|  |
| --- |
| Jihad Report May 12, 2018 -May 18, 2018 |
| Attacks | **41** |
| Killed | **170** |
| Injured | **290** |
| Suicide Blasts | **10** |
| Countries | **12** |

**The Death of a Nation**

The number of babies being born in the United States continues to fall, with the birth rate reaching a new record low in 2017, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last year, about 3.8 million babies were born in the U.S., which is 2 percent lower than the number born in 2016, and the lowest recorded number of births in 30 years, according to the report.

What's more, there were about 60 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, which is 3 percent lower than the rate in 2016, and the lowest recorded rate since the government started tracking birth rates in 1909. [[7 Baby Myths Debunked](https://www.livescience.com/36786-baby-myths-debunked.html)]

The decline in the U.S. birth rate from 2016 to 2017 was the largest single-year drop since 2010, the researchers wrote in the report, which was published today (May 17).

The [teen birth rate](https://www.livescience.com/39463-teen-birth-rate-historic-low.html) fell 7 percent from 2016 to 2017, to a rate of 19 births per 1,000 teens ages 15 to 19. In addition, birth rates generally declined for women under 40, reaching record lows among women in their 20s, the report authors found.

Part of the reason for the decline in U.S. birth rates may be that people are in a general state of economic uncertainty, said Karen Benjamin Guzzo, associate director of the Center for Family & Demographic Research at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Even though the [Great Recession](https://www.livescience.com/10050-soaring-teen-unemployment-lifetime-effects.html) technically ended in 2009, people may still feel uneasy about their economic situation; they may be employed but working part time, or going to school and working, or trying to pay off student loans, Guzzo said.

"People feel just really uncertain about the future," Guzzo told Live Science. "And that generally does not bode well for having kids."

In addition, young adults may feel like they haven't met all the milestones they feel they need to reach before having a kid, such as getting a college degree, having a stable income and [getting married](https://www.livescience.com/38308-us-marriage-rate-new-low.html). "It takes longer to feel like you're a grown-up," Guzzo said.

One age group — women in their early 40s — did see an increase in their birth rate in 2017, the report found. This may be because this age group doesn't have a lot more time to wait to have kids. "They can't put it off for the future," Guzzo said.

Guzzo noted that the new report looked at overall births but didn't examine "birth order" — that is, whether the births were a [woman's first](https://www.livescience.com/45474-birth-rate-older-women.html), second or third child, and so on. So it's unclear from the current report whether women are having fewer kids overall (firstborns) or having smaller families; previous data suggested that the latter may be the case, Guzzo said. The CDC will examine birth-order data for 2017 in a follow-up report.

**Oil: The Commodity of War**

Brent crude oil on Thursday topped $80 a barrel for the first time since November 2014, as the market grew concerned that the Trump administration's effort to sanction Iran's crude exports could be more successful than originally thought.

[Brent](https://www.cnbc.com/quotes/?symbol=%40LCO.1), the international benchmark for oil prices, hit a session high of $80.50 a barrel on Thursday, its strongest level since Nov. 24, 2018. The contract was up 66 cents at $79.94 by 11:17 a.m. ET (1317 GMT).

[U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude](https://www.cnbc.com/quotes/?symbol=%40CL.1) rose 16 cents to $71.65 a barrel. WTI earlier hit a high going back to Nov. 28, 2014 at $72.30 a barrel.

President [Donald Trump](https://www.cnbc.com/donald-trump/) announced last week he would [withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear deal](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/08/trump-to-announce-he-will-withdraw-us-from-iran-nuclear-deal.html) and restore wide-ranging sanctions on Iran. His administration is gave companies 90 to 180 days to wind down current business with Iran subject to sanctions.

The market is becoming convinced that Trump will be able to disrupt crude exports after his administration [slapped sanctions on the head of Iran's central bank](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/15/us-hits-head-of-irans-central-bank-with-terror-sanctions.html) earlier this week, said John Kilduff, founding partner at energy hedge fund Again Capital .

"That showed that he's not kidding around. It's very much a forward-leaning, aggressive strategy against Iran," he said.

A debate had raged in the market over the effectiveness of the sanctions, largely because China and key U.S. allies in Europe still support the nuclear deal. While some analysts said sanctions could wipe 1 million barrels per day of Iranian crude off the market, others said the [impact would be limited](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/07/iran-nuclear-deal-sanctions-would-have-limited-impact-on-oil-market.html) to fewer than 500,000 barrels a day.

The Trump administration ultimately took a tougher stance than many expected, restoring all sanctions that were in place prior to their suspension in 2016.

The European Union is exploring ways to protect the continent's companies, but the market is losing faith that Washington will issue sanctions waivers to the shippers, insurers and financial institutions necessary to bring Iranian oil to buyers, according to Kilduff.

"It's not clear right now, but it's becoming clearer that they will have a problem and oil will be coming off the market," he said.

France's [Total](https://www.cnbc.com/quotes/?symbol=FP-FR) on Wednesday warned it might abandon a multibillion-dollar gas project in Iran if it could not secure a waiver from U.S. sanctions, casting further doubt on European-led efforts to salvage the nuclear deal.

Meanwhile, concerns are mounting over falling output in Venezuela after [ConocoPhillips](https://www.cnbc.com/quotes/?symbol=COP) moved to [seize the assets](https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/14/conoco-has-seized-venezuela-pdvsa-products-from-isla-refinery-curacao.html) of Venezuelan state oil giant PDVSA.

"The screws are really tightening on Venezuela," Dan Yergin, vice chairman of IHS Markit, told CNBC on Wednesday.

Also boosting the market, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported on Wednesday that oil in storage in the United States fell more than expected, dropping by about 1.4 million barrels. Stockpiles of refined products like gasoline and distillates also fell.

The United States is approaching the summer driving season, when refineries typically draw down inventories to meet increased demand at the gas pump.

However, the Paris-based International Energy Agency on Wednesday warned that recent strength in demand for oil could soon moderate. The adviser to developed nations knocked down its 2018 forecast for growth in demand from 1.5 million barrels a day to 1.4 million barrels a day in its monthly report.

"While recent data confirms strong growth in 1Q18 and the start of 2Q18, we expect a slowdown in 2H18 largely attributable to higher oil prices," IEA said.

The agency also sees higher oil prices providing an incentive for U.S. drillers to pump more crude. It raised its expectation for U.S. oil output growth for 2018 by 120 thousand barrels a day.

The United States is now pumping more than 1.7 million barrels a day, according to the latest preliminary weekly reading from EIA. The nation's drillers are quickly closing in on top producer Russia, which pumps about 11 million barrels a day

**Foreign Spies Tracking Cell Phones**

The technology can be as small as a suitcase, placed anywhere at any time, and it's used to track cell phones and intercept calls.

The News4 I-Team found dozens of potential spy devices while driving around Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia.

"While you might not be a target yourself, you may live next to someone who is. You could still get caught up," said Aaron Turner, a leading mobile security expert.

The device, sometimes referred to by the brand name StingRay, is designed to mimic a cell tower and can trick your phone into connecting to it instead.



The News4 I-Team asked Turner to ride around the capital region with special software loaded onto three cell phones, with three different carriers, to detect the devices operating in various locations.

"So when you see these red bars, those are very high-suspicion events," said Turner.

If you live in or near the District, your phone has probably been tracked at some point, he said.

A recent report by the Department of Homeland Security called the spy devices a real and growing risk.

And the I-Team found them in high-profile areas like outside the Trump International Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue and while driving across the 14th Street bridge into Crystal City. The I-Team got picked up twice while driving along K Street — the corridor popular with lobbyists.

"It looks like they don't consider us to be interesting, so they've dropped us," Turner remarked looking down at one of his phones.

Every cellphone has a unique identifying number. The phone catcher technology can harness thousands of them at a time.

DHS has warned rogue devices could prevent connected phones from making 911 calls, saying, "If this type of attack occurs during an emergency, it could prevent victims from receiving assistance."

"Absolutely. That's a worry," said D.C. Councilwoman Mary Cheh, adding that the spy technology should be a concern for all who live and work in the District.

The I-Team's test phones detected 40 potential locations where the spy devices could be operating, while driving around for just a few hours.

"I suppose if you spent more time you'd find even more," said Cheh. "I have bad news for the public: Our privacy isn't what it once was."

Especially in her ward, where many of the streets are lined with embassies.

"They're doing the interrogation, or [checking] who we are, and then the white bar represents when they release us," Turner said as he demonstrated his technology.

The phones appeared to remain connected to a fake tower the longest, right near the Russian Embassy.

The I-Team got picked up twice off of International Drive, right near the Chinese and Israeli embassies, then got another two hits along Massachusetts Avenue near Romania and Turkey.

All of those countries have the phone catcher technology, Turner said.



"You know governments do this to each other all the time and laws-schmaws," said Cheh.

Which is a problem.

The spy technology poses a risk to national and economic security, but there's little our government can do to stop devices located on foreign soil.

"A law that we had could not tell these embassies what they can and cannot do," said Cheh.

The phone catchers can also be combined with other technology to listen-in or grab data from phones that are connected, Turner said.

"Most people don't know about it," said Alan Butler, senior counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

"There's no magic software or setting that protects you from these," Butler said.

Butler is also a D.C. resident.

"There's a lot to be concerned about," he said.

Particularly since DHS hasn't disclosed how many devices it found or where. The agency also said it did not determine who was operating them, which Butler finds unacceptable.

"I think they should be taking the time and investing the resources to identify them and to flag them to the carriers and find ways to either have them taken down or have them blocked," he said.

Turner said cell carriers can't completely secure our phones because they have to allow for law enforcement access. Plus, even the oldest phones must be able to reach 911, so low-tech vulnerabilities can't be closed.

"I don't think there's a magic fix here," said Turner. "I don't think Congress can mandate anything to say, Hey, carriers do this right now."

