

Joseph Warren's Final Oration: Against Standing Armies and Arbitrary Power

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"Act worthy of yourselves."

That's how the great patriot and Revolutionary War hero Dr. Joseph Warren urged the people to commemorate the Boston Massacre, which happened today in history – March 5, 1770.

In the face of a standing army occupier – and direct threats to his own life – Warren pressed the people to stand firm for liberty in the face of the mighty British Empire, ***"until tyranny is trodden under foot"***

The Massacre in Boston did a great deal to solidify opposition to arbitrary, centralized power – and permanent standing armies. For many years, it was commemorated as a solemn public holiday in Boston, with speeches from prominent patriots like John Hancock, James Lovell and others.

Joseph Warren delivered the oration in 1772 – and was the only person ever chosen to give the speech a second time, on March 6, 1775. Since March 5 fell on a Sunday that year, the event was held the next day.

Tensions were boiling in '75 – just weeks before Lexington and Concord, and the city was once-again filled with British regulars in the aftermath of the Coercive Acts of the previous year.

It's likely that Samuel Adams tapped Warren to give the speech this year, understanding that if there was trouble, someone of Joseph's experience and resolve would be needed in the pulpit.

They all knew that the British regulars present were going to resent an oration whose purpose was, as Adams wrote to Richard Henry Lee, *"to commemorate a massacre perpetrated by soldiers and to show the danger of standing armies."*

Nearly 5,000 people packed the event in and around the Old South Meeting House, with as many as 300 British officers in attendance as well. Because of the crowds, Warren had to enter the pulpit by climbing up a ladder and through a window.

And his speech, which was delivered two weeks before Patrick Henry's more famous "Liberty or Death" speech in Virginia, showed that he and the people of Boston would not be intimidated, even with the British forces in their midst.

"Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of. Our enemies are numerous and powerful; but we have many friends, determining to be free, and heaven and earth will aid the resolution. On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important question, on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves."

But before getting to that message, Warren first started – as he also emphasized in 1772 – with a message of natural rights – and property rights.

"THAT personal freedom is the natural right of every man; and that property or an exclusive right to dispose of what he has honestly acquired by his own labor, necessarily arises therefrom, are truths which common sense has placed beyond the reach of contradiction."

By: Michael Boldin | Published on: Mar 5, 2025 | Categories: American Revolution, Founding Principles, History, Joseph Warren

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He then went through a brief history of the colony – how the people braved unknown dangers to travel across the ocean to a new land, a dangerous wilderness – *“determined to find a place in which they might enjoy their freedom, or perish in the glorious attempt.”*

It was arbitrary power – later listed as one of the “injuries and usurpations” in the Declaration of Independence – which Warren described as a fate worse than death:

“But savages, and death with torture were far less terrible than slavery: nothing was so much the object of their abhorrence as a tyrant’s power: they knew that it was more safe to dwell with man in his most unpolished state, -than in a country where arbitrary power prevails.”

Warren then pointed out that the British mostly left the people of the colony alone – until, of course, they realized the great success that was unfolding, and only after settlers had done all of the hard work of establishing it:

“But when, at an infinite expense of toil and blood, this widely extended continent had been cultivated and defended: when the hardy adventurers justly expected that they and their descendants should peaceably have enjoyed the harvest of those fields which they had sown, and the fruit of those vineyards which they had planted; this country was then thought worthy the attention of the British ministry”

It was ultimately a change in policy by the British that caused the conflict – and like so many tyrants throughout history, force was their only way forward:

“When the measures of administration had disgusted the colonies to the highest degree, and the people of Great Britain had, by artifice and falsehood, been irritated against America, an army was sent over to enforce submission to certain acts of the British parliament, which reason scorned to countenance, and which placemen and pensioners were found unable to support.”

He, like the other Sons of Liberty and many other residents of Boston – understood where this would lead, and the unsurprising result was the bloody day on “the FIFTH of MARCH”

“And it is further certain, from a consideration of the nature of mankind, as well as from constant experience, that standing armies always endanger the liberty of the subject. But when the people on the one part, considered the army as sent to enslave them, and the army on the other, were taught to look on the people as in a state of rebellion, it was but just to fear the most disagreeable consequences. Our fears, we have seen, were but too well grounded.”

Even in the face of this, he urged restraint – and peace, *“stain not your weapons with the blood of Britons,”* because *“revenge is far beneath the noble mind.”*

Instead, he called on the British to leave – and if they did, that would be the end of the story.

“The storm subsides; a solemn pause ensues; you spare, upon condition they depart. They go; they quit your city; they no more shall give offence. Thus closes the important drama.”

But that didn’t mean Warren was afraid of a fight – even with an opponent far more powerful than any other on earth. And like Patrick Henry in the weeks to follow, Warren knew the choice was liberty or death.

*"Our streets are again filled with armed men; our harbour is crowded with ships of war; but these cannot intimidate us; **our liberty must be preserved; it is far dearer than life**, we hold it even dear as our allegiance; we must defend it against the attacks of friends as well as enemies; we cannot suffer even Britons to ravish it from us."*

For Warren, anything less than taking a stand was an affront to the gift of freedom the people had been given:

"The man who meanly will submit to wear a shackle, contemns the noblest gift of heaven, and impiously affronts the God that made him free."

He understood that the British were incredibly powerful, but, he told the people, *"let not even this discourage you."*

"I know you want not zeal or fortitude. You will maintain your rights or perish in the generous struggle. However, difficult the combat, you never will decline it **when freedom is the prize.**"

Warren again called for peace and unity with the British – with a caveat, of course:

*"But if these pacific measures are ineffectual, and it appears that the only way to safety, is through **fields of blood**, I know you will not turn your faces from your foes, but will, undauntedly, **press forward, until tyranny is trodden under foot**, and you have fixed your adored goddess Liberty, fast by a Brunswick's side, on the American throne."*

Just weeks later, it was Joseph Warren who sent Paul Revere on his famous midnight ride – along with William Dawes and one other – to warn that the "British are coming..."

