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| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report  Jun 23, 2018 - Jun 29, 2018 | |
| Attacks | **32** |
| Killed | **347** |
| Injured | **88** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries | **10** |

**Charm of Favor: A Revelation**

Left-wing billionaire Tom Steyer said perhaps there could be a "nuclear war" that would provide a "real course correction" to Donald Trump's presidency during an [interview](https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/features/who-is-tom-steyer-w522136) published by Rolling Stone.

Steyer, who launched a national impeachment campaign against President Donald Trump last year, spoke with the liberal magazine about his efforts, which have been opposed by leading Democrats like House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.).

Interviewer Tim Dickinson pointed out Pelosi's strategy of opposing impeachment of President George W. Bush, to take the issue off the table in 2006. Democrats took back both chambers of Congress in an electoral rout that year.

"She pointed to how she dealt with George W. Bush – whom many wanted to impeach," Dickinson said. "She believes the decision to take impeachment off the table helped Democrats take the House in 2006, and paved a path to Obama and a deeper correction."

"I remember 2006," Steyer said. "What happened is that George W. Bush, he put us in two disastrous wars and we were headed toward the biggest financial disaster since the Great Depression. So if the answer is that we need those three things to happen for a course correction, I'd prefer to move a little quicker. How about that? But I take your point. Maybe we can have, like, a nuclear war and then we get a real course correction."

Dickinson responded that was a "sobering" thought, and Steyer replied he would take back the "nuclear war" comment.

"We're trying to do what's right," he said. "And 2006/2008 did not happen because George W. Bush didn't get impeached, is what I'm saying. I should be a little bit more tempered: I take back that remark about nuclear war. The correction happened because the United States got screwed, and American citizens lost their houses and American citizens lost their lives – and, by the way, there was a terrible climate-related crisis, New Orleans, that the president fumbled."

**X-Squared Radio Right Again**

You may recall me making the claim that when the truth comes out, we will discover that the Democrats employed multiple FBI spies in many campaigns and operations of Republicans. One of the most feared caucuses in Washington is the Freedom Caucus. In a stunning accusation, not without merit, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) says that agents working for Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein have been spying on his office.

“I don’t doubt for a minute that he has people who have been looking into my background. I’ve been told as much by some other folks,” said the Congressman, who added that he did not believe such an operation was overseen by Rod Rosenstein personally.

“There’s always deniability,” he said.

Gohmert recounted a fiery exchange with Rosenstein during Congressional testimony last week in which the Congressman grilled the Deputy AG over not having read a FISA warrant renewal he signed. "If I were a FISA judge," Gohmert told WMAL, "now that we have him on record refusing to say that you even read it - I would never accept an application signed by you again, because you don't even know what you were signing"

Gohmert also expressed frustration over the DOJ's efforts to stall Congressional investigations.

"He thinks that if they drag their feet long enough like Eric Holder did with fast and furious, we won't do anything about it," suggesting that Rosenstein would seek to run out the statute of limitations on various allegations. That is exactly how they do it. And they will laugh at you while they put spies in your staff.

“The FBI has had opportunities to have evidence of corruption, such as the massive spying operation run by the Awan gang, presented to them, and each time, they have instructed, ‘Don’t bring any of those documents; we don’t want to see any of that, we just want to talk to [him],’” Gohmert said. Instead, the FBI has insisted that there's “no evidence of anything other than this false statement.”

Now, I know you’re listening Congressman. So here’s the deal. The FBI knows that if they accept any of that evidence into their possession, they will be held accountable for it. And if they are held accountable, then they will have to look at Debbie Wasserman Schultz. And if they look at Fraulein Schultz, then they will be looking at 80 Democrats who openly shared top-secret information with Pakistan for more than a decade. This is exactly why the FBI should be dissolved and its good agents merged with the INI or the DHS.

“They have instructed, ‘We don’t want to see the documents that proved those cases.’ They’re readily available, for any federal officer that wants to see them, but [the FBI] don’t want to see them, so they can keep reporting to the new U.S. attorney that there’s no evidence, nothing there,” Gohmert said.

**Time to Walk Away**

It’s “intolerant, inflexible, illogical, hateful, misguided, ill-informed, un-American, hypocritical, menacing, callous, ignorant, narrow-minded and at times blatantly fascistic,” says a new political activist who has created a campaign online to oppose a party that he says he’s leaving.

Naturally, he was a silver-spoon-in-mouth Republican, with corporate executive parents and privilege from morning until night, and he’s fed up, right?

Well. No.

Brandon Straka explains why he is leaving liberalism and the Democrats.

His video is titled “#WalkAway Campaign – Why I left liberalism & the Democratic Party” and is one of those must-see projects. I have the audio for you right here. He says it all, from his point of view, in his voice.

**INSERT AUDIO HERE**

So now it’s over.

He’s online at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1945356878817544/?ref=group_header) and other social media sites and his campaign is moving in viral leaps and bounds.

He explains the movement is “dedicated to sharing the stories of people who can no longer accept the current ideology of liberalism and what the Democratic Party has become.”

The reason is the ugly turn the party has taken in recent years, especially since Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election. He left in the dust the now twice-failed Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Since then she’s been on a nonstop tour blaming, well, everyone else, for her loss. Democrats have stalled and stymied Trump’s agenda whenever they can. They’ve started investigations, possibly even with made-up claims. Their rhetoric has reached epic proportions, including encouraging people to confront administration workers wherever they are and telling them they are not welcome.

The new social media group explains it exists to encourage and support those on the left to walk away from the divisive tenets by allowing people to share their stories, or watch the video testimonies and read the posts of others who have walked away.

“It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this campaign and that we may start a movement in this country – which not only encourages others to walk away from the divisive left, but also takes back the narrative from the liberal media about what it means to be a conservative in America,” Straka states.

I used to be a left-leaning liberal. Then I WOKE UP and I thank [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (and, ironically, the [#MSM](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MSM?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) for that.

“It is up to all of us to make our voices heard and reclaim the truth. The Democratic Party has taken for granted that it owns racial, sexual, and religious minorities in America. It has encouraged groupthink, hypocrisy, division, stereotyping, resentment, and the acceptance of victimhood mentality. And all the while, they have discouraged minorities from having independent thought, open dialogue, measured and informed opinion, and a motivation to succeed.”

More than a million times the video has been watched on Facebook. More on YouTube. And the page has more than 20,000 likes.

Straka, according to PJMedia, is “a gay man from Nebraska [who] says that he is one of the liberals who melted down in November of 2016 after Trump was elected.”

He commented during a recent interview with David Harris, “It’s funny now, but at the time it was completely tragic. I was like a heartbeat away from being that ‘Leave Britney alone!’ guy … crying hysterically.”

Once you see the hypocrisy and intolerance, you can’t unsee it. [#WalkAway](https://twitter.com/hashtag/WalkAway?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[#WalkAwayCampaign](https://twitter.com/hashtag/WalkAwayCampaign?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

— Donna LoCicero (@donna\_locicero) [June 24, 2018](https://twitter.com/donna_locicero/status/1010935065755320321?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

He believed, at first, “all of the media lies about Trump being a ‘racist, bigot, sexist, homophobe, sexual predator.”

But after a bit, he awakened.

“Light bulb isn’t even the word. It’s like the sun came up,” he said.

A key was when he saw a video that exposed a lie claiming Trump had made fun of a reporter’s disability.

The question then was raised… what else might not be true.

He cites racism, marginalism, tyrannical groupthink, free speech suppression, false narratives, junk science, and hate.

“These are the reasons why I became a liberal. And these are the same reasons I am now walking away.”

He said the left “destroys anybody who dares to fight back.”

“They’ll come for me and then they’ll come for you,” he warns.

**Voter Fraud: The Sentencing Begins**

You often here us speak of types and shadows. We have been told for decades of widespread voter fraud. We have been told there is no way it could happen, that the cases are isolated and easily spotted when they do happen. None of this turns out to be true. Currently there are upwards of 20 million adult foreign citizens who are willing and empowered to vote illegally in our Federal elections. What’s more, the States have been blocked by activist judges from protecting their individual elections from this type of fraud. The simplest and by far least expensive method of preventing voter fraud is verifying the ID of the person who is casting the vote. Tampering with a voter’s registration by voting in their place, whether that person chooses to exercise that right or not, has heavy penalties, but those are not a deterrent if the likelihood of being caught in the act is eliminated.

That is not the case in these cases that have reached the sentencing stage. Earlier this week, law enforcement officials in Texas arrested a non-citizen of the United States for tampering with the ballots of multiple residents as part of an unbelievable voting “assistance” scheme.

Apparently, while volunteering at a voting center back in November, 2016, she allegedly cast votes on the ballots of others without their consent for numerous candidates who she had purportedly been paid to support under the guise that she was actually just showing them how to use the voting machine.

Marcela Gutierrez, who isn’t a citizen of the US, was taken into custody and charged with one count of “illegal voting,” which is a second-degree felony with a penalty of two to twenty years in prison, with a potential fine of up to $10,000. She was also charged with ten counts of “unlawfully assisting a voter,” which is a misdemeanor that is punishable by up to one whole year in jail and a possible $4,000 fine.

Texas Attorney General (AG) Ken Paxton investigated the unbelievable voting “assistance” scheme that took place during the 2016 runoff election in the city of Hidalgo, discovering the crime.

According to the attorney general’s office, Gutierrez is accused of casting “votes on the voter’s ballot for a slate of candidates Gutierrez had been paid to support” after leading voters to believe she was simply “demonstrating the use of a voting machine.”