The good news is about half the devices the I-Team found were likely law enforcement investigating crimes or our government using the devices defensively to identify certain cellphone numbers as they approach important locations, Turner said.

The I-Team test detected devices in operation near Langley, the Pentagon and Fort Myer, but also found them in residential areas like Bethesda's Kenwood neighborhood, near Palisades in DC and along Old Dominion Drive in McLean, which Turner said raised questions.

"Maybe someone is involved in high-level negotiations on a business deal, or maybe it's a government employee involved in a regulatory ruling," he said, adding that he's heard of the devices being used in a corporate espionage situation, which is illegal under United States law.

You can't control which tower your phone attaches to, Turner said, so you can't avoid being caught by a device.

So if you've ever wondered why you just can't make a call from inside your home or office: "It could be why," said Turner. "[It's] a good reason to have a land line."

But you can protect your calls and texts by downloading free calling and texting apps that use encryption instead of using the standard ones that come installed on your cellphone, he said.

All is not solved. There’s more. Besides being able to listen and record your calls, they can locate you to the square foot, instantly. Suppose a foreign assassin arrived in DC looking for a specific target. Where would he look? How would he find you? Normally, he would have a picture, know your address and place of employment. He would do a stakeout until you came out. Then, he would follow you until the right moment to make it look like an accident, or who cares what else.

Those days are over. According to [ZDNet](https://www.zdnet.com/article/cell-phone-tracking-firm-exposed-millions-of-americans-real-time-locations/), the company, which has “direct connections” to “all major US wireless carriers, including AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, and Sprint,” allowed exploiters to track cell phone location in real-time without their permission.

“The site had its own ‘try-before-you-buy’ page that lets you test the accuracy of its data. The page required explicit consent from the user before their location data can be used by sending a one-time text message to the user,” ZDNet reported. “But that website had a bug that allowed anyone to track someone’s location silently without their permission.”

Student Robert Xiao claimed that “Due to a very elementary bug in the website, you can just skip that consent part and go straight to the location.” Journalist Brian Krebs, who also verified the bug, detailed how he was able to watch people move around in real-time.

“None of them got any notification that their location was being tracked,” Krebs proclaimed. “I had a friend who was driving around Hawaii and pinged the location and I could watch the marker move around the island… It’s the kind of thing that sends chills down your spine.”

Though the feature was removed shortly after the bug was discovered, ZDNet explained that the company effectively “exposed nearly every cell phone customer in the US and Canada, some 200 million customers.”

**The Sewer Below the Deep State**

If you want to know how low the Democrats will go to win an election, one need only look into the sewer beneath the Deep State superstructures in DC. There you will find the likes of Clapper and Brennan wading through the crap, planning their next mission for the Democrats. No, they don’t wear waders. They’re barefoot. They like the stench.

They needed a small army with 17 primary candidates running against the queen of terror, herself. It was her way. She had compromised and thus easily leveraged the leadership of the US Intelligence community to become her hit squad against any political opponent. Let me paint a little time line for you.

Following two weeks of mounting speculation over the FBI's so-called "mole" inside the Trump campaign, the New York Times and Washington Post published separate accounts on Friday detailing the infiltration of the Trump campaign - a scheme revealed in a Wednesday report by the New York Times in which "at least one government informant met several times with Mr. Page and Mr. Papadopoulos." The Wednesday report also disclosed the existence of "Operation Crossfire Hurricane" - the FBI's code name for their early Trump-Russia investigation.

Thanks to this last Friday's carefully crafted deep-state disclosures by WaPo and the Times, along with actual reporting by the Daily Caller's Chuck Ross, we now know it wasn't a mole at all - but 73-year-old University of Cambridge professor Stefan Halper, a US citizen, political veteran and longtime US Intelligence asset enlisted by the FBI to befriend and spy on three members of the Trump campaign during the 2016 US election.

These contacts are notable, as Halper's infiltration of the Trump campaign corresponds with the two of the four targets of the FBI's Operation Crossfire Hurricane - in which the agency sent counterintelligence agent Peter Strzok and others to a London meeting in the Summer of 2016 with former Australian diplomat Alexander Downer - who says Papadopoulos drunkenly admitted to knowing that the Russians had Hillary Clinton's emails.

Interestingly Downer - the source of the Papadopoulos intel, and Halper - who conned Papadopoulos months later, are linked through UK-based Haklyut & Co. an opposition research and intelligence firm - founded by three former British intelligence operatives in 1995 to provide the kind of otherwise inaccessible research for which select governments and Fortune 500 corporations pay huge sums.

Downer - a good friend of the Clintons, has been on their advisory board for a decade, while Halper is connected to Hakluyt through Director of U.S. operations Jonathan Clarke, with whom he has co-authored two books. (h/t themarketswork.com)

"Downer is not the only Clinton fan in Hakluyt. Federal contribution records show several of the firm’s U.S. representatives made large contributions to two of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign organizations."

Halper contacted Papadopoulos on September 2, 2016 according to The Caller - flying him out to London to work on a policy paper on energy issues in Turkey, Cyprus and Israel - for which he was ultimately paid $3,000. Papadopoulos met Halper several times during his stay, "having dinner one night at the Travellers Club, and Old London gentleman's club frequented by international diplomats."

They were accompanied by Halper’s assistant, a Turkish woman named Azra Turk. Sources familiar with Papadopoulos’s claims about his trip say Turk flirted with him during their encounters and later on in email exchanges.

Emails were also brought up during Papadopoulos’s meetings with Halper, though not by the Trump associate, according to sources familiar with his version of events. The sources say that during conversation, Halper randomly brought up Russians and emails. Papadopoulos has told people close to him that he grew suspicious of Halper because of the remark. -Daily Caller

Meanwhile, Halper targeted Carter Page two days after Page returned from a trip to Moscow.

Page’s visit to Moscow, where he spoke at the New Economic School on July 8, 2016, is said to have piqued the FBI’s interest even further. Page and Halper spoke on the sidelines of an election-themed symposium held at Cambridge days later. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Sir Richard Dearlove, the former head of MI6 and a close colleague of Halper’s, spoke at the event.

Page would enter the media spotlight in September 2016 after Yahoo! News reported that the FBI was investigating whether he met with two Kremlin insiders during that Moscow trip.

It would later be revealed that the Yahoo! article was based on unverified information from Christopher Steele, the former British spy who wrote the dossier regarding the Trump campaign. Steele’s report, which was funded by Democrats, also claimed Page worked with Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort on the collusion conspiracy. -Daily Caller

A third target of Halper's was Trump campaign co-chairman Sam Clovis, whose name was revealed by the Washington Post on Friday.

In late August 2016, the professor reached out to Clovis, asking if they could meet somewhere in the Washington area, according to Clovis’s attorney, Victoria Toensing.

“He said he wanted to be helpful to the campaign” and lend the Trump team his foreign-policy experience, Toensing said.

Clovis, an Iowa political figure and former Air Force officer, met the source and chatted briefly with him over coffee, on either Aug. 31 or Sept. 1, at a hotel cafe in Crystal City, she said. Most of the discussion involved him asking Clovis his views on China.

“It was two academics discussing China,” Toensing said. “Russia never came up.” -WaPo

**More Timeline Info**

Now, this brings us up to late summer. Trump the primary candidate became Trump the Republican Nominee on May 26th, the day before my birthday. By early June, the Clinton US Intelligence force had consolidated its soldiers on Trump. Just a couple of weeks before, they were working the Cruz and Kasich campaigns for clues to how they could ruin their elections. By mid-June, it was apparent that Trump was forming a movement. Instead of the voters for Cruz and Kasich switching to Hillary, as expected, they were climbing on the Trump Train, as it was called. Hillary needed a secret weapon.

On June 27th Bill Clinton ordered Loretta Lynch to change her private flight plans and meet him at 2:20 in the morning at the Sky Harbor General Aviation Tarmac. It wasn’t that easy. A new pilot and co-pilot had to be found, as they were not scheduled to fly out until the next day. Pilots have strict FAA regulations about flight hours and rest requirements. But the arrangements were made after her speech that night in Baltimore. She needed a loyal witness, because Clinton was the most dangerous man in politics. She chose her husband, because he was the only person on Earth who could not be compelled to testify against her.

They flew, thinking there would be no witnesses, but there was one Christopher Sign, a news reporter from ABC 15 in Phoenix. He was tipped off by a person in Baltimore that the meeting was going to take place. His story changed the election, but his career in news was ruined forever. He is a sportscaster in another State now.

A few months before the meeting, Justice Scalia turned up dead by unknown causes on an annual hunting trip in Shafter, Texas. It left an auspiciously timed opening in the Supreme Court, with the sudden absence of its most conservative voice. Whatever was promised, or threatened, on that plane in Phoenix at 3 AM exposed the DOJ as a tool of the Deep State, and thus the armies of the Clinton Crime Syndicate.

A few days later, Lynch ordered FBI Director James Comey to refer to the Clinton investigation as a *matter*. Within hours, it seems, a DNC staffer who allegedly gave files exposing Clinton’s illegal fixing of the DNC primary process to prevent Bernie Sanders from getting even close to winning, was shot in the back and left to die on the sidewalk near Lou’s City Bar in DC.

It was all falling together, but more was needed. Trump could not be trusted to follow orders. He was too dumb to know he wasn’t supposed to be President. This was just not the way things are done in the USA anymore. One does not just run a campaign and win the election. These things are decided months in advance. They are decided by the Syndicate. All the candidates come through the Syndicate. Until now.