The following day, Warren fought alongside the militia, personally leading multiple attacks on British troops as they retreated from Concord to Boston. He was almost killed that day – and supposedly said *"I will either see my country free, or shed my last drop of blood to make her so"*

Tragically, that is what happened soon after during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Although he had been appointed a major general by the Massachusetts Provincial Congress just days earlier, Warren insisted on fighting with the volunteers in the fiercest and most dangerous part of the battle. Although the patriots inflicted heavy casualties on the British, they were outnumbered at least two to one and eventually had to retreat.

It was then – when most were out of ammunition – that Warren was recognized by a British officer, and was quickly killed by a musket ball to the head. That scene was immortalized by John Trumbull in his iconic painting, *The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill*.

Joseph Warren was a man who put his money where his mouth was – like few others in history. Today, we honor him as a true American hero.

Tags: American Revolution, Arbitrary Power, Boston Massacre, Joseph Warren, Massacre Day, Natural Rights, Standing Armies



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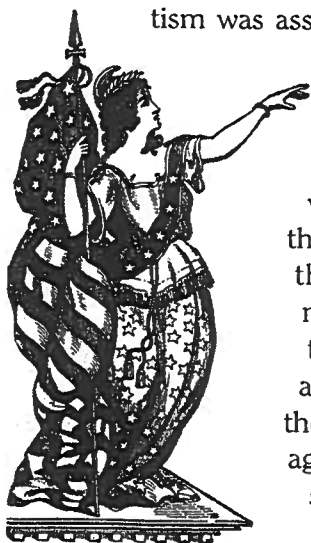
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As an evangelical Christian and a political conservative, I share many of the concerns of orthodox Catholics about the direction of American politics and culture. I am allergic to doomsaying, however, and I urge Christians of all traditions not to despair or assume only radical changes can set our country back on track. We have a great amount of work ahead of us, but Christianity historically has thrived in the United States within a classical liberal framework, and it would be a mistake to abandon that tradition.

I urge Catholics to note the positive developments in American politics over the past century. Although Christianity is declining as a cultural force, and an alarming percentage of Americans now answer “none” when asked their religious identity, there is arguably less anti-Catholic animus in this country than ever before. A majority of the U.S. Supreme Court is Catholic, including most of the justices who voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is Catholic. For only the second time in our history we had a president who is Catholic. It is remarkable how little attention these facts receive.

I understand that many orthodox Catholics are discouraged that leading Catholic Democrats choose not to promote Church doctrine when it comes to public policy, especially as it relates to abortion. Nonetheless, we have come a long way since 1960, when John F. Kennedy had to convince a skeptical nation that his Catholicism should not disqualify him for the presidency. In 1928 Al Smith’s Catholic faith played a role in his humiliating defeat in his race against Herbert Hoover. Joe Biden wasn’t hamstrung in such a way. Catholic identity is no longer a hindrance to achieving political power in the United States.

Catholics have played an especially underappreciated role in shaping the American Right and, by extension, the Republican Party. For much of our nation’s history, political conservatism was associated with anti-Catholic



bigotry. The Know-Nothing Movement of the mid-1800s was overtly anti-Catholic, as was the Ku Klux Klan in the early 20th century. But the postwar conservative movement ended this tradition. Among the intellectuals and journalists who set the American Center-Right’s agenda, Catholics were massively overrepresented.

This was especially true at *National Review*, the flagship journal of American conservatism. William F. Buckley, Russell Kirk, Willmoore Kendall, L. Brent Bozell, Frank Meyer, and James Burnham were all either raised Catholic or converted as adults — though, admittedly, in the case of Meyer and Burnham, they waited until they were literally on their deathbeds to do so.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, the first postwar presidential nominee to embrace fully the conservative movement, chose Rep. William Miller, a Catholic, as his running mate. That ticket was defeated in a landslide, but Catholics played an outsized role in growing conservatism as a powerful force in the

coming decades, setting the stage for Ronald Reagan’s electoral landslides. Paul Weyrich and Phyllis Schlafly, the most effective conservative activists and organizers in the 20th century, were devout Catholics.

If we ever witness an authoritarian anti-Catholic turn in the United States, we can be fully confident it will not come from the mainstream political Right, thanks largely to the Catholics who built and worked within conservative institutions. Catholics will have a seat on the right side of the nation’s ideological table for the foreseeable future. This is no small accomplishment.

I understand the impulse to withdraw from mainstream politics, especially at a time when cultural trends are pulling the nation in a more secular direction. In fact, it might even be a good idea. I endorse efforts by Christians — Catholic and Protestant — to build strong, intentional Christian communities. I am more skeptical about efforts to change the nation’s trajectory via partisan politics or revolution. The quixotic pursuit of Christian nationalism — be it Protestant dominionism, Catholic integralism, or some other variety — will almost certainly be self-defeating.

Conservative Catholics with theocratic inclinations should be aware that they are not the first Americans to pursue that path, and the historical record will not inspire their confidence. Bozell, Goldwater’s ghostwriter and a close collaborator with Buckley, eventually broke with the conservative movement, launching the magazine *Triumph* in 1966. He hoped to import something akin to Francisco Franco’s variety of pro-Catholic authoritarianism to the United States. Few people remember this, as the effort was an abysmal failure, and the magazine ceased publication after a decade. What reason do we have for believing a similar effort will be more successful now? If anything, the public is less amenable to these kinds of arguments than it was five decades ago. Furthermore, we can question the efficacy of expressly pro-Catholic governments, even when they succeed in taking power. For all the superficial Catholic piety of Franco’s Spain or António de Oliveira Salazar’s Portugal, people quickly moved away from the Church as soon as the state took its thumb off the scale. Both countries are now much less religiously observant than is the United States.

