trump-speech-spree-endangers-bill-haslams-senatorial-prospects/), former college roommate of Jimmy Haslam and a long time political mentor to Gov. Haslam.
* [President Trump’s consistent popularity](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/tn-gov-haslam-praises-brother-owner-nfls-cleveland-browns-attacked-trump-anthem-kneelers/) in a state he easily won, 61 percent to 35 percent.
* The rushed announcement of [the sale of Pilot Flying J to Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/10/03/warren-buffett-to-purchase-haslam-owned-pilot-flying-j/) at very favorable terms to the Sage of Omaha.

Haslam knew that if he entered the 2018 U.S. Senate race, Breitbart News would soon be reporting on whether he ever asked his brother, Pilot Flying J CEO Jimmy Haslam, if the former company president, Mark Hazelwood, who goes on trial for his role in the fraudulent kickback scheme later this month, ever told him about the illegal activity. No one who knows the legendarily hands on management style of Jimmy Haslam could imagine that someone who reports directly to him would be able to conceal such information.

The pages of Breitbart News were poised to consistently pose a [slightly different version of the question](https://rockytoppolitics.com/2017/10/03/say-bro-about-that-whole-fraud-thingy/) posed by the late Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee to President Nixon during the Watergate hearings:

**What did the governor know, and when did he know it?**

On Thursday morning, [Gov. Haslam announced that he would not be a candidate](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/10/05/tennessee-gov-bill-haslam-will-not-run-for-bob-corkers-senate-seat/) for the U.S. Senate in 2018.

Later that morning, Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN-07), a strong supporter of President Trump in a state the president won resoundingly in 2016 by a 61 percent to 36 margin, [announced her own candidacy for the Republican nomination in 2018](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/10/05/rep-marsha-blackburn-announces-candidacy-for-gop-senate-nomination-in-tennessee/) to replace Senator Corker in the United States Senate, within hours of Haslam’s announcement he would not run.

With her announcement, Blackburn became the immediate frontrunner in the race.

But the Tennessee Republican establishment cannot forgive Blackburn for scuttling its beloved state income tax back in 2000 and is seeking revenge, even though Corker and Haslam are too damaged politically to secure that revenge directly.

So they’re going to try to do it by proxy.

Tennessee’s establishment Republicans are desperately seeking a candidate to challenger Blackburn, and are turning over every political rock in the state to do so.

Sources tell Breitbart News that the Haslam-Corker-Alexander establishment Republican team has decided to resurrect the damaged political career of former Rep. Stephen Fincher (R-TN-08) as one part of its plan to derail Blackburn.

“Washington corrupts, and Congressman Stephen Fincher is proof,” The Washington Examiner’s Timothy P. Carney [wrote](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/congressman-stephen-fincher-from-tea-partier-to-corporate-welfare-champion/article/2573279) of Fincher in an October 2015 article titled, “Congressman Stephen Fincher: From Tea Partier to corporate welfare champion.”

Carney explained how Fincher transformed himself into a swamp creature over three short terms in Congress:

“I may not be a polished politician,” Fincher said when he announced his first run for Congress in 2010, “but as a lifelong farmer I know that most problems can be solved with a little common sense. When I’m elected, I’ll put that common sense to work for everyday Tennesseans, not the special interests. Trillion-dollar bailouts, bloated budgets and boondoggle spending packages aren’t working, at least for my friends and neighbors …”

It would be an understatement to say Fincher has come to terms with boondoggles and special interests.

Fincher, once an opponent of the Export-Import Bank —a federal agency that subsidizes foreign buyers of U.S.-made goods — now is trying to undermine his party’s leadership by teaming up with Nancy Pelosi and her party in order to reauthorize Ex-Im Bank as President Obama and his big donors in the business lobby have demanded.

The obvious explanation is that Fincher has pulled up his Tennessee roots and is now firmly planted in D.C. Instead of serving Western Tennessee, Fincher, who sits on the Financial Services Committee, now represents Wall Street and K Street.

Sources tell Breitbart News that the Haslam-Corker-Alexander establishment Republican team has committed millions of dollars to a potential Fincher campaign for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate in Tennessee in 2018.

But Fincher is not the only candidate being encouraged by the Republican establishment to take on the Trump-supporting, conservative Blackburn.

