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| --- |
| Jihad Report Jul 08, 2017 -Jul 14, 2017  |
| Attacks | 36  |
| Killed | 196  |
| Injured | 196  |
| Suicide Blasts | 8  |
| Countries | 14 |

**Comey Chameleon**

**Russia Scandal:** No wonder former FBI Director James Comey refused to press charges last summer against Hillary Clinton for her egregious security breaches: It turns out, he may have been guilty of the same thing.

As the inside-the-beltway [political publication The Hill reported](http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/341225-comeys-private-memos-on-trump-conversations-contained-classified), more than half of the memos FBI Director James Comey wrote after having spoken to President Trump about the Russia investigation contained classified information. The Hill cites as its sources "officials familiar with the documents."

Not surprisingly, perhaps, [Trump on Monday morning](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/07/10/comey-memos-reportedly-had-classified-info-trump-says-that-is-so-illegal.html) tweeted out an angry response: "James Comey leaked CLASSIFIED INFORMATION to the media. That is so illegal!"

He may be onto something there.

All told, Comey wrote seven memos based on nine meetings with Trump. In testimony to Congress, he asserted that he had made sure the memos in question didn't have classified material. But a subsequent investigation found markings on four of the memos indicating secret information, the kind that is not allowed to be routinely released to the public.

Comey has long maintained that the memos were his personal property, but virtually no legal authority agrees with that. Nor does the FBI, for that matter. The memos were created on government time and related directly to his work, so they were the property of government.

In short, it sounds like a game of cover-your-hindquarters he's been playing. Because Comey later let outsiders see those memos, and made sure they were leaked to the Trump-hating press, in this case the New York Times, so any protestations of innocence on his part sound more than a little weak.

Let's be very clear here: What Comey did is against FBI rules, and it's a violation of federal secrecy laws, on a par with the violation that Hillary Clinton committed when she decided to run the Secretary of State's office from a private, home-brew email server that was clearly illegal.

The agreement signed by all FBI employees says that "all information acquired by me in connection with my official duties with the FBI and all official material to which I have access remain the property of the United States of America."

It goes on to add that agents "will not reveal, by any means, any information or material from or related to FBI files or any other information acquired by virtue of my official employment to any unauthorized recipient without prior official written authorization by the FBI."

Hillary signed a similar agreement at the State Department. Yet, she routinely put classified information onto public servers, where it could be grabbed by unscrupulous actors, such as the Chinese and the Russians.

How does that compare to Comey, who asked a lawyer-friend at Columbia University, Prof. Daniel Richman, to leak his memos containing classified information to the news media?

The goal of the handoff was to generate stories so that a special prosecutor would be named to investigate Russian meddling in the U.S. election and, more to the point, Democratic rumors that Trump had colluded with the Russians to beat Hillary.

In short, Comey appears to have delivered classified information to the New York Times and other media for the sole political purpose of bringing down President Trump.

Comey's actions help explain a lot of things that people have puzzled over since last year. During last summer's campaign and the growing scandal over Hillary's cavalier treatment of U.S. secrets on her email server, Comey came to her rescue.

Yes, he said in July, Clinton's actions were "extremely careless." But stung by the criticism he received from the left, he later in the month said that Clinton's violations didn't rise to the level of a prosecutable crime.

On Oct. 28, he revealed that more emails had been found on an unsecured laptop belonging to former Rep. Anthony Wiener, estranged husband of top Clinton aide Huma Abedin. On Nov. 6, just two days before the election, Comey announced Clinton wouldn't be prosecuted. Case closed.

Comey's later actions suggest, if anything, he learned from Hillary's chutzpah. You can flout U.S. law, and as long as you have friends and political clout, get away with it — even use your illegality as a bludgeon against your political foes.

Moreover, a [June piece by Fox News](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/06/13/comey-admitted-single-trump-leak-but-were-there-others.html) noted at least 14 stories written by the New York Times going back to Jan. 10 containing "confidential information related to Trump and the FBI, mostly sourced anonymously from senior officials in the FBI and DOJ." Comey, it seems, has been working overtime to sabotage Trump.

This calls into serious question the appointment of Robert Mueller as special counsel to look into the rumors of election meddling by Russia. Comey and Mueller are close friends.

At minimum, Mueller must recuse himself on the Trump matters now before him. His friendship with Comey makes impartiality impossible, and it's a clear conflict.

More importantly, Comey got Hillary off the hook last year from what appeared to be a slam-dunk prosecution. And please remember, no one thought at the time that Trump had any chance at all of beating Hillary.

Now, we find out Comey played a double game with the public and the newly elected president. A case of a deep-state operative, Comey, trying to sabotage Washington-outsider Trump? Or just someone with a fast-and-loose idea about following the law?

**The Confirmation Wars**

With the cleansing of the Obama soldiers from the White House’s side of the Agency government, the backroom work of this fascist organization can proceed unabated. Normally, the president appoints his own watchdogs to go in and try to keep the waste and fraud to a minimum, depending on what he wants to do. The Democrats have lost the majority control for the first time in many decades. The exiled leadership is furious and crafty.

President Donald Trump's first tweets on Tuesday dealt with Democrat obstructionism, the need for Republicans to repeal and replace Obamacare, and his effort to bring the Olympics to Los Angeles.

"The Senate Democrats have only confirmed 48 of 197 Presidential Nominees. They can't win so all they do is slow things down & obstruct!" he wrote at 7 a.m.

On that same subject, President Donald Trump retweeted an item from "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday morning. The retweet quoted Mark Short, the White House director of legislative affairs, as blaming Sen. Chuck Schumer for "running an unprecedented campaign of obstruction against the President's nominees for high-ranking positions in government."

At Monday's off-camera White House news briefing, Short noted:

It's July 10th, and we do not have deputy secretaries at the Small Business Administration, the Department of Interior, the Department of Energy, HUD, HHS, OMB, and the Department of Defense.  Senate committees have cleared 32 of our nominees who are still waiting for a floor vote.

In total, there are 133 nominees waiting for consideration by various committees.  While Senator Schumer irresponsibly champions the resist movement, his partisan tactics are harming the country and obstructing the will of the American people.

Short said the Senate has confirmed a total of 50 Trump administration nominees, compared with 202 confirmed at the same time in the Obama presidency.

"By the August recess in 2009, the Senate had confirmed 292 Obama administration nominees by voice vote alone.  To date, the Trump administration nominees have received five voice vote confirmations," Short said.

"The truth is the Democrats are putting their agenda ahead of the will of the American people. Democrats are keeping key agency nominees from serving their country. And today, we're calling on Senator Chuck Schumer to stop blocking the will of the American people for political gain. And we're also calling on you in the media to help shine light to bring this problem to light of day," Short said.

That is why they win. They put their agenda ahead of everything else. When Constitutionalists in government start doing the same thing, we will make progress. Not before.

**The Reign of the Judges**

How much longer will Americans put up with an activist Supreme Court? With the unsolved murder of Justice Scalia, the Court got busy taking away more of your rights as Americans. Justice Anthony Kennedy’s opinion for a 5-3 majority in the recently decided case of Murr v. Wisconsin continues the Supreme Court’s steady erosion of property rights. His embrace of yet another balancing test should concern defenders of constitutional rights in general.

The 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbids government taking of private property for public use unless the owner is compensated for the value of the property. Thus, if the government determines that it needs private property for a road or some other public facility, it must compensate the owners. This physical taking is usually accomplished in an eminent domain proceeding where the only matter in controversy is likely to be the value of the taken property.

Government officials don’t have to be particularly clever to recognize that they can often achieve their objectives through regulation rather than eminent domain, and thus avoid having to pay compensation. Where a government purpose does not require physical occupation of land — wildlife habitat protection, for example — a prohibition on use of private land is every bit as effective as public ownership.

To prevent such government circumvention of the takings clause, the Supreme Court ruled in the 1992 case of Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council that an unconstitutional taking of private property occurs when government regulation deprives the owner of all economically beneficial use. In the court’s terminology, both physical occupation and deprivation of all economically beneficial use constitute per se takings in violation of the 5th Amendment.