Previous generations of Catholics fought hard to gain tolerance and, eventually, respect and significant influence in American life. They still possess these things, even as the country is becoming less Christian. As America increasingly realized the ideal of religious liberty, Catholics were some of the main beneficiaries. A problem with that liberty, of course, is that many people will turn their backs on God. It would be a mistake to use state power in an effort to reverse course, however, and such an attempt would further polarize America along religious lines and accelerate Christianity’s decline.

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Trump Focus on Immigrants, War and Empire Mirrors 1920's Red Scare Era

MARCH 18, 2025

DAVE LINDORFF

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The new era of Trump authoritarianism is being called by many a new McCarthyism, but that is not a good analogy. It's looking worse than the McCarthy period. A more accurate analogy is the Red Scare years that followed World War I and the success of the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917.

That event, and the establishment of a communist state based upon the ideas of Cal Marx and Friedrich Engels, saw the US government under Democratic President Woodrow Wilson and his Attorney General A Mitchell Palmer and his aide, a young DOJ lawyer named J. Edgar Hoover, begin in 1919 rounding up leftists and anarchist immigrants.

In a strategy that Trump and his gang of Constitution Wreckers are clearly following, Hoover with Palmer's blessing started initially going after leftists who were immigrants, like noted anarchist Emma Goldman, a Lithuanian Jew who came to the US via Russia. Goldman was arrested and charged with sedition based upon the argument that she was advocating opposition to conscription.

President Wilson also took an action that was particularly outrageous and surely caught the attention of Trump's "brain trust," namely having America's most successful radical socialist, Eugene Debs, who in 1912 had won 900,000 votes (6.1% of votes cast) running for president on the Socialist Party ticket, arrested for sedition (under a new law signed into effect by Wilson). Debs' "crime" was making a campaign speech calling on people to oppose the US entering the European war known as WWI. That even if it were a crime, is vastly less criminal than many of the things Trump called on his supporters to do during his speeches during his two presidential campaigns.

Sentenced to ten years in jail, this founding member of the international Workers of the World (IWW), had his sentence commuted and was released in December 1921 by Wilson's successor, who then invited The freed Debs to the White House to have a with him!

Much as Trump has chosen Elon Musk to do his unconstitutional dirty work, Palmer had Hoover set up a small group to begin secretly monitoring and spying in the activities of people like Goldman and Debs. It was later dubbed the Bureau of Investigation — forerunner of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Hoover ran until his death in 1972, doing everything from spying on, harassing, and even murdering or stirring up internal internal feuds during the second Red Scare era in the '50s-60s among hippies, yuppies, student anti-war groups and the Black Panthers Party.

That brings us to Trump's current second term, where he has installed completely loyal sycophants in office at the FBI, the DOJ and the Department of Homeland Security with its immigration goons in the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

It was Homeland Security and ICE thugs who raided a Columbia University-owned apartment building and grabbed graduate Palestinian Green Card holder Mahoud Khalil in front of his 8-month pregnant wife. [Here](#) this native-born American citizen recounts the heart-wrenching story of what happened to her husband right in front of her (if this isn't fascism like what Communists, Jews and Roma people faced in Nazi Germany I don't know what is):

This last week has been a nightmare: Six days ago, an intense and targeted doxing campaign against Mahmoud began. Anti-Palestinian organizations were spreading false claims about my husband that were simply not based in reality. They were making threats against Mahmoud and he was so concerned about his safety that he emailed

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6 Columbia University on March 7th. In his email, he begged the university for legal support, "I haven't been able to sleep, fearing that ICE or a dangerous individual might come to my home. I urgently need legal support and I urge you to intervene," he said in his email.

Columbia University never responded to that email.

Instead, on March 8th, at around 8:30 pm, as we were returning home from an Iftar dinner, an ICE officer followed us into our building and asked, "Are you Mahmoud Khalil?"

Mahmoud stated, "Yes."

The officer then proceeded to say, "We are with the police, you have to come with us."

The officer told Mahmoud to give me the apartment keys and that I could go upstairs. When I refused, afraid to leave my husband, the officer stated, "I will arrest you too."

The officers later barricaded Mahmoud from me. We were not shown any warrant and the ICE officers hung up the phone on our lawyer. When my husband attempted to give me his phone so I could speak with our lawyer, the officers got increasingly aggressive, despite Mahmoud being fully cooperative.

Everyone who knows Mahmoud knows him to be level-headed even in the most stressful situations. And even in this terrifying situation, he was calm.

Within minutes, they had handcuffed Mahmoud, took him out into the street and forced him into an unmarked car. Watching this play out in front of me was traumatizing: It felt like a scene from a movie I never signed up to watch.

I was born and raised in the Midwest. My parents came here from Syria, carrying their stories of the oppressive regime there that made life unlivable. They believed living in the US would bring a sense of safety and stability. But here I am, 40 years after my parents immigrated here, and just weeks before I'm due to give birth to our first child, and I feel more unsafe and unstable than I have in my entire life.

US immigration ripped my soul from me when they handcuffed my husband and forced him into an unmarked vehicle. Instead of putting together our nursery and washing baby clothes in anticipation of our first child, I am left sitting in our apartment, wondering when Mahmoud will get a chance to call me from a detention center.

I demand the US government release him, reinstate his Green Card, and bring him home.

(Author's Note: I have to interject here that as someone who spent years at Columbia—three studying Chinese as an undergrad, one earning an MS in Journalism from the Columbia Grad School of Journalism and one as a post-graduate Knight-Bagehot Fellow—I am disgusted at my alma mater's failure to protect its students from fascist government behavior. Columbia should be putting its Law School to work defending Mahmoud Khalil and other threatened Palestinian and other foreign students who are being attacked or will soon be by Trump's Gestapo. They should have immediately responded to his letter calling for help and should have had him staying temporarily in the home of a university law professor!)

It's 1920 all over again a century later, only this time it might be more long-lasting, with the courts, the White House, and both houses of congress in the hands of cult-like Trump Republicans and other Republicans afraid to take a stand against this fascism for fear Musk and other suck-up billionaires backing Trump like Bees'Ass and ZuckerWuss will fund people to challenge them in the next Republican primary, to oust them from Congress.

