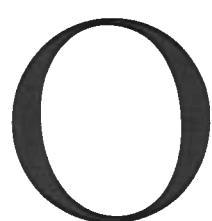


Paul Scofield had been given the best, the most inspired lines an actor could possibly ask for in playing the character of England's Lord Chancellor and a future saint of the Catholic Church.



On a tombstone in a quiet cemetery in West Sussex, England, a brief inscription marks the place where one of the great figures of the English theater awaits the resurrection. His name is Paul Scofield, who died in 2008. "On stage," the inscription reads, "his voice split the silence / his whisper cast a spell / Now his stage is dark, / Silence reclaims him, / and we his wife and family, / hold close his memory forever."

The words are few—perfectly lapidary too—testifying not only to a consummate actor, who over the course of a very long and storied career held countless audiences spellbound, but a cherished husband and father, whose memory will be held close forever.

For all his fabled achievements, however, whether on stage or screen—and there have been a great many stellar performances—I'd put my money on his portrayal of Sir Thomas More in Robert Bolt's *A Man For All Seasons*, both in the stage production in 1961 and in the later film version from 1966. It had to have been his most commanding performance ever. Not surprising, therefore, that both he and the film won Oscars that year, he for Best Actor while the movie got Best Picture.

It was there that he shone most like the sun. Indeed, it was the part for which a wise Providence had long prepared him, the perfect dramatic setting where "his voice split the silence, his whisper cast a spell." To be sure, he'd been given the most amazingly eloquent lines to speak, issuing forth from the mouth of a man possessed of both "an angel's wit and singular learning," to quote an admiring contemporary of More. "For where," he asks, "is the man of that gentleness, lowliness, and affability?"

And as time requireth a man of marvelous mirth and pastimes; and sometimes of as sad gravity: a man for all seasons.

Yes, Paul Scofield had been given the best, the most inspired lines an actor could possibly ask for in playing the character of England's Lord Chancellor and a future saint of the Catholic Church. A bird of paradise, no less, who, in the words of that high Tory, Samuel Johnson, whom no one could suspect of papist sympathy, crypto or otherwise, "was the person of the greatest virtue these islands ever produced."

For most of us it will have been the film version that we remember best, the perfect vehicle for showing off the soul of Thomas More. How many millions of viewers have seen and been moved by it! Who would not wish to cheer on such an attractive and engaging figure? Who could resist so arresting a display of courage and integrity? He was, so the movie reveals, a brave and honorable man forced to stand alone—and even to die—because he would not bend the knee before the tyranny of a king driven mad by ungovernable greed and lust, determined to destroy all who got in his way. Well, More stood in his way, exceedingly tall in the saddle, perfectly resolute to the very end in the teeth of a cowardly and corrupt age.

"You're a constant regret to me, Thomas," complained the worldly Wolsey, whose moral shortcomings surely occasioned far greater regret on God's part. "If you could just see facts flat on, without that horrible moral squint; with just a little common sense, you could have been a statesman."

Or in the fraught exchange with Lord Norfolk, who, until the Great Matter of the King surfaced, roiling the waters of both Church and State, had been friend to both More and his family; but now, like most everyone else in the realm, chose to set his sail according to more favorable winds, winds less likely to imperil either his person or his position at court. "I can't give in," More tells him. "You might as well advise a man to change the color of his eyes. I can't. Our friendship's more mutable than that." Then, speaking more urgently, he adds, "To me it has to be, for that's myself! Affection goes as deep in me as you think, but only God is love right through...and *that's my self.*"

August 10, 2021

Prayer

JCRM

All of which leads to the most moving scene of all, that of More being sent to the Tower to await execution for acts of treason which he did not commit. It is there in the midst of his final and most bitter travail that he sees his wife and daughter for the last time. They've been summoned by Master Cromwell to attempt persuading More to abandon principle and take the oath declaring Henry VIII Supreme Head on earth of the Church in England. He will refuse, of course, but in the conversation More has with Meg, his beloved daughter, who wishes her father to submit in order that he might return home to his family, the argument he makes will, in the perspective of eternity, prove unanswerable.

"You want me to swear to the Act of Succession?" asks More.

His daughter answers by saying that since God "more regards the thoughts of the heart than the words of the mouth," why can't he just mouth the words of the oath while believing otherwise in his heart?

"What is an oath then," he asks, "but words we say to God?" When a man takes an oath, insists More, what he is doing is nothing less than "holding his own self in his own hands. Like water," he tells her, cupping his hands. "And if he opens his fingers then—he needn't hope to find himself again. Some men aren't capable of this," he continues, "but I'd be loathe to think your father one of them."

She is not quite finished, however, and desperately playing her last card, reminds him how, "In any State that was half good, you would be raised up high, not here, for what you've done already. It's not your fault the State's three-quarter bad..."

To which her father replies, "That's very neat. But look now..."

PUBLISHED ON
August 8, 2026

If we lived in a State where virtue was profitable, common sense would make us good, and greed would make us saintly. And we'd live like animals or angels in the happy land that needs no heroes. But since in fact we see that avarice, anger, envy, pride, sloth, lust and stupidity commonly profit far beyond humility, chastity, fortitude, justice and thought, and have to choose, to be human at all...why then perhaps we must stand fast a little—even at the risk of being heroes.

"But in reason!" she cries. "Haven't you done as much as God can reasonably want?"

More's answer, his last word on the subject, says everything, revealing not only the ground of his opposition to the king's tyranny, but the heart of his relationship to the God who has given him everything, including the courage to resist such tyranny even unto death on the scaffold.

But don't you see, Meg, it isn't finally a matter of reason, but a matter of love.

It is an overwhelming moment, and one sublimely befitting the first of yet more marvelous stories to come.

CRISIS MAGAZINE

Author

Part of a series about films so riveting that they deserve to be remembered long after they were first seen.

Regis Martin

Regis Martin is Professor of Theology and Faculty Associate with the Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He earned a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Martin is the author of a number of books, including *Still Point: Loss, Longing, and Our Search for God* (2012) and *The Beggar's Banquet* (Emmaus Road). His most recent book, published by Sophia Institute Press, is ***March to Martyrdom: Seven Letters on Sanctity from St. Ignatius of Antioch.***

Congress Still Has the Power To Arrest and Detain but It Lacks the Guts

August 7, 2026

By Lawrence A. Hunter

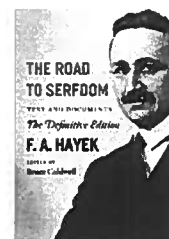
Could Congress hold someone in contempt and then order the Capitol Police to arrest and detain that person? The answer is yes. The more revealing question is why it has almost never done so in modern times.

