

It's hard to believe this year was worse than last. With open borders, rising crime, Soviet style shortages, a catastrophic retreat in Afghanistan, and serious inflation making everyone poorer, Americans are suffering.

The year began with a protest in Washington that spilled into the capitol. The political class and their corporate media called January 6th an "insurrection". Yet not one person has been charged with assault, possessing a weapon, or even the actual [crime](#) of insurrection. With **40 million ballots harvested** and a vote margin of about 50,000 that decided the Electoral College by flipping Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada, and Wisconsin, it's impossible to know who really won the election. House speaker Nancy Pelosi setup a Stalinist commission to threaten, intimidate, and persecute any American (many who were not even at the protest) with impunity. In stark contrast, hundreds of Black Lives Matter and Antifa riots last year resulted in dozens of murders, arsons, beatings, and [\\$2B in damage](#) across the country. There have been no commissions for those riots and virtually no prosecutions. Worse, [Kamala Harris raised funds to bail out convicted murderers and rapists](#) so that they could riot and terrorize in Minnesota. She preached "the power of the people to take to the streets" and threatened "everyone beware, because they're not gonna stop...And they should not stop. And we should not stop." Indeed, [www.antifa.com](#), the organization committed to the destruction of our Constitutional Republic, will take you directly to [www.whitehouse.gov](#).

In Wisconsin, Kyle Rittenhouse was charged with murder when he shot three anarchists who attacked him during a BLM riot. He was acquitted based on [video](#) that showed the three chasing and beating Rittenhouse proving he acted in self-defense. The three BLM rioters included a convicted [child rapist](#), a recently released [violent criminal](#) with a history of assault and battery, and a guy with a long rap sheet who [first pointed a gun](#) (which he was carrying illegally) at Rittenhouse.

In a blatant power grab the first bill drafted by the new Democrat majority in the House of Representatives was HR1. The intent of the bill was to nationalize elections by taking the rightful power away from the states. It would allow convicted felons to vote and eliminate voter ID laws so that illegal aliens and foreigners could vote on the fate of Americans. The ultimate objective of laws like this are to create a tyrannical ruling class and tzarist families who will lord over the citizens of our republic in perpetuity.

Politicians around the world continued their autocratic ways under the pretext of protecting our species from COVID. Martial law was imposed in Australia because the nation averaged ~1.5 COVID deaths per day *out of a population of 25 million*. Authorities executed shelter dogs to prevent people from traveling to adopt them. And there was a nationwide manhunt for a 27-year-old who ventured out of his apartment without a mask. The prime minister of New Zealand shut down the entire country and told neighbors not to talk to each other simply because they confirmed one case, *not one death, one case*, of COVID. The Canadian Health Minister announced that anyone who stayed home with any illness would be counted as a COVID patient by the government. The Intercept, a left wing publication, exposed Anthony Fauci, the epitome of an untouchable Washington bureaucrat with his \$450,000 government salary, for lying about the [funding he gave to the Wuhab lab](#) in China where COVID was most likely developed.

Stateside, San Francisco Mayor, London Breed, was out [partying with BLM](#) friends maskless in crowded clubs. Representative Nancy Pelosi had a dinner party at her Napa Valley estate where donors paid \$30,000 a seat. While the guests did not social distance or mask up, all the [servants did](#). Apparently to the democrats, there's nothing worse than having the hired help breathe on you. On Martha's Vineyard, Barack Obama had a birthday party with 500 guests at his \$15M mansion. These thinly veiled [American Marxists](#) don't even bother to hide their "do as I say" and "let them eat cake" attitude.

Ransomware attacks targeted U.S. industries including the Colonial Pipeline and wholesale food processors. The result was that 12,000 gas stations on the East Coast closed for a week due to lack of fuel and prices surged nationwide for beef, pork, and chicken. Biden got tough and demanded the private sector "do something about it". Then he gave President Putin a list of [16 critical infrastructure entities](#) that are "off limits" to Russian cyberattacks. It's not clear to me how this action would instill fear into Putin, a former KGB officer.

California continues to collapse. The state has become the capital of homelessness and poverty, high taxes, black outs, and crime. Socialist policies of the democratic party, which has a stranglehold on the state are exclusively to blame (registered democrats here outnumber republicans by 2-to-1). If you produce anything in the state, whether you're a worker or a corporation, the politicians take your money and give it to illegal aliens, climate change cronies, or questionable projects such as the [high-speed railway](#) (voters approved \$22B for the project in 2008 that's now on track to [cost \\$100B](#)). Utterly incompetent state bureaucrats [lost \\$31B to fraudulent unemployment claims](#) last year alone. Meanwhile another industry pioneer in the Golden State, The Walt Disney Company, announced it's moving its headquarters to Florida. With people fleeing the state, California lost a seat in the House of Representatives for the first time in history.