**The Balkans: Birthplace of War…Again**

**The May 16-17 EU-Western Balkans summit did address the problems of integration, but it was eclipsed by another issue**. The meeting turned out to be a landmark event that will go down in history as the day Europe united to openly defy the US. The EU will neither review the Iran nuclear deal [(JPCOA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Comprehensive_Plan_of_Action)) nor join the sanctions against Tehran that have been reintroduced and even intensified by America. Washington’s unilateral withdrawal from the JPCOA was the last straw, forcing the collapse of Western unity. **The Europeans found themselves up against a wall. There is no point in discussing further integration or any other matter if the EU cannot protect its own members. But now it can.**

**President Trump has his own reasons to shred the Iran deal, but he needs Europe to strong-arm Tehran into signing a “better” agreement.**Were it to do so, the US administration would make it look like a big victory. Washington does not shy away from threatening its allies with punitive measures but the EU is standing tall, deepening the rift. As European Council President Donald Tusk [put it](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-eu/eus-tusk-lashes-out-at-trump-amid-trade-dispute-iran-split-idUSKCN1IH1OH), **“With friends like Trump, who needs enemies?”** According to him, the US president has “rid Europe of all illusions.” Mr. Tusk wants Europe to “stick to our guns” against new US policies. Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the EU Commission, [believes](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5709743/We-replace-United-States-EU-chief-attacks-America-turning-allies.html) that “Europe must take America's place as global leader” because Washington has turned its back on its allies. Washington “no longer wants to cooperate.” It is turning away from friendly relations “with ferocity.” **Mr. Juncker thinks the time is ripe for Europe “to replace the United States, which as an international actor has lost vigor.”**It would have been unthinkable not long ago for a top EU official to say such things and challenge the US global leadership. Now the unthinkable has become reality.

**The process of shifting away from America does not boil down to just words of indignation and open defiance.** Plans are underway to take practical steps. For instance, the EU is [to ditch the use of the US currency](http://www.ibtimes.com/europe-pay-iran-euros-oil-abandoning-dollar-2681417) in its payments for Iranian oil. It can be done. Russia and Iran have already launched an oil-for-goods exchange program in order to leave the greenback behind. The bloc [plans to activate](http://www.dw.com/en/eu-to-reactivate-blocking-statute-against-us-sanctions-on-iran-for-european-firms/a-43826992) a 1996 law (the [blocking statute](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31996R2271:EN:HTML)), which bans European businesses from compliance with US sanctions on Iran. The legislation protects "against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country."

The EU-Iran discussions have already been held.**And it is America’s closest ally who is to deal the first powerful blow against US global dominance.** This is a demonstration of the “no retreat, no surrender” spirit before the not-yet-unleased war is in full swing.

True, this applies to only a relatively small sector of business activities, and Iran’s $400-billion market can’t be compared to the $18-trillion US market, but the important factor here is the show of political will to stand up to America’s challenge. This rift is taking place amid a looming trade war over aluminum and steel, the US withdrawal from the Paris climate accords, the relocation of the embassy to Jerusalem with no regard for the allies’ opinion, and the controversy over Europe’s NATO spending.

On May 15, the EU defense heads gathered at a meeting of the European Union Military Committee to [discuss](https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/video/roundtable-eu-un-cooperation-1abb9) deeper integration and an independent defense policy, which envisages greater efficiency to reduce expenditures, given the US demands to increase those outlays under the auspices of NATO. The [PESCO](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/34226/permanent-structured-cooperation-pesco-factsheet_en) agreement is the backbone of the EU defense policy and it’s purely European.

**Sandra Oudkirk, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy,**[**has just threatened**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-17/u-s-warns-sanctions-possible-if-nord-stream-2-pipe-proceeds)**to sanction the Europeans if they continue with the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project to bring gas in from Russia across the Baltic Sea.**That country is also seen by the US as an adversary and its approach is by and large the same – to issue orders for Europe to adopt a confrontational policy, doing as it is told without asking too many questions.

Iran and Nord Stream 2 unite Moscow and Brussels in their opposition to this diktat. On May 17, Iran [signed](https://themoscowtimes.com/news/iran-agrees-interim-free-trade-zone-with-russia-led-eurasian-union-61479) a provisional free-trade-zone agreement with a Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) that seeks to increase the current levels of trade valued at $2.7 billion. The deal lowers or abolishes customs duties. It also establishes a three-year process for reaching a permanent trade agreement. If Iran becomes a member of the group, it would expand its economic horizons beyond the Middle Eastern region. So, Europe and Russia are in the same boat, both holding talks with Iran on economic cooperation.

President Donald Trump [has just instructed](https://themoscowtimes.com/news/white-house-orders-new-anti-russia-sanctions-over-missile-control-violations-61478) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to prepare a list of new sanctions against the Russian Federation for its alleged violations of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. This is the agreement the US has so egregiously and openly [breached](https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2017/12/11/us-sanctions-ahead-talks-diplomacy-cunning-plan-kill-inf-treaty.html). **But nobody in Europe has announced that they want US nuclear-tipped intermediate- range weapons on their territory that will be a target for a potential retaliatory strike by Russia. That placement infuriated Putin, and exposed countries in the EU to Putin’s aggression.**

Of course, not having any defense provided by the USA, these countries were mere roadways for a Russian invasion, should Putin, or his successor, ever decide that new leadership was in order. It’s an example of yet another European problem with having the decision-making process located in Washington. We are just too forward thinking for the EU mindset.

***If Europe is resolved to fend off US attempts to dictate its policy on Iran, why should it reconcile itself to the pressure to keep the sanctions***[***against Russia***](https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2018/03/09/west-vs-russia-paradigm-no-longer-viable-rapidly-changing-world.html)***intact?***  Perhaps they would retaliate by contributing to Putin’s advantage against the US. May 17 marked a turning point in the US-European relationship. Europeans joined globalist resistance ranks to block a policy that encroaches on what the Syndicate has called the EU’s right to decide their own fate.

It’s Europe, not the US, who is negatively affected by the punitive measures, creating[deep divisions](https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2017/10/20/cracks-in-eu-unity-on-russia-sanctions-get-wider.html) within the EU at a time when that group is faced with many problems. Let’s face it. The EU has been fully and strategically invaded by Islamic Jihadists who are just waiting for orders from the Syndicate. The time is ripe for Brussels to isolate liberty and freedom away from their newly formed nation of powerless States once and for all. May 17 is the day the revolt started and there is no going back.**Europe has said goodbye to trans-Atlantic unity. It looks as though all of Europe has fallen without so much as a skirmish. The Syndicate now controls 50% of the world’s economy, and apparently has succeeded in isolating America from their economy.**

**Putin Just Asked for Iran to Leave Syria**

May 17th. Hmmm. Oh yes, while European leaders in Brussels were busy disconnecting its ties with the US, Bashar Al Assad was busy meeting with Putin in Sochi. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad paid an unannounced visit to Vladimir Putin on Thursday evening at the Russian president's summer home in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi where the two leaders discussed the process for winding down the war in Syria, and notably the reduction of foreign troop presence in the country.

This marks the third such known meeting inside Russia between Assad and President Putin since 2015, and the first since two major instances of external airstrikes on the Syrian government dramatically escalated the prospect for broader war. The first was the April 13th US-led coalition attack involving over one hundred missiles on sites in and around Damascus; and the second was the May 10 Israeli attack on dozens of targets inside Syria in what was the biggest military escalation between the two countries in decades.

No doubt the two leaders, both long branded international pariahs by the West, had a lot to discuss after the uptick of external military action in Syria, but likely looming larger was the Iran and Israel question, and Israel's continued threats of attack should its "Iranian red line" go unenforced.

Recall that a mere week ago Netanyahu concluded a 10-hour visit with Putin in Moscow just as Israeli jets were in the air beginning strikes against Syrian bases said to house Iranian troops.

The official readout of the meeting quotes President Putin as saying, “We affirm that with the achievement of the big victories and the remarkable successes by the Syrian Arab army in the fight against terrorism and with the activation of the political process, it is necessary for all foreign forces to withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic territories.”

This is a reference to the still ongoing but thorny Astana, Kazakhstan centered talks involving Russia, Turkey, and Iran which has been by and large rejected by the vast majority of anti-Assad fighters, especially due to Iran's contentious role as a main guarantor of the deal.

For this reason most media outlets commenting on Putin's reference to "foreign forces" interpret this as a jab at key Syrian ally Iran; however, a number of Middle East based journalists and analysts point to US occupying forces in Syria's northeast, as well as Turkey's military and armed proxy groups in the formerly Syrian Kurdish Afrin canton near Aleppo, and the tens of thousands for foreign jihadists that continue to fight in Syria — many of them state sponsored by Saudi Arabia and other external actors.

The Washington Post and CNN, for example, focused on Iran and Hezbollah as key foreign forces that have "helped to prop up the embattled President [Assad]." The Post's Liz Sly said, "In the context of current debates for a [political] settlement, that's code for Iran. No indication whether Assad agreed."

And crucially, Syria's state-run SANA has confirmed that Putin told Assad during the meeting that "foreign armed forces" would leave Syria. This is where the consensus about what Putin meant by “foreign armed forces” come in. Former Sunday Times journalist Hala Jaber countered that Putin did not refer to Iran or other Syrian allied forces: "Iran‘s presence is not viewed in the same league as that of the U.S. and as such is not negotiable nor will be used by Syria as an exchange commodity... U.S. presence is viewed as totally illegal...[there's] no comparison" she wrote.

Notably, Assad's statement while meeting with Putin named “illegal foreign forces” compared with Putin's mention of "foreign forces." Jaber further argued that "the reference by both Putin and Assad relates to both Turkish and U.S. forces and not Iran, which has a defense agreement with Syria... its current presence is not part of any such deals to be made."

Don’t be fooled by the Iranian propaganda. Russia has appeared content to stay on the sidelines while Syria and Israel lobbed missiles at each other; however, Russia is carefully balancing its interests in Syria, eager to avoid an uncontrolled escalation leading to a direct great power confrontation. Namely, they don’t want direct confrontation with the US at this time.