The power is not theoretical. It is inherent in the legislative authority of the United States. The Supreme Court recognized it more than two centuries ago in *Anderson v. Dunn* (1821) and reaffirmed it a century later in *McGrain v. Daugherty* (1927). Congress may compel testimony, demand documents, and when met with defiance, arrest and detain the contemnor until compliance or the end of the session. The Sergeant at Arms, backed by the Capitol Police, is the instrument of that authority. The power exists independently of the criminal statute that allows Congress to refer contempt cases to the Justice Department. It is a direct assertion of legislative predominance over institutions that obstruct its constitutional functions.

Yet, the pure form of that power—actual physical detention ordered by Congress itself—has fallen into disuse. The modern Congress prefers the timorous humiliation ritual of a contempt vote followed by a toothless referral to the Department of Justice. The reasons usually offered are secondary and incomplete: the political optics of locking someone up look harsh on television; federal courts would immediately entertain *habeas corpus* petitions; the Capitol Police are not configured as long-term jailers; and the institutional memory of how to conduct an inherent-contempt proceeding has atrophied. All that is true; none of it is decisive.

The pivotal fact is simpler and more damning. Congress has ceased to regard itself and act as a serious institution of governance, especially when it comes into conflict with the executive branch and its agencies. It still issues subpoenas. It still holds votes. It still produces press releases announcing that someone has been held in contempt, and speechifies on the matter at hand *ad nauseum*. What it no longer does is enforce its own authority and process against the one set of officials who systematically defy and refuse to comply.

When an administration stonewalls, Congress cravenly defaults to the posture of a *petitioner* rather than a superior constitutional *principal*. It behaves as if it is merely one political actor requesting information from another, instead of a constitutionally primary branch issuing a binding demand to the clerical agents charged with the duty to execute its legislative acts and orders faithfully. It then retires and waits for the Justice Department—controlled by the same administration or career bureaucrats institutionally reluctant to prosecute its own



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—to decide whether its order will be applied. The result is predictable: contempt citations pile up, prosecutions rarely follow, and the underlying obstruction continues as the president and his administrative state treat acts of Congress as optional.

This is not a sudden collapse. It is the product of decades of institutional self-humiliation and diminishment. Congress has delegated vast legislative authority to the administrative state. It has accepted expansive claims of executive privilege, regulatory authority and discretion on how to implement laws and legislative orders, which earlier Congresses would have rejected out of hand. It has grown more fearful of being labeled authoritarian than of being ignored. Individual members calculate that a dramatic confrontation with the executive carries higher personal and partisan risk than the quiet acceptance of irrelevance. Over time, those calculations hardened into a culture of bloviating impotence. The legislature that once properly treated the executive as its administrative agent now treats the executive as a rival political faction whose cooperation must be solicited rather than compelled.



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The formal power remains on the books precisely so that Congress can continue to claim it still possesses it. The refusal to exercise the power, however, reveals the opposite. A branch that will not risk a physical manifestation of its authority against obstruction has already conceded the hierarchy and its inferior place within it. It retains the vocabulary of contempt while abandoning the substance. The modern equilibrium is theater: votes are taken, statements are issued, and the executive continues to operate as if congressional process is merely performative.

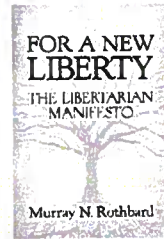
That equilibrium is not sustainable for a constitutional system that depends on separated powers checking one another. If Congress will not enforce its own information-gathering authority against executive obstruction, then oversight becomes performance. If oversight is performance, then the legislative branch has surrendered one of the few remaining practical restraints on administrative and presidential power. The Framers did not design a system in which the most important accountability mechanism depends on the goodwill of the very officials being held to account.

The deeper truth is sharper still. Congress has ceased to be a serious institution of governance and become a laughingstock. Like the rest of the administrative state it helped create and empower, Congress has become a self-licking ice cream cone—an apparatus that exists primarily to serve the interests, careers, perquisites and institutional self-preservation of its members and employees rather than the people it represents. The public interest is residual and coincidental. Real confrontation with the executive is avoided, not because it is

impossible, but because it is inconvenient to the permanent establishment that now inhabits the Capitol. The forms of legislative power are maintained; the substance has been hollowed out.

The powers to arrest and detain for contempt still exist but Congress today lacks the guts to exercise them. The only missing element is the institutional will to use the powers when it matters. Unless and until that will is recovered, the formal authority will remain a museum piece—cited in scholarly footnotes and ignored in practice. Congress can continue to convene hearings, hold votes and issue simpering referrals to the almighty administrative state. What it cannot continue to do is pretend that those gestures constitute republican self-government.

Oliver Cromwell's words to the Rump Parliament in 1653 fit with uncomfortable precision: "You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing... In the name of God, go!"