In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo (once considered as a democratic presidential candidate) was ousted after sexually harassing a dozen women. In addition, investigators found the policies he implemented during the height of COVID killed tens of thousands of seniors. Cuomo's last official act was to commute the sentence of David Gilbert, a convicted terrorist who was serving time for a bank robbery that left two police officers and a security guard dead. David Gilbert, incidentally, is the father of the George Soros funded San Francisco District Attorney, [Chesa Boudin](#). Chesa has been instrumental in transforming the once world class city into the hell it is today by refusing to prosecute violent criminals in the name of equity. You just cannot make this stuff up.

Last year, omnipotent unions directed teachers to [tutor illegal aliens](#) in person while leaving the children of tax paying American's stuck in pathetic virtual learning. These powerful public sector unions should be outlawed so that they cannot continue to use children as bargaining chips and extort wealth and political power from communities and states. Did you know that out of the ~20,000 high schools in our country, about 2,000 produce 50% of the dropouts? If you are black, you have a 50% chance of attending one of those 2,000 schools. These unions are so powerful that they routinely block school choice and charter schools in the poorest communities. Along with their democratic political conspirators who control most big cities they eliminate any option to these dropout factories.

Marxist dominated school boards across the country adopted critical race theory (CRT) in classrooms to indoctrinate kids. The practice is racist and requires students to see themselves not as individuals, but as representatives of a group, forcing them to adopt the status of privilege or victim. In the affluent county of Louden, Virginia, a suburb of Washington D.C., the school board was so determined to implement CRT that they hid the rape of a 9th grade girl at the hands of a "transitioning" boy. When the girls' father confronted the board for his daughters rape in a public forum [he was arrested](#) for disrupting the meeting. As for the rapist, he was quietly transferred to a different school in the district where he assaulted another young girl. In response to angry parents speaking out against school board members across the country for CRT, virtual instruction, mask mandates, and vaccine mandates, U.S. attorney general, [Merrick Garland, coordinated with the FBI](#) to target parents. Be warned, if you openly oppose your school district the board members can request the federal government investigate you *as a terrorist*, intimidate you, imprison you, and bankrupt you with litigation. It's Orwellian.

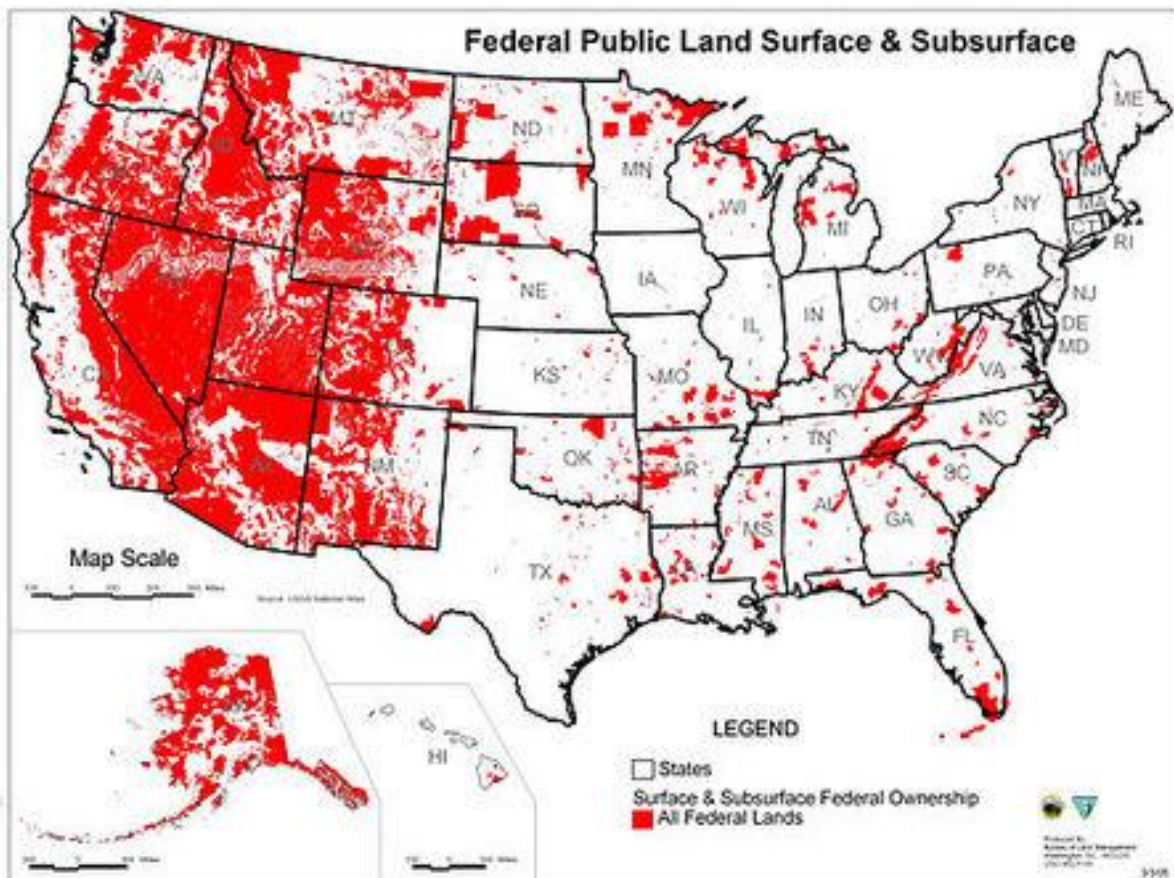
When it comes to Joe Biden it's hard to know where to start. 55% of those who voted for him simply did so because he was not Trump. Now [60% of American's think that Biden doesn't really run the country](#). Fairing worse, Kamala Harris is seen as uncharismatic, has proven extremely unqualified, and is even less liked than Joe.