In addition to Gutierrez, local law enforcement officials also arrested two of her fellow campaign workers, Sylvia Arjona, who is the wife of Ben Arjona, a trustee on the board of the local school district, and Sara Ornelas, on seven misdemeanor counts of “unlawfully assisting a voter” for playing a role in the voting “assistance” scheme.

Predictably, in the wake of the arrests, Benjamin Castillo, who is Arjona’s attorney, claimed that the allegations against his client are completely false.

“These allegations are not true,” argued Castillo while speaking about the case. “She didn’t do what the allegations are and she intends to fight every step of the way to clear her name,” he insisted.

Their cases, along with Gutierrez’s, have since been referred to the Public Integrity Unit of the Hidalgo County District Attorney’s Office by AG Paxton’s office. As the cases proceed through court, his office will reportedly continue providing assistance and support to Ricardo Rodriguez, who is an attorney with the unit of the district office that is handling the case.

Shortly after the arrests of the three women, Paxton released a statement describing the significance of the cases.

“These cases highlight the unfortunate widespread abuse of elder and disabled voters in our state,” explained the state attorney general in his recently released statement.

“Texas law provides accommodations to assist those who cannot vote their own ballots, but those provisions are being abused to deprive vulnerable Texans of their voice in government,” he continued, adding, “anyone who attempts to exploit the voter assistance process to steal votes will be brought to justice and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

Unsurprisingly, Gilbert Perez, who was the opponent of one of the candidates that the women cast votes for, was quite pleased with their arrests.

“This is a long time coming to them,” stated Perez while speaking to reporters about the matter. “It’s time for people to understand that this is serious; these are our elections and people are voting for people who have a fiduciary duty to make real financial and budget decisions,” he added.

Gutierrez, Arjona, and Ornelas aren’t the only ones who were recently arrested by Paxton’s office for harming the integrity of local elections. Last month, for instance, five people were reportedly taken into custody following during as part of an “ongoing investigation into an organized illegal voting scheme in the 2017 city of Edinburg election.”

And a month before that, Crystal Mason, a 43-year-old convicted felon, was sentenced to five years behind bars for illegally voting back in the 2016 election. Apparently, Mason, who was out on supervised release after being found guilty of tax fraud, had unlawfully submitted a provisional ballot at an election center after learning that her name was not on their list of registered voters.

When pressed about her illicit conduct, Mason claimed she didn’t know what she did was illegal and would have never done so had she known. When that appeared to fail, she, quite shockingly, attempted to blame her mother for pressuring her to vote.

What’s worse, Gutierrez isn’t even the only non-citizen in Texas to be arrested in the past few weeks by local law enforcement officials on charges of unlawful voting. Laura Janeth Garza, a 37-year-old Mexican national living in the United States illegally, was also recently taken into custody by authorities and charged with “voter impersonation and ineligible voting,” which are both second-degree felonies, for illegally voting in several past elections.

According to reports, Garza was placed under arrest and later charged shortly after investigators determined that she had allegedly obtained “documents to steal the identity of a U.S. citizen” and then used that unlawfully acquired identity to fraudulently vote in 2004, 2012, and 2016 elections. If she is ultimately convicted, she faces a maximum of 20 years and a possible $10,000 fine.

“This case demonstrates my office’s commitment to protecting the integrity of elections,” asserted Paxton in a statement about the matter that was released after the charges were filed formally filed against Garza. “We will continue to do everything in our power to safeguard the electoral process in Texas,” he added.

Without a doubt, illegally voting in an election must not be tolerated. Because of this, anyone who is caught undermining the integrity of an election must be punished as harshly as possible to deter others from doing something similar in the future. Hopefully, this is exactly what will happen to Gutierrez and her two accomplices

**The Amazing Disappearing Obama**

If you believe recent media accounts, Barack Obama has suddenly transcended the political fray. Don’t believe for a minute he is happily content, pecking away at his memoir and letting Donald Trump and Republicans write the next chapter of history.

In a cover story asking “Where is Barack Obama?” for example, New York magazine [concluded that the 44th president has “virtually disappeared”](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/06/where-is-barack-obama.html) from the political scene and is sitting idly by as his legacy is dismantled piece by piece. From an exclusive interview, the periodical concluded Obama was “modeling his political engagement out of office after George W. Bush’s” — that is, staying out of the rough-and-tumble of politics, maintaining distance from his former office and resigning himself to be an elder statesman fading into the sunset.

Well, I’m not buying it. Not for a minute.

Obama is doing far more to shape the political landscape than is visible. In fact, he is the most active ex-president in the history of politics, including helping radical protest groups fight Trump and his policies and devising a scheme to flip the GOP majority in the House and permanently turn red seats blue. He is, quite obviously, working more like a well-funded president in exile, than a former president…out of power forever.

From his sprawling DC office not far from the White House, he manages a budget of more than $400 million—that we know about—where he oversees a full-time, highly-paid staff of 20. He has held regular meetings with Democratic lawmakers, as well as DNC chief Tom Perez, whom he personally helped install to run the Democratic Party. He has met with nine top candidates for President in 2020 at the headquarters of the World Wildlife Fund; a known front for global terror funding. Obama has also met with his former defense attorney general, Eric Holder, to craft a strategy to redraw congressional district maps in Democrats’ favor, according to Politico. Holder now runs the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which Obama fully funded for his trusted consigliore.

Obama, who maintains a home in Chicago, originally said he only planned to stay in Washington temporarily, until his youngest daughter, Sasha, now 17, finished high school there. But the family is clearly putting down deeper roots. They recently bought their multi-million dollar DC rental home and erected a massive security wall around the property, which includes offices, and are installing a swimming pool.

While it may be true Obama does not want to engage directly in Washington politics, including personally protesting Trump’s policies, he is using a political-organizing group with more than 30 thousand full-time employees he founded to do that for him.

That nonprofit — Organizing for Action — is not exactly a household name. But it is no less than the organizing and training hub of the anti-Trump resistance. Most recently, OFA helped stage rallies across the country against the administration’s border policies, which it has decried as “cruel and inhumane.” OFA describes itself as a “nonpartisan grass-roots-driven organization,” but it clearly has a pro-Obama agenda and is backed without donation with more than $400 million in funding. In fact, it’s run almost entirely by alums from Obama’s campaign and White House, including Jon Carson and Jim Messina, who co-chair the group, and Katie Hogan, who serves as its executive director, according to recent tax filings by the nonprofit.

Though Obama technically has no official or legal role in OFA, he features the group along with his foundation on his post-presidency Web site and rallies its foot soldiers, who wear blue T-shirts with big white “OFA” letters, in conference calls. After Trump won, for example, he phoned to “fire up” Carson and his team and told them not to worry, that they would “cook up all kinds” of strategies to reclaim the agenda, according to a Nov. 14, 2016, White House transcript of his OFA conference call. More recently, Obama sent an e-mail to “OFA supporters” urging them to “keep going in 2018,” because “there’s simply too much at stake this year.” Obama has tweeted from OFA’s account before and after leaving the White House, and while he was in the White House, he let OFA control his Twitter account, according to The Atlantic.

Earlier this year, moreover, he met with Hogan to discuss how the group can flex its muscles during the midterm campaign to help Democrats recapture the House, according to The New York Times. To that end, OFA plans to train and deploy organizers in 27 Republican-held congressional districts, many with heavy Latino populations, that could be key to a Democratic takeover of the House. With offices in DC and Chicago, OFA has already trained more than 40,000 leftist agitators in person or by webinar, according to tax records.

“We’ve seen grassroots organizing make a big difference this past year, it will again in November,” Hogan recently tweeted.

Meanwhile, OFA has formally partnered with one of the angriest resistance groups, Indivisible Project, which has been criticized for using overly aggressive protest tactics against Republicans at town-hall meetings. Indivisible plans to deploy OFA-trained agitators to storm Republican districts during the Fourth of July recess, starting this weekend, to shout down “Trump’s racist policies,” according to its Web site.

OFA brings in between $6 million and $14 million in donations a year, and is funded in part by Democracy Alliance, which is connected to the radical group that dispatched agitators to march outside Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen’s Virginia town house, blaring an audiotape of crying immigrant children and chanting “No justice, no sleep!” The group, CREDO Action, also held signs calling Nielsen a “child snatcher” and shouted, “You’re a modern-day Nazi!’

With the help of 40 full-time staffers, OFA trains volunteers in the hard-core tactics popularized by the late Chicago radical Saul Alinsky, including smearing and intimidating opponents and mobilizing angry mobs to convey the appearance of a mass movement that enjoys a good deal of public support. This would include the recent headliner in Oregon where peaceful protesters were clobbered by ANTIFA thugs, turning the whole event into a flash bang movie event.

Alinsky trainers schooled Obama in these same tactics when he was an organizer in South Side Chicago. Meanwhile, Hogan and OFA have partnered with Obama and Holder’s gerrymandering project to manufacture future Democrat victories.

Republicans are so alarmed by Obama’s permanent presence and political interference they are raising money from donors based on these fears, warning in a recent fund-raising newsletter about “Obama’s scheme to interfere in the 2018 midterms,” according to a June 22 e-mail from House Majority Whip Steve Scalise.

In public, Obama has skillfully kept his distance from recent anti-Trump protests and politicking. But behind the scenes, he is personally coordinating the resistance — and acting as its organizer in chief. This is an act of insurrection no former president has ever engaged in. Truly, he has become the legacy of the new American Civil War.