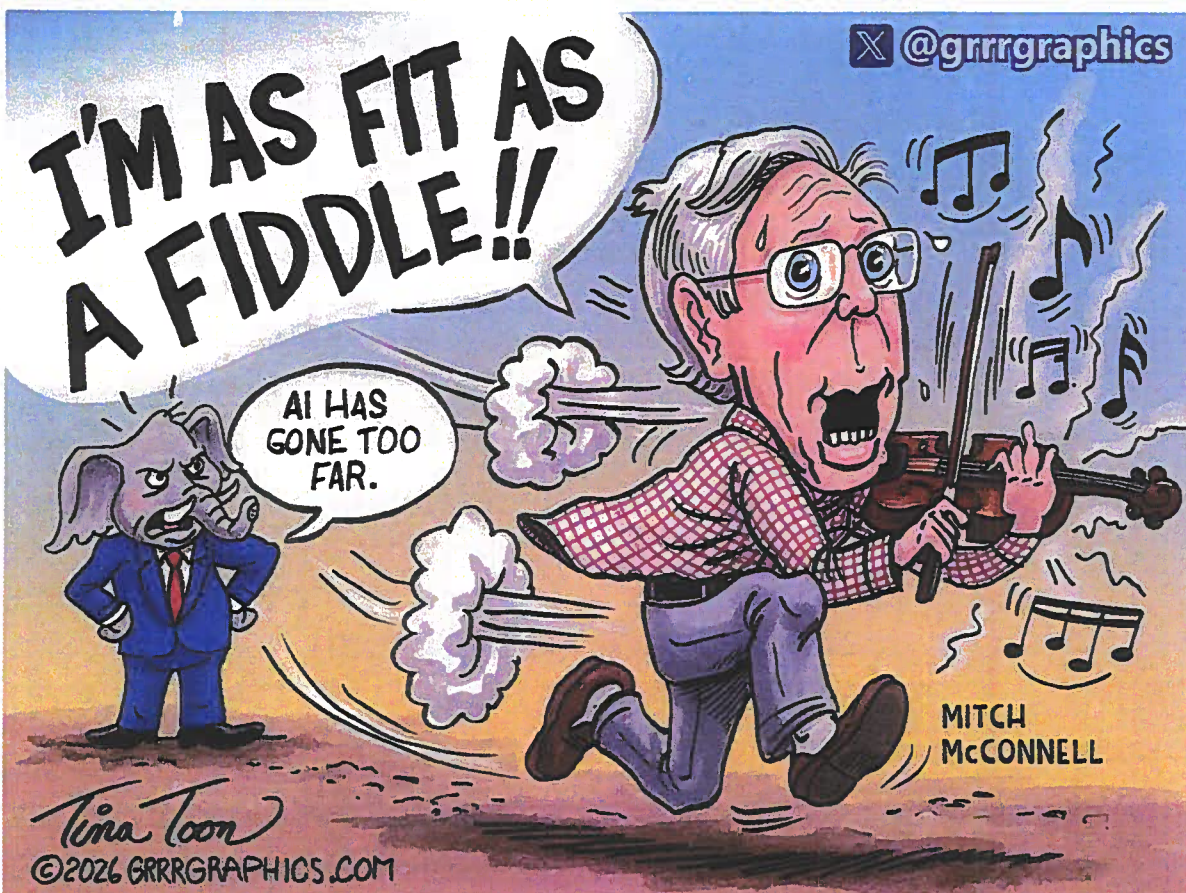


For a New Liberty:

The...

Rothbard, Murray N

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Is MITCH FIT AS A FIDDLE?

Oh look!—Senator Mitch McConnell has been spotted fit as a fiddle while the rest of us are wondering if we're watching a real man or an AI deepfake convention.

In the latest episode of "Washington, D.C. – The Longest Running Soap Opera," McConnell is said to be sprinting around while playing the violin like Paganini.

Meanwhile, the AI-generated photos of him looking suspiciously spry have the internet doing double-takes. One day he's shuffling like a man who's been in politics since the dinosaurs, the next he's got the glowing skin of a 55-year-old skincare influencer.

The Unz Review • An Alternative Media Selection

A Collection of Interesting, Important, and Controversial Perspectives Largely Excluded from the American Mainstream Media

Call Off the Iran War. Just Walk Away!

RON PAUL • AUGUST 3, 2026 • 600 WORDS • 8 COMMENTS

After several days of increasing threats against Iran, including social media posts like “FINISH THE JOB!” and “Take the oil. No mercy!,” President Trump has over the weekend called off a planned major escalation in the Middle East. For now.

“The U.S.A. is locked and loaded and ready to go against the Islamic Republic of Iran, at levels of Military Terror, Strength, and Power not seen since World War II,” he wrote on his social media account. “Despite this, we have just been asked by Iran, and other Middle Eastern Countries, to hold off any attack in that the perimeters of a deal has been agreed to,” he added.

Iran denies any communication with the US and has threatened retaliation against energy infrastructure in the region if its energy infrastructure is attacked. Such destruction could plunge the world into an economic depression.

Iranian retaliation – including against critical water desalination plants – could also depopulate US allies in the region, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others. Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Salman personally called President Trump to request he not escalate against Iran.

According to various media articles, the US is running dangerously low on missiles, especially interceptor missiles such as the Patriot system. Our ability to protect our military bases in the Middle East appears to be gone.

Reportedly, President Trump was warned by his top military advisors that a ground operation against Iran would result in a high level of US casualties and would have no guarantee of success. Already the official totals are 18 US service members killed and more than 700 injured in the operation.

Over the weekend the US military completed its evacuation of a major military base in the Kurdish region of Iraq. This follows similar evacuations of virtually every US base in the region, including the home of the US 5th Fleet in Bahrain and “safe” US bases in Jordan.

The entirety of US military power in the region appears to have been relocated to Israel.

The war which was supposed to last a couple of weeks and “pay for itself” is entering into its sixth month and the price tag so far is above \$100 billion. A war that was started to thwart an Iranian nuclear threat that according to US Intelligence didn’t exist has become a war to open a waterway – the Hormuz Strait – that was open before the war started.

Things are so bad that, according to the Washington Post, the US general in charge of the US European Command sent a message to senior Pentagon officials “saying that without another Navy destroyer he will be forced to choose defense of the United States ‘homeland’ over that of Israel.” How is defending a foreign country over our own country even a choice?

The US attack on Iran is the most unpopular major US military operation in history and is becoming more unpopular by the day. President Trump’s polling numbers have been dragged down to the low 30s by the conflict. Midterm elections are three months away.

President Trump is rapidly running out of options in his war of choice against Iran. There is no path to victory in the war. It is now only about how to manage defeat. That’s why the Constitution does not allow presidents to start wars on their own.

Get out now. Completely out. The foolish war on Iran must end!

(Republished from The Ron Paul Institute by permission of author or representative)

The Normalcy of American Wars

by Andrew P. Napolitano | Aug 7, 2026 | 0 Comments

The war in Iran is unlawful and unconstitutional, but in post-World War II America, it is normal. Here is the backstory.

When President Donald Trump decided to begin bombing Iran last June, he did not state a coherent or lawful reason for doing so. His director of national intelligence and his own CIA had publicly told him that Iran did not possess a nuclear weapon and had ceased building one in 2005.

His secretary of state told him that Iran and Israel had threatened each other, but he could not articulate how Iran imminently threatened the United States. Yet, since Israel planned to attack Iran, he wanted the U.S. to help Israel do so. This was not a lawful request as the U.S. has no treaty with Israel and, under treaties to which the U.S. is a party, the legal bases for all offensive wars can only be treaty compliance or prevention of an imminent attack.

When Trump addressed the nation, his helter-skelter rationale argued for replacing Iran's government, destroying its civilian-use enriched uranium, destroying its ability to build a bomb it wasn't building, and neutralizing its offensive and defensive weaponry. None of these goals was lawful; nor was attacking a Tehran girls school. There was no mention of an imminent attack on the U.S. or the economic effect of war on the vital international oil super-highway, the Strait of Hormuz.

No one in Trump's inner circle registered disagreement, except his vice president and his director of counterterrorism. They told him there was no legal or constitutional basis for his war.

They were correct, but Trump had history on his side.

For much of American history, presidents have steadily accumulated the power to wage war while Congress has gradually surrendered the constitutional authority that the Framers explicitly entrusted to it. This transformation has weakened constitutional checks and balances, expanded executive power beyond its constitutional limits, claimed millions of lives, cost trillions of dollars, and repeatedly drawn the United States into conflicts that had little or nothing to do with defending America.

The Constitution is remarkably clear on the question of war. Article I grants Congress not the president the power to declare war. The president, under Article II, wages war, but only after Congress has authorized it.

James Madison argued that the executive branch is the branch "most interested in war, and most prone to it," which is precisely why the Constitution deliberately divided the war power.

The Framers believed that no single individual should possess the authority to plunge the nation into armed conflict, yet over the past eight decades, presidents of both political parties have steadily ignored these constitutional limits.

President Harry Truman committed hundreds of thousands of American troops to combat in Korea without obtaining a declaration of war from Congress because he said U.S. troops there constituted a "police action."