Another candidate–a self-funding political “blank slate” from Memphis–is said to be considering a run for the Republican nomination, according to a few press reports.

Jeff Webb, founder and former CEO of Varsity Sports, the largest operator of specialty camps in the country, has recently tested the waters.

Sources familiar with West Tennessee Republican politics tell Breitbart News that Webb is completely unknown among the area’s conservative grassroots activists.

With the exception of a $1,000 donation to the political moderate Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN-08), Webb has apparently made no contributions to any federal candidate of either party over the past decade, if ever, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Among the Republican presidential candidates Webb did not support is Donald Trump. Of Trump’s policies, Webb said recently that he “supports President Trump’s ‘general positions,'” though he failed to specify which Trump policies he does and does not support.

Tellingly, Webb’s potential candidacy is largely being encouraged by “Tennessee CEOs,” according to this recent Memphis Business Journal [article](https://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/news/2017/09/27/varsity-founder-considers-running-for-corkers-seat.html):

Jeff Webb confirmed to the Memphis Business Journal that CEOs from several Memphis companies (and one from a company in central Tennessee) contacted him Wednesday, September 27, to ask if he would consider running for Bob Corker’s current seat. . .

“I would come in with no baggage,” Webb said. “And, at this stage in my career, [I would] only be interested [in being senator] if I can make a difference in serving the public.” . . .

An overhaul of the tax system and “revisiting” the health care situation are a few issues Webb said would be at the top of his list–if he were to run.

A political science major with an emphasis in foreign relations in college, Webb is very interested in what the U.S. is doing globally and supports President Trump’s “general positions” on improving current trade deals.

One sign that this Memphis Business Journal article’s original source was not someone familiar with the Volunteer State is the use of the term “Central Tennessee,” rather than “Middle Tennessee.”

No one who lives in Tennessee uses the term “Central Tennessee” to describe the counties in the middle of the state.

In fact, the state has three geographical divisions, signified by the three stars on the state flag, which are always referred to as West Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and East Tennessee.

Whether one or more establishment Republicans choose to enter the race to succeed Senator Bob Corker in the U.S. Senate from Tennessee in 2018, Marsha Blackburn, who is one of, if not the most, reliable supporters of President Trump of anyone running for office in the Volunteer State, will remain the frontrunner.

**Kamala Harris: Patterned after Samantha Power**

Kamala Harris, who said at a Hillary rally last year that only Hillary can bring an “America where opportunity is open to everyone … where everyone plays by the same set of rules.”

Is the same Kamala Harris who slept her way to the top wrecking marriages and careers in the process. Oh, it gets worse, because she couldn’t hold a job, her “powerful” boyfriends kept getting her high paying “appointed” positions.

Willie Brown, the notoriously corrupt Mayor of San Francisco was 60 and speaker of the California House and Harris was 29. He was married. She was ambitious.

She swooped in, broke up the marriage and rode her corruption and open legs all the way to the US Senate.

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen once [called Harris](http://articles.latimes.com/1994-11-29/news/mn-2787_1_brown-associates) “the Speaker’s new steady.”

According to the [Daily Caller,](http://dailycaller.com/2012/09/06/at-dem-convention-kamala-harris-demands-opportunity-open-to-everyone-but-had-special-career-help-from-powerful-boyfriend/) Brown appointed Harris to numerous high paying jobs, one that cost taxpayers $72,000 a year and another that cost taxpayers $92,000.

Harris  “was described by several people at the Capitol as Brown’s girlfriend,” said the Los Angeles Times when they broke the scandal. T

Lol. Kamala Harris. Corrupt Willie Brown’s ex-GF. He “helped” her up the ranks. Shady 2010 election result.

— Falcon-watcher, etc. (@JamesManniello) [February 24, 2017](https://twitter.com/JamesManniello/status/835204966331600897)

So folks, this is who Kamala Harris – the liberal rising star – really is. A disgrace.

**Steven Paddock’s Airplane**

Judge not, that ye be not judge with that judgment. I get that. No problem. But we are allowed to be a fruit inspector. Ye shall judge a man, not so much by his friends, as by his enemies. But, in this case, the circle gets very small, and very bloody.