Russia's relative silence on the latest Israeli strikes (as well as apparent U-turn on prior indications that it would supply Syria with S-300 missiles) may be signs of a weakening Moscow-Damascus alliance. It is more likely that Russia is alright with Syria's current air defense systems, and sees the battlefield as increasingly stabilizing in spite of limited Israeli incursions that have been only and precisely targeting troop and rocket buildups along the border with Israel. There is zero surprise here. Israel has been abundantly clear that such buildups have the appearance of aggression against Israel and that it will destroy such activities before the paint dries. Putin has apparently “stepped up the political process” of removing Iran from Syria as he confirmed Thursday. It is obvious that Putin does not have the same goals as Iran in Syria, that of wiping Israel off the map.

Syria's current missile defense seems to have performed well. SANA indicated that the army’s air defenses had “shot down dozens of Israeli missiles, preventing most of them from reaching their targets,” however, some of the rockets managed to hit radars and a major ammunition depot. But beyond this, the multiple videos purporting to show direct intercepts by Syrian defenses make for a convincing case that Syria still possesses robust deterrent capabilities. Still, no one—not the least of whom is Putin—believes that Israel can be effectively stopped from hitting Iranian forces inside Syria who even appear to threaten its Northern border.

**The Right of Return Protest**

I know there are many of you out there who have strong beliefs on this next subject. My intent is not to alarm anyone or to misrepresent anything. Everything we hear or read is lies. On both sides. So, I am only going with my observations and facts. For many years now, there has been an effective campaign to attack Israel from all sides.

Obama sent millions of taxpayer dollars and his own trained experts to Israel to destroy their elections. Iran feeds millions of dollars a month into the ghettos it has formed in Palestine to foment hatred against Israel. Rather than build water distribution systems, they turn donated water pipe into homemade rockets and launch them from school yards at Israel. When Israel shoots back, school children are injured or killed, and the news reports how terrible they are. We know this. We see it every day in the news.

They also use the masses, kept uneducated and poor by Iran-backed Hamas and Hezbollah, as human canon fodder the throw at Israel. When they are injured or killed following orders from these organizations, whose leaders hide in the background, the propaganda press reports with glee the toll of death and blood.

Hardly a news hour passes without reporting on the massive attempt by Hamas to tear through the border fence along Israel’s northern border. The head of Israel’s Southern Command accused terror groups Friday of trying to break through the Gaza security fence.

Israel makes clear that civilians are not to approach the border fence—yes it is a fence and not a 30-foot wall made of concrete—and an official warning was sent directly to Hamas, that they would be held responsible for all damages, including injury or death that resulted from such an action.

Channel 10 reported that IDF snipers fired at several Palestinians suspected of trying to place explosives along the fence on Friday afternoon. Clear video from news cameras watching the action showed men placing explosives along the fence under the cover of smoke from piles of burning tires. They were warned by loudspeakers to withdraw, and then the snipers killed the men before the explosive devices could be armed.

Sixteen Palestinians were killed, and over 1,100 were wounded by Israeli tear gas, rubber bullets and live fire, the Hamas-run Palestinian health ministry said. IDF soldiers staked out positions facing the Gaza border during Palestinian mass protests that most news organizations are reporting is a result of Trump’s relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem. Actually, this is fake news, and the mobs arrived on March 30th, which is the anniversary of Land Day.

The army estimated that 30,000 Palestinians were taking part in what they are calling the “March of Return” demonstrations along the Gaza border, focused at six main protest sites where rioters threw firebombs and stones at troops and burned tires.

Violent protesters were setting tires on fire and throwing Molotov cocktails and rocks at Israeli soldiers on the other side of the border, according to the IDF. Over the past few days, Palestinians in Gaza pitched tents near the border ahead of the planned six-week “March of Return” protest. Reportedly, Iran is funding Hamas’s campaign to promote violence and attacks against Israel under the cover of mass demonstrations at the border, the Shin Bet security service said on Monday.

Hamas has warned its own members to stay away from the security fence during Gaza’s mass protests, lest they get shot, while actively encouraging Palestinian civilians — particularly children and teens — to approach the border, the Shin Bet added, citing findings from a number of interrogations. If the fence is breached, however, armed Hamas gunmen are poised to enter Israel to carry out attacks.

There is a prohibition for Hamas operatives to approach the border, from a fear that they will be killed or captured by IDF troops, unless the security fence falls and then they must enter, armed, into Israel under the cover of the masses and carry out terror attacks,” the Shin Bet said in a statement.

Over the course of the past seven weeks of violent demonstrations along the Gaza border, in an event known collectively as the “March of Return,” Israeli forces have arrested a number of Palestinians, some of them Hamas members, who crossed the security fence into Israeli territory. The first protest kicked off when Palestinians worldwide mark Land Day, which commemorates the Israeli government’s expropriation of Arab-owned land in the Galilee on March 30, 1976, and ensuing demonstrations in which six Arab Israelis were killed. It is also, by coincidence, the eve of the week-long Passover festival.

Ahead of mass riots expected on Monday, the Shin Bet released the findings of its interrogations of those suspects, which the security service said showed the methods used by Hamas to destabilize the border area, breach the fence and try to carry out terror attacks inside Israeli territory.

“From the information we have, it appears Hamas is encouraging and sending protesters to the border fence in order to carry out violent acts and damage security infrastructure. In addition, it was found that Iran is providing funding to Hamas in order for it to carry out these violent activities along the Gaza Strip’s border fence,” the Shin Bet said.



Palestinian demonstrators burn tires near the Gaza-Israel border, east of Gaza City, on May 14, 2018 (AFP PHOTO / MAHMUD HAMS)

The security service did not provide specific evidence of Iranian involvement. However, Hamas has maintained relations with the Islamic Republic and reportedly drawn significant funding from Tehran.

On Monday, the Israel Defense Forces expects upwards of 100,000 Palestinians to take part in violent protests along the Gaza border. These riots were expected on Tuesday, the Palestinian Nakba Day, which commemorates Palestinians’ displacement from their homes following the creation of the State of Israel. But on Sunday the military assessed that Hamas would look to capitalize on the media attention around the transfer of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and move its plans up a day.

The IDF warned Sunday that Hamas was [planning to “massacre” Israelis](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-gears-up-for-mass-gaza-riots-warning-hamas-plans-to-massacre-israelis/).

The IDF is particularly concerned that the demonstrations will see mass border breaches, in which Palestinians, including Hamas members, would stream across the border and wreak havoc in nearby Israeli communities — attacking residents, setting fires and destroying property.

“The IDF and the Shin Bet security service will continue with determination to prevent any infiltration attempts into the State of Israel in order to defend Israel’s citizens and sovereignty,” the Shin Bet said on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, the IDF [dropped](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahead-of-planned-mass-riots-israel-warns-gazans-dont-be-hamass-puppets/) thousands of leaflets into the Gaza Strip, telling residents not to be Hamas’s “puppets” and to keep away from the border.

### The testimonies

Yahya Ijlah, a 19-year-old Hamas member who entered Israel on April 29, told Shin Bet interrogators that he had been sent to the border in order to steal a security camera along the fence.



Captured Hamas operative Yahya Ijlah (Shin Bet)

According to the Shin Bet, Ijlah said Hamas “is working to make its activities look like a popular uprising in the media, and not a violent operation by its members.”

The security service said that a number of suspects told interrogators that Hamas was specifically encouraging teenagers and children to approach and even breach the fence.

“The testimony showed a cynical use of children and innocent civilians by Hamas, while endangering their lives, in order to vandalize and steal equipment,” the Shin Bet said.

Salim Abu-Daher, 21, who was arrested after breaching the fence on April 28, told the Shin Bet that Hamas operatives wear normal street clothes and blend themselves into the masses of civilian protesters, while armed with “bottles of butane, knives and wire cutters,” the Shin Bet said.



Captured Hamas operative Salim Abu-Daher (Shin Bet)

The Shin Bet said that Ijlah revealed that during protests Hamas members are meant to act as instigators but not take action themselves.

“The role of Hamas members is to provide Gaza Strip residents with tires and help set them on fire. This is in order to create a thick smokescreen and to rile the Gaza residents, in order to convince them to infiltrate into Israeli territory,” the service said.

Hamas operatives also “help throw firebombs and prepare incendiary kites,” according to the Shin Bet.

These so-called “attack kites” or “terror kites” have proven a challenge to Israeli forces and have destroyed hundreds of dunams of farmland.

Protests in Gaza are expected to continue until mid-May, around the time the US is set to inaugurate its new embassy in Jerusalem.

Mid-May will also mark the anniversary of what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe, which saw hundreds of thousands of Palestinians flee their homes during Israel’s 1948 War of Independence.

According to the United Nations, some 1.3 million of Gaza’s 1.9 million residents are refugees or their descendants.

At previous peace talks, the Palestinians have always demanded, along with sovereignty in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem and the Old City, a “right of return” to Israel for Palestinian refugees who left or were forced out of Israel when it was established. The Palestinians demand this right not only for those of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are still alive — a figure estimated in the low tens of thousands — but also for their descendants, who number in the millions.

No Israeli government would ever be likely to accept this demand, since it would spell the end of Israel as a Jewish-majority state. Israel’s position is that Palestinian refugees and their descendants would become citizens of a Palestinian state at the culmination of the peace process, just as Jews who fled or were forced out of Middle Eastern countries by hostile governments became citizens of Israel.

In the meantime, the US stopped sending a blank check to the region, as it was being seized by Hamas leadership and used as reward money for the families of anyone who dies in the fight against Israel. Aid will take a different form now. Food, tools, building materials, and equipment like water pumps, and vehicles.

Perhaps it is time for the people living in the region known as Palestine to reject Hamas as their leaders and start thinking about living in prosperity instead of the Iranian built ghettos.