The pattern only intensified during the Vietnam War. Although Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, it was based on a fraud and effectively delegated its congressional

constitutional responsibility to the president. The result was years of escalating conflict that ultimately claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans and millions of Vietnamese while achieving none of its stated objectives.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, fundamentally accelerated this trend. Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force and the Patriot Act · the former granting the president broad authority to pursue those responsible for the attacks, and the latter substantially impairing rights protected by the Fourth Amendment.

What was presented as a targeted war authorization evolved into legal justifications for military operations across multiple countries against groups that did not even exist in 2001.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq illustrate the costs of this expansive approach. The war in Afghanistan lasted two decades before ending with the return of the Taliban to power. Iraq was invaded based on fabricated or erroneous intelligence assessments regarding weapons of mass destruction.

The proper role of government · according to Thomas Jefferson, its only role · is to protect life, liberty and property, not to remake foreign societies through military force. Wars of choice generate unintended consequences, empower new enemies, create refugee crises and expand government power at home.

The economic and human consequences are equally profound. Massive defense expenditures have pushed the debt of the federal government to nearly \$40 trillion. A government willing to kill millions and spend trillions on foreign wars while borrowing money to pay the interest on borrowed money will one day collapse of its own weight; as have all empires.

A genuinely constitutional foreign policy would look very different. Military force should be reserved for defending the United States against actual or truly imminent attacks, not speculative threats or ambitious nation-building projects, or favors for other countries. Congress should debate and vote openly before committing American forces to any combat.

Strong national defense does not require perpetual war. A capable military can deter aggression. Diplomacy, commerce and peaceful engagement generally serve American interests more effectively than military intervention.

George Washington's warning against entangling foreign commitments and John Quincy Adams's declaration that America "goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy" remain relevant guides for a republic committed to liberty, rather than an empire committed to conquest. Of course, monsters abroad can follow you home.

The constitutional allocation of war powers exists not as a procedural rule but as a substantive safeguard for freedom itself. Every unnecessary war expands executive authority, enlarges government, consumes wealth, risks American lives without clear necessity and diminishes personal liberty.

The best protection against endless conflict is a less powerful presidency and a renewed commitment to the Constitution's deliberate separation of powers and the principle that the United States should fight only when its own security imminently and genuinely requires it.

Is it any wonder that the U.S. is unwilling or unable to justify its recent killings of 163 Tehran school girls and their teachers?

Spanish Civil War began 90 years ago: thousands of Catholics were murdered by communists

Sat
Jul 18, 2026

The Spanish Civil War is one of the few events whose history has not been written by the victors but by the vanquished, i.e., Marxists, socialists, anarchists.

Reader discretion advised. This article contains descriptions of atrocities.

([LifeSiteNews](#)) — This Saturday, July 18, marks the 90th anniversary of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, an upheaval that attracted 35,000 volunteer soldiers from 52 different countries to Spain to fight for what they were told was perhaps the last remaining democracy in a Europe where freedom was dying out.

Yet since the end of the war in 1939, relatively little has been said outside of Spain about those events once at the center of the world's stage. What little memory there is left of those years in the collective mind is dominated by the novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway, who was embedded, as a journalist, in the defeated International Brigades. This may explain why, as noted by historian Eric Hobsbawm, the Spanish Civil War is one of the few events whose history has not been written by the victors but by the vanquished, i.e. these very brigades, composed of Marxists, socialists and anarchists who, when they left Spain, fell silent about the butchery they had witnessed (with the notable exception of George Orwell).

In preparation for the Grand Jubilee of the year 2000, St. John Paul II designated an International Theological Commission to single out all possible faults of the past for which the Catholic Church should repent in order to start the third Millennium with a clean slate. The Commission had intended to include among them the Church's role in the events of the Spanish Civil War, but Spain's episcopate refused to do so, pointing out that the Catholic Church had been among its victims. The international press left it at that, but the Church has quietly been writing its own history by simply beatifying and canonizing thousands of Spanish bishops, priests, nuns, seminarians and Catholic laity as martyrs of the faith in the 1930s. As recently as last May, Pope Leo XIV signed off on another 80 martyrs, bringing the total number of Spanish martyrs recognized by the Catholic Church to a colossal 2,334. However, this is far behind the totals referred to by historians by about two-thirds.

Yet there is still a sort of unspoken gag rule about the events in 1930s Spain, which the bishops made every effort to lift, particularly with the collective letter addressed to their fellow Catholics in the world at large on July 1, 1937, a year after the uprising. Signed by almost all of the bishops still living in their dioceses at the time, and approved by Rome, the letter is a plea for help in getting the truth out to the world, a truth that may be of help in sorting out some of the otherwise inexplicable events of today as well.

Echoing the words of Pius XI's *Divini Redemptoris*, which described communism as "intrinsically perverse," the Spanish bishops tell a story entirely different from those handed down by the mainstream. The main thrust of the letter is what one hardly ever reads anywhere, and certainly not in school books: an indictment of the stealthy communist penetration into the public arena, heavily financed by the U.S.S.R. for years before the Nationalists ever reacted by seeking help from the dictators of Italy and Germany.

“On July 18, 1936, the military revolt took place,” wrote the bishops, “and the war which is still ongoing broke out. But be it noted, first, that the military revolt was not produced, from its beginnings, without the collaboration of the sound element among the people, which joined the Movement in great numbers, and it can therefore be qualified as a civic-military movement.”

This was because the massacres did not begin in 1936, as a result of the conflict between, on the one hand, the left-wing parties that had “won” the elections and, on the other hand, their nationalist opponents — but much earlier, out of an unprecedentedly brutal religious persecution carried out by well-trained communists, anarchists and socialists, who were determined to wipe out the Catholic Church in its entirety.

Elected to office in 1931, the leftist factions, under the common name of republicans, once having done away with the monarchy, immediately created a climate of anti-Catholic hatred which culminated in the burning down of churches and the cold-blooded murder of countless priests, bishops, nuns, seminarians and laity.

The evidence they left behind is abundant. Not only was there no attempt to conceal it, there was not even a way of failing to see it: the *rojos* displayed their cynical brutality to the point of exhibiting the corpses they dug up in the cemeteries they desecrated, aiming to demonstrate that even religious people die and stay dead.

In those years, the left worked on corroding social relationships, emptying out the economy, weakening the police forces, and then filling the void with ideas meant to support and perpetuate the revolution.

The bishops wrote that the “political regime of democratic freedom was unsettled through arbitrary actions on the part of the authorities, of the State and through government connivance, which overrode the will of the people,” up to the point when, “at the parliamentary elections of February 1936, despite a majority of more than half a million votes over the Left, the Right had 118 fewer deputies than the Popular Front, because the votes of entire provinces had been canceled at will, thus corrupting at its source the legitimacy of Parliament.”