**The Real Manchurian Candidate**

After returning from a tour of some of the war zones in the Middle East — which ended with the Free Iran Gathering 2018 in Paris — I am struck by the realization that America really did have a Manchurian Candidate in The White House for eight years. If you look at the evidence, there really is no other conclusion. The calamitous consequences of the Obama presidency will be felt for the foreseeable future.

In the short year and a half that President [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) has been in office, he has put in place policy that has mitigated the damage that President Obama inflicted on our national security and on our allies. The speed with which [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) has been able to turn things around points to the diabolical depths the Obama administration went to in order to undermine our national strength and way of life. All [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) had to do was stop doing things that hurt America; America could then take care of itself. The results are plain as day. However, it will take decades for the Obama damage to be completely undone. The deviousness of the Obama sedition runs deep.

Think about it or a moment. If you wanted peace in the Middle East, why would you throw away the trillions of dollars spent, as well as the lives of thousands of American souls, by irresponsibly pulling out ALL American troops from Iraq? No matter your thoughts on starting the war, pulling out was an irresponsible thing to do. We still have troops in Germany, Korea and Japan, for God’s sake. Why? For stability, that’s why. As Colin Powell said, we broke it, now we own it. It was a given that instability would follow the force withdrawal. When you combine this act with the reality that Obama never really did try to defeat the Islamic State, what conclusion can you come up with? [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) defeated them in a few months simply by giving our officers the autonomy to win. The conclusion is obvious: Obama really didn’t want to destroy them. We may still be helping ISIS, but as this is being found out, I can assure you it is being expunged.

Why did Obama and Hillary take down Moammar Gadhafi, who had already given up his nuclear weapons? Was it to destabilize Libya, where ISIS could gain another foothold? Why did Obama help install the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt? What was the agenda behind the so-called Arab Spring?

However, the coup-de-grace of anti-American activity was the JCPOA, or, to say it another way, the agreement to give Iran everything it wanted, including nuclear weapons and money — lots of money — which it immediately used to further destabilize the region, and existentially threaten the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel. To take it a step further, why didn’t Obama support the opposition against the Mullahs in 2009 when there was an obvious chance for regime change in Iran? Why didn’t Obama confront Bashar Assad’s chemical weapons use? One of the main unanswered questions is what ties did Valerie Jarrett really have to the Iranian regime?

I won’t go into why Obama ran up more debt for the United States than all previous presidents combined. I won’t ask why he weakened our armed forces. I won’t ask why he used tyrannical policies, like using the agencies of the federal government to go after his political opposition. I won’t ask why he politicized our security apparatus in an attempt to frame President [Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/).

What I will say is that there was a big fox in the hen house for eight long years. Eight long years for people like Brennan, Hillary, Kerry, Clapper, Comey and Jarrett to really hurt us regarding our safety and security.

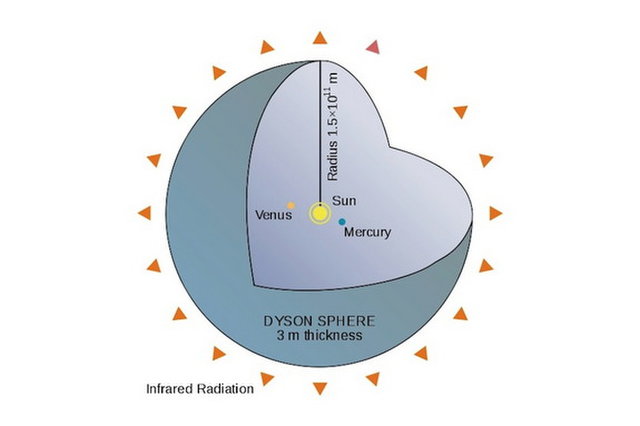
[Trump](https://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/donald-trump/) has a lot of house cleaning to do. Thank goodness he’s being quick about it.

**To Catch a Star**

One scientist thinks that [future intelligent aliens](https://www.space.com/38577-fermi-paradox-alien-life-buried-oceans.html) might survive by collecting, storing and harnessing the power of stars.

Dan Hooper, a senior scientist at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois, outlined this concept in a new paper. He suggested that, over the next 100 billion years or so, an [intelligent extraterrestrial civilization](https://www.space.com/20155-hunting-intelligent-aliens-extreme-seti.html) will likely become isolated and in need of power as the universe [continues to expand](https://www.space.com/35459-universe-expanding-faster-hubble-constant.html). In the paper, Hooper explained that these aliens might need to use stars as an alternative energy source.

Hooper suggested that [such a civilization](https://www.space.com/32793-intelligent-alien-life-probability-high.html) would capture stars and extract their power [using Dyson spheres](https://www.space.com/38031-how-to-build-a-dyson-swarm.html) — theoretical structures, originally described by sci-fi writer Olaf Stapledon in his novel "Star Maker" and first officially proposed and popularized by physicist Freeman Dyson in his 1960 paper "Search for Artificial Stellar Sources of Infrared Radiation." Dyson spheres are engineered structures made up of satellites that are essentially solar panels. They would theoretically be built to surround a star, encompass it and capture its energy. [[Dyson Spheres: How Advanced Alien Civilizations Would Conquer the Galaxy (Infographic)](https://www.space.com/24276-dyson-spheres-how-advanced-alien-civilizations-would-conquer-the-galaxy-infographic.html)]



In his paper, Hooper expanded on this idea, saying that an advanced civilization could "use the energy that is collected to propel those stars toward the center of the civilization, where they will become gravitationally bound and thus protected from the future expansion of space."

In a conversation with Space.com, Hooper revealed that he explored this wild, extraterrestrial possibility simply because he "thought it was cool and it would be fun."

Although he just thought the concept was interesting, papers like this could serve a secondary purpose, Hooper said: Because his paper covers such a wild concept, it could get more people "excited about science, especially young people," and "the more people in our society are increasingly literate in the areas of science, I think this does a lot of good," he added.

Still, people might dismiss the idea that an intelligent extraterrestrial civilization might "catch" stars to fulfill their energy needs. But according to Seth Shostak, a senior astronomer at [the SETI Institute](https://www.space.com/33626-search-for-extraterrestrial-intelligence.html) who was not involved with Hooper's paper, these people are "not thinking big enough."

Because of dark energy, [the universe is expanding](https://www.space.com/39815-hubble-suggests-universe-expanding-faster-study.html), and this process continues to speed up, the paper noted. And "there's no limit on how fast space can expand," Shostak told Space.com.

At least with humans, "almost all the energy here on Earth is a result of the sun … with the exception of nuclear energy," Shostak added.

So, as space expands and stars grow farther away from civilizations, those communities would likely need to find a way to capture and store that stellar energy, whether such aliens are the squishy, gray variety we see in movies, or less-human-like machines, Shostak said.

If intelligent aliens are anything like us, "they're going to run out of energy," Shostak said, adding, "I don't think there's anything crazy about that."

Hooper noted in his paper that something like this would likely not happen for roughly 100 billion years. Within that time, because of dark energy, space would continue to expand enough to isolate a civilization, and such a civilization would also have to figure out how to build a Dyson sphere, [Hooper said](https://phys.org/news/2018-06-aliens-harness-stars-universe.html?utm_source=nwletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-nwletter).

The new paper doesn't say with any certainty that theoretical aliens could or will capture stars and harness their power. However, the idea remains theoretically possible if you factor in two major assumptions (not including the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life): "1) a highly advanced civilization will attempt to maximize its access to usable energy, and that 2) our current understanding of dark energy and its impact on the future expansion history of our universe is approximately correct," Hooper wrote in the paper.

**Cortez: Again**

The Democratic Party's rising socialist icon - Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, has been on an intense media junket since her upset primary victory over establishment Democrat Joe Crowley this week - doing her darnedest to project her "girl from the Bronx" working-class image.

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/APTOPIX_New_York_Primary_Ocasio_Cortez_65331.jpg?itok=nVGlZbbj)

“Well, you know, the president is from Queens, and with all due respect — half of my district is from Queens — **I don’t think he knows how to deal with a girl from the Bronx**,” Ocasio-Cortez told Stephen Colbert during an appearance on The Late Show.

The socialist phenom also told the [*Washington Post*](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/06/29/fact-check-girl-from-the-bronx-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-grew-up-in-one-of-richest-u-s-counties/) "**I wasn’t born to a wealthy or powerful family** — mother from Puerto Rico, dad from the South Bronx. **I was born in a place where your Zip code determines your destiny**."

Except Ocasio-Cortez isn't quite the blue-collar champion she's branding herself as. [Breitbart's](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/06/29/fact-check-girl-from-the-bronx-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-grew-up-in-one-of-richest-u-s-counties/) Josh Caplan is out with a "fact check" on the Democratic Socialist's background - only to find **she grew up in one of the richest counties in the United States**.