On the border, he rescinded all of Trump's policies his first day in office. Now 200,000 illegal aliens pour over each month from Mexico and Central America as well as Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. In his first year, Joe Biden will bring in 2 million illegals. He uses buses and planes out of military bases to move them to cities and towns across the country where they drain funds from local schools, hospitals, and law enforcement. More, the administration is [paying illegal aliens up to \\$450k](#) for treatment they received when caught crossing the border.



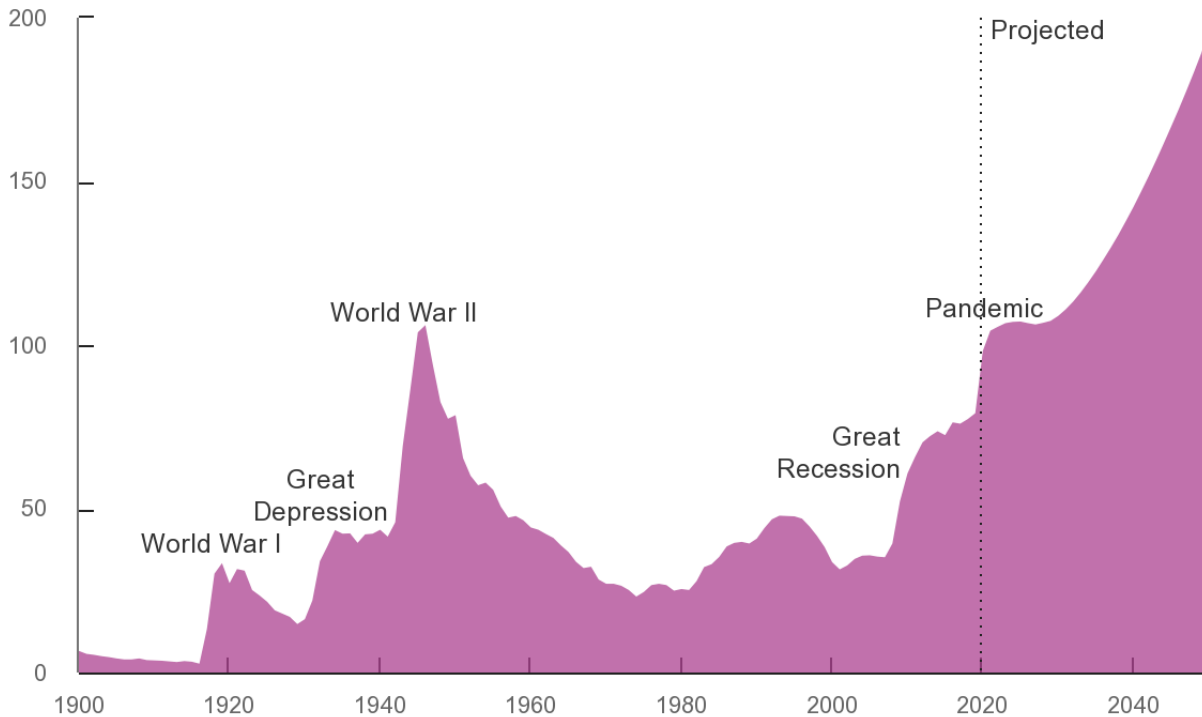
On the economy, he crippled the domestic energy industry by killing the Keystone pipeline and shutting down energy production on federal lands (this is significant because the government owns about 1/3 of the land in our country). The U.S. Department of Energy was created after the energy crisis in the 1970s with the mission of eliminating dependence on foreign oil. Finally, in 2018 and for the first time in 75 years, we achieved energy independence. Now we've lost our natural strategic advantage and are once again dependent on the Middle East. Sooner or later, we'll be drawn into the primitive, turbulent, bloody region to protect a strategic resource that's abundant in the U.S. In addition, American's will export \$1 trillion to Saudi Arabia each year via the gas pump, making us poorer and them richer. Given the counter-productive energy policies inflation will accelerate in 2022, and lead to a diminished standard of living and worse job prospects for Americans.