At the same time: “(A)nother powerful people, Russia, was combining with the communists of Spain, by means of the theatre and the cinema, through the introduction of foreign ways and customs, through intellectual trickery and material bribery, and preparing the people’s spirit for the breaking out of a revolution which could be predicted with almost exact precision.”

In particular, “on the 27th of February 1936, immediately after the triumph of the Popular Front, Russia’s Komintern decreed the outbreak of the Spanish rebellion and funded it with extraordinary sums of money. On the 1st of May hundreds of young people in Madrid publicly amassed “bombs and guns, powder and dynamite for the coming revolution.” On the 16th of that same month, there was a meeting between the envoys from the U.S.S.R. with the Spanish delegates from the Third International at the “People’s House” in Valencia, where it was determined, in the ninth of their agreements, to entrust No. 25 of the Madrid “Radios” Committees, together with the policemen on duty, with the task of *the elimination* of the political and military personages destined to play an important role in the counter-revolution. Meanwhile, from Madrid to the remotest of the villages, the revolutionary militias were receiving military training and were so abundantly armed that, when the war began, they numbered 150,000 shock troops and 100,000 reserves.

To prove their contention that “the massacre of people and things by the communist revolution was premeditated,” the bishops also specified that “79 specialized agitators had arrived from

Russia shortly before the uprising. In those very same days the National Commission of Marxist Unification ordered revolutionary militias to be set up in every country. The destruction of the churches, or at least of their furniture, was systematic and in set sequence. In a matter of a month all of the churches had been rendered of no use for public worship."

The unequivocal proof that such an immense devastation was premeditated "are the terrifying numbers. Although the estimates are not final as of yet, we can safely say that about 20,000 churches have been destroyed or totally ransacked. The priests who have been put to death, even just limiting the count to the secular clergy, amount to about six thousand. They even set the dogs on them, hunting them down all the way up into the mountains; they were hunted down savagely into every possible hiding place. Most of the times they were killed without any trial, with no charges held against them except for their very social mission."

"Many had their limbs cut off, or were mutilated before being killed; they had their eyes gouged out, their tongue cut off, or they were shot at from a dominant position, others were burned or buried alive, or hacked to death with an axe. The utmost ferocity was used against the ministers of God. Women were violated, showing no respect even for the ones who had consecrated themselves to God. Tombs and cemeteries were desecrated. This work of destruction was carried out with the battle cry 'Long live Russia!', under the banner of international communism..."

To those who claimed that if only Francisco Franco had refrained from leading the uprising, the thousands upon thousands of religious clergy and laity would not have died but could have continued their service to the church, the bishops' reply is that "the truth is exactly the opposite: the detailed plan aiming to carry out a Marxist revolution, which would have broken out all over the world if it hadn't been prevented in a large measure by the military-civic movement, was preordained for the following purposes: to exterminate the Catholic Clergy and the most qualified Catholic right-wing men, to sovietize all the industries and to install communism." This was also openly admitted to on the radio, in January of that year, by one of the leaders of the anarchists: "We must tell it the way it is; the armed forces preceded us in order to prevent us from succeeding in unleashing the revolution."

The worldwide disinformation campaign, financed directly by Moscow, used the classical subversion technique of the left: blaming the tragedy on the victim, i.e. placing the Catholic Church in the defendant's docket, so that, after having completely destroyed her material presence, they might succeed in annihilating her reputation as well.

Hence among the mistakes to be rectified are also slanders directly aimed at the Church. For example: "The Church has been accused of defending itself against a people's movement, transforming her churches into fortresses, and thus leading to the massacre of clergy and the ruin of the churches. We deny this. The attack on the churches was sudden, almost simultaneous in all regions, and coincided with the butchery of priests. The churches were burned because they were the houses of God and the clergy were sacrificed because they were the Ministers of God."

Besides, "We are asked from abroad to say whether it is true that the Church in Spain owned one-third of the national territory and that the people have revolted in order to free themselves from her oppression. The Church did not possess more than a few and insignificant portions of land, presbyteries and schools, and even of this the State had recently taken possession. All that the Church possesses in Spain would not cover a quarter of her needs, and is devoted to the most sacred obligations."

Alessandra Nucci

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A Collection of Interesting, Important, and Controversial Perspectives Largely Excluded from the American Mainstream Media

Trump Has Destroyed His Presidency

With this evil, monumentally stupid war for Israel

KEVIN BARRETT • AUGUST 3, 2026 • 500 WORDS • 21 COMMENTS

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Press TV interview Monday, Aug. 3

Excerpt:

Kevin Barrett: The higher gas prices, and the economic slowdown, which everybody kind of vaguely senses, is going to get a lot worse, as I mentioned earlier, because of the effect gradually going through the pipeline. That's turned the political discussion now very strongly in an anti-Trump direction. Trump's polling now is worse than any other president in modern history since polling began. Bush Jr. had the world record for the worst polling, the most unfavorable rating of any U.S. president, after his failed policies in Afghanistan and Iraq. But now Trump has broken that record by a substantial margin.

This war was the most unpopular war at its beginning ever fought in American history since polls have been taken, and it's gotten even less and less popular ever since.

So Trump is facing a catastrophic situation right now as he goes into the November elections that could bring a Democratic majority into the American Congress on the back of this economic disruption. And that Democratic majority very likely will investigate some of the things that the other guest was very perceptively talking about.

Trump's corruption is just off the charts. American presidents have been corrupt before, but Trump has taken it to a new level by orders of magnitude. As the guest said, Trump has issued blood-curdling threats that made it look like we're on the brink of World War III—and he always does that at the end of the trading week.

And then on Monday, he says he's been talking to his imaginary Iranian friends. He calms the markets. The markets then become extremely unrealistically optimistic.

And this up and down in the markets can be played, and huge amounts of money can be made with put options. Trump has various ways of gambling on what the markets are going to do, and Trump has the insider knowledge of what the markets are going to do because he knows which weekend he's going to issue his threats, and how hard he's going to walk it back on Monday.

And then as we heard from the other guest, he's actually selling insider information on Truth Social!

So when the Democrats take back the Congress, they're going to have an easy time putting Trump in prison. They had a harder time putting him in prison before, between his two terms. But this time it's going to be easy.

So that's why he's caught between the rock and hard place, and he has no good options. If he goes ahead and gets out of the war, the only way to do that is to honor the MOU, basically surrender to Iran. That's not going to look too good politically. And the Zionists who dominate the American political system will throw money at his opponents and harm him. But if he doesn't, then things just keep getting worse the way they've been getting worse for him over the past several months.

So he's destroyed his presidency with this evil and strategically monumentally stupid war on Iran.