***Around the age of five, Alexandria’s architect father Sergio Ocasio moved the family from the “planned community” of Parkchester in the Bronx to a home in Yorktown Heights, a wealthy suburb in Westchester County****. The New York Times*[*describes*](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/27/nyregion/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-bio-profile.html)*her childhood home as “a modest two-bedroom house on a quiet street.” In a 1999*[*profile*](https://www.nytimes.com/1999/10/17/realestate/if-you-re-thinking-living-yorktown-heights-diversity-housing-scenic-setting.html)*of the area, when Ocasio-Cortez would have been ten years old, the Times lauded Yorktown Heights’ “diversity of housing in a scenic setting” – complete with two golf courses.*

*The paper quoted Linda Cooper, the town supervisor, describing Yorktown as ”****a folksy area where people can come, kick off their shoes, wander around, sit in a cafe, listen to a concert in the park, or go to the theater.****”*

*...*

***Westchester County****– which the Washington Post, in a glowing profile on Ocasio-Cortez, describes as only “middle class” –*[***ranks***](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/02/02/the-10-counties-where-the-richest-people-in-america-are-concentrated.html)***#8 in the nation for the counties with the “highest average incomes among the wealthiest one percent of residents.”****According to the Economic Policy Institute,****the county’s average annual income of the top one percent is a staggering $4,326,049****.*

*Yorktown Heights, specifically, offers a sharp contrast from Bronx living.****According to USA.com, the town’s***[***population***](http://www.usa.com/yorktown-heights-ny-population-and-races.htm)***is 81 percent white, and***[***median household income***](http://www.usa.com/yorktown-heights-ny-income-and-careers.htm)***is $96,413****–****nearly double the average for both New York state and the nation****, according to data from 2010-2014.*

Not exactly [Jenny from the block](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dly6p4Fu5TE)...

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/New_York_Primary_Ocasio_Cortez_37771.jpg?itok=vLd5Drxa)

We wonder how long it will take Ocasio-Cortez to ride the "Democratic Socialist" wave until she's firing off tweets from her third home and **making $1 million, two years in a row, like**[**Bernie Sanders**](http://www.newsweek.com/bernie-sanders-makes-one-million-dollars-second-straight-year-book-deals-992845)**.**

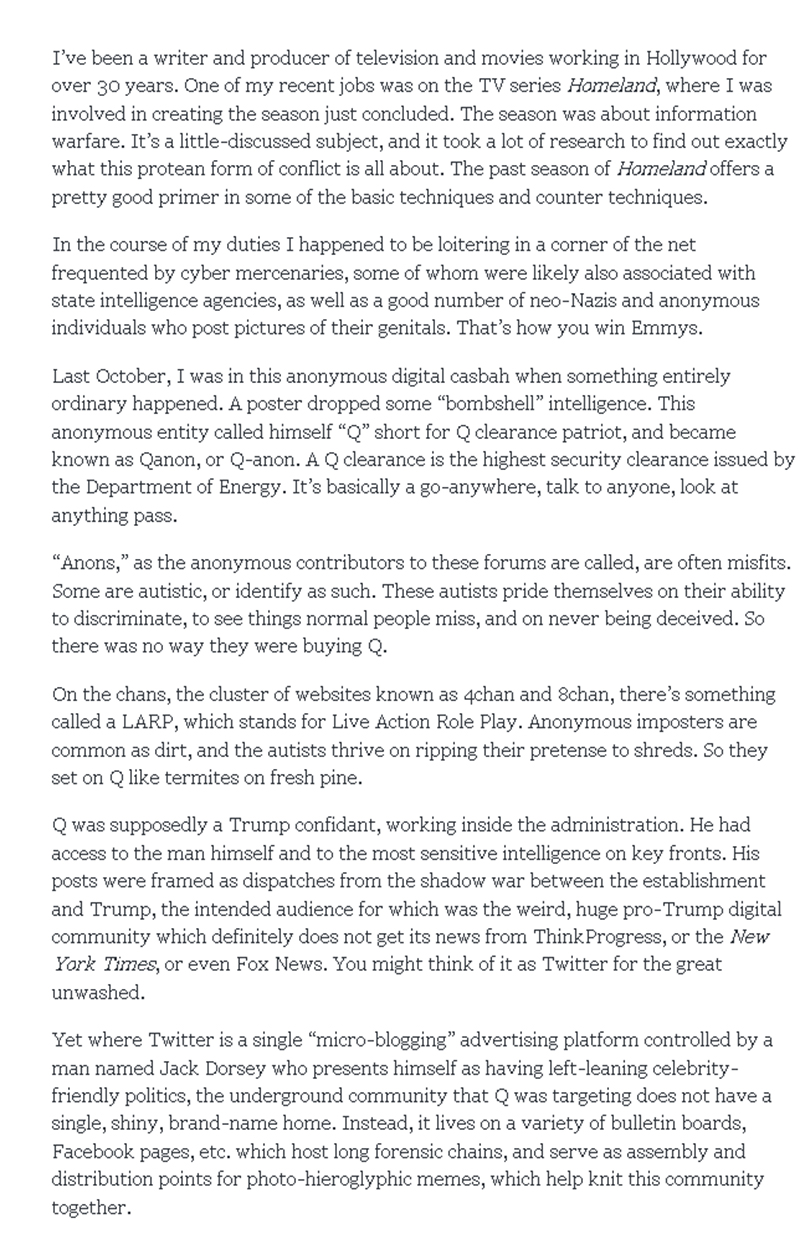
**Speaking of 1 million**, [that's how many Venezuelan Bolivar it costs to buy a Cafe con Leche in Argentina now... (about .29c)](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-06-29/socialist-support-soars-america-price-cup-venezuelan-coffee-reaches-historic)

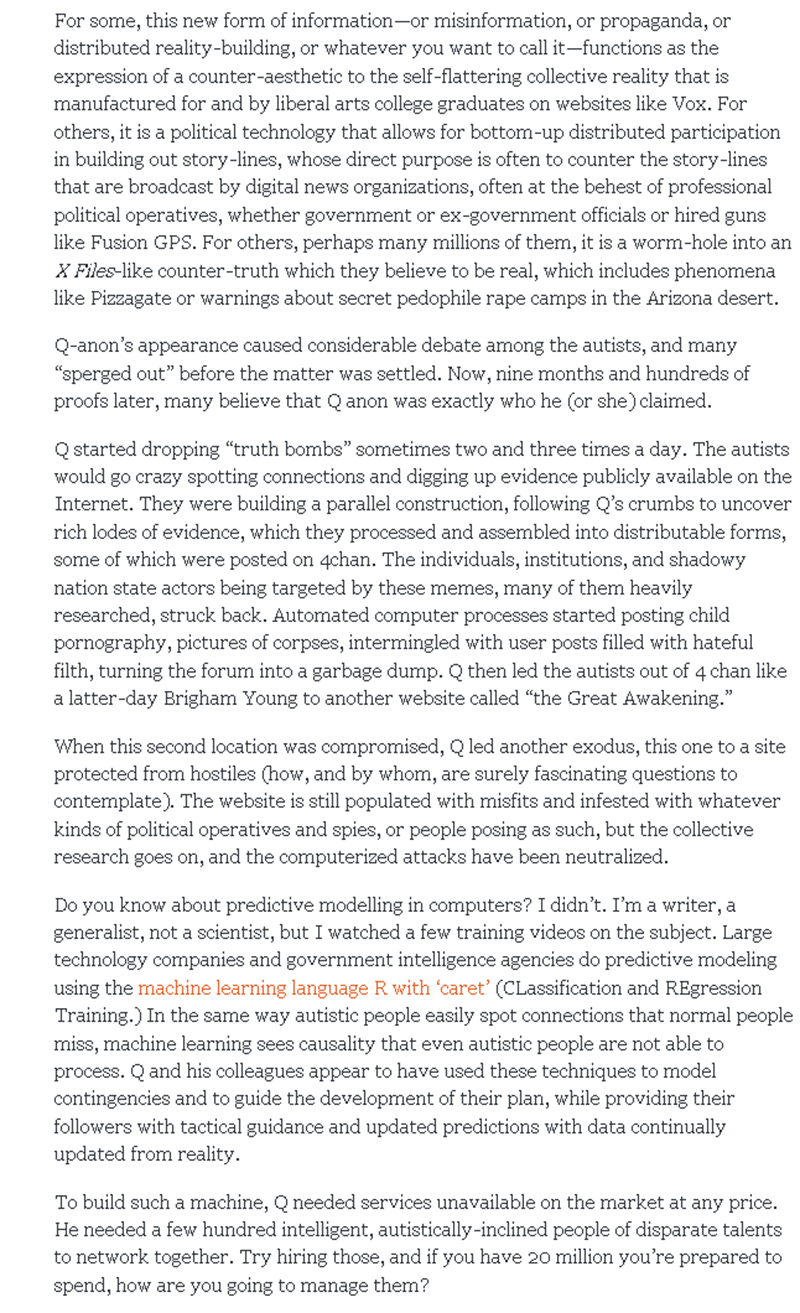
By the way, tending bar is not that uncommon for rich kids with worthless liberal arts degrees. She learned how to pour drinks, a few fast jokes, and to think on her feet. There are a couple if things people are forgetting.

