

# ZEITGEIST

"THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES"

WINTER EDITION - 2020

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# **AN ADDRESS FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF, LUIS BREA '23**

**THIS ZEITGEIST EDITION IS DEDICATED TO THE GROUP'S PAST. AS POLITICAL AWARENESS LOOKS TOWARDS THE BRIGHT FUTURE, LET US NOT FORGET THE 40-YEAR OLD FOUNDATION WE STAND ON.**

**THE FAIRFIELD PREP STUDENT BODY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POLITICALLY AWARE ONE. NO MATTER HOW NEW YOU ARE TO POLITICS, THE DOORS OF B401 ARE ALWAYS OPEN.**

**TO JOIN, EMAIL ME AT [P23LBREA@FAIRIFELDPREP.ORG](mailto:P23LBREA@FAIRIFELDPREP.ORG)**



# THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO GEORGIA

BY: JOSEPH ALTIERI

Self acclaimed “Grim Reaper” Mitch McConnell— Senate majority leader— can pride himself in being a man of his word— at any rate when it comes to burying legislation in the ground. The Senator from Kentucky has kept his promise, as since 2016 the remains of more than two hundred and fifty bills passed by the Democratic-held House of Representatives rot in the Senate’s backyard-turned-graveyard. To be fair to Senator McConnell, though, not all of these were bluntly blocked, and indeed many of the aforesaid bills were debated by committees and on the Senate floor itself.



*Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R)*

But without getting too deep into the whithertos and the whyfors— that never goes very well— what is apparent is that things might take a sharp turn, and that it is very much a possibility that the Donkeys will outweigh the Elephants for the next two years— democracy, after all, can be an odd scale. Democrats hold the House of Representatives, they will hold the White House come January, and they only need two seats in the Senate to gain a dead-tie in the upper House of Congress, which Vice President Harris will break in their favor. It all

stands on the brink of Georgia— a State which already went blue in the presidential election.



*The Flag of Georgia*

Incumbent Republican Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler are running against Democratic challengers Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. The race will end on January 5th, with elections set for that same day. Vice President Pence made a trip down to Georgia, and participated at a rally to support the GOP’s candidates and promote their re-election. Democratic candidate in Georgia’s 2018 gubernatorial race, Stacey Abrams, on the other hand, is raising funds and participating in rallies herself to ensure a Democratic win in the current crucial senatorial runoffs.

Both parties have been spending millions of dollars securing ad-space on local Georgia tv-networks, billboards and all other extravaganza, the utility of which is at times highly doubtful. Rallies, dollars, ads, and frenetic campaigning will be at the order of the day for some time— but why?



# THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO GEORGIA

BY: JOSEPH ALTIERI



*Republican incumbents David Perdue (R) and Kelly Loeffler (R)*

Well, no less than the stability and ability to act both of the Republican Party and of the next administration depend on this race— so there's that. Even before diving into the potential passing of legislation, the ability of president elect Joe Biden to nominate appointees to circuit courts, to the Supreme Court, to serve as ambassadors or as members of his cabinet depend on the Senate. Now, one would hope that in a functional, healthy republic, legislative bodies would discharge their duties with the well-being and interest of the governed at heart, but the recent history of this Senate isn't one of making things easy for the Democratic Party.

Blaming everyone who is at fault, in a system in which finding someone who isn't is hard, though, will not and cannot solve anything. Can the man whose views and "beliefs"

fluctuate like the wind— the very man who presided at Judge Bork's Supreme Court appointment hearing— complain with a straight face about members of a political party acting in their own self interest? Can Democratic Senators complain about Republican Senators being derelict in their duties, when they themselves spent the better part of the last two months attempting to prevent the appointment of a well-respected, well-qualified judge to the Supreme Court because of nothing other than a fear of personal repercussion?



*Senator Joe Biden (D) and Ted Kennedy (D) at Clarence Thomas's confirmation hearing*

Pointing fingers only points out how great the problem at hand is. None can "scape whipping", as it were— but that is the very problem. That there is such a thing as politics, that polity is essential to the life and prosperity of a people as water is to that of a man, and that it works as it has always worked, is evident and indisputable. But how much more can the Democratic and Republican parties break the trust of the American people? How much more harm can they inflict upon our nation? Has political realignment not always been the preferred



# THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO GEORGIA

BY: JOSEPH ALTIERI

course throughout history, in response to repeated injuries, breaks of the public trust, conspiracy and corruption?