A few internet sleuths have taken matters into their own hands after the obvious disinformation campaign by the mainstream media surrounding the Las Vegas shooting. Mounting evidence of what looks like a false flag is worrying many. And once you read this, those fears will be shoved into overdrive.

On the surface, the tweet doesn’t say much. But how much can Mike Toke really say in a limited amount of characters? But what he does manage is enough to get anyone seeking the truth to follow all these leads and look into everything that the media and our government continues to hide from us. It’s what’s embedded in the tweet that counts.



Looking closely, the first thing you will notice is that the shooter, [Stephen Paddock, had a pilot license and owned two planes.](http://heavy.com/news/2017/10/stephen-paddock-pilot-license-planes-faa/) This is well-established fact. The tail number of one of those planes is N5343M, a Cirrus SR-20. You can see that this was owned by [Paddock by going to the website Flightaware.com.](http://flightaware.com/resources/registration/N5343M) But Paddock doesn’t own this plane anymore. It was grounded three years ago, and it’s now in the hands of none other than [Volant LLC](http://www.volant-associates.com/), which there is little information on.

However, [Volant Associates](http://www.volant-associates.com/) is none other than a Department of Defense contractor. Meaning Paddock’s plane has been in the hands of the United States government for the past three years and grounded since – if Volant LLC is being used as a way to hide information. Considering what Volant Associates does, that wouldn’t be so far-fetched.  But the plane’s information is [all easily verified here on Flightaware.com.](http://flightaware.com/live/flight/N5343M) It’s been in Roanoke, Virginia since April 25, 2014. That is a very auspicious location and time.

[Volant’s describes it’s mission on their website](http://www.volant-associates.com/volant/) as providing “**the industry’s preeminent professionals to discriminating U.S. government and intelligence-and-defense-industry customers.**” In other words, when you need to get somewhere fast, under the cover of night, without anyone knowing about it, we can take care of you.

The registration of this [plane is also listed as “active”](http://flightaware.com/live/flight/N5343M) even though it hasn’t been flown in three years. Do you know wht it takes to keep a plane active? Parts age like a fresh sliced apple. You can’t just park it like a motorcycle and then jump on it when the weather is right. It needs to have thousands of dollars of maintenance, even if it sits doing nothing. Somebody pays. Somebody has a reason for keeping it active. This is very strange, to be sure. Well, it gets even better. [The FAA should have this](http://www.commonsenseevaluation.com/2017/10/04/interesting-info-regarding-a-plane-once-registered-to-stephen-paddock/#sthash.9VanKYru.8V9dyD2O.dpbs) same information. But guess what? They don’t. Their website shows that a different aircraft, a Cessna 152, maintains that tail number and it was [last registered to a person in San Diego, California.](http://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/NNum_Results.aspx?NNumbertxt=N5343M) That’s a little like taking the plates off your Buick and putting it on your pickup truck, so the cops don’t pull you over for expired tags. The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) is a government agency, and it appears that the Agency itself has scrubbed this plane’s information. Who would have the power to tell the FAA to scrub records? Certainly not Steven Paddock. Not only that, but to take such a risk would not happen for no apparent reason. Well, the plot still thickens.

There is little to be known about [Volant LLC., in Roanoke, Virginia](https://bizindex.pub-dat.org/Browse/Entity/1732354). A company big enough to have a plane should have a website, at least that would be the assumption. But a Google search netted very little information other than they provide “discrete business services.” But Volant Associates is a completely different matter. [That’s your defense contractor. And their website says they are located in Chantilly, VA, which wouldn’t be too far](http://www.volant-associates.com/) from Volant LLC. in Roanoke. And a quick Google search of that verifies that the [two cities are only 219 miles apart.](https://www.distance-cities.com/distance-chantilly-va-to-roanoke-va) So is Volant LLC., a cover company for the defense contractor? Is this a coincidence?