**The OIG Releases Its Lengthy Report…and There’s Another School Shooting**

Yes, right on schedule, another school shooting was pulled off this week. These now infamous gun-free zones appear to be the favorite for the Globalists anti-gun campaign. Hey. It worked just fine in Australia and the UK. Why not in America? Three letters; NRA.

Roughly an hour after at least eight people died in a high school shooting in Texas, The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) implicated the National Rifle Association (NRA) in the tragedy. The CSGV tweeted out a list lawmakers in Texas’ Congressional delegation who have accepted contributions from the NRA, along with “#SantaFeHighSchool.”

Authorities responded to a shooting at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, at roughly 8 a.m. Friday morning. One male suspect is in custody while another male has been detained as a person of interest. Both are students enrolled in the school, according to authorities.

The CSGV is “dedicated to taking on the NRA and their toxic agenda. We were the first gun violence prevention group to use the term ‘insurrectionism’ to describe the NRA’s dangerous interpretation of the Second Amendment,” according to the group’s website.

Later Friday morning, CNN began covering the shooting as the 22nd school shooting in the U.S. in 2018, restating a false claim debunked in February.

Fraulein Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)—deeply implicated in the OIG report for obstruction, espionage, and acts of treason with a foreign nation—had stern words for the National Rifle Association on Tuesday. She attacked the gun group’s new president for allegedly engaging in “civil terrorism.”

“The NRA is kind of just shy of a terrorist organization,” Schultz told HuffPost. “They have done everything they can to perpetuate the culture of violence that we have in our country with the spread of assault weapons across the nation.”

Claiming the NRA is anything close to a terrorist organization is laughable. The NRA has never advocated violence. It’s never advocated any brand of lawlessness. It’s never advocated for anything that could be construed as terrorism by anyone but an anti-gun zealot.

But I will grant her one thing. The NRA is responsible for the current state of violence in this country.

No, really. She’s right. The facts are that violent crime has been dropping for something like 25 years or so at this point. This has coincided with the explosive, Obama-inspired rise of concealed carry and even constitutional carry in a number of states as well as record gun sales. The safety training and criminal background database designed, lobbied for, and implemented by groups like the NRA have increased the number of guns in law-abiding private hands, thus contributing directly to the reduction of violent crime.

Oh, I know that’s not what she meant, but what she meant is utter and complete nonsense. Especially since she’s laboring under this delusion that we’re in a more violent time than we were in the past. We’re not, and that’s a direct and irrefutable result of pro-gun activists and groups, not whiney anti-gunners and their hurt feelings.

But that doesn’t matter. People like Fraulein Schultz will constantly keep pushing that the NRA is a terrorist organization, understanding well that if you repeat a lie long enough, people will accept it as the truth. It goes without saying that the NRA also contributes millions toward the election of conservatives, which are the bane of globalist elites like Fraulein Schultz.

**Computers at Light Speed**

A billion operations per second isn't cool. Know what's cool? A million billion operations per second.

That's the promise of a new computing technique that uses laser-light pulses to make a prototype of the fundamental unit of computing, called a bit, that could switch between its on and off, or "1" and "0" states, 1 quadrillion times per second. That's about 1 million times faster than the bits in modern computers.

Conventional computers (everything from your [calculator](https://www.livescience.com/14087-calculators-calculate.html) to the smartphone or laptop you're using to read this) think in terms of 1s and 0s. Everything they do, from solving math problems, to representing the world of a video game, amounts to a very elaborate collection of 1-or-0, yes-or-no operations. And a typical computer in 2018 can use silicon bits to perform more or less 1 billion of those operations per second. [[Science Fact or Fiction? The Plausibility of 10 Sci-Fi Concepts](https://www.livescience.com/39825-reality-of-sci-fi-concepts.html)]

As part of a quantum entanglement experiment I predicted for Dr. Jim Bell on Cal Tech 10 years ago, the researchers pulsed infrared laser light on honeycomb-shaped lattices of [tungsten](https://www.livescience.com/38997-facts-about-tungsten.html)and [selenium](https://www.livescience.com/31972-selenium.html), allowing the silicon chip to switch from "1" to "0" states just like a normal computer processor — only a million times faster, according to the study, which was [published in Nature](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0013-6) on May 2.

Moving spinning electrons in structured quantum clouds or probability, the honeycomb lattice acts like a switch with zero resistance. In most molecules, [the electrons in orbit around them](https://www.livescience.com/37206-atom-definition.html) can jump into several different quantum states, [or "pseudospins](https://www.space.com/39152-weird-quantum-property-of-spin.html)," when they get excited. It’s a function of the Pauli Exclusion Principle I described in my vision of this technology back in 2008. Even the leader of the Mars Rover Program knew nothing about this technology. I saw it in the future and brought the memory of it back to 2008 to share with Dr. Bell. Ah, don’t worry. It’s in print in my book *Remembering the Future.*

A good way to imagine these states is as different, looping racetracks around the molecule itself. (Researchers call these tracks "valleys," and the manipulation of these spins "valleytronics.")

When unexcited, the electron might stay close to the molecule, turning in lazy circles. But excite that electron, perhaps with a flash of light, and it will need to go burn off some energy on one of the outer tracks, so it jumps to the next electron probability cloud, called an orbital. It’s not an exact location or speed, according to Heisenberg. It is a probability, but the jump between states causes a photon of light to be emitted.

The tungsten-selenium lattice has just two tracks around it for excited electrons to enter. Flash the lattice with one orientation of [infrared light](https://www.livescience.com/50260-infrared-radiation.html), and the electron will jump onto the first track. Flash it with a different orientation of infrared light, and the electron will jump onto the other track. These two states and binary and predictable and will be seen by a computer, in theory, as 1s and 0s. When there's an electron on track 1, that's a 1. When it's on track 0, that's a 0. Of course, there’s more. We won’t be ready for it for another 8 years, but trinary states will change the way programs are written and the way humans think forever. You’ll see. It hasn’t been invented yet, but it makes subspace communication possible. We get to listen to far off worlds, and they get to listen to us for the first time; real time.

Crucially, those tracks (or valleys) are sort of close together, and the electrons don't need to run on them very long before losing energy. Pulse the lattice with infrared light type one, and an electron will jump onto track 1, but it will only circle it for "a few femtoseconds," according to the paper, before returning to its unexcited state in the orbitals closer to the nucleus. A femtosecond is one thousand million millionth of a second, not even long enough [for a beam of light to cross a single red blood cell](https://www.livescience.com/16248-speed-light-special-relativity-neutrinos.html).

So, the electrons don't stay on the track long, but once they're on a track, additional pulses of light will knock them back and forth between the two tracks before they have a chance to fall back into an unexcited state. That back-and-forth jostling, 1-0-0-1-0-1-1-0-0-0-1 — over and over in incredibly quick flashes — is the [stuff of computing](https://www.livescience.com/20718-computer-history.html). But in this sort of material, the researchers showed, it could happen much faster than in contemporary chips.

The researchers also raised the possibility that their lattice could be used for quantum computing at room temperature. That's a kind of holy grail for quantum computing, since most existing quantum computers require researchers to [first cool their quantum bits down to near absolute zero](https://www.livescience.com/61054-quantum-computer-50-qubits.html), the coldest possible temperature. The researchers showed that it's theoretically possible to excite the electrons in this lattice to "[superpositions](https://www.livescience.com/53204-big-schrodinger-cats-created.html)" of the 1 and 0 tracks — or ambiguous states of being kind-of-sort-of fuzzily on both tracks at the same time — that are necessary for [quantum-computing](https://www.livescience.com/33941-quantum-computing-explained.html) calculations.

"In the long run, we see a realistic chance of introducing quantum information devices that perform operations faster than a single oscillation of a lightwave," study lead author Rupert Huber, professor of physics at the University of Regensburg in Germany, [said in a statement](https://phys.org/news/2018-05-semiconductor-million-faster-quantum.html). However, the researchers didn't actually perform any quantum operations this way, so the idea of a room- temperature quantum computer is still entirely theoretical. And in fact, the classical (regular-type) operations the researchers did perform on their lattice were just meaningless, back-and-forth, 1-and-0 switching. The lattice still hasn't been used to calculate anything. Thus, researchers still have to show that it can be used in a practical computer.

Still, the changes come slowly from here. There are first military consideration. Yes, I forgot to tell you that all of this was funded by DARPA. They get the benefits first. Then, the private sector benefits, maybe…through tech transfer protocols. It takes until 2026 before the first versions come out, and another 6 years before it breaks into the civilian market. 2032, is a landmark year for subspace communication, and then in 2036, the first message comes in from another world millions of light years away, like it was next door. It’s pretty safe until plans for advanced weapons are downloaded. Yeah. We have time to stop that, though. There’s time. We know it’s coming, right? So, we can choose a new future. We just have to make sure a certain group doesn’t get the information. I will share that when the time is right. Not now.

**Balancing the Budget**

There are many things that bloat the Federal budget to amounts and for purposes well beyond what the Federal government should be funding. The President is addressing these at lightning speed, compared to other administrations. There is a pattern emerging, but I am not ready to divulge that pattern as I see it just yet.

Let’s start with commodity subsidies. Under the nation’s current agricultural program, farmers are able to take advantage of two types of programs. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) provides coverage against natural disasters and other factors that reduce crop yield, while the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs provide protection against changing market conditions.

Farm support subsidies overwhelmingly go to six crop types, even though they do not come close to making up a majority of agricultural production. Corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, rice, and peanuts received [94 percent](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44914.pdf) of commodity subsidies, despite making up only 28 percent of production between 2014 and 2016.

And subsidies they are — despite being intended as a safety net, these “insurance” programs consistently pay out far more than they take in. A study by the Environmental Working Group found that, between 2000 and 2014, farmers received an average of [$2.20 in subsidies](https://www.ewg.org/research/crop-insurance-lottery#.WvxlM0gvyUk) for every dollar they paid in premiums. There was not a *single year* over this time period where farmers didn’t receive, on average, more in subsidies than they paid in.