The history of every successful political party has been one of rise and demise. When will the current parties fall?— That is largely up to the American people but, for the moment, it also appears to be children’s talk. The reality, today, is that the future of American politics and of the American people— nothing less— depend on the ballots cast by the people of Georgia. For now, we can only wait and see.



*Democratic challengers Raphael Warnock (D) and Jon Ossoff (D)*





# DEMOCRATS: THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE

BY: LUIS BREA

On the night of the election and for the next couple of weeks, something horrible happened. No, not voter fraud, although Rudy Giuliani would persist in emphatically claiming so later on. But, while Biden was clearly the presumptive nominee at the time, there was a severe miscalculation by the DNC (Democratic National Committee) which could have catastrophic long term effects.

I have no issues with liberal policies, and it appears that the average American doesn't either: 82% of Americans believe that wealthy people have too much power and influence in Washington, 61% approve of labor unions [1], 58% are pro-choice [2], 66% support a higher federal minimum wage (\$10.10) [3], and 64% are in support of an expansion of medicare in their state. [4] This sampling of opinions demonstrates that beliefs on policy are not the only factors dictating Americans' votes; rather, what is preventing so many Americans from voting blue is the DNC itself.



*Joe Biden and Kamala Harris celebrate their election win at public event. During this event, Joe Biden pledged to mend the nation's divides*

While many celebrated Joe Biden's election to the presidency, the Democratic Party

should not see this election win as a "get out of jail free pass" for the current operations of the party. For nearly all of recent American politics, the democratic party has been plagued with fatal disconnects between leaders and all their constituents. While Joe Biden won the popular election, this disconnect between the DNC and its voters can in fact be seen more than ever, specifically in rural America.

## Welcome to Flyover Country:

The term "flyover country" has been coined to describe the area of middle America devoid of much development.[5] In this past election, flyover country voted in droves for the President, several points beyond previous projections. This wave of votes was cast despite a campaign filled with scandal and dangerous rhetoric. If I had to describe the rationale of middle America to vote for Donald Trump in just one word, it would have to be "desperation". Voters in rural America felt forgotten by a rapidly modernizing east coast, and were desperate for any acknowledgment and representation in Washington.

Donald Trump caught onto this desperation, and made himself out to be the populist choice through all of his political moves. He spoke at a 4th grade level to appear more accessible. He railed against NAFTA and other policies which the GOP had previously supported. He presented the east coast and immigrants as scapegoats, and pledged to "drain the swamp" and "build a wall" to keep both out. As a result, for months on end Trump dominated the news cycle with his



# DEMOCRATS: THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE

BY: LUIS BREA

his pseudo-populist speeches. While Trump is an Ivy League educated [6] trust fund baby [7], his message stuck.



*U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters during a news conference on September 27, 2020 after news broke that he only paid \$750 in federal taxes.*

Joe Biden, current President-elect, caught onto this dynamic, and attempted to use it to his advantage. He placed his plan for rural America as a helpful tab on his campaign website, called out Trump's tax plan which disproportionately benefited the rich elite, and visited rural areas frequently for stump speeches. Despite his efforts, the results point towards little progress in rural America. Further, elitist claims towards the DNC were only made worse at the surfacing of Pete Buttigieg's wine cellar fundraisers while he ran to be the democratic nominee. While Joe Biden's efforts to broaden the democratic base were notable, they were simply not enough, as the election was decided almost exclusively on rural/urban lines.[7]

## The Game Plan:

To truly resonate with Middle America, Biden needs to put tangible policies on the table to guarantee its modernization. In the short

term, the best way to do this would be to send reasonable stimulus checks to all Americans at a certain income point. This would allow for stricter coronavirus mandates to take place, without economically ruining the average American who cannot work in the process. These stricter mandates would hopefully contain the virus, and demonstrate the efficacy of Biden's cool headed leadership tactics.

In the long term, Biden needs to adopt Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio Cortez's high speed railway plan, as laid out in her "Green New Deal" bill. [8] This will connect all of America to each other without the need for airlines, whose prices constantly rise because they have no competition. Bringing this idea to light Biden could display the benefits of progressive liberal politics from which middle America could directly gain. Even more, the Green New Deal should be paired with a more equitable marginal tax rate system [9], ensuring the rich to pay their fair share in taxes.



*Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York (D) and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts (D) announcing the Green New Deal on Feb. 7.*



# DEMOCRATS: THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE

BY: LUIS BREA

While rural areas remain red, close campaigns in historically republican districts demonstrate some progress. In 2018, Beto O' Rourke proved that Ted Cruz's could be toppled in Texas. Also in 2018, Stacy Adams nearly took over the Georgia gubernatorial seat. Currently, Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock are fighting for Georgia's Senate seats to even greater success. The only way to shake off the elitist stigma of the democratic party is to enact change that benefits *all* citizens.

The only way to shake off the elitist stigma of the democratic party is to enact change that benefits *all* citizens. While the Green New Deal and a stronger coronavirus response are just two examples of reform, they have the potential to signal to voters that a new DNC is in down. Not one that shudders away from progress in the name of misguided moderation, but one that knows that change and progressive politics is exactly what this country needs.





# IS AMERICA THE GREATEST COUNTRY?

BY: VINCENT BORDASH

America has been long known for being the greatest country and its pride from the American people. But what makes America claim that title is its focus on liberty. Liberty is what keeps our freedoms, liberty is what protects our nation, liberty is what defines us. What makes liberty so special is also the same reason why it is difficult to agree on. Since it allows us to be free in our choices it also leads to different views of what it should be. This is why it has changed throughout US history, from ten years ago, to when the constitution was created. But what has been unchanged since its creation is limited power on the government and ultimate power in the people.



*Side shot the United States Capital Building, Washington D.C.*

Liberty does come with a cost, which is that it attracts those who want to tear it down for personal gain. Whether it be external or internal forces, thick and thin, our liberty has lasted. But that has only been possible through the expert and intricate creation of our constitution, protecting the liberty of the people. What the constitution protects us

from is the formation of a tyrannical government and foreign attackers, but what needs to be done to stop those threats can limit individual liberty.

But the constitution does not stop individual liberty, it only limits it to keep the common good. What the constitution does to stop tyrannical governments from gaining power in America is by heavily restricting the powers of government through the Bill of Rights which states what rights cannot be broken in any circumstance. The constitution also uses checks and balances to stop any branch of government from altering the constitution to remove any liberties of the people.



*"Books on the Ground" Memorial, Roger Williams Park, Providence RI*

That does not mean that liberties are completely protected, our government needs the military to protect us from foreign invaders so the constitution allows the government to provide for the common defense. This allows them to take taxes and draft for the military which is technically a restriction of liberty for the common good. This also applies to smaller legal implications



# IS AMERICA THE GREATEST COUNTRY?

BY: VINCENT BORDASH

such as unreasonable searches are not allowed but reasonable ones are for the common good.

But this still leaves many liberties and rights that are not covered by the constitution. This is because the government should not be controlling most decisions for the people. That is left up to the people in our democratic vote, voting for politicians to represent our views on rights and liberties. That is what makes America so great compared to other countries, it allows the government to protect the people while

serving the people, not controlling them. While people can collectively choose what they want in their view of liberty.



