

California



MADNESS

A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the
State's Recall, Leftist Policies &
Progressive Downward Spiral

Corey Lee Wilson

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Policies & Progressive Downward Spiral**

By

Corey Lee Wilson

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4533 Temescal Canyon Rd. # 308

Corona, CA 92883 USA

www.FratirePublishing.com

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California Madness

California Madness

Contents

Acknowledgements	1
A SAPIENT Being's Preface	3
Are You a Sapient Being or Want to Be One?.....	5
1 – California: Wave of the Future? Wake of the Past? Or Something in Between?	7
How Does a California Family Survive?	8
Comparing Costs Between California and Texas	9
California and Its Contradictions	10
The State’s Business Regulations Threaten California Companies	11
California Remains Intellectually Dominated by a Leftist Media and Academic Elite Promoting Class Warfare	12
The Battle to Change Policy Direction Regarding Class Warfare Has to be Won in California.....	13
Making America California? Please Don’t!.....	14
A New Vision for California? Let’s Do It!	14
A Strategy to Transform California in One Election.....	16
A Bipartisan, Transformative Political Agenda for California	17
2 – Total Recall: Governor Newsom's Totalitarianism & Pandemic Sanctions	21
The Premises of California’s Dysfunction	22
California’s Recall Is ‘Not’ Because 1.7 Million Signatories Are Racists	22
Failure to Address Priorities Through Incompetence, or by Making Priority Issues Non- Priorities.....	23
Well—So Much For Accomplishments	24
Meet Governor Preen: Gavin Newsom	25
The Favored Candidate of a Coterie of San Francisco’s Wealthiest Families	26
Draconian Climate-Change Policies Allow Progressive Elites to Advertise Their Good Intentions.....	27

California Madness

Newsom Preens About California’s Enlightened Commitment to Social Justice.....	28
Newsom’s Recent Plan to Impose Forced Electrification	28
Newsom Counting on Labor Union Army to Tank the California Recall.....	29
Universal Mail Voting Could Provide Newsom With a Significant Boost.....	30
List of Newsom’s Most Serious Transgressions.....	30
There Are Three Troubling Aspects to Newsom’s Self-Serving Effort	31
Newsom Paints Rosy—But Flawed, Economic Picture	32
Jobs Growth Data Point Cited by Newsom is Also Questionable	33
3 – The State's Democratic Party Supermajority & Governing Madness.....	35
California’s One-Party State, the Blue Wave Machine	36
California’s Socialist Oligarchy: Who They Are and How to Defeat Them	40
Left-Wing Oligarchs	41
Social Media and Entertainment Complex	41
The Environmentalist Lobby	41
Public Sector Unions	42
Thoroughly Indoctrinated Voters	43
An Alternative Future for California	43
Something’s Got to Give	44
The Seven Deadly Sins of California’s Political Establishment	45
California’s Soft Fascism	48
4 – California Statistics & State Rankings: Great, Good, Bad, Very Bad, Ugly & Idiotic	49
California’s Frightening Rankings.....	50
California Defies Doom With No. 1 U.S. Economy (Great)	52
California’s New Prosperity is Rooted in Technology and Health-Care Development	52
California Roars Back: Governor Newsom Signs \$100 Billion California Comeback Plan (Good)	53
How Los Angeles Descended Into Neo-Feudalism Is a Lesson for Others (Bad)	54
L.A. Has Managed to All But Match NYC's Pandemic Paralysis.....	55

California Madness

More Troubling is the Decline in L.A.'s Signature Industry: Entertainment.	55
Poverty in California (Very Bad)	56
Public Sector & Teacher Unions: The Other Deep State (Ugly)	57
Fighting Back	58
Deceptive and Misleading Claims—How Government Unions Fool the Public	59
Progressivism Madness (Idiotic)	60
The Moral High Ground	60
5 – State Polarization, Diversity Politics, San Francisco Madness & Alarming Projections	63
How Multiculturalism Has Wrecked Assimilation In California	64
Proposition 16: A New Fight Over Affirmative Action	64
Interestingly, Why Did Prop 16 Fail?	65
California’s Woke Hypocrisy	67
California is the Worst State in the U.S. When it Comes to Creating Middle-Class Jobs	68
California Imposes Diversity Dogma on Corporate Boards	69
Californians Exempt From the Consequences of Liberalism	70
California May Realign Despite its Exempt Supermajority	71
San Francisco Is the Epicenter For Progressivism Madness	72
California Has a Segregation Problem	76
Identity Politics vs. Melting Pot Vision	77
6 – ‘Anti’ Business, Middle Class & Development—But ‘Pro’ Green, Crime & Homelessness	79
Rhetoric to Challenge California’s Statist Elites	80
California to Business: Get Out!	81
The Middle Class Squeeze	82
California Feudalism: The Squeeze on the Middle Class	82
For Latinos, the ‘California Dream’ Is Becoming Unattainable	83
California’s Split Personality	84
Extreme Environmentalism vs. Practical Environmentalism	85
California’s Homeless Crisis and Beyond	86

California Madness

That Is What Happened and It's Coming to Your Neighborhood	88
Pretending the Homeless Crisis is Inextricably Linked to a Shortage of Housing	89
The Sanctuary State for Gangs, Criminals, Drugs & Illegal Aliens	90
7 – Population Madness, Legal vs. Illegal Immigration & Demographic Challenges	95
The U.S. Census, Illegals and Counting Congressional Seats	96
Yale, MIT Study: 22 million, Not 11 million, Undocumented Immigrants in US	97
California Migration: The Story of 40 Million	98
Cali's Struggling Middle Class, Minorities and Generation X Y Z Households	102
Calculating the 'Californication'	103
Out-Migration Polls in California	105
Overall: "Legal" Immigrants Benefit California—"Illegal" Ones Don't	106
The Brown-Becerra-Newsom Axis For Illegal Aliens.....	107
8 – Fixing California's Many Obstacles to Fast & Affordable Suburban Housing	109
In Defense of Houses.....	110
Single-Family Homes Are the Backbone of American Aspiration: Why Not in California?.....	111
The California Housing Crisis	112
The High Cost of Housing In the 'Can't Afford' State	113
California's High Housing Costs are Especially Burdensome for Low-Income Households	115
Sky-High Housing Prices in California Cities	115
Government-Created Roadblocks	116
How to Restore the California Dream	117
A New Suburbanism—Smart Alternative to "Smart Growth"	118
New Suburbanism Offers An Alternative to Smart Growth.....	120
The Principles of New Suburbanism	121
9 – California's Earth, Wind, Fire & Water Crises vs. Climate Change & Environmental Madness	123
Cali's Anti-Climate-Change Regime Exacerbates Economic, Regional & Racial Inequality	124
Environmentalists Destroyed California's Forests.....	128

California Madness

A Green Conundrum for the Golden State	128
The Scorching of California.....	129
Reforming California’s Water Policies to Survive Droughts	133
Today’s Environmental Groups Operate as Litigation Machines.....	134
Electricity and Ideology—Competing Priorities in California	135
Californians Are Being Penalized by Environmental Mandates	136
10 – Mexifornia: Why the State's Largest Ethnic Group is Falling Behind the Others.....	137
Mexifornia: A State of Becoming.....	138
Securing America’s Southern Border With Mexico	139
If Latino’s Upward Mobility Doesn’t Improve—California Will Suffer	140
The Resulting Dysfunction is Holding Latinos Back and California as Well.....	141
Latino Student Underperformance Contributes to California’s Dismal Educational Statistics	142
Latino’s Lack of Assimilation Has Depressed Their ‘Per-Capita’ Political Influence	144
California’s Poor Latinos Don’t Pay in Taxes What They Cost in State Expenditures	145
How Unskilled Immigrants Hurt Our Economy	145
‘Illegal’ Aliens Commit Crime at a Far Higher Rate Than Citizens and ‘Legal’ Immigrants	151
Non-Citizens Committed a Disproportionate Share of Federal Crimes	152
11 – Unbalanced Budgets, Prop Madness, Stolen Stimulus, Voter Fraud & Boondoggles.....	153
California’s General Fund Relies on Bailouts and Billionaires	154
California’s Budget “Surplus” Ignores Crushing Debt Burden	156
Just a Slowdown in Capital Gains Will Cause Tax Revenue to Crash	157
Debt, Unfunded Pension Liabilities, Neglected Infrastructure	157
Facing Recall, California’s Governor Blows Out the State Budget.....	159
What California Could Have Done With the \$31 Billion Lost by the EDD.....	160
California’s Ongoing Campaign, Voting & Election Irregularities	160
California’s Bullet Train: A Boondoggle in the Making.....	164
12 – Illiberal Academia, Failing Public Schools & Critical Race Theory Madness.....	167
Why Teachers Unions Are the Worst of the Worst.....	168