But the creativity of government regulators eager to avoid the expense of compensation knows no limits. For the purpose of preserving the scenic beauty of Wisconsin’s Lower St. Croix River, government regulators limited development to lots of at least an acre. The Murr family owns two adjacent lots of approximately 1.25 acres each, one acquired by their parents and the other by their parents’ company. When the two lots passed into the common ownership of the Murr children, the lots were said to be merged as a single parcel for purposes of the regulations. Thus, the Murrs were forbidden from selling one of the lots and they brought suit alleging an unconstitutional deprivation of all economically beneficial use of their property.

Justice Kennedy and the court’s four liberals ruled that the regulation did not deprive the Murrs of all economically beneficial use because they still had use of their cabin on what had been a separate lot prior to the regulation. For the purpose of determining whether there was a per se taking, concluded the majority, the separately acquired lots could be treated as a single lot.

Circumstances like those faced by the Murrs will not likely be common going forward. Property lawyers will take note of this decision and be careful to avoid common ownership of adjacent parcels. But the court’s ruling is nevertheless troubling. It is part and parcel of the court’s increasing reliance on balancing tests in the resolution of individual rights claims.

“The question of the proper parcel in regulatory takings cases,” wrote Justice Kennedy, “cannot be solved by any simple test.” Rather “courts must consider a number of factors” including “treatment of the land under state and local law; the physical characteristics of the land; and the prospective value of the regulated land.”

If the proper parcel under this new Murr test has no economically beneficial value as a consequence of the regulation, there will be a per se taking and compensation must be paid. But if the parcel as defined by the Murr test retains economically beneficial value, courts must then assess the economic impact of the regulation, the character of the regulation, and the extent to which the regulation interferes with reasonable investment-backed expectations under the 1978 Penn Central test.

So imagine that you own, or are contemplating purchasing, a parcel of land. What are your rights in relation to the government? There is no way to know with any certainty. If the government chooses to redefine the boundaries or restrict your use of your property, you must await a judicial balancing of a half-dozen factors to know whether you own what you thought you had purchased.

Balancing tests have become pervasive in constitutional rights jurisprudence. By substituting balancing tests for clear rules, judges effectively co-opt the legislative process by weighing the relative importance of various public policies. Worse yet, constitutional rights are made contingent on the policy preferences of unelected judges. Our constitutional founders must be turning in their graves.

**The Messy Desk**

Is your desk overflowing with scraps of paper, coffee cups, envelopes and wilted plants? Well, far from being idle, it turns out you might just be a creative genius.

In world where ‘cleanliness is next to godliness’ is a well-valued idiom, being a messy person can often be mistaken as a hallmark of laziness. But thanks to a recent study, researchers have found there is a method to this madness.

Proving that sometimes working in mess is much more productive than precision and order, researchers at the [*University of Minnesota*](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/tidy-desk-or-messy-desk-each-has-its-benefits.html#.WWJ_j9PyuWY) found that creative geniuses favour a chaotic workspace.

After testing how well participants came up with new ideas when working in both tidy and disorderly work areas, it revealed that while those in the messy room generated the same number of ideas as their clean-room counterparts, their ideas were considered as far more interesting and creative when evaluated by impartial judges.

Furthermore, the data also found that people with a messy desk are more prone to risk taking while those at cleaner desks tend to follow strict rules and are less likely to try new things.

“Disorderly environments seem to inspire breaking free of tradition, which can produce fresh insights,” researchers said.

But why? Perhaps geniuses have far more important things to do than stewing over complicated filing systems, instead, under that mass of papers there is a sense of organisation that only they can operate through.

Just look at Albert Einsten, Thomas Edison and even Steve Jobs, they all had messy workspaces.

In fact, the idea that a clean desk creates a productive worker is very much a construct of the mid-20th century.

Historically, geniuses were always pictured with an unkempt desk with Einstein famously pointing out that, ““If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”

So, if your work space, like many of ours, is usually a mess, stop agonizing over how you look to your colleagues and embrace your untidiness for what it is – genius.

Comments

There are two reasons I have a messy desk...1) if I clear a space on my desk my wife will put something there and I have to live with it forever.

2) If I file certain papers away then they no longer exist. Paid bills go in the file which looks more like a New York ticker tape shower but I tried about 5 months ago to fix it to no avail.

There are different kinds of "intelligence", this article mentions creativity, and in most cases, what we call 'creativity' is really the ability to make connections between otherwise disparate ideas. People who keep a messy desk are probably people who want a lot of things close at hand because they flip back and forth from one task to another and use a lot of items on a regular basis. I believe that sort of person is more likely to connect ideas the way they organize disparate items on their desk and in their minds.

**Clinton Crime Syndicate Claims Another Witness**

The GOP operative who was searching for the 33,000 emails missing from Democrat Hillary Clinton's private server allegedly committed suicide by pumping helium into a plastic bag over his head, according to police.

Peter W. Smith, 81, was [**discovered in a hotel room**](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/emails-collusion-suicide-Peter-Smith/2017/07/13/id/801557/) in Rochester, Minn. on May 14. Roughly 10 days prior, The Wall Street Journal interviewed him about his efforts to find Clinton's lost emails.

On Friday, [**the Journal reported**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/details-emerge-in-suicide-of-gop-activist-who-sought-hillary-clinton-emails-1500051276) that police found several items in Smith's hotel room that led them to believe he killed himself.

The Journal cites the police report, which said the note left behind claimed "there was no foul play, no one assisted him, he had a recent bad turn of health and that his life insurance policy would soon expire."

Authorities also found a receipt from a local Walmart for a helium tank and pliers. Police said Smith left financial information and his written obituary.

The hotel in which he was found was across the street from the Mayo Clinic, which he reportedly had visited recently.

Smith's efforts to locate the thousands of missing emails from Clinton's home-based server, which she said were deleted after they were deemed personal in nature, began last September. During his search, he contacted several hacking groups — including two from Russia — who all claimed to have found the emails.

Smith ultimately urged the groups to pass the messages along to WikiLeaks because he was not sure of their authenticity.

[**According to the Journal**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-activist-who-sought-clinton-emails-cited-trump-campaign-officials-1498872923), Smith had sent out communications as he searched for the emails and mentioned that retired Gen. Michael Flynn, who was a member of President Donald Trump's campaign team, and Flynn's son knew about his efforts.

Smith also mentioned Kellyanne Conway, Trump's campaign manager who is now White House counselor, Steve Bannon, Trump's chief strategist, and Sam Clovis, who advised Trump's campaign and who now works at the Department of Agriculture.

The FBI investigated Clinton, who unsuccessfully ran for president last year, because of her use of a private email server, several email addresses, and multiple personal mobile devices while she worked as secretary of state from 2009-2013. She was ultimately cleared of any wrongdoing, [**a still controversial decision**](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/judicial-watch-hillary-clinton-classified-information/2017/06/01/id/793637/).

Clinton turned over roughly 30,000 emails she said were work related to the State Department, but deleted about 33,000 others she said were personal.

Here are 5 weird things about this whole end of life:

1. After an Interview With the Wall Street Journal, He Was Found Dead with a Note that Said ‘NO FOUL PLAY WHATSOEVER.
2. He Said He Found Five Groups of Hackers Who Claimed to Have the Emails
3. Smith Did Opposition Research on Other Politicians in the Past, Including Bill Clinton
4. Smith Actively Disagreed on His Blog About Russia Interfering with the Election, and Wrote a Post About It the Day Before He Died
5. His Death Has Been the Subject of Conspiracy Theories

So convenient. Was there any comment about the possible bruising around his neck where the bag was drawn tight? Why did he have his shoes on in the hotel room? Did his family suspect he might do himself in, right before bringing down the biggest crime lord the world has ever known? Is there any surveillance footage of the hotel hallway an hour before and after he died? Oh yeah. That is in the same place as the bar’s surveillance footage and the debit card sales record an hour before Seth was shot in the back.

a longtime associate of Smith who may have been the last person to speak with him has come forward, telling [the Daily Caller](http://dailycaller.com/2017/07/14/exclusive-doubt-surfaces-about-suicide-claim-of-clinton-investigator/) that he doesn’t believe the police’s suicide ruling…and neither should you.