This article by Dave Lindorff appeared originally in ThisCantBeHappening! on its new Substack platform at <https://thiscantbehappening.substack.com/>. Please check out the new site and consider signing up for a cut-rate subscription that will be available until the end of the month.

The Catholic people of the Vendée, aware of the horrors being unleashed by the stormtroopers of the French Revolution, responded courageously to the threat to their Faith and their way of life.

Many people will have heard of the French Resistance, the name given to the various underground organizations that fought against the Nazis during the German occupation of France in World War II. Few, however, will be aware of another "French Resistance," a century and a half earlier, in which around 170,000 people died. This was the Vendée Uprising of 1793.

The rising of the peasants and people of the Vendée region in the west of France came amid the Reign of Terror which followed the proto-communist and anti-Christian French Revolution of 1789. The tyranny instituted by the revolutionaries had intensified with the September Massacres in 1792, a slaughter of the innocents instigated by Georges Danton, the Revolution's Minister of Justice. In a speech, Danton sentenced all enemies of the Revolution to death: "We ask that anyone refusing to give personal service [to the Revolution] or to furnish arms shall be punished with death."

Within a couple of hours of Danton's speech, the massacres began. Within two days, more than a thousand people were killed. Several hundred more would die in the following two days. The victims included women and children and around 250 priests. Such was the "justice" ministered by the Revolution's Minister of Justice. Such was the madness of Paris. Three hundred miles to the west, the Catholic people of the Vendée, aware of the horrors being unleashed by the stormtroopers of the Revolution, prepared to respond courageously to the threat to their Faith and their way of life.

One example of the fidelity of these country folk was given in *The Guillotine and the Cross*, a history of the French Revolution and its aftermath by Warren H. Carroll, who is himself an unsung hero of Christendom not merely for his important work as a historian but as the founder and first president of Christendom College, one of the first of the new wave of faithful colleges established in the 1970s to resist the rising tide of modernism in Catholic education. Dr. Carroll recounts the inspiring story of the people of the village of Saint-Hilaire-de-Mortagne and their peaceful but resilient resistance to the decrees of the Revolution.

Before their priest was exiled for refusing to take the required oath of fidelity to the Revolution, he had told them that he would continue to offer Mass at the same scheduled time every Sunday for his flock, even though he could not be with them in person. At the last Mass he would be permitted to celebrate in the village, he told them:

My brothers, I am going to leave you; but, wherever I go, my heart will be with you and I will pray for you. Each Sunday, so long as I am able, I will say Mass, at this same hour, for you. Join with it in your intentions and your prayer.

Dr. Carroll takes up the story:

Thenceforth, every Sunday, the faithful of Saint-Hilaire-de-Mortagne parish would meet at ten o'clock for the "invisible Mass." When the parish church was closed and locked against them, they went instead to the cemetery at this same hour. Asked by government men what they were doing, the peasant Lumineau answered for them: "We are at Mass. Our priest promised us when he left that he would say Mass for us, each Sunday, wherever he was." "Imbeciles!" they were mocked. "Your priest is a hundred leagues from here, and you think you are assisting at Mass?" "Prayer," Lumineau responded gently, "goes more than a hundred leagues; it ascends from earth to Heaven!"

Such peaceful protest and such a gentle response would be no longer possible once the secularist regime tried to enforce compulsory conscription into the revolutionary army. Not only were Catholics being killed by the Revolution, they were now being forced to kill for it.

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On March 12, 1793, a delegation of government officials arrived in the small town of Saint-Florent-le-Vieil, on the banks of the River Loire, protected by National Guardsmen, to forcibly enlist the townsman into the army. The selection of conscripts would be made by the drawing of lots. This was the final straw for the enraged people of the Vendée. Two thousand peasants gathered in the town square, armed with shotguns, clubs, pitchforks, and swords made from scythe blades.

According to Dr. Carroll, "they were led by a carpenter, a carter, a tailor, and a barrel-maker, and their sons." As the first lot was drawn, a shot was fired from the crowd, killing one of the government officials. The National Guardsmen responded by firing indiscriminately at the people, killing four and wounding forty. Far from scattering in panic, the enraged peasants attacked the Revolutionary Guards. "Vive le roi!" and "Vive les bons prêtres!" were the battle cries. "Long live the king!" and "Long live the good priests!" The great Vendée uprising had begun.

Within days, the people of the Vendée had united against the common foe. The local Catholic nobility joined the fray, fighting alongside the peasants and townsfolk. Forming what became known as the Catholic and Royal Army, the insurgents won a string of victories in the spring and summer of 1793, wresting control of the region from the repressive revolutionaries.

Inevitably, however, the hydra-headed hegemon in Paris responded with overwhelming force. A revolutionary army of almost 150,000 well-armed troops was sent against the 80,000 poorly armed Vendéans. Outnumbered and outgunned, the heroic peasantry and people of the Vendée finally succumbed in battle. Around 30,000 revolutionary troops were killed in the uprising and at least as many members of the Catholic and Royal Army.

What followed was worse than any battle. The revolutionaries began a killing spree of innocent civilians that can best be described as wholesale genocide against the Catholics of the Vendée. By the time the butchery ended, 170,000 inhabitants of this Catholic heartland in western France had been killed, women and children as well as menfolk.

One of the best accounts of the horrors which unfolded at this time, and certainly one of the most detailed, is given by Marie de Sainte-Hermine in a book recently translated for the first time into English and published with the title *A Family of Brigands in 1793* (STAS Editions). Madame de Sainte-Hermine had been a teenage girl at the time of the uprising and wrote the account many years later, as a grandmother for her grandchildren. As the sleeve notes of the English translation proclaim, the old lady

recounts—as only a grandmother can—the history of her noble family and their struggle against the tyranny of the Revolution...the massacres and atrocities of the revolutionaries, and the sinister prison of Nantes, where the family paid the ultimate price.

For providing such a detailed documentary record of this time of holiness, heroism, and horror, Madame de Sainte-Hermine is herself a heroine of the times in which she lived and suffered.