California Madness

A Failing Education System.....	170
Now There’s an Alternative: Home Schooling.....	172
How Public Sector Unions Exploit Identity Politics.....	175
Quotas Are Being Used to Discriminate Against California’s “Privileged” Youth	176
What Does a Member of Board of Regents at the University of California Has to Say?	177
Mandatory Ethnic Indoctrination Approved in California Schools.....	179
California State University Now Requires Ethnic Studies	180
Sapient Ways to Teach Ethnic Studies	181
The Latino Education Crisis That Won’t Go Away	181
13 – Public Sector & Teacher Unions' Pension Madness vs. Fiscal Timebomb	183
Over Time, the Unions Have Turned the State’s Politics Completely in Their Favor	184
California’s Immense Pension Dilemma	184
Pension Spiking.....	185
The “California Rule”	186
California’s State and Local Liabilities Total \$1.5 Trillion.....	187
The Beholden State: How Public-Sector Unions Broke California.....	188
The California Teachers Association (CTA)	189
Public-Safety Workers: Police, Sheriffs, Prison Guards & Highway-Patrol Officers.....	190
Third Big Public-Union Player is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).....	191
Unsustainable Pension Obligations.....	193
It’s a Perfect Financial Storm!	194
Cities Need CalPERS to be More Conservative Regarding Their Earnings Assumption	195
Federal Law Could Allow Bankrupt Cities to Reduce Benefits	195
Jamming Janus–The Public Union Empire Strikes Back.....	196
California’s Largest School Districts Are Underwater.....	197
14 – The Cost of Big, Bad & Wasteful Government Via Public Employee Unions.....	199
California Legislators Spend \$200 Billion & Taxpayers Get Less And Less	200
Without Government Unions There Would Be No Gas Tax Increase.....	201

California Madness

Insatiable Appetite For Pension Fund Contributions.....	203
The Cost of California’s Public-Employee Unions.....	204
The Strongest Special interest in Sacramento is the Teachers’ Unions.....	205
Banned Independent Contracting Work for Millions of Californians	206
California’s Public-Sector Unions Rake in \$921 Million in Annual Revenue.....	207
Billions and Billions Spent of Political Donations.....	208
Why Are Government Workers In California Paid Twice As Much As Private Sector Workers?	209
Government Unions and California Ballot Propositions.....	210
15 – Stopping the State's Downward Spiral Into Progressivism Madness.....	215
Progressivism as the New Marxism.....	216
Fixing California: The Themes That Make Anything Possible	217
The Coalition That Will Realign California	218
The Battle for California is the Battle for America	218
The California Battle for America is the Battle for the Future of the World	226
Are You Part of the Solution? Or Part of the Problem?.....	227
Appendix	229
Glossary	231
References	235
Index.....	243
Author Bio	261

California Madness

Acknowledgements

I owe a debt of gratitude to the following for “heavily” borrowing at times pieces of their and/or outright sections. I do this unashamedly to use the sapient phrase, “if it ain’t broke—don’t try to fix it.” Most of the borrowed works and research cannot be improved upon—so why try? It’s better to assemble these meaningful parts, profound messages, and eloquent arguments into a cohesive whole, told with high school and college students in mind, and that’s what I’ve done and where my talent lies.

Below in alphabetical order are the major contributors to *California Madness* that I borrowed verbatim, quoted, and conceptualized much of their content from a little to a lot. Wherever this happened, I did my best to acknowledge my source. If I didn’t at times within the 15 chapters, I did so intentionally because doing so would have distracted from their message. Nonetheless, they are more than acknowledged in the References and Index sections of this textbook.

California Policy Center: Is a public policy think tank located in California. The organization specializes in union policy, pension reform, spending reform, and school choice.

CalMatters: Is a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture committed to explaining how California’s state Capitol works and why it matters.

David Horowitz Freedom Center: Aka the DHFC, is dedicated to the defense of free societies whose moral, cultural, and economic foundations are under attack by enemies both secular and religious, at home and abroad.

Greenfield, Daniel: Is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the Freedom Center, is an investigative journalist and writer focusing on the radical Left and Islamic terrorism and the author of *The War of Two Americas* (2017).

Hanson, Victor Davis: Is a fifth generation Californian and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, a professor of Classics Emeritus at California State University, Fresno, and a nationally syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services. Hanson is also the Wayne & Marcia Buske Distinguished Fellow in History, Hillsdale College and is the 2003 author of *Mexifornia: A State of Becoming* plus many other books about history and classics

Hoover Institution: Is a public policy think tank promoting the principles of individual, economic, and political freedom at Stanford University and ranked as the tenth most influential think tank in the world in 2020 by Academic Influence, and the 22nd of the "Top Think Tanks in the United States" by the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report in 2019.

Independent Institute: Is a non-profit research and educational organization that promotes

California Madness

the power of independent thinking to boldly advance peaceful, prosperous, and free societies grounded in a commitment to human worth and dignity. They are home to the California Golden Fleece® Awards and they published in 2015 *California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America's Public Pension Crisis*.

Kotkin, Joel: Is the Presidential Fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University and founder of the Center for Demographics and Policy there. He is also executive director of the Urban Reform Institute in Houston, Texas, and a regular contributor to *The City Journal*, *The Hill*, Real Clear Politics, the Daily Beast, and Tablet. He is the author of nine books including the recently released *The Coming of Neo-Feudalism: A Warning to the Global Middle Class* (2020).

Mac Donald, Heather: Is an American conservative political commentator, essayist, attorney, and author. She is a Thomas W. Smith Fellow of the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor of the institute's *City Journal*. She has written numerous editorials and is the author of several books.

Malanga, Steven: Is the George M. Yeager Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and *City Journal's* senior editor. He writes about the intersection of urban economies, business communities, and public policy. Malanga is the author of *The New Left: How American Politics Works Today* (2005).

McQuillan, Lawrence J.: Is a Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute, Director of Independent's Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation, and author of the Independent book, *California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America's Public Pension Crisis* (2015).

Ohanian, Lee: Is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and a professor of economics and director of the Ettinger Family Program in Macroeconomic Research at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC): Is an independent, non-profit research institution, established in 1994 by Bill Hewlett, of Hewlett-Packard, Roger Heyns, and Arjay Miller, with a \$70 million endowment from Hewlett.

Ring, Edward: Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. He is also a senior fellow with the Center for American Greatness, and a regular contributor to the California Globe.

Walters, Dan: Has written more than 9,000 columns about California and its politics and has written about California and its politics for a number of other publications, including *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. In 1986, he published *The New California: Facing the 21st Century* that became a widely used college textbook about socioeconomic and political trends in the state.

A SAPIENT Being's Preface

Today's California represents, by far, when compared to the rest of the United States, the worst that “so-called” progressivism has to offer—and if liberal, leftist, and Democratic Party pundits are correct with their declarations that “California is the wave of America’s future”—the decline of our republic in most every category on the “sapience scorecard” is well on its way.

The state has earned many times over its various California “crazy” monikers such as the Left Coast, Californification, Mexifornia and a host of others that bring light to the enormous failures of this once golden state whose California dreamin’ utopia is now just a blur in the rear view mirror of California's history. Today, it’s a neo-feudal dystopia but still has the world’s fifth largest economy. How bizarre!

In most every statistic, from homelessness, housing, income disparity, identity politics, illegal immigration, environmental mismanagement, climate activism, public education, free speech suppression, anti-business and middle class, pro crime and homelessness, underfunded pensions, big labor and government, excessive taxation, irrational governance, etc.—California has fallen from grace to disgrace in the 21st century.

So many of California’s Democratic supermajority priorities, approved legislation, and socialist policies are beyond “unsapient”—more than just sheer “madness”—they’re firmly encamped in the “idiocracy” zone with a one-way ticket to a progressivism nightmare. Nevertheless, together, and united, we can stop this Hollywood horror script from becoming a woke reality show if we take decisive action now.

California Madness provides a perfect object lesson for the rest of the United States as to how the California dream was destroyed, when, and by whom and why it’s negative influence, if not corrected now, will eventually destroy the American dream as well.

As a once proud native Californian, I cover the major issues facing California using viewpoint diversity, sapient think tanks, renowned authors, and detailed reports—all free of fake news and false narratives.

For some of you this *MADNESS* book will be a revelation, an epiphany, a sapient being moment. For others, it will be a triggering event, denial of truth, and a painful intervention.

Like all *MADNESS* textbooks, *California Madness* offers an opportunity for Californians to learn about what ails the state and be part of the solution to its many problems. In retrospect, too many of the issues covered in *California Madness* are the inspiration for the critical topics and sapient analyses in the majority of the 50 *MADNESS* sapient textbook series (see Appendix for a link to all 50 textbook titles).

California Madness

Are you interested in learning about the depth and breadth of California's issues, reasons for recall, leftist legislation, over regulation, population madness, illegal immigration, economic degradation, progressivism madness, etc. and how to work together to reform state policies and change its leadership before they destroy this once golden state?

If yes, please read on and if you also believe in the message of this book and willing to fight for it—please considering joining or participating in one of the three SAPIENT Being programs below.

Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program

Provide high school and college students the opportunity to start SAPIENT Being campus clubs, chapters, and alliances where independent, liberal, and conservative minded students can meet, discuss, and debate important issues and develop sapience in the process. Learn more about the process of practicing, protecting, and promoting viewpoint diversity, freedom of speech, and intellectual humility as part of the Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) program for on or off site campus groups at <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>.

World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW) Program

Return free speech, open dialogue and civil discourse to high school and college students and journalists without the cancel culture against those with differences in opinion, ideologies, and practices. Encourage open debate, dialogue, and the free expression of alternative and non-orthodox viewpoints with the goal of creating a World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW) program at <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs> that upholds journalistic standards throughout all types of campus journalism and media.

Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program

Relevant and current events textbooks program to help return conservative values, viewpoint diversity, and sapience to high school and college students and enlighten them on the many blessings to humankind that are the direct result of American exceptionalism, Western European culture, and Judeo-Christian values. The ethos for every textbook in the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) program is truth without bias and for more information on the 50 titles please visit the program website at <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/madnessbooks>.

Are You a Sapient Being or Want to Be One?

Sapience, also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Being a sapient being is not about identity politics, it's about doing what is right and borrows many of the essential qualities of Centrism that supports strength, tradition, open mindedness, and policy based on evidence not ideology.

Sapient beings are independent minded thinkers that achieve common sense solutions that appropriately address America's and the world's most pressing issues. They gauge situations based on context and reason, consideration, and probability. They are open minded and exercise conviction and willing to fight for it on the intellectual battlefield. Sapient beings don't blindly and recklessly follow their feelings or emotions.

Their unifying ideology is based on the truth, reason, logic, scientific method, and pragmatism—and not necessarily defined by compromise, moderation, or any particular faith—but is considerate of them.

Most importantly, per a letter written by Princeton professor Robert George in 2017 and endorsed by 28 professors from three Ivy League universities for incoming freshmen, "Think for yourself!"

George's letter continues:

Thinking for yourself means questioning dominant ideas even when others insist on their being treated as unquestionable. It means deciding what one believes not by conforming to fashionable opinions, but by taking the trouble to learn and honestly consider the strongest arguments to be advanced on both or all sides of questions—including arguments for positions that others revile and want to stigmatize and against positions others seek to immunize from critical scrutiny.

The love of truth and the desire to attain it should motivate you to think for yourself. The central point of a college education is to seek truth and to learn the skills and acquire the virtues necessary to be a lifelong truth-seeker. Open-mindedness, critical thinking, and debate are essential to discovering the truth. Moreover, they are our best antidotes to bigotry.

Merriam-Webster's first definition of the word "bigot" is a person "who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices." The only people who need fear open-minded inquiry and robust debate are the actual bigots, including those on

California Madness

campuses or in the broader society who seek to protect the hegemony of their opinions by claiming that to question those opinions is itself bigotry.

So, don't be tyrannized by public opinion. Don't get trapped in an echo chamber. Whether you in the end reject or embrace a view, make sure you decide where you stand by critically assessing the arguments for the competing positions. Think for yourself. Good luck to you in college!

Now, that might sound easy. But you will find—as you may have discovered already in high school—that thinking for yourself can be a challenge. It always demands self-discipline, and these days can require courage.

In today's climate, it's all-too-easy to allow your views and outlook to be shaped by dominant opinion on your campus or in the broader academic culture. The danger any student—or faculty member—faces today is falling into the vice of conformism, yielding to groupthink, the orthodoxy.

At many colleges and universities what John Stuart Mill called “the tyranny of public opinion” does more than merely discourage students from dissenting from prevailing views on moral, political, and other types of questions. It leads them to suppose that dominant views are so obviously correct that only a bigot or a crank could question them.

Since no one wants to be, or be thought of as, a bigot or a crank, the easy, lazy way to proceed is simply by falling into line with campus orthodoxies. Don't do it!

To be sure, our overly-politicized culture has a hard time viewing any “verbal cacophony” as a sign of strength and vibrancy. And perhaps nowhere is this truer than on many college campuses where political correctness is rampant, groupthink is common, and social media “mobs” arise in a flash to intimidate anyone who openly strays from the prevailing orthodoxy.

At the SAPIENT Being we're not intimidated—and our primary purpose is to seek the truth by enhancing viewpoint diversity, promoting intellectual humility, protecting freedom of speech and expression while developing sapience in the process—no matter what the cost on the intellectual battlefield, campus classroom, and marketplace of ideas. This is our ethos! Is it yours?

Best regards and sapiently yours,



Corey Lee Wilson



1 – California: Wave of the Future? Wake of the Past? Or Something in Between?



Credit: Bloomberg.com.

The notion of the Golden State as a “nation-state.” It’s a valid descriptor given that California has a population (nearly 40 million residents) that’s larger than all but 35 countries (California would fall between Sudan and Iraq), the fifth largest economy in the world (ahead of India’s and behind Germany’s), plus remarkable diversity (92 languages other than English are spoken in the Los Angeles public school system).

From the 2020 research brief by Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky *Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California's Middle Class at the Chapman University Center for Demographics & Policy*:

California has always been a state where excess flourished, conscious of its trend-setting role as a world-leading innovator in technology, economics, and the arts. For much of the past century, it also helped create a new model for middle and working-class upward mobility while addressing racial, gender and environmental issues well in advance of the rest of the country.

The notion of California’s supremacy remains implanted on the minds of the state’s economic, academic, media and political establishment. “The future depends on us,” Governor Gavin Newsom said at his inauguration. “and we will seize this moment.” Progressive theorists like Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca laud California as the home of “a new progressive era”—an exemplar of social equity. Others see California as deserving of nationhood; it reflects, as a *New York Times* column put it, “...the shared values of our increasingly tolerant and pluralistic society.”

California Madness

However, if California fails to offer young people and newcomers the opportunity to improve their lot, the consequences will be catastrophic—and not only for California. The end of the California Dream would deal a devastating blow to the proposition that such a widely diverse polity can thrive. Indeed, blue America’s model faces its most consequential stress test in one of its safest states, where a spectacular run of almost unbroken prosperity could be killed by a miserly approach to opportunity.

California-based *Atlantic* writer Conor Friedersdorf offers a broad and harsh critique of the state in an article entitled “The California Dream is Dying.”

Despite the state’s many attributes, he writes, “I fear for California’s future.” The generations that benefited from California’s dizzying ascent into global prominence, he says, “should be striving to ensure that future generations can pursue happiness as they did. Instead, they are poised to take the California Dream to their graves by betraying a promise the state has offered from the start.

While California publicly celebrates diversity and inclusion, Friedersdorf continues, “the state’s leaders and residents shut the door on economic opportunity,” citing a chronic shortage of housing, high poverty, poor educational services, homelessness, and other factors that limit upward mobility

Friedersdorf warns that “blue America’s model faces its most consequential stress test in one of its safest states, where a spectacular run of almost unbroken prosperity could be killed by a miserly approach to opportunity.”

Thus, while Governor Newsom still sees California as “America’s coming attraction,” it’s jarring that writers who share his ideological orientation are joining those on the right to warn the nation against emulating the state.

How Does a California Family Survive?

This section is from the July 2019 article “How Does a California Family Survive?” by the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

It’s common enough to discuss the high cost-of-living in California. It’s become a serious topic, at last. But for Californians who are used to paying ridiculous prices for everything, it may be helpful to present a comparison in the form of an annual family budget. How much does it cost to take care of a family of four in Los Angeles compared to Houston?

The choice of Los Angeles is logical enough. One in four Californians live there. And while Los Angeles County may be more expensive than most of California’s inland counties, it is not cheaper than Orange, San Diego, or any of the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. Altogether there are over 25 million Californians living in expensive coastal counties. Two out of three Californians endure the types of prices depicted here.

The choice of Houston is also logical, not simply as a representative of cheaper Texas, but as a

California Madness

proxy for nearly all of the United States, with the only exceptions being those high-tax (usually coastal) metropolitan areas located in states run by progressive Democrats. In terms of the cost-of-living, Houston is an authentic stand in for most of America.

Reviewing the budget depicted below, the first thing to realize is that most people don't have a household income of \$100,000 per year. The median household income in California is \$71,805. That means half of those 25 million people who have to live in places like Los Angeles have a household income that is less than \$71,805. Let's see how much it costs to a family of four to live in such a place.

As can be seen, while Texas has no state taxes, the Californian gets a bigger federal deduction because of their much bigger home mortgage payments. Very roughly speaking, these factors cancel out. But where there's a big deduction, there's a big payment. The median price of a home in Los Angeles is a larcenous \$617,000, whereas the same home in Houston will only set a family back by \$189,000. Based on a 4 percent, 30 year fixed mortgage, this translates into a crippling \$2,900 monthly payment in Los Angeles, vs a manageable \$915 mortgage payment in Houston.

Making house payments that low used to be normal in California. They still are in those parts of this nation, Houston included, where the progressive Democrats haven't yet taken control. Or if the progressive Democrats have taken control—Houston, after all, is now a battleground county—they haven't yet had enough time to ruin everything. Consider the difference: For a household with an income of \$100,000 per year, in Los Angeles, the mortgage costs 36 percent of before-tax earnings. In Houston, only 11 percent.