Part of the problem is that farmers do not need to suffer significant losses to receive subsidies. So-called “shallow loss programs” insure farmers against minor losses, providing encouragement to [ignore market signals](https://www.heritage.org/agriculture/report/significant-and-necessary-farm-subsidy-reforms-the-next-farm-bill). This creates a form of [moral hazard](http://farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/101711_FarmBureau_FarmBillShallowLoss.pdf), as farmers can engage in riskier behaviors knowing that even small losses will be picked up by the federal government.

Farmers are also able to “double-dip,” receiving access to both the FCIC and ARC/PLC programs. The Environmental Working Group also found that, between 2014 and 2015, a decline in crop prices caused the federal government to pay out [$13 billion](https://www.ewg.org/research/subsidy-layer-cake#.Wvxjf0gvyUl) in subsidies through the ARC/PLC programs. At the same time, the FCIC paid out nearly as much — almost $11 billion — to help farmers with that same price decline. Taxpayers were on the hook for the whole $24 billion.

The current farm bill, up for consideration in the House, could post even bigger losses for taxpayers — and bigger payouts for farm businesses. Changes to the way payments are [calculated](https://www.taxpayer.net/agriculture/arc-and-plc-reauthorized-with-changes-to-calculations/) and inflated reference prices, some at more than 100 percent of market price, practically guarantees payouts regardless of economic conditions or losses. In addition, the bill extends these payments to cousins, nieces, and nephews and eliminates the current payment cap for pass through entities and other types of joint ventures. This is a massive expansion of the pay-out pool, extending taxpayer funds to individuals and groups that may have had little or nothing to do with the day to day operations of the farm, let alone would bear the brunt of any potential loss.

Subsidies of this level of generosity completely distort the market. For example, in 2012, the most severe drought in half a century caused nearly 1,700 counties to be declared natural disaster zones. Far from barely getting by, however, farmers had their [most profitable year in *history*](https://www.rstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/92.pdf) thanks to subsidies and sky-high prices. A safety net should provide protection against loss, but it need not be designed so that farmers come out ahead after natural disasters.

We are also far from the days of an economy based largely on small farmers. The share of Americans working on farms has dropped from 40 percent in 1900 to 1 percent today, while crop production has multiplied [several times over](https://www.rstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/92.pdf). As a result, farming households have [grown wealthier](https://www.mercatus.org/system/files/Lusk-USDA-v1.pdf) than the average household — the net worth of the median U.S. household in 2012 was $68,800, while the net worth of the median farming household in 2014 was $802,000.

And it’s the largest farm businesses that receive the bulk of the subsidies. Commercial farms, which account for [just over 10 percent of all farms](https://www.heritage.org/agriculture/report/what-you-should-know-about-who-receives-farm-subsidies), received 73 percent of ARC/PLC payments and 83 percent of FCIC payments. Small family farms, making up 90 percent of farms, received the remainder.

Congress should work to address the over [$20 billion a year](https://www.downsizinggovernment.org/agriculture/subsidies) taxpayers are on the hook for each year to subsidize these large farms. It’s past time to turn commodity systems into a true safety net, not a golden parachute for the large mega-farmers.

**Jackson, and No Bank**

On Jan. 8, 1835, all the big political names in Washington gathered to celebrate what President Andrew Jackson had just accomplished. A senator rose to make the big announcement: "Gentlemen ... the national debt ... is PAID."

That was the one time in U.S. history when the country was debt free. It lasted exactly one year. By 1837, the country would be in panic and headed into a massive, engineered depression. We'll get to that, but first let's figure out how Andrew Jackson did the impossible.

It helps to remember that debt was always a choice for America. After the revolution, the founding fathers debated whether or not to just wipe clean all those financial promises made during the war. Deciding to default "would have ruined our credit and would have left the economy on a very agricultural, subsistence basis," says [Robert E. Wright](http://www.augie.edu/academics/areas-study/nef-family-chair-political-economy), a professor at Augustana College in South Dakota.

So the U.S. agreed early on to consolidate the debts of all the states — $75 million.

During the good times, the country tried to pay down the debt. Then there would be another war, and the debt would go up again. The politicians never liked the debt.

"What the battle was really about was how quickly to pay off the national debt, not whether to pay it off or not," Wright says.

But, just like today, it wasn't easy for politicians to slash spending — until Andrew Jackson came along.

"For Andrew Jackson, politics was very personal," says [H.W. Brands](http://www.hwbrands.com/bio.htm), an Andrew Jackson biographer at the University of Texas. "He hated not just the federal debt. He hated debt at all."

Before he was president, Jackson was a land speculator in Tennessee. He learned to hate debt when a land deal went bad and left him with massive debt and some worthless paper notes.  So when Jackson ran for president, he knew his enemy: the banks and the national debt. He called it the national curse. He knew that banks were the bane of any civil society. The Rothschild clan threatened America with destruction if it did not bow to the Central Bank. Jackson campaigned on the slogan “Jackson and no Bank.” People ate it up.

In Jackson's mind, debt was "a moral failing," Brands says. "And the idea you could somehow acquire stuff through debt almost seemed like black magic."

So Jackson decided to pay off the debt. To do that, he took advantage of a huge real-estate bubble that was raging in the Western U.S. The federal government owned a lot of Western land — and Jackson started selling it off. He was also ruthless on the budget. He blocked every spending bill he could.

"He vetoed, for example, programs to build national highways," Brands says. "He considered these to be unconstitutional in the first place, but bad policy in the second place."

When Jackson took office, the national debt was about $58 million. Six years later, it was all gone. Paid off. And the government was actually running a surplus, taking in more money than it was spending.

That created a new problem: What to do with all that surplus money? Jackson had already killed off the national bank (which he hated more than debt). So he couldn't put the money there. He decided to divide the money among the states.

But, according to economic historian [John Steele Gordon](http://www.johnsteelegordon.com/), the party didn't last for long.

The state banks went a little crazy. The Federal government did not take care that States would print their own money, as it were, and create debt inside their own domains. The land bubble was out of control, just like see today with speculation running to insane levels. Appraisers were inflating the price of land far beyond their value in gold.

Andrew Jackson tried to slow everything down by requiring that all government land sales needed to be done with gold or silver. Bad idea.

"It was a huge crash, and the beginning of the longest depression in American history," Gordon says. "It actually lasted six years before the economy began to grow again."

During the depression, the government started borrowing money again.

No one says that paying off the debt caused the depression. The bubble was going to pop sometime. But the result was that we had to kiss a debt-free U.S. goodbye. The country never came close again

Until now. There is only one entity preventing America from being debt free and operating inside its own ability to fund government. The Central Bank. The World Bank. The IMF. The globalist control of debt, not currency per se, just debt. The simulation of currency. It is not gold or silver or assets. It is the future promise of gold or silver or assets that it controls.

This simple concept has been the only lens through which we have viewed the world since 1837. Well, now it is 2018; 181 years later. Don’t you think it is about time we stopped thinking in terms of future assets? Don’t you think that the entire concept of currency needs to be reconsidered? I posit that this reconsideration is coming. The national debt will be retired. Maybe not all repaid, but rather discounted as a single smaller payment in a design to remove the globalist hand from the back of our neck; or for that matter, from everyone’s neck.

**The truth behind School Shootings**

If you read the book Charm of Favor, you already know the strategy used by the globalist elites to disarm nations. You make people ashamed of owning guns. You socially stigmatize them. But, there is a root cause of these shootings. Kids don’t just wake up one day and say, “Hey I’m gonna go kill a bunch of people and then kill myself.

There is a process of making a mass shooter who kills not out of passion, but out of necessity.

Nearly every mass shooting incident in the last twenty years, and multiple other instances of suicide and isolated shootings all share one thing in common, and it’s **not** the firearm, or the van, or the knife.

The overwhelming evidence points to the single largest common factor in all of these incidents is the fact that all of the perpetrators were either actively taking or had been prescribed for significant periods of their recent lives, powerful [psychotropic drugs](http://ssristories.org/).

Multiple credible scientific studies going back more than a decade, as well as internal documents from certain pharmaceutical companies that suppressed the information show that SSRI drugs ( Selective Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors ) have well-known, but unreported side effects, including but not limited to suicidal thoughts and other violent behavior. Women taking them have reported having repeated visions or urges to throw their babies off of balconies, or crashing their car.

Google it for yourself. www.ssristories.com is one popular site that has documented over 4500 “ Mainstream Media “ reported cases from around the World of aberrant or violent behavior by those taking these powerful drugs. These drugs squash the conscience and conjure thoughts of death, destruction, suicide and worse.

### The following is a list of mass shooting perpetrators and the drugs they were taking or had been taking shortly before their horrific actions.