Although the names of the leaders of the Vendée uprising are held in honor by the Catholics of France, they are largely unknown in the English-speaking world. Who, except for scholars of the period, for example, has heard of Jacques Cathelineau, Maurice d'Elbée, or Charles de Bonchamps? Yet even French Catholics and the most exceptional of scholars do not know the names of the tens of thousands of heroic peasants and other poor folk who laid down their lives for their Catholic faith. It is these carpenters, carters, tailors, barrel-makers, and their sons and daughters, who are the real unsung heroes of the Vendée as they are also unsung heroes of Christendom.

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Extremist Zionist Group Sent List of Palestine Defenders to Trump Officials for Deportation

Betar - which the pro-Israel Anti-Defamation League has blacklisted after comments like "not enough" babies were killed in Gaza - says it provided "thousands of names" for possible arrest and expulsion.

by Brett Wilkins | Mar 15, 2025

Betar, the international far-right pro-Israel group that took credit for the Department of Homeland Security's arrest of former Columbia University graduate student and permanent U.S. resident Mahmoud Khalil for protesting the annihilation of Gaza, claimed this week that it has sent "thousands of names" of Palestine defenders to Trump administration officials for possible deportation.

"Jihadis have no place in civilized nations," Betar said on social media Friday following the publication of a *Guardian* article on the extremist group's activities.

Earlier this week, Betar said: "We told you we have been working on deportations and will continue to do so. Expect naturalized citizens to start being picked up within the month. You heard it here first. Those who support jihad and intifada and originate in terrorist states will be sent back to those lands."

Betar has been gloating about last week's arrest of Khalil, the lead negotiator for the group Columbia University Apartheid Divest during the April 2024 Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

On Thursday, immigration officers arrested another Columbia Gaza protester, Leqaa Kordia - a Palestinian from the illegally occupied West Bank - for allegedly overstaying her expired student visa. Kordia was also arrested last April during one of the Columbia campus protests against the Gaza onslaught.

On Friday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said that Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian doctoral student at Columbia whose visa was revoked on March 5 for alleged involvement "in activities supporting" Hamas - the Palestinian resistance group designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. government - used the Customs and Border Protection's self-deportation app and, according to media reports, has left the country.

Khalil and Kordia's arrests come as the Trump administration targets Columbia and other schools over pro-Palestinian protests under the guise of combating antisemitism, despite the Ivy League university's violent crackdown on demonstrations and revocation of degrees from some pro-Palestine activists.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who in January signed an executive order authorizing the deportation of noncitizen students and others who took part in protests against Israel's war on Gaza, called Khalil's detention "the first arrest of many to come."

The Department of Justice announced Friday that it is investigating whether pro-Palestinian demonstrators at the school violated federal anti-terrorism laws. This followed Thursday's search of two Columbia dorm rooms by DHS agents and the cancellation earlier this month of \$400 million worth of funding and contracts for Columbia because the Trump administration says university officials haven't done enough to tackle alleged antisemitism on campus.

On Friday, Betar named Mohsen Mahdawi, a Palestinian studying philosophy at Columbia, as its next target.



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Critics have voiced alarm about Betar's activities, pointing to the pro-Israel Anti-Defamation League's recent designation of the organization as a hate group. Founded in 1923 by the early Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Betar has a long history of extremism. Its members – who included former Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Menachem Begin – took part in the Zionist terror campaign against Palestinian Arabs and British forces occupying Palestine in the 1940s.

Today, Betar supports Kahanism – a Jewish supremacist and apartheid movement named after Meir Kahane, an Orthodox rabbi convicted of terrorism before being assassinated in 1990 – and is linked to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party. The group has called for the ethnic cleansing and Israeli recolonization of Gaza. During Israel's assault on the coastal enclave, which is the subject of an International Court of Justice genocide case, its account on the social media site X responded to the publication of a list of thousands of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces by saying: "Not enough. We demand blood in Gaza!"

Ross Glick, who led the U.S. chapter of Betar until last month, told *The Guardian* that he has met with bipartisan members of Congress who support the group's efforts, naming lawmakers including Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and John Fetterman (D-Pa.). Glick also claimed to have the support of "collaborators" who use artificial intelligence and facial recognition to help identify pro-Palestine activists. Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department said it was launching an AI-powered "catch and revoke" program to cancel the visas of international students deemed supportive of Hamas.

Betar isn't alone in aggressively targeting Palestine defenders. The group Canary Mission – which said it is "delighted" about Khalil's "deserved consequences" – publishes an online database containing personal information about people it deems antisemitic, and this week released a video naming five other international students it says are "linked to campus extremism at Columbia."

Shai Davidai, an assistant professor at Columbia who was temporarily banned from campus last year after harassing university employees, and Columbia student David Lederer, have waged what Khalil called "a vicious, coordinated, and dehumanizing doxxing campaign" against him and other activists.

Meanwhile, opponents of the Trump administration's crackdown on constitutionally protected protest rights have rallied in defense of Khalil and the First Amendment. Nearly 100 Jewish-led demonstrators were arrested Thursday during a protest in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York City demanding Khalil's release.

"We know what happens when an autocratic regime starts taking away our rights and scapegoating and we will not be silent," said Sonya Meyerson-Knox, the communications director for Jewish Voice for Peace. "Come for one – face us all."

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Perilous Times for Personal Liberty

by Andrew P. Napolitano / March 21, 2025

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*“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a socialist. |
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.”*
~ Rev. Martin Niemoller (1892-1984)

The history of human freedom is long, tortuous and not gratifying. It consists essentially in governments trampling the laws enacted to restrain them. It is the profound clash of natural personal freedom and the commands of the state backed by force. The constitutions of totalitarian countries are papered over with restraints on the state, but the restraints are toothless. The state does what it wants. It doesn't take rights seriously.

In liberal democracies – with the separation of powers, and checks and balances – the state is theoretically restrained. Yet often, there, too, the restraints are paper tigers. There, too, HERE, too, the state does not take rights seriously.