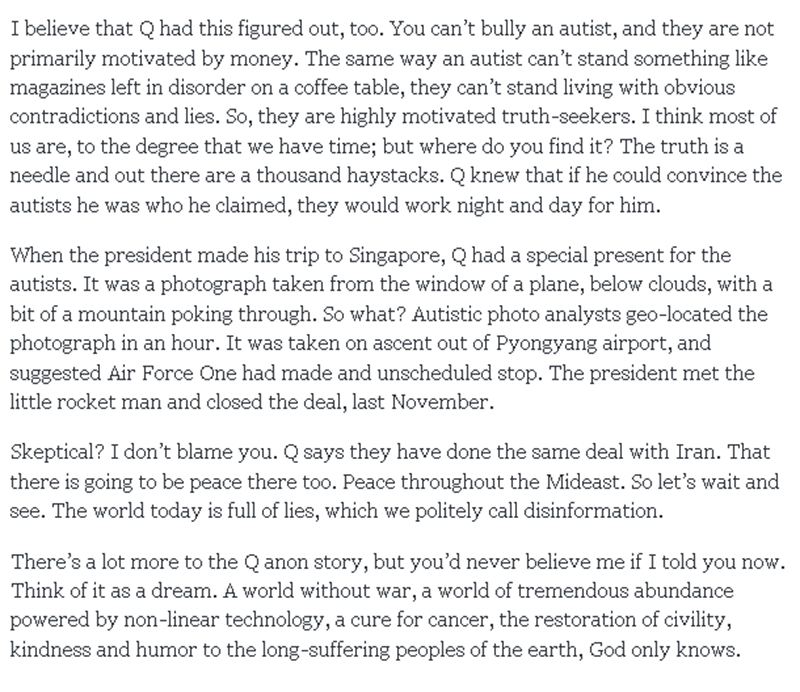
First, you know this is not the first time a Cortez arrive among the natives promising shiny things. It didn’t work out so well, as I recall. Second, although the press seems enamored with this Huma twin, she won less than 5% of the registered votes in her district. What is evident is that Cortez did not win this election. Joe Crowley lost it. It is powerful evidence that failure to support a 10-term senior committee Democrat is proof that the #WalkAway movement is much more developed than the press will report. We will report it. 90% of Democrats stayed home for this election, allowing a spoiled little rich barmaid to win the primary. What is really going to be a shocker, is when a Republican candidate who hasn’t even started his campaign yet wins this district for the first time in a generation.

**LA Fraud**



**Homeland Writer**





The Rothschild response: I read it for myself, and I could hear your voice reading it to me.  Hearing Rothschild’s words and then reading his words was eye opening.  I remember writing the conversation with "the Voice," in the book, ***Charm of Favor***.  The same tone.  The same lies spoken like truth with a testament that it cannot lie.  The thing that struck me was the support for my assertion that the genealogy, the bloodline, is the preservation of their power.  Uncanny.

I got to thinking about it.  Why?  Couldn't a demon come to mortality in just any old meat puppet?  Obviously not.  The memories are preserved completely, only if all the paths for the memory are preserved.  It is why kings and queens choose the breeder for their children.  Oh, sure, it is to consolidate lands and ensure peace and all that crap. But it is to preserve the memories.  It's why Muslims breed their cousins together.  Damn the birth defects. One must keep the vessel purely black for the demon inside.

It is precisely why Bill Clinton's bloodline had to be faked.  The Demon class would never accept him, otherwise.  Of course, his lust for blood and slave sex allowed him to fit right in.  Like the thread says.  It made him uniquely blackmailable.  All he had to do was make sure he had the photos of every other asshole in leadership, so he could return the favor.

Then, along comes Trump.  All of a sudden, the debts are not being paid.  They're being cancelled by the truckload.  One cannot charge a copper or two if there is no debt.  Trump has no debt to them; no photos.  There is nothing bad about him that the whole world doesn't already know.  If he does have secrets, they are deep in his heart where he wrestles with reconciliation during every quiet moment; like all good saints.

We watch the hatred ooze through the pores, like the stinking slimeball Maxine Waters, or Adam Schiff, or the black-eyed demon McStain, or even in the pasty pallor of Suckerberg.We see this, because Trump has called them to the floor to fight.  Their peons and attorneys and publicists will not do.  And when they step into the arena and drop their mask to pick up their war hammer, we see them for who they are.  The ones who gasp, like you and me, can be saved.  The ones who hate the light, who cannot bear the thought of justice, will look around to see who is with them.  They will look for support from the pink pussy hats and the black masks, and the rainbow flags.  They will pick up their professionally printed signs and march and march and march, beating their breasts and screaming into megaphones until their throats bleed.

The time is at hand, and there is nowhere for them to hide now.  They have made themselves known, without fear.  Because, like the person posing in the thread as Rothschild, they like the taste of pain.  They like robbing the bees of their labor.  They like the world to be in debt to them.  They have surrounded themselves with the children they intend to sacrifice to their lust for power.  For, at the end of the day, there is only the illusion of money.  And that illusion has made all, but a very few lie down in the field of poison Daffodils for a nice long sleep.  The rest of us have been rescued, and are headed for Kansas.

**SCOTUS: The Reign of the Judges**

s Justice Anthony Kennedy prepares to retire, all eyes in Washington will be on the battle to confirm whomever President Donald Trump nominates.

Prepare for warnings by Senate Democrats that the new nominee will not be sufficiently “independent,” as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and others said last year of now Justice Neil Gorsuch.

An appointee of President Ronald Reagan, Kennedy was reliably independent, the famous swing vote who at times stood with the four fellow justices appointed by Republican presidents and at others with the four appointed by Democrats.

On the high-profile political decisions, the four justices appointed by Democrats pretty much can be counted on to vote as one. Independent? No, they’re too high-minded to deviate.

Even when it comes to free speech.

Wednesday, the court issued an opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas that ruled against the Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care and Transparency Act, a California state law that required anti-abortion pregnancy clinics to post information about where women can find free or low-cost services, including abortion.

The 2015 California law violated freedom of speech as protected in the First Amendment, Thomas opined, as it forced individuals with deeply held beliefs against abortion to promote the procedure by posting a “government-scripted” speech.

The legislation should be as offensive to free speech fans as a law requiring that abortion clinics distribute anti-abortion material. And yet four justices dissented with the decision in NIFLA v. Becerra. They are Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who were nominated by President Bill Clinton, as well as Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, who were nominated by President Barack Obama.

The California law is the sort of legislation that states pass when they are heavily weighted to one side and want to use that weight to force their views on others, even after they’ve won the day.

Abortion is legal and readily available in California. According to the Guttmacher Institute, “California does not have any of the major types of abortion restrictions — such as waiting periods, mandated parental involvement or limitations on publicly funded abortions — often found in other states.”

So with no legal or financial hurdles facing women who want to terminate their pregnancies, what do abortion-rights advocates do? They go after people who disagree with them. They argue that abortion opponents mislead pregnant women and that pregnant women don’t realize what type of clinic they have visited. And they pass a law that requires abortion opponents to do their pro-abortion advertising for them.

Breyer wrote that the California law cannot be considered “viewpoint discrimination” because the law is purely informational. It doesn’t require that anti-abortion clinics endorse abortions, he argued, but simply requires that licensed clinics inform pregnant women about the medical care available to them and that unlicensed clinics inform women that they do not provide medical services.

Breyer compared the California law to legislation that requires signage for seat belt use, the location of stairways, and garbage collection.

Writing for the majority, Thomas chided the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the FACT Act on the dubious grounds that it applied to “professional speech” — as the court never has recognized political speech as less worthy of protection.

As for the law’s alleged goal of informing the public, Thomas wrote, the state could wage a public information campaign instead of forcing people who oppose abortion to advertise it.

Kennedy agreed with Thomas, but wrote a concurring opinion to address the insidious issue of “viewpoint discrimination” and “the serious threat presented when government seeks to impose its own message in the place of individual speech, thought and expression.”

Keep in mind that Kennedy, a devout Catholic, upheld Roe v. Wade in the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey ruling and opposed a Texas bill to restrict access to abortion in 2016.

But with free speech at stake, Kennedy continued in his NIFLA v. Becerra concurrence: “For here the State requires primarily pro-life pregnancy centers to promote the State’s own preferred message advertising abortions. This compels individuals to contradict their most deeply held beliefs, beliefs grounded in basic philosophical, ethical, or religious precepts, or all of these.”

That violation of the First Amendment Kennedy could not abide.

In the coming weeks, you’ll hear critics charging that Trump’s pick is not sufficiently independent, that he’s no Anthony Kennedy. They do not ask: Why is there no Anthony Kennedy on the left side of the big bench?

**Electric Space Thrusters**

Electric thrusters for spacecraft are increasingly shrinking, and could prove key for new space missions. And, according to two novel space tech companies, Phase Four and Accion Systems, they might even go interplanetary.

Conventional rockets that rely on chemical reactions "are a great way to generate a lot of thrust, but they are very inefficient when it comes to generating thrust given the amount of propellant they carry," Simon Halpern, founder and CEO of space propulsion company Phase Four in El Segundo, California, told Space.com. "That's why launching even a small satellite requires a gigantic multistory rocket."

Scientists have explored a variety of alternatives to chemical rockets over the years. One is [electric propulsion](https://www.space.com/21199-space-electric-propulsion-engines.html), which generates thrust by using electricity to accelerate electrically charged propellants away from a spacecraft. [[Wild Ideas for Superfast Space Propulsion](https://www.space.com/21337-advanced-spacecraft-propulsion-concepts-images.html)]

Electric propulsion generates much less thrust than chemical rockets, too weak to launch a spacecraft from Earth's surface. However, electric propulsion is far more efficient than chemical rockets, making it potentially very useful where every bit of weight matters, such as with a spacecraft once a conventional rocket carries it to orbit.

"There's a lot of money going to launch companies, but once spacecraft are in space, they need to be able to get around, to explore the inner and outer planets of the solar system if need be," Halpern said.

**Plasma propulsion**

Electric thrusters have propelled spacecraft for decades. For example, in the 1970s, the Soviet Union started including so-called [Hall thrusters on satellites](https://www.space.com/38444-mars-thruster-design-breaks-records.html). Hall thrusters use electric and magnetic fields to convert neutral atoms in a gas such as xenon into charged particles called ions, and then use electric fields to accelerate clouds of ions known as plasmas outward to generate thrust. These thrusters remain the most common type of electric thrusters on spacecraft.