Comparing Costs Between California and Texas

California and Texas do not have significant differences in costs for family health insurance, but everywhere else, California costs more. Even property taxes, where Texas charges a higher rate, are nonetheless a much more significant burden to the average Californian, because the assessed value is so much higher.

Comparing the other necessities exposes additional evidence of just how difficult it is to survive in California. Electricity costs, \$.20 per kWh in California vs \$.11 in Texas. Natural gas, \$13.60 per thousand cubic feet in California vs \$8.25 in Texas. Gasoline? \$3.75/gallon vs \$2.35. Even food is cheaper in Texas than it is in California, the supposed breadbasket of America. The food price index—as compared to the national average—is 100.4 in Los Angeles, 92.9 in Houston.

Altogether, the average family of four in Los Angeles spends nearly \$300 per month more on gasoline, utilities, and food than they would in Houston. They spend over \$2,000 per month more to keep a roof over their heads. They roughly break even on health insurance and taxes.

Imagine two hard working parents who manage to bring in \$100K per year. In Los Angeles, they'll have about \$1,000 per month left, after paying for taxes and the bare necessities. They'll need this money to pay for telephone, internet, and cable services, garbage collection

California Madness

and life insurance, buy and replace clothes, furniture, and appliances, make car payments, purchase car insurance, maintain their vehicles and their home, save for college tuition and their own retirements, cover medical co-pays and deductibles, and maybe dine out from time to time and take an occasional vacation. It's not enough.

Let that sink in. A family of four can barely survive in California on a household income of \$100,000 per year. One unexpected financial shock, and they are underwater.

In Houston, by contrast, this same family will still have over \$3,500 per month left over after paying for taxes and the bare necessities. This is enough money to make additional purchases and payments and still have some left over for savings. A family making \$100,000 per year cannot afford to live in Los Angeles, yet they can live reasonably well in Houston—or pretty much anywhere except in California and other deep blue enclaves across the land.

And what about those families that don't make \$100,000? What about households earning at the median California income of around \$72,000 per year? What about single parent households, with a working mom trying to keep a roof over her family, perhaps renting a home in Los Angeles, where the average rental home costs \$2,371 per month vs \$1,092 per month in Houston?

What bravery it must require to be a Californian trying to raise a family. Trying to make ends meet. How did it come to this?

California and Its Contradictions

As reported throughout his chapter section from the November 2020 *City Journal* article “California and Its Contradictions: Rumbblings of realignment beneath a solid-blue surface” by Joel Kotkin:

Overall, to be sure, California voters reaffirmed one-party rule in 2020, giving Joe Biden a two-to-one victory and maintaining the Democratic veto-proof majority in both legislative houses. The dominant urban centers, San Francisco and Los Angeles, went ever further into left field, approving radical measures such as increasing wealth taxes and using public funds to fight racism.

They also overwhelmingly backed measures to raise commercial property taxes, expand rent control, and reimpose affirmative action, though these efforts failed miserably elsewhere in the state. San Francisco, where Biden won 85 percent of the vote, also voted for a new tax on companies where CEOs make too much compared with employees, and a measure to allow noncitizens to serve on public boards.

The good news for Californians is that the rest of the state is not quite ready for socialist rule by the public unions and their allies. “It's not so much light pouring through the window, as a small crack opening,” suggests Joel Fox, editor of the widely read California political website Fox and Hounds Daily. The opportunity for centrists and conservatives lies in what a Marxist might describe as “heightening the contradictions” within the blue alliance.

California Madness

Consider the battle over Proposition 22, funded by Uber and Lyft, to overturn the state's onerous AB5 law, which sought to force employers to treat contract drivers as full-time employees. This mandate, as the tech firms understood, would destroy their business model and their fortunes. Tech elites, who also worked tirelessly to defeat Donald Trump, spent an estimated \$200 million to push the measure against labor opposition, and they seem to have won the day.

The conflict between the tech elites and labor, though, is not restricted to ride-sharing firms. Taxes remain a major battlefield. With the apparent defeat of Proposition 15, legislators seem likely to consider new statewide measures to raise income-tax rates to as high as 16 percent. This cannot be good news to the tech industry; not only its fabulously rich owners but also many of their well-paid top employees would be affected.

The State's Business Regulations Threaten California Companies

The state's business regulations threaten even the most heralded, emblematic California companies. Disney executive chairman Robert Iger has fought with the state's progressives, who generally favor extreme lockdowns, to keep his businesses open, but Disneyland remained closed for 412 days, resulting in 28,000 layoffs, and reopened on April 30, 2021, long after the company's parks in Florida and abroad were already operating. The state's inflexibility led Disney's Bob Iger to resign from Governor Newsom's coronavirus recovery taskforce.

Tesla's Elon Musk has also dissented, having battled with Alameda County officials about the opening of his plant. More importantly, he seems to be shifting his investment focus, and perhaps even his headquarters, from California. He has already announced big expansion plans for both Tesla and Space X in Texas.

The contradictions between tech and entertainment oligarchs and the hard Left are likely to intensify in the years ahead. The state has neglected the basics of business competitiveness, particularly in creating the mid-skilled jobs crucial to a healthy economy. University of California at Irvine's Ken Murphy estimates that, outside the Bay Area, 85 percent of all new jobs have paid below the area median income of \$66,000; 40 percent pay under \$40,000 a year. Once a beacon of opportunity, the Golden State suffers the nation's highest cost-adjusted poverty rate.

Governor Newsom's high-profile preening about lockdowns has made things worse, particularly for tourism and hospitality. In September 2020, California's unemployment rate stood at 11 percent, well above the national average of 7.9 percent and better than only four other states in the nation. Since the March 2020 lockdown, California, with 12 percent of the nation's population, accounts for 16.4 percent of its unemployment.

Of the 55 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S., some of the worst job losses from February to August 2020 have occurred in the Bay Area and Los Angeles-Long Beach. Things are particularly grim for the L.A. area, with its huge exposure to losses in hospitality and other

California Madness

low-end service fields. Overall, Los Angeles has lost 11 percent of its jobs, Murphy notes, significantly higher than the 8 percent drop nationally.

At the same time, one sees clear signs that tech growth will be limited, as more companies expand outside the state and some, like Palantir, the data-mining software company, relocate, in its case to Denver. Some 40 percent of Bay Area tech workers say that they would like to move to a less expensive region, which suggests locations outside of California. In a recent survey, three-quarters of high-tech venture funders and founders predicted the same for their workforces.

For many Democrats, the loss of jobs demands not a change in state policies that chase away jobs but further expansion of government, including the creation of a basic income for its vast numbers of underemployed and underemployed. This is particularly critical for the Latino working class that—in sharp contrast with Latinos in Texas—has remained attached to Democrats, giving Trump barely half the percentage he won in the Lone Star State. Rather than push for economic growth, young Latinos, such as millennials elected this week to the city council in predominantly Hispanic Santa Ana, follow a progressive script about racial justice, public spending, and rent control.

Given the lack of upward mobility in California, such positions are not surprising. A population with little hope of starting a business, owning a home, or making a decent income naturally looks to government as its provider. Add to this the state's extreme climate policies, which disproportionately affect industries that employ blue-collar workers, and it's a perfect storm for continued progressive agitation.

California Remains Intellectually Dominated by a Leftist Media and Academic Elite Promoting Class Warfare

If California remains intellectually dominated by a leftist media and academic elite promoting class warfare, it will be hard to create a more diverse, less dependent political culture. Instead, we will see the continued flight of middle and working-class families out of state. They leave behind both an expanding underclass—a recent UCLA report found that there were enough homeless students of grade-school age to fill five Dodger Stadiums—and older, wealthier residents who came to California when the going was good.

Some conservatives rightly hail the rejection of the affirmative action referendum and of AB5 as landmark victories that show a potential pushback to the state's relentless progressivism. "Californians are conservatives who think they're Democrats," suggests the right-of-center California Policy Center.

This hopeful sentiment has some basis, but for now, it's not likely that the state will abandon the high-tax and heavy-regulation policies that impoverish its population. For example, radical new proposals for slavery reparations—though California was admitted to the Union as a free state—are likely to emerge soon. Worse yet, California's political reach seems to be expanding, despite its manifest failures, creating its own system of ideological satellites also

California Madness

known as Californification. Arizona, for example, has raised its state income taxes to among the nation's highest, and states like Colorado and Nevada have shifted steadily leftward.

The Battle to Change Policy Direction Regarding Class Warfare Has to be Won in California

Ultimately, the battle to change policy direction—for the West generally, and maybe in the country as a whole—has to be won in California. This can only be accomplished by convincing young people and minorities that their future aspirations make them allies to the shrinking white middle-class population.

Until ethnic minorities, including Asians—the state's most rapidly growing and economically vigorous minority, which widely opposed the affirmative action proposition—absorb the pro-business and pro-growth ethic that built Californian prosperity, the state will at best continue its sideways drift into malaise.