*Assortment of "I Voted" stickers*



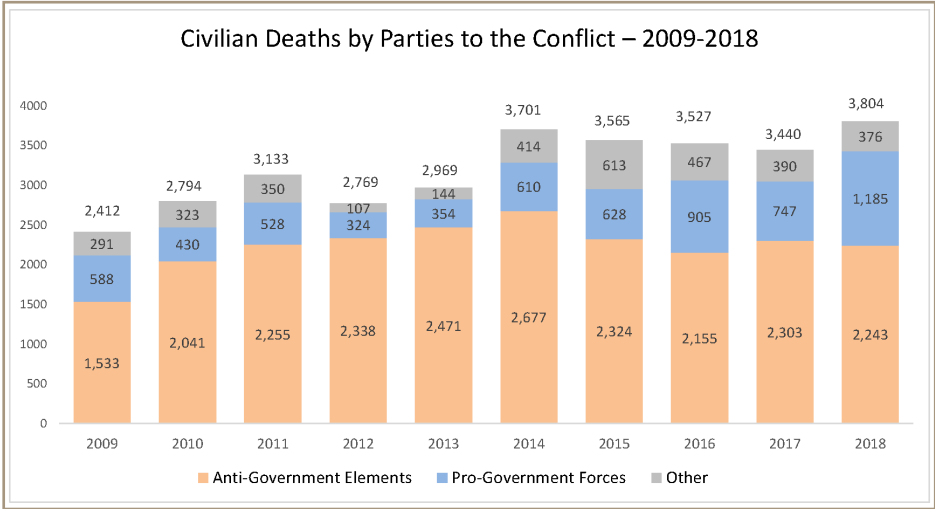


# THE TOLL OF TERRORISM

BY: KYLE ELLIOT

The existence of war has been recorded for nearly 3,400 years. Of those years, only 268 of them, or 8 percent, have been completely without war. At least 108 million people were killed in wars in the twentieth century alone. Even today, the US is still at war, the War on Terror. However, it is not nearly as active and violent as many other major wars the US has participated in. Today, not many people are reminded of this war on a day-to-day basis. Yet, we are all paying for its existence every day. According to the US Department of Defense, the total cost of the military in Afghanistan from October 2001 through September 2019 was roughly \$778 billion. Keep in mind, the funding for defense does not include foreign aid. Since 2017, US military spending has steadily risen, from \$662 billion to \$719 billion in 2020. However, foreign aid given to the Middle East has continued to steadily decrease since 2016. This raises the question: should we be prioritizing strength over assistance?

assistance, relief workers, agricultural training, various other training services, health care, education, infrastructure building, and activities related to peace building . On the defense side, the budget is described by the US Department of Defense as improving military readiness and investing in the modernization of a more lethal force, strengthening alliances, reforming the department, and for, most obviously, paying for the wide variety of equipment needed for combat as well as the salaries of members of the military. However, they both have one key job in common: Counter- Terrorism. Terrorism is undoubtedly a big part of our world in the 21st century. One of the most troubling factors of terrorism is that they do not have a definitive country or region. It spreads through the education of hatred. It will survive as long as there are vulnerable people to accept it. That is why there is no definite solution.



Civilian Deaths by Parties to the Conflict - 2009-2018

It is important to understand what foreign aid covers versus what defense covers. According to USAid, foreign aid covers money, food and supplies, medical



Iraqi protesters rejecting a candidate for the country's premiership suggested by former PM Nouri al-Maliki

However, there are many ways to decrease the spread of this. Similarly to a virus, terrorism needs specific conditions for it to spread. These conditions are desperation



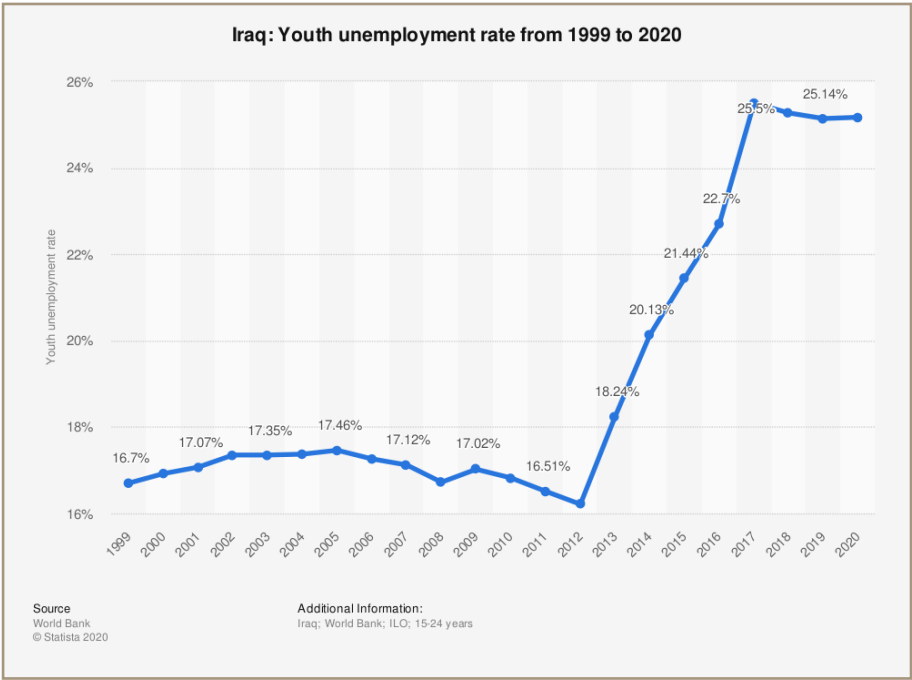
# THE TOLL OF TERRORISM

BY: KYLE ELLIOT

and violent emotions. Consider you were one of these people for just a moment. Consider you were a child in the middle of the chaos and confusion of this war. You were constantly being reminded of this war everywhere you look. The image of guns and military weapons is so prevalent in your life that you see them as normal. On top of this, you were also very poor and the economy is so bad where you live that by the time you need to get a job, it is nearly impossible to do so. In school, you find it impossible to focus because you are constantly worried about surviving. After you have been desensitized and broken down, you now lack a purpose in life. Violence is so common in your life, you become more vulnerable to accepting terrorism.