Charles Ortel, a Wall Street investment banker and market analyst, told [the DC](http://dailycaller.com/2017/07/14/exclusive-doubt-surfaces-about-suicide-claim-of-clinton-investigator/) that there were no indications the Chicago businessman and anti-Clinton political investigator was about to take his life when the two spoke on the phone the day before his death.

“**He may have been a fantastic actor but I certainly didn’t leave that phone call saying, ‘oh shit, the guy’s at the end of his rope,’”** Charles Ortel, a Wall Street investment banker and market analyst, told The Daily Caller News Foundation’s (TheDCNF) Investigative Group.

**“This does not seem like a settled story. It made perfect sense to me he might have died of natural causes, but little chance he would have killed himself,” Smith said.**

Ortel and Smith had a common interest in the Clintons. Ortel has dug deeply into the financial operations of the Clinton Foundation. He first came to public attention in 2007 by exposing questionable accounting practices at General Electric, according to the DC.

And Smith reportedly had a hand in exposing then Gov. Bill Clinton’s “Troopergate” scandal, where the future president used state troopers to guard him while he was having sex with various women who were not his wife.

Ortel said in his last phone call to him, Smith seemed to be upbeat and very interested in future projects.

Initially, Ortel assumed Smith died of natural causes, but after reading the police report, which included a description of a jerry-rigged suffocation device that’s widely used by terminally ill patients who opt to take their own lives, he’s not so sure.

**“There are lots of older guys like him who still ‘have it ‘and they’re still smart.  They like projects. They like the intellectual stimulation. He was very interested and pleased with his work,”** Ortel said.

Ortel also said the description of the suicide note – with its all-caps type – was out of character for Smith, and that, out of all the emails they’d sent to each other, he couldn’t remember a single example of Smith typing in all caps.

Ortel also was suspicious about the note Smith allegedly left behind, written in all caps, **stating “NO FOUL PLAY WHATSOEVER.”**

He also noted that many life insurance policies typically exclude payments to beneficiaries in the case of suicide.

He wrote that he was taking his own life because of a **“RECENT BAD TURN IN HEALTH SINCE JANUARY, 2017”** and that his timing was related **“TO LIFE INSURANCE OF $5 MILLION EXPIRING.”**

Assuming, for a moment, Smith’s death was the result of foul play: what’s the explanation? Could it have been a politically motivated attack? In the original WSJ story, Smith said he’d received a cache of documents purporting to be the missing 30,000 emails that Clinton withheld from the FBI and State Department, but withheld them because he had doubts about their veracity. Maybe Smith was in possession of the legitimate emails, but lied about turning them over to Wikileaks. What if the Democrats were somehow warned about what Smith had in his possession, or at least what he believed he might have had. Is another "Seth Rich" scenario emerging?

**Another Body Added to the Count**

**Klaus Eberwein, a former Haitian government official who was expected to expose the extent of Clinton Foundation corruption and malpractice next week, has been found dead in Miami. He was a very young and vibrant 50 years old.**

Eberwein was due to appear next Tuesday before the Haitian Senate Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission where he was widely expected to testify that the [Clinton Foundation](http://yournewswire.com/clinton-foundation-admit-85-of-donations-do-not-go-to-charity/) misappropriated Haiti earthquake donations from international donors. He was openly looking forward to his day in court, but was also fearful of going outside alone. Eberwein, who had acknowledged his life was in danger, was a fierce critic of the Clinton Foundation’s activities in the Caribbean island, where he served as director general of the government’s economic development agency, Fonds d’assistance économique et social, for three years. He was dedicated and had direct evidence of fraud committed on a national scale with cell phone towers, education for profit, and natural resource fraud by the Clinton Crime Syndicate. The Clintons openly and publicly solicited for cash to be sent to their Foundation on behalf of the Haitian people, but absconded with the funds and converted it to personal and campaign wealth for the Clinton Crime Syndicate.

According to Eberwein, a paltry 0.6% of donations granted by international donors to the Clinton Foundation with the express purpose of directly assisting Haitians actually ended up in the hands of Haitian organizations. A further 9.6% ended up with the Haitian government. The remaining 89.8%  – or $5.4 billion – was funneled to non-Haitian organizations.

“The Clinton Foundation, they are criminals, they are thieves, they are liars, they are a disgrace,” Eberwein said at a protest outside the Clinton Foundation headquarters in Manhattan last year.

According to Miami-Dade’s medical examiner records supervisor, the official cause of death is “gunshot to the head“. Eberwein’s death has been [registered](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article160983614.html) as “suicide.”

The former director general of Haiti, who also served as an advisor to Haitian President Michel Martelly, was also a partner in a popular pizza restaurant in Haiti, Muncheez, and even has a pizza — the Klaus Special — named after him. The people of Haiti loved him, and his family reports he was always looking to help others and was generally loving his life of service.

According to the [Haiti Libre](https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-21501-haiti-social-former-dg-of-faes-and-martelly-advisor-commits-suicide.html) newspaper, Eberwein was said to be in “good spirits“, with plans for the future. His close friends and business partners are shocked by the idea he may have committed suicide. In fact, there is not one single person alive or dead who believes he committed suicide.

“It’s really shocking,” said Muncheez’s owner Gilbert Bailly. “We grew up together; he was like family.”

Bailly said he last spoke to Eberwein two weeks ago and he was in very high spirits. They were excited about future business plans and were working on opening a Muncheez restaurant in Sunrise, he said. The Haitian government issued an official notice thanking Eberwein for his service and mourning his untimely death. It is unclear at this time if the DOJ case against the Clinton Crime Syndicate will continue after the murder of Klaus Eberwein. Everyone is hoping there as a poison pill program that would dump all the evidence against the Crime Syndicate in case of his murder. Time will tell.

There was not so much as a raised eyebrow from Hillary Clinton.

**Questions for Liz Crokin**

1. You have been producing some of the best investigative reporting in media about several very powerful subject of interest to our listeners. I have watched numerous YouTube interviews you have done, and I encourage all the Earth explorers out there to do the same thing. Subscribe to Liz’s channel. Watch some of the interviews. So, let me ask you. What inspired you to begin down this path? I mean you know hundreds of famous people. Why did you choose to investigate the criminals who masquerade as our political leaders?
2. It seems they are almost untouchable, these dark and sinister characters. I used to read how the FBI tried for nearly a decade to take down the likes of Al Capone, but all the witnesses turned up dead or bribed or blackmailed. I know it sounds familiar. But eventually they found a weakness. For Al it was Valentine’s Day; or maybe it was the IRS. But they got him. Do you think the FBI is using the Globalist Elite’s use of pedophilia to control their soldiers to catch them?
3. I know they cracked the case wide open in LA with the bust of like 380 high-ranking Democrats and Hollywood types. Do you think their contact lists are being tracked down as a way to finally serve justice on these murderers?
4. How many have been arrested now? Does it stop with the US, or are they following it over to the Globalist dens in Europe?
5. Now, before time gets away from us, I want to hear your take on the Seth Rich murder. What do you think he was saying at the bar that night that got him killed?
6. The way I look at it, Seth was no wall flower. He was tall, good looking, young, and not afraid to wear the star spangled clothes to a party by the sea. I think he was feeling loose and pissed off about Hillary buying off the super-delegates that night. I think he was telling his friends at his regular place all about how the nomination was stolen from his guy, Bernie. What would you think happened then?
7. Do you think there was a link to the Wikileaks dump of DNC emails that got Fraulein Schultz fired right before her big night in the lights? I mean that must have infuriated her. Do you think the DNC knew he was the source and did him in?
8. What about the private investigator being told in no uncertain terms to drop the case; first by the Capital Keystone cops, then by the Seth’s parents, who hired him in the first place? What do you think happened there?
9. Now, in the last few days, there have been two more deaths. The MSM is quick to call both of them suicides. Klaus Eberwein is loved by everyone who knows him, 50 years old and looking forward to testifying against the Clinton Crime Syndicate for ripping Haiti off of millions in donations meant for public relief. Talk about robbing the Salvation Army bucket. He is shot in the head. Suicide or murder?
10. Another witness against the CCS, just as I thought.
11. What about Peter W. Smith? Was he going to use the helium canister for a birthday party the next day, or do you think he really killed himself? They say it was because of his life insurance policy, but I am pretty sure there is a suicide clause in there. You get nothing; right? Did he have his shoes on? Where their bruises around his neck? Was there a reason why the Clinton’s wanted him out of the picture?
12. Okay, I have one more for you, and I know you have something on this, because it all ties together. None of this happens without money. Lots of money. I recall when Obama smuggled $1.2 billion in cash from some warehouse in Europe to Iran. He said it was payback for some old weapons purchase gone bad. BS. Right? I think cash is the currency of crime, and big cash means big crime. Do you think the Obama-Clinton team skimmed or kicked back this uncounted cash into their dark operations?
13. How does Loretta Lynch’s tarmac meetings tie into this?
14. Do you think it was the Clinton’s first tarmac meeting with high-ranking government officials?
15. Do you think it was their last?
16. You’re the voice of justice, because people sometimes don’t have a voice; maybe because they’re dead. What would you like to see happen to the Clinton Crime Syndicate; Podesta, Rice, Jarrett, Obama?
17. What about the Democrats in Congress? Are they useful stooges for the elites? Waters, Lewis, Lee, Cummings, Pelosi, and Schumer?
18. Why do they vote in a block like that? Why do they say Democrat or nothing? No matter what.
19. What about ANTIFA, the Black Bloc, Black Lives Matter, and the OFA? Are they terror organizations trying to overthrow the American government?
20. How can our listeners find your material and help you keep up the good fight?