The list was compiled and published by John Noveske, founder and owner of Noveske Rifleworks just days before he was mysteriously killed in a single car accident. Is there a link between [Noveske's death](https://ammoland.com/2013/01/john-noveske-will-be-missed/%22%20%5Co%20%22AmmoLand%20Reports) and his publication of this information that incriminates the pharmaceutical industry’s biggest cash cow?

~~~~Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America :

### List of mass shooters and the stark link to psychotropic drugs.

* **Eric Harris** age 17 (first on Zoloft then Luvox) and Dylan Klebold aged 18 (Columbine school shooting in Littleton, Colorado), killed 12 students and 1 teacher, and wounded 23 others, before killing themselves. Klebold's medical records have never been made available to the public.
* **Jeff Weise**, age 16, had been prescribed 60 mg/day of Prozac (three times the average starting dose for adults!) when he shot his grandfather, his grandfather's girlfriend and many fellow students at Red Lake, Minnesota. He then shot himself. 10 dead, 12 wounded.
* **Cory Baadsgaard**, age 16, Wahluke (Washington state) High School, was on Paxil (which caused him to have hallucinations) when he took a rifle to his high school and held 23 classmates hostage. He has no memory of the event.
* **Chris Fetters**, age 13, killed his favorite aunt while taking Prozac.
* **Christopher Pittman**, age 12, murdered both his grandparents while taking Zoloft.
* **Mathew Miller**, age 13, hung himself in his bedroom closet after taking Zoloft for 6 days.
* **Kip Kinkel,** age 15, (on Prozac and Ritalin) shot his parents while they slept then went to school and opened fire killing 2 classmates and injuring 22 shortly after beginning Prozac treatment.
* **Luke Woodham**, age 16 (Prozac) killed his mother and then killed two students, wounding six others.
* **A boy in Pocatello**, ID (Zoloft) in 1998 had a Zoloft-induced seizure that caused an armed stand off at his school.
* **Michael Carneal** (Ritalin), age 14, opened fire on students at a high school prayer meeting in West Paducah, Kentucky. Three teenagers were killed, five others were wounded..
* A young man in Huntsville, Alabama (Ritalin) went psychotic chopping up his parents with an ax and also killing one sibling and almost murdering another.
* **Andrew Golden**, age 11, (Ritalin) and Mitchell Johnson, aged 14, (Ritalin) shot 15 people, killing four students, one teacher, and wounding 10 others.
* **TJ Solomon**, age 15, (Ritalin) high school student in Conyers, Georgia opened fire on and wounded six of his class mates.
* **Rod Mathews**, age 14, (Ritalin) beat a classmate to death with a bat.
* **James Wilson**, age 19, (various psychiatric drugs) from Breenwood, South Carolina, took a .22 caliber revolver into an elementary school killing two young girls, and wounding seven other children and two teachers.
* **Elizabeth Bush**, age 13, (Paxil) was responsible for a school shooting in Pennsylvania
* **Jason Hoffman** (Effexor and Celexa) – school shooting in El Cajon, California
* **Jarred Viktor**, age 15, (Paxil), after five days on Paxil he stabbed his grandmother 61 times.
* **Chris Shanahan,** age 15 (Paxil) in Rigby, ID who out of the blue killed a woman.
* **Jeff Franklin** (Prozac and Ritalin), Huntsville, AL, killed his parents as they came home from work using a sledge hammer, hatchet, butcher knife and mechanic's file, then attacked his younger brothers and sister.
* **Neal Furrow** (Prozac) in LA Jewish school shooting reported to have been court-ordered to be on Prozac along with several other medications.
* **Kevin Rider**, age 14, was withdrawing from Prozac when he died from a gunshot wound to his head. Initially it was ruled a suicide, but two years later, the investigation into his death was opened as a possible homicide. The prime suspect, also age 14, had been taking Zoloft and other SSRI antidepressants.
* **Alex Kim**, age 13, hung himself shortly after his Lexapro prescription had been doubled.
* **Diane Routhier** was prescribed Welbutrin for gallstone problems. Six days later, after suffering many adverse effects of the drug, she shot herself.
* **Billy Willkomm**, an accomplished wrestler and a University of Florida student, was prescribed Prozac at the age of 17. His family found him dead of suicide – hanging from a tall ladder at the family's Gulf Shore Boulevard home in July 2002.
* **Kara Jaye Anne Fuller-Otter**, age 12, was on Paxil when she hung herself from a hook in her closet. Kara's parents said “…. the damn doctor wouldn't take her off it and I asked him to when we went in on the second visit. I told him I thought she was having some sort of reaction to Paxil…”)
* **Gareth Christian**, Vancouver, age 18, was on Paxil when he committed suicide in 2002,
* (Gareth's father could not accept his son's death and killed himself.)
* Julie Woodward, age 17, was on Zoloft when she hung herself in her family's detached garage.
* **Matthew Miller** was 13 when he saw a psychiatrist because he was having difficulty at school. The psychiatrist gave him samples of Zoloft. Seven days later his mother found him dead, hanging by a belt from a laundry hook in his closet.
* **Kurt Danysh**, age 18, and on Prozac, killed his father with a shotgun. He is now behind prison bars, and writes letters, trying to warn the world that SSRI drugs can kill.
* **Woody** \_\_\_\_, age 37, committed suicide while in his 5th week of taking Zoloft. Shortly before his death his physician suggested doubling the dose of the drug. He had seen his physician only for insomnia. He had never been depressed, nor did he have any history of any mental illness symptoms.
* **A boy from Houston**, age 10, shot and killed his father after his Prozac dosage was increased.
* **Hammad Memon**, age 15, shot and killed a fellow middle school student. He had been diagnosed with ADHD and depression and was taking Zoloft and “other drugs for the conditions.”
* **Matti Saari**, a 22-year-old culinary student, shot and killed 9 students and a teacher, and wounded another student, before killing himself. Saari was taking an SSRI and a benzodiazapine.
* **Steven Kazmierczak**, age 27, shot and killed five people and wounded 21 others before killing himself in a Northern Illinois University auditorium. According to his girlfriend, he had recently been taking Prozac, Xanax and Ambien. Toxicology results showed that he still had trace amounts of Xanax in his system.
* **Finnish gunman Pekka-Eric Auvinen**, age 18, had been taking antidepressants before he killed eight people and wounded a dozen more at Jokela High School – then he committed suicide.
* **Asa Coon** from Cleveland, age 14, shot and wounded four before taking his own life. Court records show Coon was on Trazodone.
* **Jon Romano**, age 16, on medication for depression, fired a shotgun at a teacher in his New York high school.

### Missing from list… 3 of 4 known to have taken these same meds….

* What drugs was Jared Lee Loughner on, age 21…… killed 6 people and injuring 14 others in Tuscon, Az
* What drugs was James Eagan Holmes on, age 24….. killed 12 people and injuring 59 others in Aurora Colorado
* What drugs was Jacob Tyler Roberts on, age 22, killed 2 injured 1, Clackamas Or
* What drugs was Adam Peter Lanza on, age 20, Killed 26 and wounded 2 in Newtown Ct

Those focusing on further firearms bans or magazine restrictions are clearly focusing on the wrong issue and asking the wrong questions, either as a deliberate attempt to hide these links, or out of complete and utter ignorance.

Don't let them! Force our elected “representatives” and the biased media to cast a harsh spotlight on the issue of mental illness drugs. Don't stop hounding them until they do. As the antis say, “even if is saves just one life” , it is worth doing.

**The Awan Prosecution**

The father of Imran Awan — an IT aide to Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz who investigators concluded made as many 6 thousand unauthorized logins to House servers — transferred a USB drive to a Pakistani senator and former head of a Pakistani intelligence agency, the father’s ex-business partner, Rashid Minhas, alleged.

Minhas reportedly said that Imran Awan’s father, Haji Ashraf Awan, was giving data to Pakistani official Rehman Malik, and that Imran bragged he had the power to “change the U.S. president.”

Asked for how he knew this, he said that on one occasion in 2008 when a “USB [was] given to Rehman Malik by Imran’s father, my brother Abdul Razzaq was with his father.”

 “After Imran’s father deliver (sic) USB to Rehman Malik, four Pakistani [government intelligence] agents were with his father 24-hour on duty to protect him,” he said. Minhas did not say what was on the USB.

Reporters traveled to Pakistan for this story and interviewed numerous residents who interacted with Imran, and they confirmed that he does travel that country with a contingent of armed Pakistani government officials and routinely brags about mysterious political power.

The House Office of Inspector General charged in Sept. 30, 2016 that data was being [funneled off the House network](http://dailycaller.com/2018/01/16/house-report-concluded-pakistanis-made-unauthorized-access-to-congressional-servers/) by the Awans as recently as September 2016 — shortly before the presidential election.

Nearly Imran’s entire immediate family was on the House payroll working as IT aides to [one-fifth of House Democrats](http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/dailycaller/awan/awanoffices.html), and he began working for the House in 2004.  The inspector general, Michael Ptasienski, [testified this month](http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HA/HA00/20180412/108051/HHRG-115-HA00-Wstate-PtasienskiM-20180412.pdf) that “system administrators hold the ‘keys to the kingdom’ meaning they can create accounts, grant access, view, download, update, or delete almost any electronic information within an office. Because of this high-level access, a rogue system administrator could inflict considerable damage.”

Minhas said “Imran Awan said to me directly these words: ‘See how I control White House on my fingertip…’ He say he can fire the prime minister or change the U.S. president,” Minhas said. “Why the claiming big stuff, I [didn’t] understand ’till now.”

“I was Imran father’s partner in Pakistan,” Minhas said, in two land deals in Pakistan so big that they are often referred to as “towns.” In 2009, both men were accused of fraud, and Haji was arrested but then released after Imran flew to Pakistan, “allegedly… exerting pressure on the local police through the ministry as well as the department concerned,” according to [local news](https://www.dawn.com/news/944935). Minhas and multiple alleged victims in Pakistan also told Reporters Imran exerted political influence in Pakistan to extricate his father from the case.

Minhas is now in U.S. federal prison for additional fraud, and Reporters could not confirm whether Minhas’ claims about the USBs are true. But Minhas said the DOJ or FBI never interviewed him about the Awans, an indicator the potential for espionage may not have been explored extensively. The probe involves money allegedly disappearing to Pakistan and Minhas was, prominently, their business partner there.

He is also one of many people with past relationships with the Awans who have said they believe they are aggressive opportunists who will do [anything for money](http://dailycaller.com/2018/03/18/imran-awan-house-hacking-intimidation-tampering/). And parts of Minhas’s story correlate with observations elsewhere. Haji’s wife, Samina Gilani — Imran’s stepmother — said in [court documents](http://dailycaller.com/2017/04/30/stepmom-says-house-it-scandal-figure-threatened-kidnappings-of-pakistani-kin/) that Imran used his IT skills to wiretap her as a means of exerting pressure on her.