Thomas Jefferson argued that in the long march of history, personal liberty shrinks and state power grows. He famously believed that only a revolution can bring about a proper reset.

All of this history and theory came into sharp focus in the past two weeks when the feds arrested a Syrian graduate student in his student housing at Columbia University in New York City and shipped him to an immigration jail in Louisiana. He is married to a native-born American, they are expecting a child in April, and he is a permanent resident alien.

Last week, the federal government arrested a Lebanese physician at Logan Airport in Boston. She is a professor of medicine at Brown University, and she, too, is a permanent resident alien.

The student was charged with immigration violations. The physician was summarily deported to Paris and then to her native Lebanon.

The charging documents filed against the student allege no crime or personal misbehavior, point to no statutory violations, and offer no evidence of the student's danger to persons or property or the government. The papers claim that Secretary of State Marco Rubio believes that this student's presence on the Columbia campus – given his outspoken support for a Palestinian state, the existence of which has been the public policy of the U.S. for generations – is a material impediment to the execution of American foreign policy.

There are no charging papers filed against the physician, but the government leaked that when federal agents seized her mobile phone, they determined that she had been at the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah, the recently murdered head of Hezbollah. She was there along with more than one million others. When asked about this, according to the government leakers, she stated that she followed Nasrallah's religious teachings but not his political ones.

While the physician was confined at Logan, her attorneys obtained an order from a federal judge prohibiting her deportation until a hearing could be held before him. The government ignored the order.

These two arrests implicate numerous constitutionally guaranteed rights, which are generally taken for granted here.

The first is the freedom of speech. We know from the writings of James Madison – who authored the Bill of Rights – that the Founders regarded the freedom of speech as a personal individual natural right. It is also, of course, expressly protected from government interference and reprisal in the First Amendment. The courts have ruled that it protects all persons – no matter their immigration status – who may think as they wish, say what they think, publish what they say, worship or not and associate with whomever they choose.

If the government can punish the speech it or its friends and benefactors hate and fear, then the First Amendment is useless and democracy is a sham.

12 Also implicated in these arrests is freedom of religion and assembly. Just as the student can make any public political statement he wishes – no matter how offensive or provocative it may be to his immediate or a distant audience – the physician can attend any funeral she wishes, can associate with any mourners of her choosing, can embrace any religion and can follow any preacher.

The whole purpose of the First Amendment is to keep the government out of the business of speech, religion and assembly. Without government fidelity to it, America is no longer a democracy but rather some form of conformist secular theocracy that rejects the basic values protected by the Constitution – and changes with every election.

Also implicated by these arrests is due process, guaranteed to all persons by the Fifth Amendment. At its rudimentary base, due process requires a fair hearing before a neutral arbiter before the government may interfere with life, liberty or property – and at which the government must prove personal fault.

In the case of the physician, the feds shipped her to Paris before the hearing could be held. In the case of the Columbia student, the feds shipped him to Louisiana, in defiance of the constitutional requirement that all persons be tried in the judicial district – in this case, New York City – in which the facts in their case took place.

What's going on here?

In the government's zealous enforcement of the nation's immigration laws, it has become lawless. Every person who works for the government has taken an oath of fidelity to the Constitution. It is obvious that the feds do not take their oaths seriously. It is also obvious that the feds are breaking the laws we have hired them to enforce.

When government becomes the lawbreaker, it becomes a law unto itself – and human freedom is trampled by brute force.

This cannot go on unchecked. For whom will the government come next?

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Trump Brags About How He's Going to Grow the State

LEW ROCKWELL, COM

Thomas DiLorenzo

During his long-winded rhetorical romance with protectionist tariffs President Trump excitedly boasted that "We're gonna take in a lot of money" in tariff taxes. Oh great, "we" are going to take more money out of the pockets of the American working class with tariff taxes so that it can be spent by federal bureaucrats and politicians instead of the people who earned the money.

Republican party propaganda organs like *Breitbart* are struggling every day to dream up rationales in defense of protectionist plunder. Their latest defense is to cite a study that said American retailers will pay more of increased tariff taxes than their customers will. Well now. So they admit that it is an anti-American, anti-populist policy that plunders *both* American retailers (and their American employees, their communities, and their stockholders) as well as American customers of the retailers. And all that money goes into the black hole of the federal budget. This will make America "great"?

9:49 am on March 5, 2025

Norway's Nonviolent Resistance in WWII: The Power of a Paperclip, Part 2

by Wendy McElroy



On March 7, 1942, the official media announced that 300 teachers would be required to report for unspecified "social work" in northern Norway. Privately, teachers were given a deadline of March 15 to "volunteer." In his book *The Power of Nonviolence* (1960 edition), the American social philosopher Richard Bartlett Gregg wrote, "teachers who resisted government orders after that date were threatened with loss of jobs, pay and pensions. The Quisling Education Department received tens of thousands of letters of protest from an estimated ten percent of Norway's parents." (Reliable data on the numbers is not available.) The deadline arrived and passed. The teachers did not comply.

On March 20, a Norwegian policeman knocked on Holmboe's door to arrest him. Holmboe called the policeman "very decent" and allowed him to spend an hour making preparations to leave. (Whether ordinary police should have arrested fellow Norwegians on Quisling's behest has been hotly debated.) In all, approximately 1,000 male teachers were arrested on the 20th or in the following days.

Holmboe spent over a week in Hamar prison in the company of about 20 other teachers. Then, as Gregg explained, "From southern and western Norway, about 650 of the arrested teachers were transferred from jails to a concentration camp at Grini." A handful of others were picked up along the journey.

Sharp related a story that expresses how the Nazis greeted them:

The German commander of Grini concentration camp, Stürmbannführer (SS Commander) Koch, was nicknamed by the prisoners Stormfyrsten — the tempestuous prince. He always carried a whip and was accompanied by a large dog. On one occasion the teachers received an

expression of sympathy from an unexpected quarter, following an harangue by Koch which concluded with the words: "You must not think you will be martyrs, or that a few dirty teachers will be able to stop the New Order for Europe!" At that point the dog vomited.