**Guess Who’s Eating Your Dinner, Venezuela?**

You may have heard that Venezuelan economic crisis is being caused by the evils of socialism. Many articles in both the Alternative and Mainstream Media are quick to judge the Venezuelan economic crisis without a deeper investigation. We are opposed to socialism since it is a form of [collectivism](http://freedom-articles.toolsforfreedom.com/obamacare-collectivist-medicine-at-gunpoint/) which places more value on the needs of the abstract group than the needs of the individual, and carries out the forced redistribution of wealth through taxation (which basically equates to the systemized theft of one part of society to, in theory, help another). However, many systems of government (not just socialism) do exactly the same thing, no matter whether they are “left” or “right”. Besides, the chief cause of Venezuela’s ills has little do with its economic system, which is not purely socialist but rather a mixture of 3 aspects (communal, state and private). The problem is that it continues to be targeted from the outside – by the USA, who is taking active steps on many fronts to subvert the existing government and install US-friendly puppets instead. It’s the same old game of **regime change** which the US has been orchestrating literally all over the world since the end of WWII.

### Venezuela Sits Atop the Largest Oil Supply in the World – And the US Wants a Cut

Venezuela has over [298 billion barrels of proven oil reserves](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-s-largest-oil-reserves-by-country.html), the largest recognized volume in the world. According to the 2016 figures from the US EIA (Energy Information Administration), the [US imports 800,000 barrels of oil per day from Venezuela](https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=727&t=6). Getting oil from a South or Central American nation is less risky and much faster for the US than transporting it from the dangerous and war-stricken Middle East. However, it does not sit well with the US that a nation in South America (the backyard of its Empire) like Venezuela can prosper as a sovereign socialist republic. The US and its multinational corporations want a big slice of the pie of the gasoline profits, which Venezuela under Chavez and Maduro have refused to give.

As self-confessed economic hitman John Perkins described decades ago in books, presentations and interviews, when a “recalcitrant” nation fails to play ball with the US, it activates its various branches to rein them in – the intelligence agencies, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the “jackals” (economic assassins) and, in the case of financial default after the economic hit, then the US military itself.

### Funding the Venezuelan Opposition

There are clear and present dangers in the **soft power complex** of US NGOs, also called the **non-profit industrial complex**. Just look at the violence, litigious terrorist tactics, and of course propaganda outlets of the Left in America. Guess what? The NGO network is at it again when it comes to the Venezuelan economic crisis. They are as lethal as a nuclear bomb, and the fallout will last for generations. This time, they are actively subverting the Maduro government by funding, providing intelligence for, and arming the opposition. Peter Koenig writes the following in his article [Why is Venezuela in the White House’s Crosshairs? Confronting The Neoliberal Propaganda Media Machine](http://www.globalresearch.ca/why-is-venezuela-in-the-white-houses-crosshairs/5594240). Koenig actually heard firsthand the Venezuelan Ambassador to Switzerland speak to an audience:

“On 8 of June, I had the privilege to attend a press conference hosted by the Venezuelan Ambassador in Bern, Switzerland. The purpose of the press conference was to clarify the current highly misrepresented situation in Venezuela … The facts explained and demonstrated by the Ambassador showed clearly who was responsible for most of the 67 deaths and more than 1,200 injured within the last couple of months … This point of opposition violence, blackmail and more, is clearly demonstrated by a recent US journalist covering the riots for the pan-Latin American TeleSur TV. Ms. Abby Martin, the host of the Empire Files, an investigative program, told RT (Russia Today) that she received numerous death threats from opposition fighters during her work on the ground in Venezuela. She says protesters threatened to lynch and burn her alive if she tried to contradict their narrative. A one-time Clinton operative sent to the Ukraine to influence their elections. He ended up falling in love with a Ukrainian woman—who really wouldn’t—and brought her home to America where she later became a citizen. As soon as he went to work for the Trump Administration, he and his wife were immediately targeted by Democrat Senators and their militant NGO called ANTIFA for death threats.

The fact that the opposition is planning to boycott the election shows clearly, they are not interested in democracy. They have one goal only, to oust President Maduro and take power, privatize state assets, especially hydrocarbons (petroleum and gas) to hand them to international mainly US corporations to be exploited at no benefits for the Venezuelan people. This was precisely the case before President Chavez took the reins of the country. Foreign corporations, almost all North Americans, left not a dollar in tax revenues in Venezuela.”

### Venezuelan Economic Crisis and Regime Change: Foretold by Brookings (NWO Think Tank) and Orchestrated by NED (Soros NGO)

The clues are there if you look with care. The Venezuelan economic crisis has been basically predicted and advocated by the **Brookings Institute; a small scale version of the theft of the American treasury**. As Tony Cartalucci points out in his article [US Policymakers Openly Plot Against Venezuela](http://landdestroyer.blogspot.com/2017/05/us-policymakers-openly-plot-against.html), the Brookings website features an article [Venezuela: A path out of crisis](https://www.brookings.edu/research/venezuela-a-path-out-of-crisis/) which recommends a 5-point destabilization plan:

“The United States could increase monetary assistance to credible civil society organizations and nongovernmental organizations able to deliver food and medicines to Venezuelans … The United States could support efforts by the opposition in Venezuela to build an “off-ramp” that would split moderate elements of the government away from hardliners, encouraging the former to acquiesce to a transition to democracy …” Once you divide the opposition into a fleet of bickering factions, a sponsored candidate will rise to the top as the majority choice.

If you run this through the Orwellian translation unit, it means use the soft power complex of NGOs to overthrow Maduro and orchestrate regime change.

“The United States could coordinate with international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to offer financial incentives for holding free and fair elections in 2018, and for the opposition to unify and compete in those elections. Such coordination would also involve developing and publicizing a credible plan to restart Venezuela’s economy.”

What we here at X-Squared Radio notice is that this engineering revolution is just using Venezuela as a practice run for the big picture. Enter the IMF – the institutional loan shark that economic hitman John Perkins exposed. This is the strongest, richest econo-terrorist organization the world has ever known.

Also unsurprisingly, the **NED (National Endowment for Democracy)**, a notorious [George Soros](http://freedom-articles.toolsforfreedom.com/soros-hack-top-10-machinations/)-funded NGO, has been involved.  The so-called **Venezuelan opposition** is made up of “US-backed political parties and US-funded fronts posing as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) many of which are listed on the US State Department’s [*National Endowment for Democracy (NED) website*](http://www.ned.org/region/latin-america-and-caribbean/venezuela-2015/)“ as Cartalucci writes.

Formerly on RT, and current Empire Files host Abby Martin, returned from Venezuela in June 2017. She gave a firsthand account of how the Venezuelan opposition were attempting to intimidate reporters so as to control the narrative and give a false impression of what was happening. The exact same thing is happening here in America.