Similarly, the attempt to drive Uber and Lyft out of business seems likely to alienate at least some of tech honchos and their employees. In an era where tech jobs are more mobile, and other regions are making appeals both to younger workers and high-paid executives, the state faces a severe economic reckoning. But given the progressive proclivities of the tech sector, any shift to a pragmatic center might be gradual, at best.

More critical to change may be an incipient rebellion against progressive policies by working-class voters. Some pushback is evident even from the unions and union-friendly politicians, as well as leading civil rights groups, representing working-class districts. Early opposition to Newsom's proclamation banning gas-powered cars has come from the likes of Democrat Jim Cooper, who represents a largely working-class district south of Sacramento. Cooper recently noted that the greens, "from their leaders to their funders, are nearly all white," and their policies tend to seek "environmental justice" in forms that create a "burden to lower-income, working-class Californians" who more often are non-white.

Even some of the Democrat-aligned private-sector labor unions have become more hostile to Newsom's "visionary" actions. The oil and gas industry employs 152,000 people in California, and these workers, two-thirds without college degrees, make \$80,500 a year on average—far more than the average for "green" jobs. "Can we immediately start talking about jobs? We can hate on oil, but the truth is our refinery jobs are really good middle-class jobs," tweeted labor heroine Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, author of AB 5. "Jobs can't be an afterthought to any climate change legislation."

These divisions and contradictions suggest the path exists for a true restoration of California as a beacon of entrepreneurship and opportunity. Election Day 2020 brought some promising results, but a state that retains a veto-proof legislature, a lockstep progressive governor preparing for a future trip to the White House, powerful public unions, and a debilitated political opposition still faces a long road back to sanity—and prosperity.

California Madness

Making America California? Please Don't!

As reported in this section from the January 2021 *City Journal* article “Making America California” by Joel Kotkin:

As the Biden administration settles in and begins to formulate its agenda, progressive pundits, politicians, and activists point to California as a role model for national policy. If the administration listens to them, it would prove a disaster for America's already-beleaguered middle and working classes. And yet, the Biden administration seems determined to run the country on the ruinous model of the Golden State.

Biden suggests an ecstatic account in the *Los Angeles Times*, seeks to “make America California again,” and he will have plenty of help. Californians will run Health and Human Services, the Treasury, Homeland Security, and Energy. Former California senator Kamala Harris is vice president, and San Francisco's Nancy Pelosi rules the House of Representatives. Progressives like Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca see the shift as embracing “California's distinctive approach to market capitalism.” The Golden State, they insist, can “show the way forward” toward a more socially just future.

As a California native over nearly half a century, I wonder if these worthies see the same state I do. California has its wonderful spots, great neighborhoods, beautiful vistas, amazing entrepreneurs, and great amenities, but it makes a poor advertisement for social democracy. It suffers the nation's highest poverty rate and presents the widest gap between middle and upper-middle income earners of any state. Minorities—notably African-Americans and Latinos—do worse in California's metros than elsewhere in the country, according to a recent study that we conducted at the Urban Reform Institute. In Atlanta, African-American median incomes, adjusted for costs, are almost double those in San Francisco and Los Angeles; Latinos earn \$20,000 more in midwestern and southern cities than in the enlightened metros along the California coast.

Simply put, California's performance economically, particularly for its middle and working classes, hardly constitutes a model of social justice or green accomplishment. In actual reductions of greenhouse gases, California is not the environmental icon that it pretends to be. If the largely preventable wildfires are included, the state has increased its emissions; the smoldering fires, as one environmental analyst puts it, “dwarf the state's fossil fuel emissions.”

In the end, the California model works only for the few—but if enough of these super-wealthy few stay put, then the Golden State might yet pretend that it can survive the effects of its policies. It's doubtful that the rest of the country could enjoy that luxury.

A New Vision for California? Let's Do It!

More from the 2020 research brief by Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky *Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California's Middle Class*:

California Madness

Our state's leaders describe California as a beacon of social justice, particularly for historically disadvantaged minorities. Yet our examination of the state economic and demographic trajectory clearly does not support these contentions. Viewed from the perspective of race or class inequality, California is increasingly not a paragon, but rather a cautionary tale of over-regulation and excessive geographic and corporate concentration; an exemplar not of middle-class opportunity, but of resurgent feudalism.

Our vision of California starts first and foremost with improving the lives of our middle and working-class people, and of preserving the state as a place where people will choose to raise families. The program we propose would address these needs by reforming energy, tax, housing, and business regulations so that a broader array of companies and better paying job opportunities are created not for the few, but for the broad population. What matters ultimately is not intentions, but results. Rather than proclaim progressive values, California government needs to focus on the impact of regulatory and tax policy on the daily lives of middle and working-class people.

Today, our state is socially, fiscally, and economically unsustainable

As more people give up hope that their own lives will improve, particularly in the wake of coronavirus, they look increasingly to government for succor. This is true even among tech employees in Silicon Valley, many of whom have little chance to replicate the opportunities for wealth accumulation enjoyed by prior generations in the Bay Area. As the middle-class has shrunk and politics have shifted to a redistributionism ideology, California has become painfully dependent on its ultra-rich class, which pays upwards of half the state's income taxes.

Ultimately, California's neo-feudal model can only be sustained by massive transfers of funds from the very rich to the country's largest collection of poor people, many of whom are working. Redistributionism could promise relief for some in the short run, but would slow economic opportunity. After all, this is a state that voted heavily for socialist Bernie Sanders at a time that Democrats elsewhere opted for more moderate candidates.

The redistributionist model can also be seen in housing policies such as rent control and limits on the rights of owners to keep homes empty or even allow squatters; these are not measures likely to encourage housing investment, but can appeal to voters who feel beleaguered by high prices and lack of opportunity. Construction of high-density housing by companies like Google and Facebook has been aptly described by *The Guardian* not as progressive, but as "a looming feudal nightmare." It is fantasy to believe there is any potential for improvement through such initiatives.

Some argue that California has developed a "fiscally responsible" form of capitalism, as evidenced by a series of annual budget surpluses. But it's questionable whether California has the financial wherewithal to sustain expanded subsidies for its large, and increasingly permanent, poor population.

California Madness

Even Jerry Brown has remarked that the “Johnny one note” tech economy could stumble, reducing the huge returns on capital gains that are so critical to generating state revenues. This could be imminent, given the recent poor performance of tech IPOs and the \$100 billion drop in the value of privately held unicorns. The early results from the Covid 19 pandemic demonstrate the state’s high level of fiscal indebtedness, with the state going from a \$20 billion surplus to an over \$50 billion deficit.

The state’s dependence on capital gains and income tax make it particularly vulnerable.

These decline could be catastrophic for many California communities . Even before the pandemic, over two-thirds of California cities do not have any funds set aside for retiree healthcare and other expenses. Twelve of the state’s fifteen largest cities are in the red, and for many it is only getting worse. The current coronavirus-induced recession illustrates just how tenuous California’s financial condition is: both private and public sector revenue has nosedived.

The state overall suffers a trillion dollars in pension debt, notes former Democratic State Senator Joe Nation. US News places California, despite the tech boom, 42nd in fiscal health among the states.

Much of this debt has benefited a select group of retirees that hold public-sector pensions, some 40,000 members of the “\$100,000 club” who will be living large off taxpayers, most of whom have far more meager funds, for decades to come.²⁰⁹ Ultimately, these obligations can be met either through vastly higher taxes or through sustained, broad based growth, which, among other things, would lower the demand for subsidies and other transfer payments.

[A Strategy to Transform California in One Election](#)

This section is from the June 2019 article “A Strategy to Transform California in One Election” by the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

As a statewide political force, California’s conservative voters are disenfranchised. Almost no politicians holding state office speak for conservatives, few court rulings favor conservatives, and nearly everywhere, conservative values are discredited or ignored by a hostile press. But California’s political landscape could be poised for dramatic shifts. Even now, after more than a decade of national economic expansion that has especially favored California’s high tech industries, the negative consequences of liberal political dominance are increasingly visible.

Today Californian voters might reject liberal governance if they were offered candidates offering a new political agenda designed to rescue California’s schools and lower the cost of living. A successful agenda to transform California doesn’t even have to be labeled “conservative.” A new political agenda for California can be presented as nonpartisan, targeting not only conservatives, but independents and disaffected liberals. To fill the big tent, all this agenda has to do is offer big ideas that will have transformative impact.

California Madness

Proponents of a new political agenda for California will arouse fierce opposition from special interests and ideologues ranging from orthodox libertarians to fanatic leftist “identitarians,” to the environmentalist lobby and their profiteering corporate partners. But the ferocity of their opposition can be used against them; surely these common sense solutions can’t possibly be as bad as they’re saying. Every negative ad they run, and every negative commentary spewed by their acolytes and puppets, will harm their cause as much as it helps because it will expose them: what they object to is an agenda for the people, not the special interests or the fanatics.

To counter the opposition, proponents of a new agenda for California must assert, continuously and without apology, principles they know are right:

- Competitive abundance instead of politically contrived scarcity.
- Equality of opportunity instead of equality of outcome.
- Practical environmentalism instead of extremism.