ON A JOURNEY FROM ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS to Door County, Wisconsin in the summer of 1983, my family and I stopped at a museum in Ripon, which is the home of a small college and one of the two birthplaces of the GOP (the other one being Jackson, Michigan). The museum housed Republican memorabilia; and in one cluttered corner were newspaper clippings and campaign paraphernalia relating to the career of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (1908-1957), who hailed from Appleton, about 25 miles northeast of Ripon. The curator looked embarrassed as I examined the collection of material in the McCarthy exhibit, and particularly when I noticed the bouquet of flowers set above it. "They just keep sending them," he explained with noticeable embarrassment. "We can't send them back."

My response may have shocked the speaker. Instead of sharing his discomfort, I complimented him for honoring someone who had been the victim of historical misrepresentation. This exchange transpired several decades before M. Stanton Evans brought out his exhaustively researched *Blacklisted by History* in 2007, a study that proves (at least to my satisfaction) that most of McCarthy's "witch trials" were investigations of people with very unsavory leftist associations that in many cases indeed led back to the Soviets.

But already many years before reading Evans, I thought McCarthy was a far more defensible figure than his leftist and neoconservative critics wish us to believe. As a young person, I already digested the defense of his Senate investigations, *McCarthy and His Enemies*, published by William F. Buckley and L. Brent Bozell in 1954; and I became convinced that something like McCarthy's investigations were necessary to reveal the extent of Communist infiltration of the American government during the World War II.

That was when the Soviets were our less than trustworthy allies. Their agents had actively infiltrated the U.S. government, as Sean McMeekin reminds us in *Stalin's War*, the opening of the Venona Files showed, and the Army's decrypted messages Soviet espionage activities during World War II confirm. At that time, many U.S. government employees were busily advancing the interests of their Soviet masters, a problem that our scribbling class has generally declined to recognize. Yes, the Truman administration had begun to remove the more obvious of those agents during the beginning stages of the Cold War, but it did so under the prodding of hardline anti-Communists, including those in the Democratic Party, like Truman's estimable Secretary of Defense, James V. Forrestal.

The junior senator from Wisconsin, who was a World War II veteran, was perfectly justified in using his political position to pursue an investigation of Communist subversion. Contrary to what much of the American left still believes, there was nothing sinister about fighting communism as an ideology or resisting Soviet imperialism. Among the evils of the last century, Communist rule claimed even more lives than Nazism. Although the 100 million figure sometimes given for the deaths caused by Communist tyrants may be overstated, we may assume that the real number was many times higher than that of those who died from Christian intolerance or from living under regimes that the left is now zealously denouncing.

Although there were undoubtedly innocent leftists who were affected by the anti-Communist mood that swept this country in the late 1940s and early 1950s, most of our academic institutions, national newspapers and certainly our cultural industry remained securely in the hands of anti-McCarthyites. In comparison to what the woke left has done in the last 30 years to transform Western societies and the crusade it has successfully waged from a position of power throughout the Western world, "McCarthyism" seems to have been a very minor threat to our constitutional freedoms.

In fact, it's supposed horrors have been inflated for decades to justify the left's suppression of dissent and accelerating discrimination against mainstream Americans. The anti-Communist "crusade" of the early 1950s pales in comparison to the never-ending Red Terror that our ruling class has unleashed, one that touches every corner of our society in the forms of cancel culture, government surveillance, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Joseph Raymond McCarthy was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1908 to an Irish-German farm family. Although he worked his way up to becoming a lawyer and then circuit judge in 1940, two years later he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served with distinction. In 1946, the returned veteran unexpectedly won a primary as the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate against the incumbent Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Jr. This victory was achieved against the scion of a famous Progressive Republican Wisconsin family; McCarthy's war record helped him win. McCarthy was reelected in 1952, by which time he had become famous as an anti-Communist crusader.

McCarthy first gained prominence in this role in February 1950, in a Lincoln Day speech delivered in Wheeling, West Virginia. In that now-demonized oration, the senator held up a pa-

per with the names of 57 people who had been in government service and who the speaker identified as Communist agents. Most of those names had already been collected by the FBI, and some of them had been classified as security risks. While naming these names did not yield any shocking revelation, pretending they were all victims of an anti-Communist witch hunt is pure nonsense. McCarthy did ride anti-Communism at least partly as a career move, but those whom he exposed were rarely the harmless victims that his enemies want us to imagine.

After his reelection in 1952, McCarthy obtained the chairmanship of the Senate's Committee on Government Operations and its permanent subcommittee on investigations. For the next two years, he used his chairmanship to investigate those in high places whom he suspected of having Communist associations. Although McCarthy allegedly failed to make a plausible case against anyone he investigated, this assessment depends on dismissing certain compelling evidence of Communist affiliation, a practice that McCarthy's critics continue to pursue.

Leftist organizations like the National Lawyers Guild, which Wikipedia assures us is a fine "progressive organization," were in fact particularly susceptible to Communist infiltration. In the early 1950s, it was entirely reasonable to assume that their members included those who were actively promoting Communist causes and who in some cases were working, knowingly or not, as Soviet agents. It would have been counterproductive for the Soviets to recruit the actual members of the Communist Party USA for espionage and public relations purposes. The sympathies of these activists were too obvious, and the U.S. government already had party members under surveillance.

By 1954, however, McCarthy's focus had become too broad. By then his sweeping, imprecise accusations were reducing his credibility. Accusing the very popular Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower of not paying sufficient attention to Communist infiltrators and making unwarranted charges against Truman's Secretary of State General George Marshall, did not represent the senator's finest moments. A marathon 36-day hearing on Communist subversion of the U.S. military also put the committee chairman in a bad light. As M. Stanton Evans has proved, however, McCarthy's charges during the hearings, that Fort Monmouth in New Jersey was honeycombed with Communist agents, turned out to be correct.

A serious drinking problem may have led to some of McCarthy's more reckless verbal indiscretions and ultimately to his downfall. In December 1954, the Senate voted to censure him for conduct "contrary to Senate tradition." Thereafter, the

Wisconsin senator was ignored by his political colleagues, including members of his own party. He died in 1958, without having completed his second term in the Senate. Presumably his public disgrace contributed to his worsening drinking habit and eventually to the total breakdown of his health.

A surprisingly balanced assessment of McCarthy's career can be found in Arthur Herman's *Reexamining the Life and Legacy of America's Most Hated Senator* (1999). Since Herman has enjoyed the steady esteem of neoconservative critics and even liberal ones, his judgments cannot possibly be seen as driven by far-right politics. On the basis of extensive archival research, Herman showed that the Truman government faced a "massive and intractable security problem." McCarthy addressed that problem but "made good points badly," Herman wrote. McCarthy's critical treatment of Communist front organizations was entirely proper because in the Anglophone world, the Soviet spy system operated through seemingly innocuous groups of leftist idealists who were open to Communist control.