### Cyber and Currency Manipulation out of Miami Also a Factor in the Venezuelan Economic Crisis

Another aspect to the US attack on Venezuela is coming out of Miami, Florida, in the form of a website called DolarToday which, according to Venezuelan President Maduro, is an attempt to [sabotage the Venezuelan bolivar](http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-vicious-cyber-war-against-venezuela/5597544):

“The DolarToday website has been denounced by the Venezuelan State for setting a parallel dollar artificial price marker (black market). It has also been the target of a lawsuit by the Central Bank of Venezuela for falsifying the country’s exchange rates.  This is a well-known and rehearsed practice of destroying a country’s currency by selling quarters for a dime on the world market. Think of it like illegally shorting an entire country on the Stock market. In 2013, ***President Maduro*** accused the website of “fueling an economic war against his government, and manipulating the exchange rate.”

“DolarToday is also promoting opposition protests in Venezuela. Its tweets are being boosted by automated accounts that exhibit repetitive, bot-like characteristics and are using a social media management tool called IFTTT (If This Then That) to automate their tweets”, says Erin Gallagher. Think of it like Hillary Clinton’s numbering in the millions retweeting a talking point. It appears that everyone is talking about it, when actually no real person would do such a thing. The low-information voter can be swayed by such artificial contagion.

Abby interviewed the Venezuelan Minister of Economic Planning, Ricardo Menéndez. What I am still trying to figure out is why the NGO’s overthrow foreign governments with impunity from the CIA, DOJ, and the State and Commerce Departments. It also makes me wonder if they can see what I see; that the US is next on their list. Menendez says this in his article:

“We are the victims of an attack to the Bolivar, the national currency. This charge against our currency has become evident on certain websites based outside Venezuela, where fictitiously, without any rationale or economic proof to back it up, they determine a political value of our currency. With this political value, they pretend to generate the cost structure … 70% of the inflation in Venezuela  is related to the American dollar rating being effectively made both in Miami and Cucuta. Afterwards, the extraction of paper currency. This means, actually taking Bolivars out of the borders of Venezuela, in order to generate a drought, affecting the ability of Venezuelans to pay in cash.” This is the exact same tactic used by the elites in 1928, when they began collapsing the money supply by selling their gold for cash. There was no way for the US to protect itself against the collapse, and the Great Depression worked exactly as it was planned.

He later remarks how food supplies and the state of the economy are used as a political weapon to disturb the Venezuelan psyche and unseat the government.

### Conclusion: Venezuelan Economic Crisis is About Seeding Regime Change

The truth is that the Venezuelan economic crisis is all about seizing the assets of the richest cheap oil reservoir on Earth. I say cheap oil, because it costs less than $25 a barrel to extract Venezuelan oil, compared to $68 a barrel for US shale or tar sand deposits. The most [recent bill](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Final%20VZ%20leg.pdf) in Congress earmarks $9,500,000 for (cough cough) “democracy promoting activities” for Venezuela. If you don’t realize what that means by now, take a look at the US-installed Neo-Nazis in Ukraine who were brought into power with NGOs in line with the **regime change agenda**.  The Nazis have killed more than 25 thousand Ukranians and disposed of the bodies in horrific deep mass graves. Funny how this agenda is always window dressed with the rhetoric of human rights and democracy promotion. I wonder if we will have more mercy for the propagandists than the purely evil globalists for whom they pontificate. Their tactics have not changed in 240 years.

There is a long and bloody history of regime change in South America, a famous example of which is the 1973 CIA coup in Chile which brought military dictator Pinochet to power. As [Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers](http://www.globalresearch.ca/color-revolution-comes-home-are-americans-also-the-victims-of-regime-change/5597390) note, “there is a long-term ongoing coup campaign in Venezuela, with its most recent episode last week in which a helicopter attack on the Supreme Court was tied to the DEA and CIA. The Agency Government operating inside the US has allied with oligarchs, supported violent protests and provided funds for the opposition, which has also worked to undermine the Venezuelan economy …”. Only the listeners of programs like X-Squared Radio are equipped to avoid being sucked into the anti-American rhetoric being foisted by propagandists. Neither the elected government nor the American people are the least bit aware of the aggression perpetrated on sovereign nations and States by the Agency Government.

It’s time we went beyond blaming Venezuelan socialism or corruption for what is going on, and realized that NGO’s funded and directed by the globalist elites operating inside America and Europe are responsible for the death and consumption of Venezuela.

**The NGO Plot Thickens**

A newly discovered Wikileaks cable shows that the Rothschilds were involved in a billion dollar money laundering scheme in Africa.

The classified cable from the Public Library of US Diplomacy [published by WikiLeaks](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08DAKAR588_a.html) exposes Rothschild Bank “advising” a “secret and corrupt” billion dollar transaction in order to create a “massive money laundering scheme” in Senegal and crash the struggling nation’s economy.

The secretive Rothchilds are rarely in the news and never publicly rebuked by governments, however the classified cable discovered by Your News Wire reveals that a US diplomatic official clearly referred to the actions of Rothschild Bank as “corrupt” and the transaction as “indefensible.”

The Rothschild-driven deal involved the Senegalese state selling off Sonatel, the national telecommunications company and most profitable public resource, in return for $1.2 billion.

The US government were led to believe the sale was corrupt and the funds would be used to create a “massive money laundering scheme” to benefit the Senegalese elite – specifically former President Abdoullah Wade’s son Karim Wade – and Rothschilds Bank.

The cable was written by the US diplomat Jay Smith, the chargé d’affaires heading the Dakar embassy in the absence of an ambassador. From the cable:



Rothschild bank corrupt
The cable shows the US government were aware of the illegal deal and were petitioning the Senegalese government against completing it. No such petition was attempted with Rothschild Bank however, even though the London merchant bank was the “advising” body with the “decision” of who would gain access to the shares.

“According to Diarisso, with the DGMP’s waiver, the government can now conclude an exclusive deal with the investment bank Rothschild (which was also noted in the press articles) to act as the advisor and sole agent for the sale, including “deciding” who gets the opportunity to buy the shares.”

Rothschild Senegal corruption

The information was confidentially shared with the US diplomat by senior Senegalese and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials.

The full classified cable can be viewed here.

Financial terrorism

The sale of the profitable national company was expected to have disastrous financial consequences for the fragile Senegalese economy. The only beneficiaries of the sale were to be the country’s ruling family and the Rothschild Bank. According to the cable:

“The IMF, World Bank, and senior officials at the Ministry of Finance are deeply concerned about the deal’s short- and long-term consequences for Senegal’s public finances. As Diarisso recently told the Econ Counselor, “it’s much worse than serious.”

The corrupt sale of the national company was expected to have particularly dire consequences for the nation’s pensions:

“The journal [Nouvel Horizon] reported that Rothschild Bank would again be granted the right to organize the divestiture as a private transaction, and that the goal was again to facilitate money laundering. At this time, we have no further information on this proposal, but if true, the impact could be even more staggering and widespread, given that IPRES is the retirement lifeline for thousands of non-government employees.”

“Cool and corrupt $15 million”

“There is consensus among observers of the government’s actions that the primary purpose of this divestiture is to help Karim Wade and his associates launder huge sums of cash that they have collected in recent years through “contributions,” “donations,” kickbacks, and the sale of illegally acquired assets, much of which was generated in the preparations summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in March in Dakar.“

Our interlocutors are convinced that Senegal’s high-level corruption could have easily generated level of receipts equal to the value of the Sonatel shares; however, the scale of this scheme is audacious by Senegalese standards. As Diarisso noted, “the country can accept Karim’s frequent efforts to launder CFA one billion or 5 billion (USD 2-10 million), but this is beyond acceptable.” Holding these assets for steady dividend income or selling these directly back into Dakar’s regional stock exchange in a routine and unsuspicious manner will, in theory, “wash” the money to the point of plausible deniability.

Adding to the fiscal irresponsibility of this scheme, the arrangement with Rothschild’s reportedly includes paying the bank a 1.5 percent commission on the value of the shares, for a cool and corrupt USD 15 million.