Just for a little perspective, wasn’t there a hit movie out recently with Ben Affleck called, *The Accountant?* Wasn’t the film about a nerdy accountant who does business with the baddest firms in the world, who want to find their missing money? And didn’t the accountant turn mass killer when they tried to double cross him, or take him out? For a list of all of the contracts between [Volant LLC. and the government, click here.](http://government-contracts.insidegov.com/d/d/Volant-Associates-Llc) Now, you see where we are going. Volant LLC worked for the Obama Administration. Paddock’s plane could have been used in other scandals, such as the [Fast and Furious gun running scheme](http://www.thedailysheeple.com/another-fast-and-furious-confidential-email-proves-hillary-clinton-supplied-al-qaida-with-weapons-through-benghazi-embassy_082016)? The point is that the circle is just too tiny here. Of all the planes in the whole country, Obama contracted this one.

It is strange that this information is being kept from the public, and those who seek the truth are stuck finding it on their own? It is strange that a plane that is being kept active, has flown for Obama, is also owned by the country’s worst mass murderer, other than of course the U.S. federal government. There were 76 people burned alive by Janet Reno on live TV on April 19th, 1993. Nobody cared. Nobody even went to trial. The Clinton Crime Syndicate was in the White House.

**Drone Wars Update**

Cyberdyne Systems, er, I mean Boeing has just made a very strange acquisition. Boeing has announced that it's buying Aurora Flight Sciences, a company that is developing autonomous flying vehicles. Aurora's strengths are in creating aircraft that take off and land vertically, and is looking to eliminate pilots from the equation entirely. The company has been working on such technology for the better part of three decades, and also worked with [Uber on its own flying taxi project](http://uk.businessinsider.com/uber-partners-with-aurora-flight-sciences-on-flying-taxis-2017-4).

Aurora's main business is in advancing the world of military aircraft, and has won several contracts from NASA and DARPA. Most famously, the company won funding to build phase two of the VTOL X-Plane -- beating out both Boeing and Lockheed Martin. [The VTOL X-Plane](https://www.engadget.com/2016/03/03/darpa-unveils-its-next-vtol-aircraft-concept/) (codenamed LightningStrike) promises to achieve top flight speeds of up to 400 knots with a more efficient hover and lift-to-drag ratio. The craft can allegedly be parked on top of buildings, and then automatically, take off and land. It would be quite possible to have a complete drone force in a city that could respond to any sort of police emergency.

It's believed that Boeing will buy the company to help bolster its own expertise in autonomous aircraft and VTOL technology. It's likely that the bulk of that knowledge will be used to develop military vehicles, although we can hope that it will also trickle down to drone taxis, first responders, and the like. It's not clear how deep Aurora's relationship with Uber went, or if that deal has ended now that Boeing is in charge.

The deal is structured so that Aurora will exist as an independent subsidiary under the Boeing brand, although without direct control. That usually means that the records can be kept from the public, and way out of the reach of FOIA lawsuits. Although it's worth saying that the company will have access to the aerospace giant's vast R&D and financial resources.

**Malia Obama Busted Again**

Like Father like daughter. If you thought that one little joint Malia Obama smoked while she was shaking her ass at Lollapalooza last year was bad, you ain’t seen nothing yet.

Apparently, Malia’s weed habit has gotten worse because she was just caught in a massive marijuana bust [in her home city of Chicago, Illinois.](http://www.centralillinoisproud.com/news/local-news/extensive-investigation-leads-to-marijuana-lab-bust/783622835)

Malia was caught buying weed edibles from two of her thug friends as well as enough pot to make thug rapper Snoop Dogg look like an amateur, according to sources within Chicago’s elite Drug Task Force.

“Officers first observed Obama pulling up to a street corner and blinking her lights six times,” a spokesman for the department says. “She then spoke with an African-American male, who got into her car. Then they drove to a building a few blocks over.”

“She walked upstairs with the man then came back down 30 minutes later,” the spokesman says. “It was then that officers made their move.”

Obama was then swarmed by police, who easily found her precious drugs in her oversized Gucci handbag. The bust included six cans of “Baked” Soda, thirteen THC-infused lollipops, and a gram shy of 6 pounds of pot.

The classy former First Daughter reportedly broke down crying, angrily demanding that she be allowed to “call her dad.” Unfortunately for her, she had to wait until she was booked because her phone was entered into evidence.

If you think she might get special treatment because of who her father is, you forgot how much cops in Chicago hate him. She faces up to six years in prison from the drugs alone. Officers are weighing “intent to distribute” charges as well because of the “weight” she purchased.