However, "while Hall thrusters show good performance, they're rooted in technology designed in the '60s and '70s," Halpern said. "So you end up with really big, bulky systems."

Now, Phase Four has developed "the smallest [plasma-propulsion system](https://www.space.com/40056-air-breathing-electric-thruster-test.html)available today," Halpern said. "We want to help put a spacecraft in orbit around every planet, every moon, every day."

Instead of using large high-voltage electronics to generate plasmas with electric and magnetic fields, Phase Four's thrusters use smaller, lower-voltage components to generate plasmas with radio waves.

"The same way a microwave oven uses microwaves to excite water molecules in food, we use the same kind of electronic parts you might find in a cellphone or a wireless electric charging mat to produce radio waves that can energize a plasma," Halpern said. "[Xenon](https://www.livescience.com/37504-facts-about-xenon.html) is the propellant most often used for electric propulsion, but we're also looking at air or water."

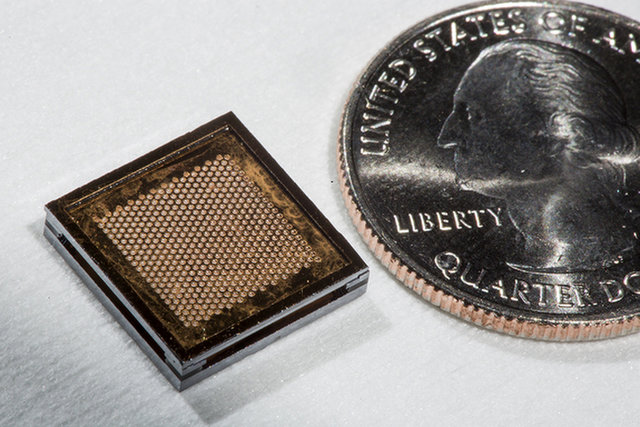
Phase Four's thrusters direct the electrons in the plasma outward using magnetic fields, either from permanent magnets or from electromagnets. The ions in the plasma follow the electrons outward, giving the plasma an overall neutral electric charge.

One disadvantage of previous electric thrusters is how they need to neutralize the electric charges of their plasmas as they blast into space, or else the spacecraft would build up huge, dangerous electric charges, Halpern explained. These neutralizing components are typically prone to failure over time because they need to be immersed within a thruster's exhaust plumes. In contrast, Phase Four's thrusters generate plasmas with an overall neutral electric charge, and so neither need to neutralize their plasmas nor carry failure-prone neutralizing components, Halpern said.

In May, [Phase Four announced it sold thrusters to NASA](http://spacenews.com/phase-four-wins-nasa-and-commercial-deals-for-electric-propulsion-system/) so the agency could test their capabilities for satellite propulsion, as well as to imaging satellite firm Astro Digital in Santa Clara, California. "We see this as verification by the government and commercial industry that we have something people want," Halpern said.

Halpern described Phase Four's work on June 2 at the Dawn of Private Space Science symposium at Columbia University in New York.

**Electrospray thrusters**



A "thruster chip" designed by Accion Systems is smaller than a quarter. Thirty-six of these chips working together make up Accion's TILE engine.

*Credit: Accion Systems*

Another new kind of electric-propulsion technology uses [dime-size thrusters for spacecraft](https://www.space.com/36180-dime-size-accion-thrusters-propel-spacecraft.html). "The aim is to use our technology for the colonization of other planets, and maybe probes to another star," Natalya Bailey, founder and CEO of Accion Systems in Boston, told Space.com.

Electric thrusters often rely on compressed gases stored in bulky pressurized tanks, as well as large chambers in which to ionize those gases, and pipes, valves and pumps to shuttle those gases around. Instead, Accion relies on a salty liquid propellant, which helps significantly reduce thruster size and simplify design.

"We're bringing the capabilities of more traditional ion engines down to the size and power levels of small satellites," Bailey said.

Accion's chip-size thrusters, [each known as a TILE](https://www.accion-systems.com/tile) (Tiled Ionic Liquid Electrospray), relies on capillary action to help liquids flow inside them — capillary action forces liquids to flow through narrow pipes, and is the same effect that helps draw water up trees. Each TILE then uses electric fields to draw ions from the propellant and funnel them into beams out of microscopic nozzles.

Accion's initial goal is to help give even tiny satellites the means to propel themselves and thus correct their positions within their orbits around Earth. This can help them stay in orbit much longer so that satellite owners get more value for their money.

"We're opening up mission types for small satellites that they previously didn't have," Bailey said.

The methods used to fabricate microchips can be adapted to help mass-manufacture Accion's thrusters, which helps reduce costs. "In the long term, the reason we founded our company around this technology is because it is the most scalable of any electric propulsion system out there," Bailey said.

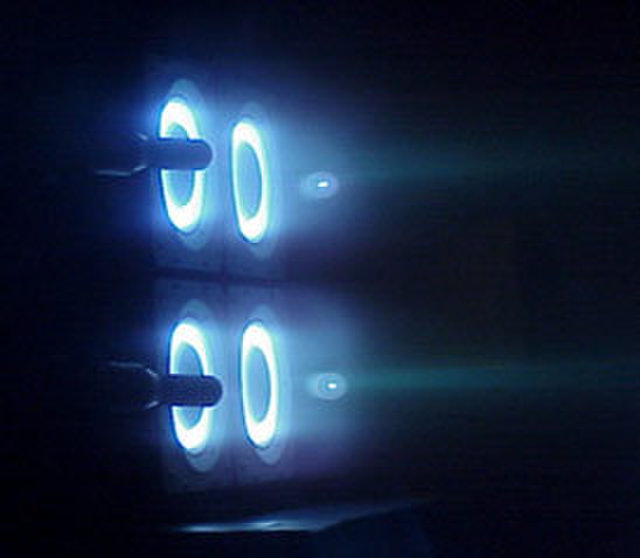
Accion's thrusters are scheduled to fly on three spacecraft in 2019, Bailey said. The first spacecraft will be a cubesat from Irvine High School in California.

"We're going to higher and higher performance levels, and eventually plan to go to bigger satellites and then interplanetary missions," Bailey said

Electric vehicles aren't just popular on the ground — it turns out they're all the rage in space these days, too. While still not as common as traditional chemical spacecraft engines, electric engines are growing in popularity for both Earth-orbiting satellites and scientific spacecraft on missions to deep space. And electric engines could turn out to be a key element in NASA's goal of sending people to Mars, experts say.

"The maturity of the various technologies that make up [electric propulsion](https://www.space.com/17209-mars-sample-return-electric-power.html) is getting there," said Vlad Hruby, president of the Busek spacecraft engine company. Hruby said he's been waiting for a renaissance in electric spacecraft for about 20 years. "Now it's finally coming to fruition."

In 2012, Boeing introduced an all-electric communications satellite design called the 702SP, which officials say has been popular with commercial clients. In April of this year, satellite builder Orbital Sciences said it's [developing its own all-electric model](http://www.spacenews.com/article/financial-report/35010orbital-sciences-profit-margins-hit-five-year-high#.UZJ-bqK87lc) to compete. [[Electric Vehicles to Explore Deep Space (Photo Gallery)](https://www.space.com/21194-electric-vehicles-space-exploration-images.html)]



Cluster of four Busek Hall effect thrusters

*Credit: Busek*

**Electric engines**

There are two main ways to power an electric spacecraft engine: via solar energy absorbed from the sun, or via nuclear fission. Both have been tested successfully, though solar electric propulsion is the most commonly used.

"The solar array power is getting cheaper per watt, getting more efficient," Hruby told SPACE.com. "A bunch of factors are converging to finally make it the preferred method." [Related: [Electric Cars on Earth & Mars: How They Stack Up](https://www.space.com/21204-electric-cars-mars-rovers.html)]

Electric spacecraft engines have been flying in various forms for decades. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union pioneered Hall thruster technology, which remains the most common type of electric spacecraft engine. Hall thrusters use electric and magnetic fields to convert neutral atoms in a propellant into charged atoms, called ions, and then accelerate the ions to produce thrust.

"You have an electrical grid held at a certain voltage," explained Nathaniel Fisch, head of the Hall Thruster Experiment project at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in Princeton, N.J. "You form a plasma and accelerate the ions in the plasma. Then the ions would be ejected at the voltage you put between the grid and the plasma."

Japan's [Hayabusa spacecraft](https://www.space.com/28-hayabusa-japan-asteroid-mission.html), which launched in 2003 to rendezvous with the asteroid Itokawa, used electric propulsion, as did NASA's asteroid-visiting [Dawn spacecraft](https://www.space.com/11540-photos-asteroid-vesta-nasa-dawn.html), which lifted off in 2007.

This type of engine tends to be much more fuel-efficient than a typical chemical rocket engine, which uses the energy created by chemical reactions between two chemicals — a fuel and an oxidizer — to create thrust.

"Electric propulsion is the most efficient propulsion approach that we know about right now," said Christian Carpenter, a space architect in the Exploration Systems department of the rocket engine company Aerojet. "It generally has two or more times savings in propellant — that's demonstrated."

Saving all that propellant means that electric spacecraft can weigh a lot less than chemical spacecraft. That mass savings means the same satellite can be launched on a smaller, cheaper rocket, or that the extra mass could be used to add more instruments to the spacecraft, such as adding extra transponders to communications satellites.