We cannot refute the government’s claim that it has the right to sell its own assets. But it is a difficult case to make fiscally, since Sonatel is the country’s best performing company and one of the few stable sources of significant revenue for Senegal’s national budget. For the government to do so solely to facilitate corruption and launder money on behalf of Karim Wade and his circle, would be indefensible.”

**FEC Wins Another One for Americans**

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is the independent regulatory agency charged with administering and enforcing the federal campaign finance law. The agency is led by six Commissioners, no more than three of whom can belong to the same political party.

The FEC has declined to consider new rulemaking over alleged foreign influence in the 2016 presidential election that could target conservative media such as Truth Frequency Radio and Breitbart News. In a statement [released](https://www.fec.gov/resources/about-fec/commissioners/statements/FOREIGN_NATIONAL_STATEMENT.pdf) by Vice Chair Caroline Hunter and Commissioners Lee Goodman(Rep) and Matthew Petersen(Rep), the members state they “cannot support proposals that would burden the free speech rights of American citizens based on incomplete information about foreign activities in the 2016  election.”

They further describe Ellen Weintraub’s(Dem) proposal as one that would “‘blunt’ the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizen’s United.” In the opinion of three members who wrote the statement, there is no information currently showing that the FEC’s existing rules that prohibit foreign involvement in U.S. elections are “inadequate to detect, enforce, and punish violations.”

The statement was released by the three Republicans serving as FEC commissioners. Weintraub and Democrat Steven Walther are the other two current members, meaning there is at least a 3-2 majority in the Republicans favor on this issue. Chairman Walther is a registered Independent.

The FEC commissioners acknowledge in their statement that a number of government agencies are currently investigating alleged foreign interference, and address the FEC’s role, specifically noting the importance of not taking a position of political bias:

The Federal Election Commission should cooperate with these other agencies while maintaining necessary confidentiality and decorum in our own processes.  We must resist any efforts to politicize or compromise the integrity of this agency’s enforcement process or the investigations of other agencies, for the subject matter at issue implicates profoundly important national security and foreign policy interests of the United States.

At least in the case of the FEC, leftists seem to be back to square one in their efforts to shut down conservative media.

**The Voter Game**

It has often been said that it is not the voting that decides elections; it’s the counting. This last week the President’s Advisory Commission on Elections kicked into action. The theory that millions of votes were fraudulent in the last election is going to be tested. Trump won with a stunning 87% of US Counties, but claimed there were still millions of dead people and illegals who voted, especially in heavily Democrat districts. Evidence of 120% of registered Democrats voting and hardly a single State without dead people or dual domicile people voting illegally was present. Of course, the Democrat press denies it.

The propaganda war erupted instantly as Democrat organizations saw their treasure trove of votes being attacked. Last week, the President’s Advisory Commission on Election Integrity rolled into action and raised a big fuss. In a letter from its Vice Chairman, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, it asked each state to provide input and also detailed voter records dating back to 2006. For some states, the creation of this voter database was a sign of the Commission’s real purpose: the beginning of a national effort to repress the voting power of poor and minority voters. Each state must decide whether and how to comply.

It is the commission’s stated objective to “fully analyze vulnerabilities and issues related to voter registration and voting.” President Trump created the commission in May after he claimed that as many as five million illegal voters, including many undocumented immigrants, had tainted the November election. In naming Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, both proponents of stronger voter identification laws, to lead the commission, he seemed to be making it clear that its purpose was to lead a national voter suppression effort. The commission’s letter to the states did little to assuage this fear.

These concerns would have faded if all the commission sought to do was gather input and guidance from state officials knowledgeable about their election processes. However, the areas of concern [listed by](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/files/2017/06/PEIC-Letter-to-Connecticut-1.pdf) Kobach cover a wide range of issues.

Kobach’s letter to Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill asks,

1. What changes, if any, to federal election laws would you recommend to enhance the integrity of federal elections?
2. How can the Commission support state and local election administrators with regard to information technology security and vulnerabilities?
3. What laws, policies, or other issues hinder your ability to ensure the integrity of elections you administer?
4. What evidence or information do you have regarding instances of voter fraud or registration fraud in your state?
5. What convictions for election-related crimes have occurred in your state since the November 2000 federal election?
6. What recommendations do you have for preventing voter intimidation or disenfranchisement?
7. What other issues do you believe the Commission should consider?

Further, it requested

the publicly available voter roll data…including…the full first and last names of all registrants, middle names or initials if available, addresses, dates of birth, political party (if recorded in your state), last four digits of social security number…voter history (elections voted in) from 2006 onward, active/inactive status, cancelled status, information regarding any felony convictions, information regarding voter registration in another state, information regarding military status, and overseas citizen information.

This data could not be used to compromise the privacy of anyone. It is simply designed to flush out dead people and people who do not possess a legitimate right to vote. The plan is to shut off access to people who are not citizens, convicted felons, people who live in more than one domicile, fraudulent absentee ballots, and dead people. There is zero legitimate argument for any of these classes of people voting. There is, however, massive resistance to the Democrat Party losing a significant portion of their voter base. The truth is that the private Corporation called the Democrat National Committee is the party of the illegal, dependent class, dead people, and people willing to commit a felony in return for a government check.

The request created a chorus of opposition from those fearful of how the information will be used or misused. California’s Secretary of State Alex Padilla issued [a statement](http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2017-news-releases-and-advisories/secretary-state-alex-padilla-responds-presidential-election-commission-request-personal-data-california-voters/) that strongly spelled out the case of those who see the commission as having a nefarious purpose. It reads,

I will not provide sensitive voter information to a commission that has already inaccurately passed judgment that millions of Californians voted illegally. California’s participation would only serve to legitimize the false and already debunked claims of massive voter fraud made by the President, the Vice President, and Mr. Kobach. The President’s Commission is a waste of taxpayer money and a distraction from the real threats to the integrity of our elections today: aging voting systems and documented Russian interference in our elections…The President’s appointment of Kobach—who has a long history of sponsoring discriminatory, anti-immigrant policies including voter suppression and racial profiling laws—sends a clear and ominous message. His role as vice chair is proof that the goal of the commission is to enact policies that will result in the disenfranchisement of American citizens.

These are now known to be baseless claims born out of propaganda think tanks paid by the Democrat Party. It may also be worth noting that Kobach himself hesitated to provide the level of information his commission asked for. [According to](http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article159113369.html) the *Kansas City Star*, “in a follow-up interview Friday, he said the state would not be sharing the Social Security information at this time.”

Critics fear that, with a national database in hand, the Trump administration will launch a national effort to bar eligible voters from the voting booths, although the reverse is far more likely to occur. This information in the hands of Democrats would be used to stop conservatives and Constitutionalists from voting. Citizen advocacy organization Common Cause President Karen Hobert Flynn said in a [statement](http://www.commoncause.org/press/press-releases/doj-pence-kobach-commission-voter-roll-requests-raise-red-flags.html) that the commission would rely in part on the faulty Interstate [Voter Registration Crosscheck](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/features/the-gops-stealth-war-against-voters-w435890) program, launched by Kobach. According to Flynn,

The program has improperly cut hundreds of thousands of eligible voters from the registration rolls due to mismatches, in clear violation of the National Voter Registration Act. Kobach intends to check voter registration data against the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification Entitlements) database to determine whether non-citizens are on the rolls despite the fact that the Department of Homeland Security has clarified that this is not an accurate database for updated citizenship records. The database is woefully devoid of illegal immigrants and cannot distinguish between dead or living people. The dead are voting in the millions every year, and this database cannot tell who is walking though the polls in proxy.

The overwhelming sampling evidence clearly shows voter fraud is a major threat to American democracy. That the commission is led by individuals who have been actively working to challenge voting rights and make it harder for dead people and illegals to vote. This is seen by activist groups to be disenfranchisement to minorities, who the Democrats consider do not have the intelligence to vote on their own. These are the same Democrats who stop voter ID laws because they believe black people are not smart enough to get a driver’s license.

**Dems Panic as Colorado Voter Registration Plummets**

## Democrats are apparently spooked by a sudden drop in voter registrations in the key swing state of Colorado, with Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez arguing that it is connected to President Trump’s investigation into electoral fraud in the 2016 election — and promising to fight back against it.