Tax increases to pay for relentless federal spending and national debt, which is now [\\$29 trillion](#), are inevitable. With a population of 330M (only 120M of whom pay taxes), every American man, woman, and child owes the federal government \$90,000. If you're one of those taxpayer's then you owe \$250,000. In 2018, the [top 1% of income earners paid more income taxes than the bottom 90%](#) of taxpayers combined. For example, Elon Musk will pay \$12B in taxes this year. And still, we can never surrender enough of our hard-earned dollars to satisfy Washington democrats, most who have never made a paycheck outside of government. This is unsustainable. Consequently, Social Security and Medicare will collapse this decade.

Federal Debt Held by the Public, 1900 to 2050

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



Congressional Budget Office, September 2020

Violent crime in cities and suburbs across the nation is unchecked. Washington shows no interest in addressing the problem born of progressive policies much less targeting the criminals who ravage the country with impunity. [According to ABC News](#), 12 major cities broke homicide records in 2021: Rochester, Philadelphia, Toledo, Columbus, Baton Rouge, Austin, Louisville, St. Paul, Portland, Tucson, and Albuquerque. The common factor? All these cities have democrat mayors. Evidently liberal policies are to blame for the surge in violent crime.

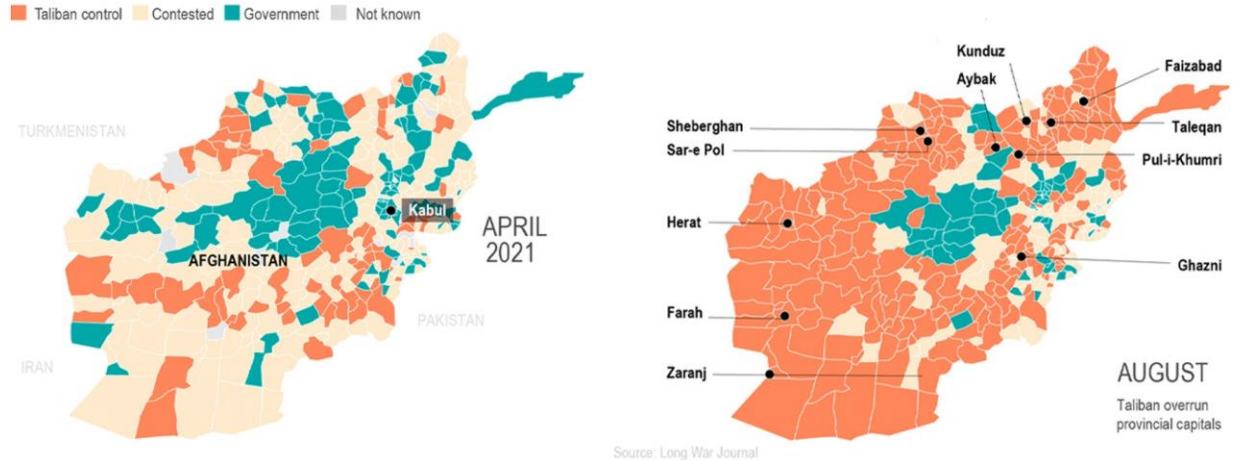
On Afghanistan, Biden rapidly pulled out U.S. forces. The result was that 13 American soldiers were killed at the Kabul airport making it the deadliest day for our troops since 2011. Desperate Afghani's clung to the wings of departing airplanes only to plummet to their death after takeoff. The world was stunned to see hundreds of Americans left behind along with thousands of those who supported our operations in the country. The Taliban are now [hunting down our allies with American data and technology](#) that the administration recklessly left behind. While this was unfolding, Biden vacationed at Camp David and his home in Delaware, Secretary of State Antony Blinken relaxed in the Hamptons, and White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki had her automated email response set to "Out of the Office". Bidens' withdraw left 64,000 machine guns, [33 Blackhawk helicopters](#), and 16,000 pairs of night-vision goggles to the Taliban. They're now better armed than they were when we went to the region after the U.S. was attacked in 2001.