Quisling desperately wanted the teachers to denounce their protest letters in a public manner that would vindicate him.

The 687 men were put on rations of water and 150 grams of bread a day — about four small slices. Gregg described the teachers' routine:

Each morning they were compelled to crawl and run in deep snow for an hour and a half. Then came an hour and a half of heavy work, mostly shoveling snow, followed by another hour and a half of crawling and running in the snow. Then they were given a "meal" of hot water.

The "treatment," as the teachers called it, was designed to erode their ability or willingness to resist by using hunger and exhaustion as weapons.

After the second day of the treatment, 76 of the teachers from 55 to 59 years of age were questioned one-by-one by camp officials. They were asked to retract their letters of resignation from the new union. Not a single one did so. If the older teachers wouldn't back down, the Germans realized the younger ones wouldn't either. The attempt to break the teachers' will resumed.

Resistance as a collective effort

Gregg described what happened next. "After several days more of this treatment, the camp authorities marched the prisoners through a room, asking each one if he would sign a retraction of his protest. As they filed through the room each prisoner said 'No,' often in advance of the officer's question." Only 32 prisoners retracted. When one of the teachers physically collapsed, a German officer demanded to know why he did not give in; the teacher replied, "Because I am a Norwegian."

Quisling desperately wanted the teachers to denounce their protest letters in a public manner that would vindicate him. Overwhelmingly, the teachers denied this to him.

On March 31, 499 of the prisoners were loaded into cattle cars and then onto a steamer built to carry only 100 passengers. For 13 days, they steamed north to a prison camp by Kirkenes, a small town in the extreme northeastern part of Norway — a town far into the Arctic Circle. There, the Wehrmacht assumed custody of the prisoners from the Gestapo. About the same time, prisoners who were being held in a separate location were released to go home, perhaps because of the difficult logistics of transporting them to Kirkenes.

Much of what is known about this imprisonment comes from the letters and diaries of Edvard Brakstad, an imprisoned teacher.

The conditions at Kirkenes were miserable and the work was very dangerous. Much of what is known about this imprisonment comes from the letters and diaries of Edvard Brakstad, an imprisoned teacher. They are reprinted on the website "The Teacher's Protest" along with the caveat:

Of course, we should remember that all the letters were censored and therefore the teachers were not able to write about the reality of the situation. When you read between the lines, you can see that Edvard is also writing to try and reassure his family back home. He paints a bright picture and puts a brave face on everything. When we read Kirkenesferda (written by the teachers after the war) we can see the reality was much harder.

Rather than recount here another set of torturous conditions, Brakstad's writings can describe them eloquently.

It is important to note, however, that the teachers at Kirkenes were aware of outside events and the impact their imprisonment was having on the politics of Norway. In a letter dated May 25, Brakstad wrote:

The biggest thing that happened was a letter read aloud, from our leaders in Oslo [Illegal letter from the underground leaders, smuggled in]. Main points:

- They are following closely what is happening to us.
- Our families get all the financial help they need.
- 663 clergymen have resigned. 70,000 civil servants

have written protests against the samband [relationship].

- The schools, for the most part, are in session although the teachers have not signed the loyalty pledge.
- Plans for the Riksting [New Parliament] will be dropped. Youth mobilization also dropped. Teachers' samband probably also dropped.
- There is "feverish" activity to secure our freedom.
- People are praying for our safety.

The letter caused a quiet optimism amongst us. It is a common belief that we might be let free fairly soon. Our action has brought about big results.

Accounts of the teachers' treatment circulated throughout Norway, with the teachers'

defiance becoming a point of national pride.

Brakstad's letter was accurate. Accounts of the teachers' treatment circulated throughout Norway, with the teachers' defiance becoming a point of national pride; public outrage coalesced and grew against the Nazis. Quisling had reopened the schools with the announcement that all who returned to work would be automatically registered in the new union and fees deducted from their pay. Almost to a person, the remaining teachers repudiated the new union. Holmboe's wife was among the returning teachers, and she described how each one of them "spoke of conscience, the spirit of truth, and our responsibility to the children." At this point, the teachers' sense of solidarity was so strong that she did not worry about being

arrested. She knew the others would take good care of her two children.

Holmboe's wife had reason for confidence. Throughout the teachers' detention, their families received the equivalent of the otherwise "frozen" salaries. The source of the payments was not disclosed. The funds may have come from the Norwegian government-in-exile or from the resistance itself, to which many people pledged a percentage of their incomes. This mystery has never been solved — at least, not publicly.

The suffering of imprisoned teachers and the obdurate resistance it inspired in others was a massive problem for the Quisling regime. After all, the education system was meant to be the building block of his new Corporate State, and the Nazis watched his progress closely. What to do?

Call to Resist Trump's Big Ag/Pharma USDA Secretary's Bird Vax Plan

By Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

March 10, 2025

Writes Ginny Garner:

Lew,

Remember when the Trump presidential campaign team floated the idea of Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin as advisor to the yet to be announced Secretary of Agriculture? I guess that was just a strategy to get the votes of the world renowned regenerative farmer's followers, organic farmers and homesteaders, and clean food advocates and practitioners. The appointment of Big Ag Big Pharma backed Brooke Rollins as USDA Secretary didn't get much publicity. Trump didn't even mention her when he introduced his cabinet during his recent speech to Congress. In his blog Joel warns his readers that the bird flu scare is using the Covid playbook. See [here](#).

The federal government, disregarding the concept of natural immunity, has killed millions of chickens and turkeys that survived bird flu, now renamed avian flu. This is what has caused the high price of eggs. The feds are deploying armed agents to farms to inspect chickens for bird flu using the discredited PCR test. The gentler, kinder Trump administration plans to replace the policy of culling fowl with a rollout of mRNA vaccines for fowl. Then humans can get the genetic-modifying "benefits" by eating the vaccinated birds. USDA has given conditional approval to vaccine manufacturer Zoetis to fight the H5N2 subtype. This USDA news release reveals the endorsement of these vaccines by politicians and Big Ag farm groups: See [here](#).