The rhetoric that can derive from these principles should cascade into every set of talking points, campaign flyers, op-eds, and responses to attacks from California’s liberal elites. The rhetoric should occupy and hold the moral high ground:

- There is a moral value to providing opportunity by making California affordable.
- There is a moral value to instilling pride by abandoning race and gender preferences.
- There is a moral value to embracing policies of abundance—by turning the private sector loose to increase the supply of housing, energy, water, transportation.

Here then, are twelve specific proposals that might constitute a political agenda to be aggressively promoted as a way to break the liberal power that is breaking California.

[A Bipartisan, Transformative Political Agenda for California](#)

This last section is from the June 2019 article “A Bipartisan, Transformative Political Agenda for California” by the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

In the end, California’s promise can only be restored by developing policies that empower, not suppress, the aspirations of the middle-class. “Happy the nation whose people have not forgotten how to rebel,” noted British historian R.H. Tawney. It is a lesson that has been replicated throughout history, and now needs to extend to California.

Californians must counteract policies that have converted the state from an exemplar of opportunity and personal growth to a harbinger of a neo-feudalist society, dominated by a handful of wealthy people and a growing mass of serfs without hope of property ownership. Particularly in tough times, Californians can no longer afford those delusions of California’s leaders. These continue to exact real costs on the lives and livelihoods of our people, as

California Madness

anyone who travels this huge and diverse state can see. The time to change course is now.

(1) Public Education Reform:

K-12 Tenure, Layoff, Dismissal Policies: California teachers will be required to complete a minimum of five years of classroom teaching prior to being granted tenure. School principals shall have sole authority over what teachers may be subject to layoff, in order to allow merit instead of seniority to govern layoff decisions. The process for dismissing incompetent or ineffective teachers shall be streamlined.

(2) Enable Charter Schools:

The right of nonprofit institutions to open charter public schools shall not be infringed; no limit shall be set on the number of charter schools. Charter school approval shall be binding based on any one of the following agencies granting approval—the local school district board, the local county board of education, or the California Dept. of Education.

(3) Housing Abundance:

Repeal the “Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act” of 2008 and make it easy for developers to build homes on the suburban and exurban fringes, instead of just “in-fill” that destroys existing neighborhoods. Cancel the war on the single family dwelling, and allow developers (or in some cases even require them) to build homes with large yards again. Repeal excessive building codes such as mandatory photovoltaic roof panels. Create a regulatory environment that encourages private investment in new housing developments instead of discouraging it.

(4) Helping the Homeless:

California’s attorney general will challenge the decision in Jones vs the City of Los Angeles, that ruled that law enforcement and city officials can no longer enforce the ban on sleeping on sidewalks anywhere within the Los Angeles city limits until a sufficient amount of permanent supportive housing could be built. To help all the homeless, and to get them off the streets, argue for ruling that permits cost-effective shelter, hospitalization, and incarceration, as appropriate.

(5) Restore Law and Order:

Repeal Prop 47 which downgraded property crimes and drug offenses, making it impossible to engage in “broken windows” policing. Repeal Prop. 57, which released thousands of criminals back onto California’s streets. Repeal AB 953, which needlessly bureaucratized police work and made it harder to make arrests based on objective criteria.

(6) CEQA Reform:

California’s Environmental Quality Act of 1970, “CEQA,” will be modified as follows: (a) duplicative lawsuits shall be prohibited, (b) all entities that file CEQA lawsuits will be required

California Madness

to fully disclose their identities and their environmental or non-environmental interest, (c) court rules that still enable delaying tactics will be illegal, (d) rulings that stop entire projects on a single issue will be prohibited, (d) the loser in CEQA litigation will be liable for legal fees.

(7) Renewables Pricing Reform:

Under the current flawed system, California's public utilities are required to purchase an ever increasing percentage of their total kilowatt-hours from "renewable" sources. But then these utilities have to purchase backup power from other sources which can only make money as backup power plants, greatly increasing their prices since they can't operate all the time.

Meanwhile providers of renewable energy only have to invest in relatively inexpensive, intermittent power—solar panels and wind farms. This makes renewable energy appear far cheaper than it is in reality. To fix this, California must require renewable electricity suppliers to include in their pricing the costs for them to deliver reliable continuous power 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and lower its renewable portfolio mandate to 20 percent until renewables are competitive with other forms of energy using this new pricing model.

(8) Nuclear Power Development:

California's government will use all its powers to promote nuclear power. It will recommission the San Onofre nuclear power station and construct additional reactors. It will cancel the planned decommissioning of Diablo Canyon nuclear power station and construct additional reactors.

It will solicit bids for public/private financing of additional nuclear power capacity with a goal of increasing total California based nuclear power output from the current 2.1 gigawatts to at least 10 gigawatts. The state attorney general will aggressively litigate in support of fast tracking approval and construction of these projects.

(9) Water Infrastructure Funding:

California will issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$30 billion to accomplish the following specific projects: (a) \$3.0 billion for the Sites Reservoir (supplementing funds already granted) with storage capacity of 2.0 million acre feet (MAF), (b) \$3.0 billion for the Temperance Flat Reservoir with storage capacity of 1.0 MAF, (c) \$7.5 billion for desalination plants on the California coast with annual capacity of 0.5 MAF, (d) \$7.5 billion to retrofit urban water treatment plants statewide to potable standards with annual reuse capacity of 1.0 MAF, (e) \$4.0 billion to retrofit existing aqueducts with priority on the Friant/Kern canal, (f) \$5.0 billion for seismic retrofits to levees statewide, with a focus on the Delta. The timeline for submittal of proposals and awarding of funds shall not exceed 12 months. The state attorney general will aggressively litigate in support of fast tracking approval and construction of these projects.

(10) Additional Highway Funding:

California will issue general obligation bonds in the sum of 30 billion to upgrade and add lanes

California Madness

to every major freeway in the state. Priority shall be granted to construction of high speed lanes and smart lanes. These funds will supplement funds already awarded for road construction. The timeline for submittal of proposals and awarding of funds shall not exceed 12 months. The state attorney general will aggressively litigate in support of fast tracking approval and construction of these projects.

(11) Pension Benefit Reform:

The California constitution will be amended to eliminate the so-called “California Rule,” which allegedly prohibits modification to pension benefit accruals for future work. Pension benefits for state and local employees, for future work, shall revert to rates of accrual that were in effect in 1998.

(12) Pension Funds Infrastructure Investment:

California’s state and local government employee pension funds shall be required to invest a minimum of 10 percent of their assets in general obligation bonds. These investments shall be limited to infrastructure bonds issued by the state to fund water or transportation infrastructure within California.

From a practical standpoint, these is the question of who would promote this sort of political agenda. But it doesn’t have to be a political party. It can bypass party organizations. For example, it can take the form of twelve state ballot initiatives, funded by a coalition of donors, or, for that matter, just one of California’s 124 billionaires.

With that in place, candidates for office, no matter what party they belong to, could endorse these initiatives and pledge to support them legislatively if elected. There are a lot of ways to skin a cat. California’s politically active citizens, from the grassroots to the pinnacles of political and economic power, need to recognize the opportunity that beckons.

15 – Stopping the State's Downward Spiral Into Progressivism Madness



Credit: WallpaperDog.

The start of this final chapter is from the Summer 2010 *City Journal* article “The Golden State’s War on Itself” by Joel Kotkin:

Today’s California represents most everything wrong with today’s Progressivism movement, more often referred to as “Regressivism.” In retrospect, California’s progressive mistakes provide an incubator and testing ground to show America and prove the world, why it’s not in the best interest of the overwhelming number of Californians and Americans.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, California was the destination for those seeking a better place to live. For most of its history, the state enacted sensible policies that created one of the wealthiest and most innovative economies in human history. California realized the American dream—but better—fostering a huge middle class that, for the most part, owned their homes, sent their kids to public schools, and found meaningful work connected to the state’s amazingly diverse, innovative economy.

In the middle of the 20th century, the leadership of Governor Pat Brown and his practical Democrats made California, the Golden State, the envy of all others. These were the sapient leaders with old school Democrats values, ideas and policies that helped create the California dream.

However, since the dawn of the 21st century, the dream has been evaporating. Between 2003 and 2007, California state and local government spending grew 31 percent, even as the state’s

California Madness

population grew just 5 percent. The overall tax burden as a percentage of state income, once middling among the states, has risen to the sixth-highest in the nation, says the Tax Foundation.

Since 1990, according to an analysis by California Lutheran University, the state's share of overall U.S. employment has dropped a remarkable 10 percent. When the state economy has done well, it has usually been the result of asset inflation—first during the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, and then during the housing boom, which was responsible for nearly half of all jobs created earlier in this decade, and big tech most recently.

Guiding the agenda of California's Democrats are a ruling elite, small in number, but wielding incredible power. Among these elites are government union leaders, liberal billionaires from Hollywood to Silicon Valley, extreme environmentalists, and the social justice vanguard. The money and influence these elites bring to California politics cannot possibly be matched by the opposition. But all the money in the world cannot make up for the fact that their policies have made life miserable for millions of ordinary Californians.