According to the *Denver Post*, approximately 3,400 Colorado voters [canceled](http://www.denverpost.com/2017/07/13/trump-election-integrity-commissions-colorado-voters-cancel-registration/) their registrations after the Trump administration sought voter info from the states. The *Post* notes that the number is hardly enormous, representing only 0.09 percent of the state’s 3.7 million voters.

Trump’s Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity has [asked](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/07/01/liberal-states-get-jittery-as-trump-looks-to-clamp-down-on-voter-fraud/) states to hand over data from their voter rolls, reportedly including felony convictions, military status, and voter history. The move has seen pushback from a number of liberal states such as California, New York, Virginia, and Connecticut, as well as some red states such as Oklahoma and Kentucky.

Officials told the *Post* that while one reason given by those withdrawing was a lack of trust in Trump’s commission, another was that they didn’t realize how much of their information was public under state law.

However, even though that would suggest the withdrawals coincide with reporting about the commission rather than being directly caused by the commission, it hasn’t stopped the Democrats from hitting the panic button.

McClatchy [reports](http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article161455238.html) that the Democratic National Committee and the Colorado Democratic Party have launched an effort to persuade Democrats to stay on the voter rolls.

“If you unregister, you are giving a victory to proponents of voter suppression,” Perez said in an interview with the outlet Friday, adding that they see this as the party’s new rally crying.

“That’s our message,” Perez said. “And we’re out there delivering that message in every way possible.”

The red alert appears not to have filtered down to all Democratic officials, with others telling the outlet that they have not seen widespread examples of voters withdrawing their registrations in other states.

Democrats have frequently jumped on any effort to crack down on possible illegal voting, or to clean up the voter rolls, and cried “voter suppression” even when such cries are baseless. Failed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in May [blamed](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/05/31/clinton-adds-dnc-list-groups-blames-election-defeat/) voter suppression, particularly in Wisconsin, as part of her laundry list of reasons she lost the election.

But Perez told McClatchy that they weren’t looking to panic voters, only that they are “concerned.”

“What we’re seeing in Colorado, we hope that doesn’t spread elsewhere,” said one DNC official. “That’s why we’re working on educating voters across the country about this. We’re not trying to incite panic, but the DNC itself is monitoring this situation and is concerned by what we’re seeing.”

Trump has repeatedly claimed that he believes he would have won the popular vote if illegal votes were discounted. Democrats and left-leaning media outlets have accused Trump of making the claim without evidence — but are now opposing his administration’s investigation.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who serves as vice chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, [told](http://www.breitbart.com/radio/2017/07/13/kris-kobach-election-commission-left-outraged-bipartisan-group-dares-investigate-voter-fraud/) *Breitbart News Daily* this week that the amount of opposition to the probe is “extraordinary.”

“It’s truly extraordinary that they are trying to stop the commission from even beginning. These lawsuits are intended to stop the gathering of data and stop the meeting of the commission. It does make you think that some people out there don’t want us to see what amount of voter fraud there is,” said Kobach.

He also discussed reports of people withdrawing from the voter rolls and posited a number of reasons why that could be.

“It could be, actually, people who are not qualified to vote, perhaps someone who is a felon and is disqualified that way, or someone who is not a U.S. citizen saying, ‘I’m withdrawing my voter registration because I am not able to vote.’ It could be a political stunt – people who are trying to discredit the Commission and withdrawing temporarily because they are politically active but planning to get back on the voter rolls before the election next November,” he said

**The Oil Glut: Future Positions**

The electric car industry has had the brakes on for more than two years now. First, the electric vehicle industry’s airbag supplier was destroyed by DOT lawsuits and fines. Sure, the assets were purchase by a competitor of Takata, but the cost of the airbags has quadrupled to cover the risk of being hunted and preyed upon by the Agency government just like Takata.

And then, there is the price of oil. When the CONDOR all-electric truck was ready to go into production, oil was trading at about $85 a barrel. Everyone was happy. No. Seriously. Everyone was happy. Russia was happy. Venezuela was happy. Even the American driver was happy, and yes the electric car industry was happy, because there was enough of a benefit for driving electric compared to gasoline. Then, the perfect storm hit.

Oil prices fell, the Ruble was targeted and destroyed by the Transatlantic Money Traders, and Venezuela could not afford to support its people from oil profits. An oil glut was revealed that was so large, countries were buying tankers of oil still sitting at sea for huge discounts. Some of the discounts went below the cost of production. Certainly that is the case for American shale and tar sands production. Who wants to raise the price of oil? Everyone, except America.

Opec’s efforts to raise oil prices by bringing a three-year-old glut to an end keep running into an uncomfortable fact — rival crude supplies are proving stronger than they ever feared. In the past three weeks, since Opec, Russia and other producers agreed to extend oil supply cuts for another nine months, the price of Brent crude has fallen 13 per cent and is set to finish this week at the lowest level this year, near $47 a barrel.

While the countries involved in the deal — together representing more than 50 per cent of world oil output — have cut as much as 1.8m barrels a day of supplies from the market, their efforts just keep getting swamped. The US shale industry has been resurgent in 2017 and is now expected to grow even faster next year. Add to that Trump’s approval of the oil trans-border pipeline and the deregulation of a half dozen new energy technologies, and things don’t look good for the oil price barons.

Oil stockpiles built up during the glut have been pulled from storage and demand, traders believe, has not grown as quickly as many expected. Other countries like Brazil are also seeing output rise after investments made before the price crash from above $100 a barrel in 2014. “In Opec’s minds, they have made the cuts and the market should be patient while stocks come down,” said Gary Ross, head of oil at Pira Energy Group, a unit of S&P Global Platts. “[But] even by the end of the year, it looks as though there will still be 150m-200m barrels of surplus inventories.”

Opec and its allies are now essentially in a race against time to show they can mop up the excess. After prices fell in 2015 and 2016, US shale oil production is tipped by the US Energy Information Administration to hit a record next month of 5.475m barrels a day — surpassing the peak hit two years ago before the full force of the price slump was felt. Pervasive doubts over the oil market rebalancing will linger without confirmation that the supply overhang is waning Stephen Brennock, analyst at brokerage PVM The young industry has shown it can squeeze down costs and now compete when prices are near $50 a barrel.

If you listen to X-Squared Radio you know the price of oil is a very effective weapon against the globalists who want to eliminate freedom and liberty from the world. Once it is gone, that is to say America is removed from the liberty market, it will never return. America is the world’s only hope of retaining human rights on this planet.

The International Energy Agency this week said supplies from countries outside Opec, led by the US, would grow faster than demand next year, meaning the glut of oil stocks is unlikely to dissipate in 2018 without further intervention by Opec. In the short term, Opec’s efforts as yet just do not seem to be working fast enough for many traders. Oil is stored on supertankers sitting off key oil hubs — a sign of acute oversupply at a time when demand is normally strong. At least 5m barrels of crude are just floating in a huge oil savings account in the UK portion of the North Sea, according to satellite monitoring and data compiled by TankerTrackers.com, which measures shipments. It’s been drilled, and separated, and pumped into ships, and now it just sits there until the price comes up or the glut goes down.

More tankers have also appeared off Singapore, a key hub for storing oil at sea during times of oversupply, as well as off producing countries in west Africa, which analysts at JBC Energy said was “a strong warning signal . . . during what should be peak refinery demand season”. Not everyone is unhappy about being able to tell Saudi Arabia and Iran to go pound sand, but the world can clearly see the instability this generates when the world’s money barons begin losing control.

But even if drilling stops expanding, a quick drop in supplies is by no means guaranteed. So-called drilled but uncompleted wells, known in the shale industry as DUCs, have also risen to a record level. These can be rapidly brought on if producers need a quick boost to cash flow, potentially keeping supply buoyant even if drilling slows. “Pervasive doubts over the oil market rebalancing will linger without confirmation that the supply overhang is waning,” said analyst Stephen Brennock, at brokerage PVM in London. “Until such conclusive proof emerges, all bets are off.”