America or the West. They hate the modern world, and they particularly hate Muslims who are trying to live in the modern world.” The lack of freedom, opportunity, and modernization they feel in their own lives creates this extreme hatred and frustration with those who do have it. Yet, both desperation and anger are only part of the equation of terrorism. There can not be terrorism if there is no terror. A huge part of their strategy is to gain attention from governments as well as their country’s citizens. A vicious cycle is then created between the government and the terrorist groups as the government tries to dismantle the group with force as they continue to fight back and add to the chaos they started.

Despite this, these groups need a reason to justify their actions to gain a constant supply of members. They often do this by claiming to do these terrible acts in the name of rebellion and religion. Other common justifications are economic and political unfairness, as well as the belief that all of the violence and destruction they create will lead to a better world. These arguments are enough for them. As mentioned previously, economic status and the level of violence ingrained in these people’s lives play a big factor in joining these terrorist groups. However, there are several other reasons why some young men are drawn to them. According to the United States Institute of Peace, the main reasons that youth join Al-Qaeda is that they are looking for an outlet for frustration, recognition, a place to belong, or, disturbingly enough, glory. The



*Iraqi Youth Unemployment Rate from 1999 to 2020*

There is another key condition that makes the virus of terrorism so prevalent: A Hatred For America. Although, it is not just America that generates hatred in many Middle-Eastern citizens. To quote columnist Fareed Zakaria, “Islamic terrorists don't just hate



# THE TOLL OF TERRORISM

BY: KYLE ELLIOT

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The main reason why so many young children are recruited is that they are more easily manipulated and teachable. Yet, there is an even more disturbing truth to why so many are becoming involved in terrorism: propaganda. When children are killed, the terrorists blame their deaths on the government to sow discord between the government and its citizens.

If this level of brainwashing and desensitization is so prevalent in terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, why do we continue to focus on combat more than helping those who need it? Since the war began in 2001, US forces have suffered more than 2,000 deaths in Afghanistan alone. In 2019, civilian casualties in the nation had exceeded 10,000 for the sixth straight year. Neta C. Crawford, a Professor of Political Science at Boston University, estimated that more than 64,000 security forces were killed in war zones in Afghanistan and another 48,000-52,000 in Iraq by October 2019. US drone strikes have accidentally killed between 300-909 civilians in Afghanistan and between 424-969 civilians in Pakistan. Even now, it is difficult to see an end in sight to this war, and more and more people are dying every day. Hundreds of innocent people died this October in attacks in Afghanistan. We continue to fight these terrorist organizations but they are still able to grow and grow. Why don't we just cut it off from its source: hate. If our government and the governments of these struggling nations continue to dehumanize the people living in them, how can we expect progress to be

made? What good are bombs and guns if all they do is add to the terror?

Everyone needs a purpose in life. The Afghanistan government estimates that 42 percent of the country's total population lives below the national poverty line. Food insecurity and the lack of a social security net plagues the country. Education continues to suffer as well. Only 28.1% of the entire population over the age of 15 is literate, meaning that 71.9% of adults don't possess basic reading and writing skills. On average, those who are capable of going to school only completed around 8 years, with females normally completing 4 years less than their male counterparts. In addition to this, the sector has suffered from nearly 30 years of natural disasters.

Although foreign aid does not solve all problems, it does cover quite a few important areas. Economic aid is important in job creation and reducing poverty as well as hunger, but this is not always the best solution, because not all terrorist groups struggle financially. Civil Society Aid is known to play a huge role in helping these countries. This is because terrorism is largely predicated on inequality in both political and economic systems. Good governance and civil society aid can reduce terrorism by improving the level of civil rights and liberties in a country, which affects both the participation in and support for terrorism. Just think about the United States. Economic freedom is crucial in the success of so many people that reside here. It gives people hope, a dream they wish to



# THE TOLL OF TERRORISM

BY: KYLE ELLIOT

fulfill - a purpose in life. For many Middle-Easterners, there is no hope. In light of these facts, isn't it time for the US to reconsider this unsustainable trend?