The Worst Market Intervention of All Time

By George F. Smith

March 1, 2025

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An inhabitant of Berlin, who in 1914 would have been jubilant upon receiving an unexpected legacy of 1,000 marks, did not think an amount of 1,000,000,000 marks worth his attention in the fall of 1923. — Ludwig von Mises, Interventionism, An Economic Analysis

World War I could be said to have produced the incredible destruction of the mark, but guns didn't fire upon the German currency. Like the currencies of other belligerents the mark was switched from a gold to a fiat currency to provide the needed liquidity to pay for the war, "liquidity" here meaning paper devoid of any connection to civilization's money, gold.

The US had been without a central bank until December 23, 1913, when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act into law. It too facilitated funding when Congress voted to declare war on Germany in April, 1917. Using conscription, the US sent millions of American men overseas to join the slaughter, killing an estimated 115,000 of them.

The Fed helped keep the war going until the punitive Treaty of Versailles, after which Germans found Hitler appealing, and it created the bubble in the 1920s leading to the Crash and the Great Depression. With FDR in charge, gold was lost to a fiat currency managed by the Fed, spawning an age of inflation. According to the Richmond Fed, "By 1947, the Fed was summarizing its 'primary duty' as 'the financing of military requirements and of production for war purposes.'"

If war could be considered a market intervention it would be the absolute worst intervention of all time. But wars are lucrative rackets to some and don't go far without funding. Taxes alone can't cover the costs of a long conflict without igniting a revolt. This is why governments need a central bank that can produce unbacked certificates quickly that governments declare to be money.

When prices decline more is demanded, and this includes the price of war.

The Federal Reserve: Worst Market Intervention in US History

The Fed is even worse than the income tax, which made its appearance in the same year with the corrupt ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment. Both funded US entry into World War I, one of the most catastrophic and groundless decisions in world history. But unlike the income tax, the Fed's thievery is invisible to most dollar holders.

Add to this the Fed's deception as it poses as a steadfast fighter of inflation while over the decades having switched the definition of inflation to mean rising prices rather than deliberate increases in the money supply, thereby deflecting guilt to the bogeymen of the moment.

For most people today the damage can be seen easily by visiting the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator and observe how the dollar has declined to three percent of its value since 1914. Three pennies, in other words, had about the same buying power then as a dollar does today.

The BLS inflation calculator doesn't include years before 1913, perhaps because the dollar increased in purchasing power following the War for Southern Independence. From 1870 to 1900 the dollar had a cumulative price change of -35.88%, meaning a dollar would buy considerably *more* in 1900. And according to NBER, from 1870 to 1912, which included a return to a government-declared gold standard in 1879, industrial production *increased 681%*. (By comparison to a mostly Fed-dominated period, 1900 to 2025, the cumulative price change has been 3,657.20%, and the CPI has grown from 8.4 to 315.6.)

(16) Late 19th-century was also a period of mergers, as competition was cutting into profits.

Yet as revisionist historian, without government assistance, "The new mergers, with their size, efficiency, and capitalization, were unable to stem the tide of competitive growth.

Quite the contrary! They were more likely than not unable to compete successfully or hold on to their share of the market, and this fact became one of utmost political importance."

(Italics added.)

Bankers tap the government for a law

The Fed would not work without the government granting it exclusive control of the issue of banknotes. Not coincidentally, the Fed has become a reliable buyer of its debt, which amounts to \$4.7 trillion as of the third quarter 2024.

What iron-clad logic was behind the creation of the Fed in 1913 that has decimated the value of the dollar since then and brought us dangerously close to nuclear Armageddon? The excuse given is the economy needed a more flexible currency and a lender of last resort. As it turned out, it meant the Fed would roll money off a printing press at a rate it alone deemed appropriate, and the public would unwittingly be lender of last resort in their tax-paying capacity. It's one way the connected-rich got richer and the unconnected public took it on the chin.

What the world has witnessed is Mises' observation about government intervention at work — intervene once and subsequent interventions follow in an attempt to counter the damage inflicted by the original. Then it tends to spread like a cancer. The world has witnessed it — and dutifully ignored it. A racket such as the Fed always has winners, and the winners want to keep the racket going. They tell us a central bank is necessary for a modern economy and if the Fed occasionally finds the economy in a crisis it's only a reflection of how difficult its job is and should not be considered a criminal undertaking in partnership with a criminal government.

Not by choice the money we use today are digital and paper tokens of diminishing value. Fed chairmen don't use the term "sound money" often when referring to their product. Government-controlled economies don't use sound money. Sound money obstructs "the government's propensity to meddle with the currency system," as Mises wrote, and this eliminates precious metals and cryptocurrencies. Sound money is anti-state.

Instead of sound money the preferred term since Keynes is *price stability*. Keep inflation running at about 2% and never let it go lower. A 2% inflation means the dollar would lose a third of its value in 20 years, solely because of a deliberate inflationary policy.

When one considers the full import of how governments have burdened their populations with government-controlled money that they or their central banks can bring into existence in any amount at the tap of a key, it's no mystery why the world has failed to extract itself from the barbarism of the World War era of the last century.

The US government has been avid about fighting wars that certain connected industries find lucrative while keeping the public distracted. There are always monsters to destroy, and if the government can't find any it has myriad ways of creating them, such as rolling NATO east instead of disbanding it or becoming an aggressive Israel's lapdog.

Conclusion

There's a story in the news about a man named John Harold Rogers, a former Senior Adviser for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors with a PhD in economics, who everyone thought had been teaching classes in China to graduate students but is now believed to have also been a spy for the PRC. Whether the allegations are true a trial will decide. If only we could put the Fed itself on trial, and send it off into the dustbin of history, we would be free of both spy stories and bad money.