The turning point in McCarthy's fortunes is popularly depicted in his 1954 questioning of Joseph Welch, an attorney who was hired to defend the military against his accusations. Welch fired back with the memorable line, "Have you no sense of decency?" But Welch *did* belong to a Communist front organization, whatever else McCarthy's critics might argue. Let us imagine that a critic of FDR's government who was being investigated by Congress belonged to the German American Bund during World War II. Would that association have been treated as inconsequential?

One of McCarthy's targets, an older black woman, Annie Lee Moss, an army coder whom McCarthy accused of being a Communist agent, turned out hardly to be an innocent victim. She was in fact a registered member of the Communist Party who worked in a government security position. Again, we may be struck by how infrequently this fact comes up in the left's account of the McCarthy era.

Although the diplomat to China John Stewart Service was named by McCarthy without sufficient evidence as a "card-carrying Communist Party member," there's no doubt that Service was an eager propagandist for the Communist insurgents who were then taking over China. He and another fellow traveler in the foreign service, Philip Jaffe, devoted enormous energy to spreading Communist propaganda in Asia through a government-funded magazine, *Amerasia*. Given Service's political statements, the left is guilty of staggering mendacity when it describes him as victim of McCarthyism. Service had been exposed even before McCarthy came on the scene.

Another American diplomat to China, Owen Lattimore, may not have been quite the Communist agent that McCarthy described. But the attempt of mainstream history sources to treat Lattimore as a dispassionate scholar of Chinese history whose career was upended by McCarthyite demagoguery is utter nonsense. Lattimore spent many years as a mouthpiece for the Chinese Communist cause and worked to get the American government to back Mao's side in the Chinese civil war. McCarthy may have been rhetorically imprecise in describing the enemy, but his perception that Service and Lattimore were backing China's Communist totalitarians and mass killers was perfectly correct.

This brings me to two observations bearing on the ever more exaggerated attacks on McCarthy and McCarthyism. On the basis of the political reality provided by our media and "educators," no Communist ever infiltrated anything in America. These were supposedly just empty charges made by nasty anti-Semites, homophobes, and white nationalists. Yet anyone even a millimeter to the right of America's mainstream left is still being attacked as a "fascist" or worse.

The second observation concerns the widespread sympathy on the left for Communists and Communist governments, which I've been noticing for many decades. Admittedly there were anti-Soviet social democrats and Cold War liberals, and some of them became American and European political leaders who opposed Soviet expansion. But this hardly contradicts my impression that most of the "progressive" intellectuals and journalists I've known were squishy soft on the Communists, and this attitude usually expressed itself in the familiar form of anti-anti-Communism. For these people, McCarthy held a special place of infamy, certainly well above Stalin and Mao and perhaps even as high as that of Hitler.

This strengthened my view of McCarthy as a flawed hero but a hero, nonetheless. He was a precursor of others who have since challenged our increasingly leftist ruling class, even if, like Trump, McCarthy was often inept in the battles he waged. Even more importantly, his crusade brought together a right that is still around. An American right took shape in the 1950s, to which paleoconservatives have at least a derivative relationship. This right defended McCarthyism, if not always McCarthy himself. Its partisans viewed their pro-Communist opponents with understandable



alarm and believed that McCarthy's spotlighting of this problem revealed a deep moral and spiritual crisis.

The late Willi Schlamm, an Austrian American journalist and close friend of William F. Buckley, always distinguished between slavishly defending McCarthy's every accusation and recognizing what the senator exposed about internal dangers and a changing American character. Irving Kristol may have put this matter best. "For there is one thing," Kristol wrote in *Commentary* in 1952, "that the American people know about Senator McCarthy: He, like them, is unequivocally anti-Communist. About the spokesman for American liberalism, they feel they know no such thing."

The raging anti-McCarthyites are still around and more hysterical and malicious than ever. And they have traveled from anti-anti-Communism to even more bizarre forms of the left that managed to incorporate their older orientation. Without feeling obliged to defend every detail of every charge that the late senator leveled, any more than did Russell Kirk or Whittaker Chambers, we recognize that McCarthy fought a fight that continues down to the present. For that reason, he remains relevant for our struggles.

It is not at all surprising that *Encyclopedia Britannica* has now posted an entry on the supposedly incalculable harm that McCarthy inflicted on the LGBTQ community. We may look forward to another entry on how McCarthy delayed full recognition of biological males competing in women's sports.

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HIROSHIMA 81: SCOTT RITTER — Let It Remind Us

August 6, 2026

By allowing the U.S. nuclear posture to shift away from deterrence toward warfighting, all we guarantee is that eventually there will be a warfighting scenario that uses nuclear weapons. And then we all die.



The United States is currently in the process of redesigning its nuclear posture to make the employment of tactical nuclear weapons during the early stages of conflict official doctrine. This is a bad idea.

Today is the 81st anniversary of the U.S. atomic attack on Hiroshima. Let Hiroshima be the reminder of just how bad of an idea this is.

Almost two years to the day, *Consortium News* published an article I authored entitled, “On a Highway to Hell.” In this article I warned about the dangers that arise when the United States changes its nuclear posture away from a purely defensive character to one where the precepts of nuclear preemption are openly espoused.

I also noted that the dangers inherent in this transition were exponentially increased in a world void of the constraints of meaningful arms control.

I wrote at the time:

“By allowing the U.S. nuclear posture to shift away from deterrence toward warfighting, all we guarantee is that eventually there will be a warfighting scenario where the U.S. will end up using nuclear weapons. And then we all die. We are, literally, on a ‘Highway to Hell.’”

Today, on the 81st anniversary of America dropping an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, it is critical that we collectively revisit this issue.

At the time I wrote that piece, we lived in a world populated by certain assumptions, number one being that the United States possessed sufficient conventional military power to forestall the temptation of nuclear pre-emption at the tactical levels of conflict.

In short, the United States could — as it had done nearly continuously since the end of the Second World War — initiate a conventional war with the nations of the world and, even though it might suffer a political defeat (i.e., Vietnam and Afghanistan), it would retain sufficient conventional military power to forestall the consequences of an existential military defeat.

As such, when one spoke of nuclear war, one spoke in terms of great power conflict — between the United States and Russia or China.

Even if such a conflict was to break out, it was always hoped that the consequences of any such potentially existential engagement would be so horrific that rational actors on both sides of the conflict would seek to limit the scope and scale of the engagement, avoiding the almost certain fatal results of escalation.

Arms Control Is Dead

Two years ago, one also had the façade of arms control, a corroded framework of agreements which, while faltering, at least offered the prospect of hope in so far as one could envision new life being breathed into an old concept, driven by the urgency of the moment.

Today we are confronted by two harsh realities.

First, arms control is dead. There are no more legacy treaties in place upon which we could pin some sort of false hope for rational behavior on the part of our collective leadership.

Moreover, there appears to be zero proclivity on the part of the world's declared nuclear powers to reengage on the matter — the era of civilized nations seeking to reign in the basest consequences of technological development has ended. We have seemed to embrace the utility of nuclear war, without honestly acknowledging the consequences of such.