# TRUMP MUST PARDON SNOWDEN & ASSUAGE

BY: JONATHAN LOUW

As we come to the remaining days of the Trump Presidency and approach the new blue period in politics, Trump must pardon Edward Snowden to truly live up to his anti deep state slogan. Edward Snowden is a 37-year-old US citizen, former Intelligence Community officer, and whistleblower. In 2013, Snowden, a contractor with the NSA, leaked documents to journalists that exposed the United States mass surveillance program of Americans' telephone records. After being exposed, he fled immediately to Russia as he was, and still is, facing US espionage charges.



*Edward Snowden, Former Central Intelligence Agency employee and American whistleblower*

## Edward Snowden

Recently, Snowden has entered into the spotlight again in the Twitter world. He has received bipartisan support for his pardon (D- Tulsi Gabbard and R- Matt Gaetz).

Mr President, Since you are giving pardons to people, please consider pardoning those who, at a great personal sacrifice, exposed the deception and criminality of those in the deep state.” That was a tweet by Tulsi a few days ago. She mentioned the fact that Trump has been pardoning people, notably General

Flynn. The young Hawaiian represents a new wave of politicians, who want to end useless wars in the Middle East and safety for whistleblowers like Snowden.



*Tulsi Gabbard, Former United States Representative and candidate for the Presidency*

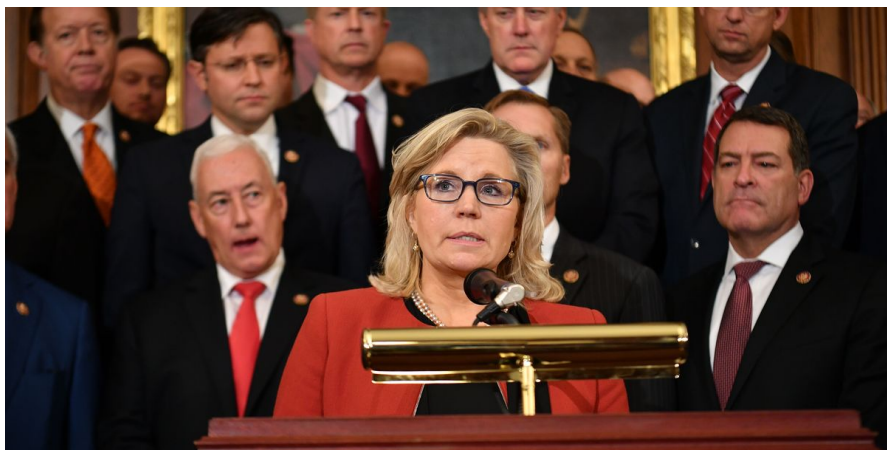
The deep state, however, has not been too thrilled about the Idea of pardoning Snowden. The most notable person to speak out against this is representative Liz Cheney from Wyoming. She is the daughter of Dick Cheney, the former Vice President of George Bush who was responsible for getting the US into useless middle eastern wars. She has carried her father's pro-establishment message during her time as Wyoming representative. Her tweet about Snowden controversy, “Edward Snowden is a traitor. He is responsible for the largest and most damaging release of classified info in US history. He handed over US secrets to Russian and Chinese intelligence putting our troops and our nation at risk. Pardoning him would be unconscionable.” Liz Cheney is one of the remaining dying RINOs in office. The only people that she pleases are other old career politicians and military contractors in a pentagon. She and her father are



# TRUMP MUST PARDON SNOWDEN & ASSUAGE

BY: JONATHAN LOUW

She and her father are responsible for bringing thousands of Americans into the Iraq war, while Snowden has revealed to us that our government is stripping our rights away in surveillance.



*Liz Cheney (R) speaks in front of Congressional Republicans*

## Liz Cheney

Snowden has changed the way we look at mass surveillance. Not only is the government having the ability to listen to our conversations whenever they want is creepy, but it is a violation of our human right to privacy. Snowden exposed these human rights violations and gave up his career, but he's treated as a KBG spy. America needs more people like Snowden who expose the governments' mistreatment and fewer people like Cheney. President Trump has proudly shouted that he wants to “drain the swamp,” meaning to get rid of the unelected bureaucrats in DC. His followers have identified people like Cheney as apart of the “deep state”- politicians who have used the government for many years for their gain.