Haji would frequently boast that Imran’s position gave him political leverage, numerous Pakistani residents told Reporters. “My son own White House in D.C.,” he would say, according to Minhas. “I am kingmaker.”

Sen. Malik is a former intelligence agent who served as director of the Federal Investigation Agency from 1993 to 1996. From 2004 to 2007, he was chief of security for former prime minister Benazir Bhutto. In 2013, he became an adviser to Prime Minister Yousaf Gillani, and served as Interior Minister until 2013, a capacity in which he interfaced with then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He now serves in the Pakistani Senate.

Sen. Malik denied any relationship with the parties allegedly involved, saying “I am hearing their names for the first time. I am in public and people always do name-dropping.” Chris Gowen, an attorney for Imran, said Minhas’s contentions were “completely and totally false.”

House Sergeant-At-Arms Paul Irving banned the Awans from the congressional network on Feb. 2, 2017 after the IG report alleged that the Awans were making “unauthorized access” to House servers. They logged in using members of Congress’s personal usernames and logged into servers of members for whom they did not work, the IG report said. After some members fired them, they still kept accessing their data, an IG presentation charged.

The behavior mirrored a “classic method for insiders to exfiltrate data from an organization,” and “steps are being taken [by the Awans] to conceal their activity,” it said.

In the months before the election, the epicenter of the cyberbreach was the server of the House Democratic Caucus, a sister group of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Authorities said they believe Imran secretly moved [all the data](http://dailycaller.com/2017/09/12/exclusive-dws-it-guy-was-banned-from-house-after-trying-to-hide-secret-server/) of more than a dozen House members’ offices onto the caucus server.

The server may have been “used for nefarious purposes and elevated the risk that individuals could be reading and/or removing information,” an IG presentation said. The Awans logged into it 27 times a day, far more than any other computer they administered.

Imran’s most forceful advocate and longtime employer is Florida Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who led the DNC until she resigned following a hack that exposed committee emails. Wikileaks published those emails, and they show that DNC staff [summoned Imran](http://dailycaller.com/2017/03/09/suspect-in-house-it-security-probe-also-had-access-to-dnc-emails/) when they needed her password.

Democrats have blamed the DNC hack for former Clinton’s loss in the 2016 presidential race.

Soon after the IG report, the entire House Democratic Caucus server was physically stolen, three government officials said, in what authorities took as evidence tampering. Then-Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra has [refused to discuss](http://dailycaller.com/2017/12/11/becerra-tried-to-block-server-admin-over-red-flags-but-logins-continued-with-muted-reaction/) the incident except to say that he would cooperate with authorities. Becerra left DC and was appointed the attorney general for California. He has repeatedly refused to turn over the server with the files the Awans collected from as many as 80 Democrats in Congress. Many of these serve on Intelligence and Armed Services Committees.

The Awans began selling their assets and laundering money through their car dealerships and their real estate company during the same time period. In January 2017 they took out a loan intended for home improvement, falsely claimed a medical emergency in order to cash out their House retirement account, and wired $300,000 overseas, according to an [FBI affidavit](http://dailycaller.com/2017/07/25/wasserman-schultzs-it-aide-arrested-trying-to-flee-the-country/).

Imran was arrested on bank fraud charges at Dulles Airport in July 2017 trying to fly to Pakistan with a wiped cell phone and a resume that listed his address as Queens, New York, prosecutors said. Imran and his wife, Hina Alvi, were [indicted](http://dailycaller.com/2017/08/17/two-former-wasserman-schultz-it-aides-indicted-for-conspiracy-against-u-s/) in August on bank fraud charges, with prosecutors contending in court filings that shortly before moving the money, the couple had likely learned that authorities were closing in on them for their other activities.

Yet Imran and Hina have not been charged with unauthorized access to and the illegal transfer of congressional data, despite an analysis of server logs by House investigators that determined that unauthorized access by Imran and Hina had actually occurred. Three other suspects – Abid Awan, Jamal Awan and Rao Abbas – have also faced no charges. Abid’s wife, Ukraniane-born Nataliia Sova, was also on the payroll but left before the Awan family was banned.

The separation between the legislative and executive branch has complicated the prosecution. Congressmen have refused to publicly address the IG’s findings, and Wasserman Schultz’s [brother](https://twitter.com/fedpros/status/893932147156946945) is a prosecutor in the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, which is handling the case.

Two months after the ban, Capitol Police found that Imran was in the building and left a laptop with username RepDWS in a phone booth along with a note that read “attorney client privilege,” according to [a police report](http://dailycaller.com/2017/09/06/exclusive-did-imran-want-capitol-police-to-find-wasserman-schultzs-laptop/).

Wasserman Schultz hired a private lawyer to block prosecutors from looking at the computer. Imran’s attorney then said the laptop should [not be looked at](http://dailycaller.com/2017/10/06/imran-awan-very-strongly-wants-to-block-review-of-hard-drive-was-using-alias/) unless he withdraws his claim of attorney-client privilege. Their next court date is May 4.

The suspects worked for foreign affairs committee members such as Ted Lieu of California and for intelligence committee members Joaquin Castro of Texas, Andre Carson of Indiana, and Jackie Speier of California. All have [ignored repeated requests](http://dailycaller.com/2018/02/02/intel-committee-dems/) for comment.

Imran appeared to still have a [backdoor into the congressional network](http://dailycaller.com/2017/08/29/exclusive-imran-awan-has-still-active-secret-house-account-and-its-tied-to-an-intelligence-staffer/) as late as August 2017 through the email account 123@mail.house.gov, according to civil court filings. Instead of Imran’s name, the email address was associated with the name Nathaniel Bennett, an intelligence specialist for Carson.

Minhas said “Last time I seen Mr. devil Awan in Pakistan 2010 about him and his father commit fraud with me and other landlords in Faisalabad.” Minhas and Haji Awan acquired a large tract of farmland from elderly farmers to turn into a housing development, but allegedly failed to pay them. When the farmers filed charges, Imran tried to have the elderly victims arrested by claiming they beat and “tortured” him, and used [political influence](http://dailycaller.com/2017/11/14/dem-it-aide-used-political-influence-to-have-fraud-charges-dropped-in-pakistan-paper-says/) to have police drop the charges against his father, according to [a detailed 2009 article](https://www.dawn.com/news/944935) in Pakistani newspaper Dawn.

Minhas said that was Sen. Malik’s influence. “The way he used his resources through Congress to call U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and Pakistani officials, it was so bad,” Minhas said. “What the hell Rehman Malik was doing” being involved in a local case?

The alleged scam Minhas and Haji ran was not the only one for either. Minhas is now in federal prison in Minnesota for swindling money from American Muslims.



*Awan Town in Lahore, Pakistan, where Imran Awan’s wife Hina Alvi lived / Wajid Al Sayed*

According to court documents, Minhas stole $700,000 from American Muslims by using their faith against them. He set up travel agencies that sold cheap tickets to the Hajj, the obligatory trip to Mecca. But instead of providing the tickets, he sent buyers letters saying “Allah didn’t invite you. That’s why you guys didn’t go,” as one victim recounted in court papers. “So, he blamed the whole thing on God, not on his thing what he did to us.”

Prosecutors said “he used the travel agency down in Falls Church, Va., as a stalking horse to make it appear to his customers that he was doing what he was supposed to be doing, knowing all along that he wouldn’t get those visas.”

Minhas lived in Chicago at the time, while Imran ran a car dealership in Falls Church on top of his $165,000-a-year job in Congress. But no connection between Imran and the travel agency was apparent.

The Awans’ car dealership business partner Nasir Khattek said in sworn testimony that the automobile business — called Cars International A, or CIA — used false bookkeeping and took $100,000 from Ali Al-Attar, an [Iraqi government official](http://dailycaller.com/2017/12/19/house-it-aides-ran-car-dealership-with-markings-of-a-nefarious-money-laundering-operation/) who is wanted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Minhas has been in prison since 2014. He said his brother, Abdul Razzaq, witnessed one handoff of a USB between the elder Awan and Malik in 2008. He said his brother has since died.

Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, then a House member, inexplicably paid the elder Awan $116 in late 2007 to be his “systems administrator,” according to payroll records, even though he did not have any computer training and said on insurance documents that he worked as a religious figure.

Imran told Laurel Everly, a tenant of one of his family’s numerous Virginia rental homes, that Imran sometimes performed his job administering congressional servers from Pakistan.

Several people, including Imran’s stepmother Gilani, said Imran used his job as a congressional IT administrator to exert pressure, particularly among foreigners and immigrants.

Minhas said the Awans also defrauded him. “My brothers brought all customers and investors. I stay in Pakistan March 2006 to August 2006 and sold about 79 percent town name Gulshan-e-Moin (sic), after sold that town end of 2006, we purchased another land and sold 40 percent land to Faisalabad Agriculture University staff.

“In 2007 Awan family showed me dirty blood in their body, and from 37 acres they only transfer 1000 square feet oh yes only 1000 square feet in my name, and I was third 34 percent partner.”

Even with Minhas out of the picture and the Awans in full control of the land business, multiple people said Imran and his family have continued to defraud them in Pakistan. The land was subdivided and a portion sold to the faculty of the Faisalabad Agriculture University to build a housing complex for professors.

Dr. Zafar Iqbal, a faculty member and the group’s president, told TheDCNF in an interview on his front porch that the group paid Haji for the land, but he never turned over the deed, and they have been fighting him and Imran for it for years.

In January 2017, Haji died and Imran traveled to Pakistan, where the association members cornered him, Dr. Iqbal said. Imran cautioned them that he “has got powerful political connections in Pakistan and in the U.S,” Dr. Iqbal said, adding that he had seen the government agents protecting him. Imran promised to either refund their money or get them the deeds.

But Imran “pulled another trick,” Dr. Iqbal said. “He’s such type of person.”