The Taliban setup a government that included an interior minister who is [wanted by the FBI](#), has a \$10M bounty on his head, and is holding an American hostage. Other officials holding posts include four terrorists that Obama released from Guantanamo Bay. Still, the Biden administration wants to open relations with these Neanderthal's and will not block their seat at the United Nations. Less than 7 months into his term Joe Biden has resurrected ISIS, Al Qaeda, and the Taliban.

Taliban gains in Afghanistan

Map shows districts where the Taliban are predominantly in control of security and public services. The data is compiled by the Long War Journal of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a Washington-based research institute focusing on national security. The data cannot be verified independently in all cases, but is largely in line with reporting by The Associated Press.



Associated Press, August 2021

The consequences of this epic failure are that forces more powerful than the Taliban in places far more strategic will now leverage the ideologically driven but predictably incompetent administration, a woke pentagon, and politically weaponized intelligence agencies to destabilize the world and threaten the United States.

On COVID, he was handed three working vaccines, yet he has produced no new ones. Back in March, when the vaccines were just rolling out and Americans were eager to get them, he [sent 4 million doses to other countries](#). The Whitehouse continues to blame Americans for the pandemic and uses it to levy tyrannical dictates on citizens.

With a documented history of shady business dealings, it is likely that President Biden is beholden to foreign nations. In 2013 a Chinese firm [invested \\$1.5B in a company Hunter Biden had setup](#) just weeks before. The deal <http://www.cottrel.com/xmas/xmas21.pdf>

was consummated when Hunter flew to China on Air Force Two with then Vice President Biden. In 2014, a Russian billionaire [transferred \\$3.5M to Hunter Biden](#) for some convoluted loan. In Ukraine, an energy company Burisma, [paid Hunter \\$3.4M for consulting](#) in a country where he had no history in a field which he had no experience. Hunter Biden was [paid \\$30M over three years by a Chinese](#) businessman for providing “introductions”. The list goes on and often implicates Joe Biden.

There are no government investigations or media attention into the corruption of Joe’s family. In addition, the high-tech oligarchs at Twitter, Facebook, and Google actively hide and censor the inconvenient facts about the Bidens’ corrupt affairs. The consequences of the Presidents’ obligations to foreign powers may encourage Russia to invade Ukraine which would destabilize Europe or embolden China to annex Taiwan which could easily lead a world war.

Our country is struggling to keep hold of those values that have made the United States the envy of the world. We need to remind each other of the qualities that have made us great: self-reliance, independence, hard work and ambition. Values that have no place in a Marxist regime.

American scientists made history this year when a small helicopter on Mars named *Ingenuity* became the first aircraft to fly on another planet. NASA launched a satellite, [DART](#), that will attempt to redirect an asteroid as part of a test next year. Richard Branson became an astronaut when his Virgin Galactic Spaceship Unity carried him 53 miles up into space. A couple of weeks later Jeff Bezos flew with a crew in his New Shepard space capsule. While Branson is targeting a market to take tourists sub-orbital, Bezos’ plan is to send equipment, astronauts, and supplies to the moon.

We lost some significant people in 2021: Colin Powell, Charles Vickers, and Jack Olof. Jack was a friend of our family who single handedly built and ran an enormous business across the western U.S. that provided shelter and housing to those who could not do this for themselves. My stepfather, Charles Vickers, spent years in Saudi Arabia where he built the largest port on the planet, built an island in Hong Kong that would become a world class international airport, lived in three different countries and visited 30 others. He did all that after he retired from a career at the Port of San Francisco as chief engineer.

As for us, we continue to live and work in the Silicon Valley. Andrew is in Sacramento where he works for Intel; he’s applying to grad school and will likely take a leave from Intel in 2022. Liam is attending California State University at Sonoma where he’s pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Both Monica & I stayed primarily on the West Coast throughout the year. We managed to take an overdue, COVID deferred vacation to visit friends in Hawaii.



USS Missouri, Pearl Harbor

We always appreciate hearing from our family and friends; please keep in touch.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
from the Cottrell Family*

The diabolical genius of Marxism-Socialism is that it provides the emotional and intellectual roadmap for autocrats to persuade millions of people to support their own enslavement to government.

Mark Levin – Constitutional Lawyer