The downside is that this fuel efficiency comes often comes at the expense of thrust power, so electrically propelled spacecraft accelerate slower and take longer to reach the same destination. (They could be designed to produce the same thrust as chemical engines, but would then require more power than current solar arrays are able to provide.)

"The way we think about it is that your fuel efficiency works on getting your vehicle mass down at the expense of your thrust dropping, which means longer trip times," Carpenter said. "There's a balance between reducing the mass and increasing the trip time. It's up to the architect of the system to figure out the right balance."

**Missions to Mars**



A Hall Thruster propulsion system made by Aerojet is shown here.

*Credit: Aerojet*

This balance is one of the key questions NASA is facing in contemplating sending people to an asteroid and then on to Mars by the mid 2030s — a goal laid out by President Barack Obama.

Carpenter and others recently advocated a combination of chemical and electric propulsion for a manned Mars mission at the [Humans 2 Mars Summit](https://www.space.com/20999-nasa-manned-mars-missions.html) May 7 in Washington, D.C. Chemical engines could be used to propel a crew to the Red Planet in about six months, Carpenter said, but the habitat, supplies and equipment they need could be sent on an electric cargo craft ahead of time, in a trip that would probably take about two and a half years.

"People need to be able to get to their destination in a reasonable amount of time," he said. "They want to be out doing their mission, not riding to it. Chemical engines provide high thrusts, but it's not the most fuel-efficient way to do it."

In contrast, solar electric propulsion, for instance, might be perfect for the unmanned cargo mission. "For cargo, you can take your time and you can do things efficiently," Carpenter said. "We're interested in all the options. There's really not one silver bullet technology for going to Mars — it's a portfolio."

In the long run, he said, nuclear-powered [electric engines](https://www.space.com/18310-plasma-jet-space-propulsion-kickstarter.html) may prove among the best options for getting to Mars, but that technology isn't ready yet. Currently, the equipment to conduct nuclear fission is too massive, and requires hydrogen fuel, which is difficult to store for long periods, Carpenter said. A viable nuclear-powered spacecraft has not yet been flown.

"Longer term, the nuclear rockets provide about twice the fuel economy of a chemical engine but the same or higher thrust," Carpenter said. "You can still get there fast, but use half as much fuel. We think out on the horizon, nuclear will ultimately be the best crew delivery system."

**25 States Attempt to Remove Trump from their Ballots**

Lest the voters have an unfettered choice of candidates, 25 states have introduced legislation targeting President Donald Trump to keep him off the ballot in 2020.

The bills would require that to get on the ballot in any state, a presidential candidate must have released his or her taxes, Axios has reported. Trump, a billionaire before he won the 2016 election, has refused to release his tax returns. To date, no state has approved such a law. In California and New Jersey, the bill did get as far as passing the state legislature, but in both cases it was vetoed.

New Jersey’s bill was killed in 2017 by former Gov. Chris Christie, who called it “clearly unconstitutional” and a “transparent political stunt masquerading as a bill.”

“Unwilling to cope with the results of last November’s election, the Legislature introduced this unconstitutional bill as a form of therapy to deal with their disbelief at the 2016 election results, and to play politics to their base,” the Republican, a staunch Trump ally, wrote in vetoing the measure, according to NJ.com.

TRENDING: ‘Disgusted, Horrified, Embarrassed, Ashamed’ Comey Now Wishes He Was Canadian. California Gov. Jerry Brown made it clear he did not veto the bill to support Trump, but to stop his state from going down a slippery slope.

“Today we require tax returns, but what would be next?” Brown wrote in his veto message, according to the Los Angeles Times. “Five years of health records? A certified birth certificate? High school report cards? And will these requirements vary depending on which political party is in power?”

Despite those examples, similar legislation continues to be advanced in various states. This month, Rhode Island’s state Senate approved such a law, which will now be debated by the other house of the state’s legislature, the Providence Journal reported.

Maryland’s state Senate also passed the bill, which is now awaiting action from the other house of the legislature. Passage, however, drew sharp rebukes from the proposal’s opponents, according to The Baltimore Sun.

“Show me in the Constitution where it says that’s a qualification for being president of the United States,” said Democrat James Brochin, a senator from Baltimore County. “We can’t go along and make up rules when we don’t like the president of the United States.”

Senate Minority Whip Stephen Hershey said the bill was absurd.

“This is the most childish bill that I’ve ever seen and I’m embarrassed that it’s on the floor,” the Republican senator said.

If approved, the legislation would face an uncertain future in any court battle. Past court cases have shown that states are not likely to be successful in imposing conditions for federal officials to appear on the ballot in those states.

RELATED: Messy House Race in Gerrymandered Maryland District Features Candidates Who Aren’t Residents

“I think a requirement of revealing one’s tax returns would be regarded as an additional qualification,” Michael McConnell, a professor at Stanford Law School, told the Associated Press.

“And then there’s the tax law problem, because federal law guarantees the confidentiality of tax returns. And I think that law would pre-empt any state law requiring someone to divulge their returns,” he said.

Another commentator said the bills are more of a political reaction than a legislative plan of action.

“I suspect that these bills will be very similar to the birth certificate legislation introduced after President Obama’s election — political statement bills that likely aren’t constitutionally sound or likely to be signed into law,” said Daniel Diorio, senior policy specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures. “If one were to become law, I’m sure it would be challenged immediately.”

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**The Okeanos Explorer**

A strange["sonar anomaly"](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/livestreams/welcome.html)had NOAA explorers diving off the coast of North Carolina on Wednesday, hoping for an explanation.

NOAA has not been afraid to notch up suspense about the area, noting it could be "an archaeology site, a geological formation or otherwise."

It's anybody's guess what "otherwise" means, but UFO enthusiasts might be tingling with ideas.

The site is being called the “Big Dipper Anomaly" by the crew aboard [NOAA's Okeanos Explorer](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/welcome.html), which launched a remotely operated vehicle in the area at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Experts believed the anomaly might be a shipwreck, but were leaning toward "a geological formation with biological communities and other debris" later in the day, [according to TV station WTKR in Virginia.](https://wtkr.com/2018/06/27/noaa-ship-explorer-dives-deep-in-hopes-of-discovering-shipwreck-off-n-c-coast/) An official accounting of their findings has not been released yet.

The location of the anomaly is being kept confidential.

North Carolina's coast is known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," due to the large number of ships that have sunk in the region. The vessels range from pirate ships to Civil War blockade runners to German U-boats sunk during World War II.

The [Okeanos Explorer expedition set out in late May](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/explorations/ex1806/background/plan/welcome.html" \t "_blank) to gather data on "unknown and poorly understood deep water areas of the Southeastern United States."

"Teams will work together to map the seafloor and observe many of these sites for the first time," NOAA says on its[Okeanos Explorer website.](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/livestreams/camera2.html)

**Space Wars: The Glass Menagerie**

**Russia and China are developing new space-**based weapons and they’ll be ready “in the near future,” Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said Tuesday at the Defense One Technology Summit in Washington, D.C.

The countries, which Ashley called “competitors,” are developing “the ability to interdict satellites both from a ground standpoint and from a space standpoint,” he said. “The technology is being developed right now. It is coming in the near future.”

It was the most overt admission yet from an intelligence leader that Russia and China were rapidly seeking to weaponize space. But a[**February report**](https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Testimonies/2018-ATA---Unclassified-SSCI.pdf) from the Office of the Director of Intelligence also hinted at it.

“Russia and China continue to launch ‘experimental’ satellites that conduct sophisticated on-orbit activities, at least some of which are intended to advance counterspace capabilities,” the report said. “Some technologies with peaceful applications—such as satellite inspection, refueling, and repair—can [**also be used against adversary spacecraft**](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/06/worker-bee-satellites-will-weaponize-space-we-can-still-keep-peace/148746/).”

***Related:***[***Worker-Bee Satellites Will Weaponize Space — and Help Us Keep the Peace***](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/06/worker-bee-satellites-will-weaponize-space-we-can-still-keep-peace/148746/?oref=d1-in-article)

In September, 2014, Russia launched Olymp-K, which reached orbit and undertook a series of irregular maneuvers, coming within seven miles of a pair of Intelsat communications satellites.  “This is not normal behavior and we’re concerned,” Kay Sears, president of Intelsat General, told [**Space News**](http://spacenews.com/russian-satellite-maneuvers-silence-worry-intelsat/) at the time. The incident sparked classified meetings at the Pentagon.

Since then, observers [**have raised**](https://www.thedailybeast.com/russias-killer-satellites-re-awaken) alarms about three other Russian high-maneuverability satellites.

Ashley’s remark comes in the context of a new fight to establish a “[**Space Force**](https://www.defenseone.com/politics/2018/06/what-trumps-space-force-announcement-means/149093/),” an entirely new U.S. military service dedicated specifically to space. Ashley didn’t say whether a separate force was a good idea, but did offer that the technological advancements available to peer nations would pressure U.S.dominance in that domain.

“The competition is only going to grow,” said Ashley.  “Look at the national defense strategy. There is an acknowledgement that our technological lead is vanishing… And so when you get to the warfighting doctrine you have to account for … what is the resilience you build into the domains, the redundancy? When it’s been degraded or denied, how do you fight?”

The 1967 [**Outer Space Treaty**](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/outerspacetreaty.html)recognizes “the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.”