We've heard all this before. Much of what Californians face are challenges confronting everyone in America. But California, the biggest state, and the bluest state, is a powerful trendsetter. California is broken, hijacked by opportunists wielding overwhelming financial and political power. How does this change?

Progressivism as the New Marxism

The ideological failure of California falls squarely on the shoulders of progressive politicians and activists, social justice reformers, civil rights workers, cultural appropriation enforcers, diversity, and inclusion warriors and the like who have spread into the media, government, college campuses, neighborhood organizations and workplaces.

In the twentieth century, Marxist revolutionaries sought to set things right by leading a revolution to overthrow the capitalist system and replace it with a just economic system. Progressives want to set things right through social change in order to create a just society. In a just society everyone is equal: men and women, immigrants and native-born, persons of various racial and ethnic groups, heterosexuals, and homosexuals, first and third world people, disabled and able-bodied. This will be a society free from the "isms" of sexism, nativism, racism, heterosexism, colonialism, and ableism.

To the progressive, the success of the newly liberated oppressed person must not be limited by the extent of his talent or effort. Success is merited by the very existence of his membership in an oppressed group. As in Marxist theory—"from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs"—even people of lesser abilities and efforts deserve equal outcomes. The progressive sees anything less than this as failure.

Undergirding all this is the assumption that a just society will be gained through the intervention of government. Only government can force the needed changes. This is achieved

California Madness

through a complex and extensive web of government mechanisms: civil rights laws; affirmative action programs; minimum wage laws; housing assistance; guaranteed income; income maintenance programs that seamlessly transfer wealth from haves to have nots; block grants to states; guaranteed health care for all; national disaster relief—and more.

In the progressive view there is little tolerance for government that cannot deliver equal outcomes for all. However, every human being is unique and not standardized widgets, so ultimately, government is incapable of creating a society of equals (which is impossible) and will fail.

Fixing California: The Themes That Make Anything Possible

This section is from the June 2021 article “Fixing California—Part One: The Themes That Make Anything Possible” comes from the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

For conservatives across America, California has become the cautionary tale for the rest of the country. Anyone who actually lives in the Golden State, and enjoys the best weather and the most beautiful, diverse scenery on earth, knows there are two sides to the story of this captivating place. Nevertheless, the story keeps getting worse.

For every essential—homes, rent, tuition, gasoline, electricity, and water—Californians pay the among the highest prices in the continental United States. Californians endure the most hostile business climate in America, and pay the highest taxes. The public schools are failing, crime is soaring, electricity is unreliable, water is rationed, and the mismanaged forests are burning like hell. Yet all of this can be fixed.

The solutions aren’t mysteries. Deregulate housing permits. End the disastrous “housing-first” policies and instead give the homeless safe housing in inexpensive barracks where sobriety is a condition of entry. Repeal Proposition 47, which downgraded property and drug crimes. Build reservoirs, desalination, and wastewater recycling plants. Build nuclear power plants and develop California’s abundant natural gas reserves. Recognize that the common road is the future of transportation, not the past, and widen California’s freeways and highways. Let the timber companies harvest more lumber in exchange for maintaining the fire roads and power line corridors. Implement school choice and make public schools compete with private schools on the basis of excellence. Done.

This isn’t just about ideology. The politicians who governed California during what arguably were its greatest yesteryears were Democrats. Old-timers refer to them as the Pat Brown Democrats (not to be confused with his son Jerry Brown and his progressive Democrat constituents), leaders whose approach to politics was pragmatic and focused on serving the people.

During that heyday, homes were affordable, and freeways weren’t crowded. Public schools were good, and the University of California campuses offered the best public higher education in the country. The California Water Project, taking barely more than a decade to construct,

California Madness

remains the most successful feat of interbasin water transfers in the world.

The Coalition That Will Realign California

This section is from the December 2020 article “Fixing California—Part One: The Themes That Make Anything Possible” comes from the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

Across several areas of policy, the Democratic party, led by Gavin Newsom, has not merely alienated, but enraged millions of Californians.

The key to political realignment in California is not only to offer these groups a political agenda that incorporates solutions to all their grievances, but does so in a manner so coherent, so practical, and so promising, that a common solidarity is generated which transcends all the ways California’s ruling class has thus far divided them

Hardcore populist support for Democrats in California comes primarily from millions of white liberals, living in inherited homes, who pay minimal property taxes and are hence immune from the consequences of an out-of-control public sector bureaucracy, along with the government employees that work in that bureaucracy.

The critical swing constituency, currently solidly in the Democratic camp, are black, Latino, and Asian voters—and the battle to turn back California’s progressive downward spiral is in the hands of these critical groups.

The Battle for California is the Battle for America

These sections below are from the October 2020 article “The Battle for California is the Battle for America” comes from the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

By now, this is a familiar story. California is a failed state. Thanks to years of progressive mismanagement and neglect, the cities are lawless, and the forests are burning. Residents pay the highest prices in America for unreliable electricity. Water is rationed. Homes are unaffordable. The public schools are a joke. Freeways are congested and crumbling. And if they’re not still on lockdown or otherwise already destroyed by it, business owners contend with the most hostile regulatory climate in American history.

It is understandable that conservatives in the rest of the United States would be happy to write off California. But California is not writing off the rest of the United States, and therein lies grave danger to American prosperity and freedom.

What if California doesn’t implode, a victim of its own political mismanagement? What if California instead completes its transformation into a successful plutocracy, run by a clique of multi-billionaires in a partnership of convenience with environmentalist extremists and backed by the power of a unionized state bureaucracy?

What if the people who would resist this tyranny leave, and the remaining population peacefully accepts universal basic income and subsidized housing? What if all it takes to be a

California Madness

feudal overlord in progressive California is to proffer to the proletarians a pittance of alms, while reliably spouting incessant, blistering social justice and climate change rhetoric?

Why won't that work? After all, it's worked so far. California has the most progressive electorate in America.

California is by Far the Wealthiest, Most Influential State in America

Not because of California's regulatory state, but in spite of it, California is by far the wealthiest, most influential state in America. With 40 million people, a diverse economy, and a gross domestic product of \$3.2 trillion, California is almost a nation unto itself. And the progressive zealots who run California have been acting like an independent nation, with the avowed goal of transforming the entire United States to match its image.

What happens in California matters to the rest of the United States because California's internal market is huge, its political and financial influence is powerful, and it rallies political allies throughout the U.S. If what California does to transform its own culture and economy isn't stopped, the rest of the U.S. will fall into line. The result will be a comprehensive reinvention of society in all areas, political, economic, and cultural.

The difficult reality that conservative Americans must accept is that while California may be a failed state by the standards Middle America has come to take for granted, California may not fail by its own standards. The society California is building may prove viable, even if it is hideous to contemplate and morally wrong. It may prove viable even though the alternatives that it displaces offer more prosperity and freedom to more people. It amounts to an all-powerful tech plutocracy ruling over a micro-managed, dependent population, with rationing and redistribution in the name of social justice and saving the planet.

This model, which is a modern form of feudalism, may work not merely because it is politically and economically sustainable despite its many shortcomings, nor merely because it offers more power and profit to its handful of resident billionaires who already possess obscene levels of power and wealth. These reasons don't fully explain the popularity of progressive feudalism. There is one more piece in the puzzle.

The progressive model also becomes viable because of a moral narrative that is flawed but nonetheless compelling: We live in an inherently oppressive society, so we must reduce the privileged middle class in the interests of social justice. We live in an era of limited resources and a stressed planet, so we must reduce everyone's standard of living. Countering that narrative is the mission that must be sent into California. The misery that Californians have condemned themselves to live is not a moral choice. They are victims of a con job.

What follows are detailed examples of what's happening in California. These examples are selected based on the level of transformative impact they are having, as well as their potential to be rolled into the rest of the United States. But this compendium, while lengthy, only scratches the surface.

California Madness

The Labor Movement is the Glue

At the forefront of California's populist progressive movement is organized labor. Assimilating the progressive battle cries on all the predictable topics—race, gender, climate change—California's labor movement wields both their billions in dues revenue and a perpetually mobilized field army that reaches into every locale and institution. And in a major escalation of a battle soon to rage across America, California's unions have taken on independent contractors.

Sailing through the state legislature and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2019, AB 5 outlawed most forms of individual independent contracting and threw most of the rest into legal ambiguity. While aimed at rideshare drivers on Uber and Lyft platforms, it affected all businesses that use independent contractors, from nail salons and graphic artists to thousands of badly needed nurses and other health care professionals.

The most powerful injured parties, led by Uber and Lyft, have funded a ballot initiative that will repeal AB 5 for their specific industries. But small businesses, including sole proprietors, are out of luck. The move to ban independent contractors has now gone national, with Biden and Harris endorsing the policy. The Biden campaign is even running ads against the Uber and Lyft-backed ballot proposition: "Now, gig economy giants are trying to gut the law and exempt their workers. It's unacceptable."