President Trump must finish his presidency with a bang, and that would be by pardoning Snowden of his charges and letting him come back to the United States. This would not hurt Trump’s legacy, because he profoundly distances himself from people who are Bush-era deep state politicians. There is a low chance of Biden pardoning because Obama didn't, and Biden has presented himself as being the exact as Obama's presidency. Pardoning Snowden would be the equivalent of giving the middle finger to NSA Officials who have been for years spying on our citizens without their consent. It will also allow for more whistleblowers to come forward and reveal more rights we don't know are being stripped away by the government. We must hope Trump will do something about this, during his remaining time in office.



*Donald Trump, Former President of the United States*





# GLOBALISM AND SHIFTING POLITICAL WINDS

BY: SEAN SULLIVAN

Throughout the 2000s and 2010s the domestic policy of both political parties has grown farther and farther apart with much attention being given to this. However, when it comes to foreign policy both parties seem alike in an interventionist method. Whether it be Bush in Iraq and Afghanistan or Obama in Syria, Yemen, and Libya. In terms of trade both parties attempted to seek more favorable trade agreements like the Republicans with NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and the Democrats under Obama's failed trade deal with the EU. These sentiments reflect a globalist attitude toward foreign policy. Both parties were interventionist, cooperative, and active on the world scene, but does the American people still believe in the interventionist world police model? We see that answer in the 2016 primary. In both parties we saw two candidates object to the globalist nature of American foreign policy and how it is costing us in domestic policy. Those two candidates were Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. We will touch on Bernie first here. The 2016 democratic primary had only two legitimate contenders those being Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Hillary was as much of an incumbent as you can get in 2016, being endorsed by the former president Obama, wife to a former democratic president, and with the support of most party officials. Hillary represented the traditional democratic party of neo-liberal, globalist, centrists. Bernie brought up the rivalry with a progressive and anti-globalist campaign with socialistic tendencies. His movement was critical of the Obama administration's handling of the Middle East and the corporations expelling American jobs overseas. In every way his beliefs were the enemy of the Democratic Party, yet

he was wildly popular for such a third party like campaign he was running. Over a third of democrats held similar views, a wild perspective from the 2008 and 2012 primaries. The prospect of this new anti-globalist progressive movement hijacking the DNC pushed the party officials to take extreme measures. In the Democratic National Convention before the primary took off the Hillary campaign attempted an early sweep and coronation by taking from 2013-2016 all campaign resources in the Democratic Party. Even with all of this Hillary had a near defeat in the struggle with the Bernie campaign with the results being 44% to 55%. The Democrats fought off this shift, but the question is, for how long? The Republican relationship with this new anti-globalist movement was a different, they embraced it. All it took was one man to completely change the Republican Party from the proponents of the Iraq war to the supporters of a full pull out, Trump. He usurped the Republican ticket from prospective and more traditional senators. His rhetoric was expressly anti-globalist being critical of our trade deals with China and North America, showing intent to completely pull out of the Middle East international politics be damned. The Republican Party after being completely overtaken in the primaries gave in. With Trump appointing ever increasingly conservative judges and Republicans party officials completely powerless over their own party. Anti-globalism is leading the opposition movements inside both parties, one movement was repulsed and the other completely embraced. Globalism, which began in America with Wilson and reached its greatest height in 1945, while long in the decline this is a sea change in that it's leaking into mainstream politics. In the



# GLOBALISM AND SHIFTING POLITICAL WINDS

BY: SEAN SULLIVAN

future I would predict the Republican Party becoming ever more anti-globalist and the

democrats stuck in the past hoping to return to a Obama esq presidency.





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE FAIRFIELD PREP STUDENT BODY

## ABOUT THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION:

We at Political Awareness Club understand that our Prep brothers may have questions and comments on the Zeitgeist. We hope that these letters will provide the opportunity for everyone to say what is on their mind without having to write an entire op-ed.

Dear Editor,

“It is with much gratitude that I take your selecting my article for publication in the Zeitgeist magazine. I cannot thank you enough for the work you strive to accomplish— to show, that is, just how much we young men of Fairfield Prep wish to make a difference in this world. The existence of Zeitgeist itself is proof enough, to me at least, that we are pursuing our end to the best of our abilities. And I can only hope, that in however small a way, Zeitgeist and the Political Awareness society— and our brotherhood at large— will always find a helping hand in me and in each other.”

-Joe Altieri, '22

Dear Joe,

Working with you is always a pleasure; your ability to convey your complex takes in an organized and approachable manner is unparalleled.

To bounce off your point about Zeitgeist- it is my sincerest hope that this edition is constructive for its writers and informative for its audience.