However, the [**International Committee on the Red Cross**](https://medium.com/law-and-policy/space-law-revisited-the-militarization-of-outer-space-d65df7359515) has noted that the treaty does not expressly prohibit weapons in space “except the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear weapons) and the usage of the Moon and other celestial bodies for exclusively peaceful purposes.”

In March, Michael Griffin, the new defense undersecretary for research and engineering, [**said**](https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2018/03/pentagons-new-arms-research-chief-eyes-space-based-ray-guns/146863/) that the United States may dust off plans from the late 1980s to put a neutral-particle beam in space that could fire at missiles on earth or other space objects

**The Cuts Have Begun**

Cuts to two fiber lines caused a widespread system failure at cable giant [Comcast](http://quotes.wsj.com/CMCSA) Corp.[CMCSA 0.55%](http://quotes.wsj.com/CMCSA?mod=chiclets)on Friday that knocked out cable, internet and phone services around the country.

It was unclear how many customers were affected as the system failure, which appeared contained to Comcast’s network, also disrupted connectivity services such as [Netflix](http://quotes.wsj.com/NFLX) Inc.and [Okta](http://quotes.wsj.com/OKTA) Inc. as other internet service providers routed internet traffic through Comcast’s network, according to network-monitoring firm ThousandEyes.

Philadelphia-based Comcast, one of the dominant telecom companies in the U.S. with more than 29 million business and residential customers, said the lines damaged are owned by[CenturyLink](http://quotes.wsj.com/CTL) Inc. and [Zayo Group Holdings](http://quotes.wsj.com/ZAYO) Inc.

A spokeswoman for CenturyLink issued a statement saying CenturyLink’s network was working normally, though the company had “experienced two isolated fiber cuts in North Carolina affecting some customers that in and of itself did not cause the issues experienced by other providers.” The spokeswoman didn’t comment further.

A spokesman for Zayo said the company experienced a fiber cut in the New York area but all services had been since restored.

Fiber networks, which make up the backbone of the internet, transmit vast amounts of internet traffic, processing everything from online purchases to 911 calls.

Down Detector and Outage.Report, two websites that monitor the running of consumer-technology services, ranked the system failure as extreme and posted maps indicating large numbers of customers affected in the New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., metro areas as well as San Francisco, Chicago and Denver. Reports of outages, according to the websites, spiked early Friday afternoon.

Some customers took to social media to discuss the outages, saying they were having trouble getting through the company’s phones and online chats. Comcast, on Twitter, directed customers to an internal website that was at one point down as well, eliciting a second round of customer complaints.

Comment #1: Way more than what is being mentioned was affected by this. Still is to some extent. Rerouted node traffic disrupted and greatly slowed communications of all manner of things from  banking, to online shopping, to video games across the board as traffic backed up from the reroute and that didn't matter where in the nation you live.   
  
If this nation had to go to war all of a sudden you can bet that your internet service would be the first thing to collapse. Best to be prepared and do not rely on the internet for anything exclusively for sustainability.  Order dog food online?  Better have a stock pile just in case. Do your banking online? Better have some cash safely stashed away. If the system is physically attacked it will fall. No question about it. One other thing that's a guaranteed.  It will not happen when it's convenient and it will be long term.

Comment#2: The Walt Disney Company just received its biggest boost yet in its quest to beat out Comcast for the right to purchase 21st Century Fox: the Justice Department has conditionally approved Disney’s deal for Fox.

As part of the DOJ’s approval, Disney has agreed to divest Fox’s 22 regional sports networks, which were initially going to be part of the merger.

“Today’s settlement will ensure that sports programming competition is preserved in the local markets where Disney and Fox compete for cable and satellite distribution,” said Makan Delrahim, chief of the Justice Department’s antitrust division, in a statement.

The DOJ’s thumbs-up gives Disney a huge advantage over Comcast. But several hurdles remain: a judge will still have to approve the settlement, Fox’s shareholders need to vote on the deal, it still needs regulatory approval outside the U.S. and Comcast could still decide to increase its own offer.

UPDATE: In a memo to Fox employees, CEO James Murdoch and executive chairman Lachlan Murdoch called the decision “a big step forwarded, adding “we anticipate that the Disney transaction and the creation of new ‘Fox’ will be completed within 6-12 months.”

One week ago, Disney upped its Fox bid to $71.3 billion in a cash-and-stock deal well ahead of Comcast’s $65 billion offer a week earlier and its initial $52.4 billion deal last December.

Comcast has been mulling its next move since Disney countered last week. The company is considering looking for private equity investors or strategic partners if the bidding for Fox approaches $90 billion, according to The Wall Street Journal. But the company is considering all options, including bowing out of the bidding.

Disney and Fox had indefinitely postponed a shareholder meeting that had been set for July 10 to discuss the merger.

Comcast had been in talks with Fox last fall, but Fox opted to go with Disney’s bid, in part because of regulatory concerns. The Fox board still has worries about the government derailing a Comcast deal; Comcast, emboldened by AT&T’s seismic court victory two weeks ago, insisted that its bid had an equal or greater chance of gaining approval than Fox’s.

Whichever company prevails will receive assets like Fox’s movie and TV studios, TV networks like FX and National Geographic, Fox’s 30 percent ownership in Hulu and Fox’s stake in European broadcaster Sky. The deal won’t include certain assets like Fox Broadcasting, Fox Sports, Fox News and Fox Business Network, all of which will be spun off into a new company tentatively called New Fox.

**Global Cooling Evidence Mounting**

## Researchers released a report this week revealing “ultralow surface temperatures” in East Antarctica that surpass the coldest temperatures ever recorded on the earth’s surface.

The lowest measured air temperature on earth is −89.2 °C (−129 F) on 23 July 1983, observed at Vostok Station in Antarctica, but new data [published](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2018GL078133) in Geophysical Research Letters this week, has found that some 100 different locations on the East Antarctic Plateau reached temperatures of -98° C (-144° F) during the Antarctic polar night between 2004–2016.

A team from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) at the University of Colorado Boulder have identified the East Antarctic Plateau — a massive, empty expanse the size of Australia that begins near the South Pole — as the coldest place on the planet.

The East Antarctic Plateau sits some 3,500 m (11,500 ft) above sea level and the air over the Plateau is extremely still, dry and thin, providing an ideal environment for extreme cold.

“In this area, we see periods of incredibly dry air, and this allows the heat from the snow surface to radiate into space more easily,” [said](https://www.dailysabah.com/science/2018/06/28/coldest-temperature-on-earth-recorded-in-antarctica) Ted Scambos of the University of Colorado Boulder, lead author of the study.

East Antarctica is home to extremely low air and surface temperatures brought on by intense radiative cooling of the snow surface during prolonged wintertime periods of clear sky, weak winds, and very dry atmosphere, the report revealed.

The researchers analyzed data from NASA’s Terra and Aqua satellites, as well as the NOAA’s Polar Operational Environmental Satellites, gathered during the Antarctic winters between 2004 and 2016, and found that snow surface temperatures regularly dipped below -90° C (-130° F) across the Plateau, with some 100 spots reaching a lowest temperature of -98° C (-144° F).

“Approximately 100 sites have observed minimum surface temperatures of ~−98 °C during the winters of 2004–2016,” and the researchers believe that this represents close to the absolute coldest the earth’s surface can get.

“This temperature appears to be about as low as it is possible to reach, even under clear skies and very dry conditions, because heat radiating from the cold clear air is nearly equal to the heat radiating from the bitterly cold snow surface,” the report states.

The coldest temperatures were found where pockets of air sat still for several days, allowing it to reach ultra-cold levels.

While Vostok, Antarctica, still holds the world record for the coldest temperature ever measured by a land-based weather station, the scientists hope to deploy ground-based instruments in the coldest locations of the East Antarctic Plateau in the next year or two.

**Mexican Elections Proceeding on Schedule**

Political assassinations, murders, and violence continue to escalate as Mexico’s elections approach. In the 10 months since the election cycle started, nearly 130 political candidates were murdered.

The most recent took place this week in Buena Vista Michoacan when a team of cartel gunmen shot and killed Javier Ureña Gonzalez, the acting mayor for the municipality as he visited a small village. Ureña assumed the role of acting mayor while his boss Lorenzo Barajas took leave to run for re-election.

Ureña’s murder comes one day after a Oaxaca state congressional candidate was gunned down along with four of his associates. A team of gunmen killed Emigdio Lopez Avendaño as he was visiting the town of San Vicente Coatlan in the southern part of the state.

Earlier this week, a local campaign worker in the border city of Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, died when he drove up to the scene of a cartel gun-battle. Leonardo “El Chino” Diaz and another campaign worker were driving along the highway when they were caught in crossfire. The van that Diaz was riding in caught fire, charring his remains. In response, local candidates canceled their campaign events.

The murder in Miguel Aleman follows a drive-by shooting at the governor’s mansion in Ciudad Victoria Tamaulipas. During the attack, the gunmen fired several shots out of an SUV, injuring a police officer that was guarding the building.

Mexico is experiencing one of the bloodiest electoral cycles in history with more than 120 candidates murdered since September 2017. The most recent accounting for assassinated political candidates as of June 25 is 130, according to Etellekt. The cash from the sale of heroin inside the US has soaked the Mexican government, including every member of the Senate, in blood. Worse, the billions laundered through our banks have seeped into the accounts of hundreds of Democrats running for public office around the country.

It is finally time for this Party to be removed from America. We don’t use violence here to accomplish peace. We use the ballot box. It is time for the WalkAway movement to cleanse our nation of this rotten flesh. For, if we do not, the disease will kill America.