**The Marijuana Market**

Marijuana legalization might have you thinking it makes sense to buy marijuana stocks as an investment. However, the marijuana market is only beginning to develop, and most marijuana stocks that can be bought on stock exchanges aren't earning a dime in profit yet.

## Big market, but big risk

So far, 29 U.S. states have legalized medical marijuana, and medical marijuana is already legal across Canada. Additional states could approve pro-pot legislation in 2018, and Canada could legalize recreational marijuana this year.



IMAGE SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES.

As the marijuana market emerges from the shadows, billions of dollars will transition from the black market to regulated markets.

According to Matt Karnes at GreenWave Advisors LLC, the marijuana market in California alone could exceed $7 billion by 2021, and based on states that have already legalized marijuana, the marijuana market nationwide could be worth [$25 billion in 2021](https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/01/14/heres-how-big-the-opportunity-could-be-for-marijua.aspx).

In Canada, cannabis could be similarly lucrative. Canadian bank **CIBC** estimates that recreational legalization could create a marijuana market in Canada valued between $5 billion and $10 billion, depending on volume.

Clearly, a lot of money is up for grabs, but unfortunately, it's not clear which companies will capture the lion's share of this opportunity. While many marijuana stocks have rallied sharply on the potential to profit from marijuana, the reality is that there are thousands of businesses elbowing each other for market share, and only a few of those companies trade on market exchanges.

Instead, most are bootstrapped by family or venture capital, or they trade on risky, unregulated over-the-counter stock markets. Stocks available on over-the-counter markets don't have to meet the strict regulatory requirements associated with major stock exchanges, including the New York Stock Exchange, and therefore, they're [ripe for fraud](https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/03/18/this-fraud-shows-how-massively-risky-it-is-to-buy.aspx).

## Few marijuana stocks make the grade

The vast majority of marijuana stocks are still losing money, but an argument can be made that some of these companies are worthy of consideration.

For instance, **GW Pharmaceuticals** ([NASDAQ:GWPH](https://www.fool.com/quote/nasdaq/gw-pharmaceuticals/gwph)) isn't a pure-play marijuana company, but it is developing medicines that are derived from marijuana cannabinoids.

Currently, the company's only commercial product is Sativex, a THC-based drug sold in Europe for use in multiple-sclerosis patients with muscle spasms. However, a decision from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Epidiolex, an epilepsy drug developed from the cannabinoid cannabidiol, could be coming soon.

While Epidiolex could become a top-selling epilepsy drug someday, the company's shares have rallied 145% since 2013, so a lot of Epidiolex's opportunity may be priced into shares already. GW Pharmaceuticals expects to officially file for Epidiolex's approval in the middle of this year; a go/no-go decision could come from the FDA later this year or early next year, depending on the exact date of the application, and whether or not Epidiolex receives a priority review from regulators.



[GWPH](https://ycharts.com/companies/GWPH) data by [YCharts](https://ycharts.com).

**Scotts Miracle-Gro** ([NYSE:SMG](https://www.fool.com/quote/nyse/scotts-miracle-gro/smg)) is another intriguing back-door marijuana stock for investors to consider. The company is best known for its fertilizers and pesticides, but it's invested a lot of money in hydroponics so that it can serve the marijuana market. As legalization drives marijuana volume higher, and grow facilities ramp up their capacity, the company could significantly increase its hydroponic product sales.

In the past year, Scotts Miracle-Gro reports that hydroponics revenue is up 22%, and sales this year of hydroponics products are up 13%. However, hydroponics represents a small proportion of Scotts Miracle-Gro's business, and weak demand for lawn and garden products last quarter caused Scotts Miracle-Gro's overall sales to fall despite hydroponic growth.

Investors might also want to look at **Canopy Growth Corp.** ([NASDAQOTH:TWMJF](https://www.fool.com/quote/nasdaqoth/canopy-growth-corporation/twmjf)), Canada's biggest medical-marijuana company. Canopy has been acquiring competitors and inking deals with celebrities like Snoop Dogg ahead of Canada's legalizing recreational marijuana.

Canopy Growth's story, however, isn't undiscovered. Its shares rocketed more than 200% higher last year, and while shares have lost 16% of their value this year, the company's $942 million market valuation still dwarfs the company's $23 million in trailing 12-month sales. Furthermore, Canada's marijuana industry suffered a blow to its reputation from product recalls due to the use of banned pesticides in grow facilities.

Health Canada is implementing mandatory testing in response to the recalls, but the news has created some uncertainty. And given this company's valuation, there's reason to avoid buying Canopy Growth shares.

## Looking ahead

Surely, tens of billions of dollars in marijuana sales will turn some companies into big winners, but it's very possible that the companies that end up dominating this market aren't the ones that have seen their share prices shoot higher over the past few years. For that reason, investing in marijuana stocks is very risky, and most investors might be better off investing in other stocks until marijuana companies are more established.

**The Marijuana Scam**

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission alleges that most of the revenue reported by the once fast-growing marijuana company Medbox was due to "sham transactions with a shell company."

According to a complaint filed by the regulator last week, the company used illegal stock sales to boost the revenue it reported to investors. The revenue-boosting scheme serves as an important reminder why it's critical for investors to approach cannabis companies cautiously.



IMAGE SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES.

## A fast-growing company? Nope.

Medbox's wanted its marijuana vending machines on every street corner, but its revenue growth came mostly from proceeds from stock sales, not marijuana sales.

At its height, the company, which traded on the unregulated over-the-counter stock market, saw its shares soar from $1 per share to as high as $200. Unfortunately, much of that run-up was due to investor enthusiasm sparked by revenue growth that the SEC alleges wasn't revenue at all.

According to the SEC, Medbox was "falsely touting 'record' revenue numbers" and "claiming to be a leader in the marijuana industry while some of its earnings came from sham transactions with a secret affiliate."

Specifically, Medbox founder Vincent Mehdizadeh formed a shell company -- New-Age Investment Consulting -- and installed his then-fiancee as its CEO. Afterwards, he reportedly transferred stock in Medbox to New Age that New Age later sold.

"As alleged in our complaint, investors were misled into believing that Medbox was a leader in the burgeoning marijuana industry when the company was just round-tripping money from illegal stock sales to boost revenue," said Michele Wein Layne, director of the SEC's Los Angeles regional office.

The SEC argues that proceeds from those illegal stock sales accounted for "nearly 90%" of Medbox's revenue in the first quarter of 2014. In a text message released by the SEC, Mehdizadeh seems to concede that misrepresenting the company's revenue to investors was part of his business strategy. In that text, he wrote:

The only thing we are really good at is public company publicity and stock awareness. We get an A+ for creating revenue off sheer will but that won't continue.

Mehdizadeh is settling the charges against him for $12 million, plus a promise never to serve as officer or director of a public company or participate in any penny-stock offerings in the future, but that's probably little comfort to investors who bought Medbox shares because of revenue reported in those press releases.

## Spotting marijuana-stock manipulators

Like Medbox, most marijuana stocks trade over the counter (OTC) because they can't meet the financial and reporting requirements of major stock exchanges, like the New York Stock Exchange. For this reason, it's probably best to avoid over-the-counter stocks altogether.

However, here are some tips to help you spot a fraud, regardless of what stock exchange a company's shares trade on:

* Ask "Why me?" If a marijuana stock is being recommended to you, keep in mind that you might be a target of someone who is being paid to sell that stock to you.
* Use extreme caution with companies that seem to rely more on hype than on fact.
* Research every company thoroughly, and don't invest a dime until you've done all your homework.
* Dig into the details. If a company files its financials with the SEC, know that the SEC isn't responsible for making sure that information is true. Legitimate companies use top-shelf auditors from the country's biggest accounting firms, and it can pay to make sure one of them is signing off on the financials.
* Consider the ancestry. If a company has unproven management, or its business model or name has changed multiple times in the past, then you might be best off taking a pass.

## Looking forward

There's considerable momentum behind marijuana legalization, but the market is only in its earliest stage of evolution, and that means that there's likely to be far more failures than successes. The potential market opportunity, while large, brings with it the risk of scam artists eager to separate you from your hard-won money -- so make sure you approach these stocks with a very healthy dose of skepticism.