With gratitude,

-Luis Brea, Editor-in-Chief of Zeitgeist

Dear Editor,

“It is time to end the unhealthy factionalism which America has grown addicted too. Extreme factionalism, which we see in our modern discourse is fundamentally hypocritical. Both conservatives and liberals seek to build a better America... they just disagree on how too. Political discourse seeks to build on other ideas to improve our republic. This concept has perished. Political discussion has moved to shouting and sabotage. This archives nothing and slides us closer to the tragedy of many other republics



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE FAIRFIELD PREP STUDENT BODY

... relegated to the dumpster of history. Keeping Americans divided is profitable. Prep brothers, I urge you to break the addiction and reach across the aisle: listen to others and utilize empathy. Our republic and freedom lie in *philia* - brotherly love and understanding. Always remember that neither conservatives nor liberals seek to wreck our country... they are just Americans who want the best.

We stand at the precipice of history. Do not let the American experiment die.”

-Conor Glynn '22

Dear Conor,

This is very well put. Partisanship is one of the most prominent facets of American politics at the moment, and it is of the utmost importance that we mend our divide. If any readers are interested, feel free to email me (p23lbrea@fairfieldprep.org) to join political awareness and help fix the way we talk about politics.

With gratitude,

-Luis Brea, Editor-in-Chief of Zeitgeist

Dear Editor,

“Obviously, the past year has been like no other. We have altered our lives in so many ways to coexist with a pandemic. What are some long-term effects that might change the way we live, and affect our lives twenty years from now?”

-An Anonymous Prep Brother

Dear Prep Brother,

I completely understand your concerns; to call the events of this year a “surprise” would not even begin to encapsulate the devastating effects of the coronavirus.

To your point of the long-term effects of the pandemic, I would advise that all of the Fairfield Prep community to continue to follow the guidance of health experts. I have had far too many conversations with friends about who they have lost this year, and as of recently we have reached 400,000 deaths. As the numbers increase, it can be difficult to stay positive. Still, I am incredibly uplifted by the continued dedication of all students and faculty to follow the protocols and care of their Prep brothers.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE FAIRFIELD PREP STUDENT BODY

Further, it is important that we not only ensure that we at school are safe through following protocol, but that our communities at large are safe through service opportunities.

With gratitude,

-Luis Brea, Editor-in-Chief of Zeitgeist



Dear Editor,

Is lobbying a threat to our democracy? To elaborate, how much of a deviation is there usually between what the American people think they are voting for, and what they get because of the interests of corporations that often influence the decisions made in our government at both the local and federal level?

-An Anonymous Prep Brother

Dear Prep Brother,

Thank you for your questions. Lobbying, in my view, is one of the most overlooked political issues of the day. After rulings like Citizens United, it appears that some have accepted a reality where a corporate lobbyist has exponentially more power than the average working-class American.

I still find hope in the fact that major party candidates on the democratic stage had openly become less reliant on Super-PAC money in the primaries, hopefully signaling a new, more democratic era for our Republic.

With gratitude,

-Luis Brea, Editor-in-Chief of Zeitgeist



Dear Editor,

"It is of utmost importance that we, students of such a prestigious school, recognize the opportunities and privileges we have and work to help the less fortunate. After we leave Prep, it will be our responsibility to find ways to make an impact on our communities and find ways to make social change. As cliché as it sounds, this is our reality and we have an obligation to help our neighbors."

-An Anonymous Prep Brother

Dear Prep Brother,

I could not agree more. To your point of service, our theology department has done a fantastic job setting up service and advocacy trips available to



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE FAIRFIELD PREP STUDENT BODY

...students who are eager to make an impact in their communities.

Additionally, I have found that academic clubs such as Political Awareness (I suppose I'm biased) Club and the Ethics Bowl Team. To readers: feel free to reach out to me or any club directors if you are interested in further broadening your worldview.

With gratitude,





# YOU DESERVE A VOICE.

FAIRFIELD PREP'S POLITICAL AWARENESS  
SOCIETY, EST. 1980

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Political Awareness Society has been a pillar of Prep life for decades. We now invite students from all walks of political experience to join us as history unfolds. *You only live through times like these once.*

**Meeting Day:** Thursday, after school  
**Meeting Place:** via Zoom



For more information, contact  
[p23lbrea@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:p23lbrea@fairfieldprep.org),  
[p21jlouw@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:p21jlouw@fairfieldprep.org),  
or scan the QR code