Let Hiroshima be the reminder.

Second, the era of American conventional military dominance is over. The failed war with Iran has driven this point home. Today the United States is forced to confront the reality that the **military machine** it built over the course of the past 35 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union — at great expense in terms of treasury and effort — is a literal Maginot Line, an overpriced edifice to a type of warfare that no longer exists.

The U.S. built a military premised on the notion of “shock and awe,” a technology-driven dinosaur intended to intimidate, not dominate. A literal flash in the pan.

All Iran had to do was wait us out.

To build a system capable of absorbing the destructive power of a self-limited “superpower” and hold on until the expensive machine of war so carefully created by American defense industrialists to maximize profit over performance ran out of steam.

Or to be precise, ran out of ammunition.

In order to sustain the façade of military viability, American war planners, driven by the narcissistic urges of a man who placed sustenance of his cult of personality over the welfare of the nation he led, stripped bare the warfighting capabilities of U.S. forces in the Pacific (confronting China) and Europe (confronting Russia).

“The era of civilized nations seeking to reign in the basest consequences of technological development has ended.”

Today the United States is confronted by the reality that not only can it not sustain viable conventional military operations against Iran, but it is incapable of projecting any meaningful conventional military force against a prospective Chinese or Russian military threat.

This at a time when U.S. policy leads us toward the probability of conflict with China over Taiwan, and the possibility of direct conflict with Russia over Ukraine.

Faced with the inevitability of conventional military defeat in either of these scenarios, the administration of President Donald Trump has undertaken a review of U.S. nuclear posture with an eye toward making it easier for the United States to employ tactical nuclear weapons in the early phases of any future war with either Russia or China.

This is, of course, the exact opposite direction one should be taking under the current conditions.

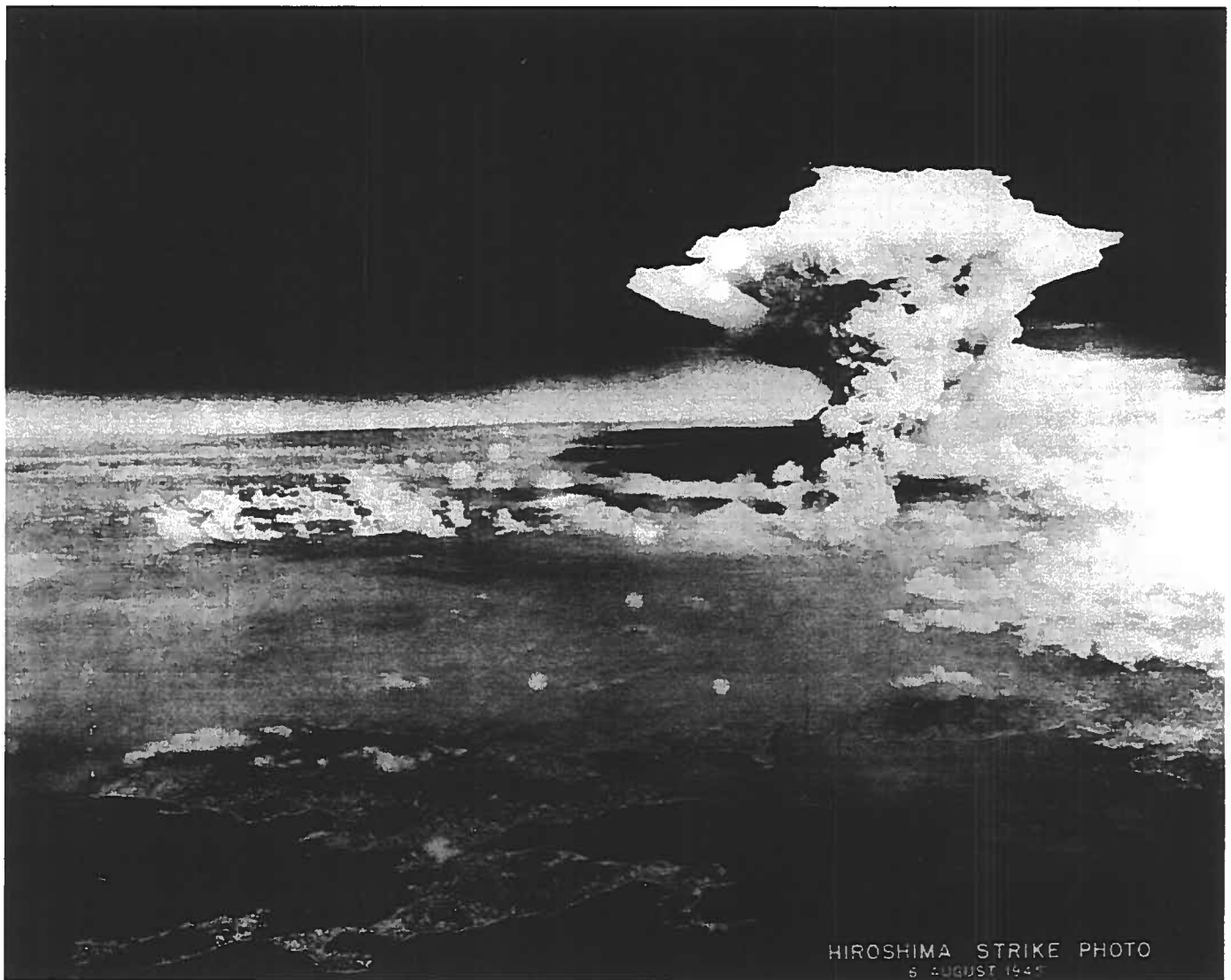
Let Hiroshima be the reminder.

There is no greater need than the present moment for the soothing balm of nuclear arms control. The fact that the United States has willfully embarked on a Highway to Hell condemns the rest of the world — especially Russia and China — to join us.

If the great minds of America seem impervious to the inevitability of nuclear Armageddon, blinded as they are by the consequences of a failing Empire and a desire to hold on to power regardless of the consequence, then the source of new and novel thinking regarding arms control must come from elsewhere — from Russia and China.

Because there will be no victors in a nuclear war. The destination that the Highway to Hell arrives at will result in global catastrophe. Let Hiroshima remind us.

Scott Ritter is a former U.S. Marine Corps intelligence officer who served in the former Soviet Union implementing arms control treaties, in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm and in Iraq overseeing the disarmament of WMD. His most recent book is *Highway to Hell*, published by Clarity Press.



The pyrocumulonimbus cloud over Hiroshima around noon, Aug. 6, 1945, some four hours after the Little Boy bomb was dropped. (U.S. Military photo)

For "community" (except as it is freely created by free individual persons), community conceived as a principle of social order prior and superior to the individual person, can justify any oppression of individual persons so long as it is carried out in the name of "community" or society or of its agent, the state.

— Frank S. Meyer, *In Defense of Freedom* [1962]