The consequences of outlawing most forms of independent contracting are obvious, and disgraceful. Within realistic constraints, people should be allowed to exchange services for money without having to become employees of a company. That such a basic expression of freedom should come under attack illustrates the gravity of the fight we're in. The motivation for this law is equally obvious and disgraceful; if people can be herded into companies as employees, then they can be organized and put under union representation.

It's worth reexamining exactly what unions in California represent, rather than leaving it at that. California's unions exist primarily in the public sector, where their "negotiations" are with politicians whose campaigns they've bankrolled, and their wage and benefit demands are paid for by taxes, not by businesses operating in a competitive environment.

Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, HR 1154

California's state legislature doesn't have to do anything to unionize public employees including police and firefighters, that's already an established fact. But if Californian Democrats have anything to say about it, unionized public safety is coming to America. California's 45 Democrats in the U.S. Congress, by far the most numerous and influential coalition of Democrats from any state, have introduced federal legislation to that effect.

Legislation to unionize public safety, misleadingly dubbed the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, HR 1154, authored by Los Angeles-area Representative Karen Bass and co-sponsored by 201 other Democratic representatives (including all of California's Democratic House members), would impose exclusive California-style collective bargaining for

California Madness

police and emergency services to the roughly 20 states that don't already have it.

The consequences of unionized law enforcement and firefighting are many and dire. Every year these unions will collect hundreds of millions in dues, and they will use a significant percentage of that money on political spending to flip battleground states from purple to blue. This bill would also require union bargaining over police officers' wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, increasing costs to taxpayers.

These costs are not trivial. Police and firefighter pay, and benefits are breaking the budgets of cities and counties across California. The average sheriff in a California county in 2019 earned pay and benefits of \$158,000. That's average, and that's on the low side compared to other categories of public safety. For example, on average, a police officer in a California city in 2019 earned pay and benefits of \$176,000. And firefighters earned, on average, much more: In California's counties in 2019, \$214,000; in California cities, also \$214,000.

These averages, if anything, are understating the reality, insofar as they don't take into account the increased costs of prefunding their pension benefits if there isn't another bull market, nor do they take into account the full cost of prefunding their retirement health care. Most reasonable people agree that it is very important to support police and firefighters, and to pay them well. But these averages are so high they are often met with disbelief. They are unaffordable, compromising the ability to maintain adequate forces, and taking funding away from other vital public services. They are a direct result of unionization.

And if unionizing is not to save money, since clearly the opposite has happened, then what is the motivation? In contrast to Democrats' stated aims, unionizing police departments per this legislation would exacerbate systemic police violence, by protecting bad cops from accountability. So why support it? Because government unions want it. Passing the bill allows Democrats to expand the revenue of the unions that quietly fund their campaigns.

Environmentalism Extremism

In 2006, California passed AB 32, the "Global Warming Solutions Act." Signed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, AB 32 empowered the unelected bureaucrats on California's Air Resources Board (CARB) to regulate CO2 emissions in California with the goal of reducing them to 1990 levels by 2020. Since the passage of AB 32 there has been an unceasing flow of follow-on legislation, executive orders, and CARB regulations. To name just a few:

In 2008 California's Public Utilities Commission released their "Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan," which, among other things, requires all new residential construction to be "zero net energy" (ZNE) starting in 2020, all new commercial construction to be ZNE by 2030, and 50 percent of all commercial buildings to be ZNE by 2030.

SB 350 in 2015 requires California to generate 50 percent of its electricity from "renewables" by 2050, with emissions-free nuclear power not eligible for inclusion.

California Madness

More recently, Newsom has ordered CARB to implement the phaseout of new gas powered cars and light trucks by 2045, barely 14 years from now. He also called on the state legislature to ban fracking.

These recent executive orders from Newsom are motivated by the series of cataclysmic wildfires that have again claimed millions of acres of forest in California, wildfires that Newsom alleges were caused by climate change. But the biggest factor by far in causing these wildfires was forest mismanagement, thanks to environmentalist policies pioneered in California.

For decades, California's foresters and timber harvesters knew the forests were dangerously overgrown. Tree density had progressed in the vast Sierra Nevada from a historical and healthy norm of between 10-50 per acre to upwards of 300 per acre.

While natural fires were suppressed with increasing efficiency, for many years healthy forests were nonetheless maintained by logging and controlled burns. But between 1950 and 2020, California's timber industry's annual harvest declined from 6 billion board feet, which maintained an equilibrium between natural growth and annual removals, to less than 1.5 billion board feet.

California's powerful environmentalist nonprofits, such as the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity, used litigation and lobbying—not only within California, but in federal court and the U.S. Congress—to coerce sympathetic judges and legislators to nearly destroy California's timber industry, at the same time as CARB regulations and other onerous permitting obstacles prevented forest thinning or controlled burns.

When it comes to progressive ideology in general, and California's environmentalists in particular, irony abounds. Let this sink in: California's environmentalists destroyed California's forests. Any attempt to deflect this catastrophe onto climate change is sophistry. Densely packed, tinder dry forests will burn like hell, and that's exactly what happened. It doesn't matter one bit if summers are slightly dryer and slightly hotter. They'll still burn.

Make Basic Necessities Unaffordable

The consequence of California's excessive, environmentalist-inspired policies is to make the state unaffordable. It comes from a fundamental worldview that California uses all of its cultural influence to reinforce in America and across the globe: Austerity is necessary to save the planet. This goes all the way back to Jerry Brown's "era of limits" philosophy which he promoted during his first terms as governor back in the 1970s.

The basic necessities of life—housing, transportation, energy, and water—cost more in California than anywhere else in America. This is because of artificially imposed scarcity, a choice that is entirely avoidable. Along with making it impossible to profitably build affordable market housing, California no longer makes significant public investments in energy, water, or transportation infrastructure—preferring instead to redirect available funds to public employee pay and benefits. They justify this by claiming they are protecting the environment,

California Madness

but the real winners are the special interests.

The fully co-opted, unionized public sector is a primary beneficiary of a hyper-regulated state where everything costs more than it should. Stratospheric home values translate directly into higher property tax receipts. Elevated utility and telecommunications prices to the consumer enable higher returns from the hidden taxes and fees embedded in the monthly billings. Public employee pension funds benefit when their real estate portfolios soar in value.

Also benefiting from artificial scarcity are landowners, established corporations, public utilities, and investment funds, all of which realize higher profits and returns when competitors are shut out and captive consumers bid up prices on limited supplies. Public utilities offer a particularly pernicious example of how artificial scarcity elevates profit.

The profits these regulated utilities can earn are limited to a percentage of their revenues. But when expensive renewable energy is delivered on this cost-plus basis to the consumer, they can sell the same or even fewer kilowatt-hours for far more revenue. Since they are allocated a fixed percentage of their revenue for profit, higher revenue always means higher profits.

This philosophy of limits and austerity, pioneered in California and pushed relentlessly into the culture, is as dangerous to the prospects of ordinary Americans in the rest of the country as the actual policies enacted by California's politicians.

The blessings of capitalism, where competitive development and innovation yield ongoing and broadly distributed prosperity, are assigned no credibility in California. They are discredited as harming the planet and inherently racist, in a stunning inversion of logic promulgated as much by high-tech billionaires as by the zealous millennials emerging from California's K-12 system of public school indoctrination. Which brings us to public education.

Destroy Public Education

There is one area where California's influence is felt every election cycle in the rest of the United States, and it comes courtesy of California's unionized public education system. California's public employee unions collect and spend over \$900 million per year, mostly from member dues. More than half of that, nearly a half-billion per year, comes from public education unions, chief among them the California Teachers Association.

The leadership of these unions are willing to spend hundreds of millions every election cycle to support Democratic candidates and causes. Everywhere. With California's cities and counties and school boards almost universally dominated by California Teachers Association-approved Democrats, along with both houses of the state legislature and all higher state elected offices, the teachers' unions have money to burn in the rest of the United States. And that's exactly what they do, sending out millions to swing close elections to the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and state offices around the country.

Where there's money for politics, there's the political clout to completely dominate California's school system. Thanks to the influence of the teachers' union, state laws are

California Madness

slowly squeezing charter schools out of existence, with a rising assault on homeschoolers only deferred by the COVID-19 school shutdowns.

Thanks to the teachers' unions in California, the work rules that prevent teacher accountability and school accountability are already well-established law. Attempting to fire a teacher, or retain the best teachers in layoffs, or even to extend the period of time before a teacher gains tenure and has a job for life, are all rendered nearly impossible in California.

The ways teachers' unions have used their power to affect the curriculum of California's public schools are well documented. Most notably, the recent mandate to implement "gender studies" instruction across all age groups that borders on pornographic. Still pending, the mandate to require "ethnic studies" courses as a prerequisite for high-school graduation—something that would have already become law, except the various "stakeholders" haven't yet agreed on which victimized groups would occupy which positions on the victim hierarchy.

In general, California's teachers' unions have committed public schools to a pedagogy that indoctrinates students with their own political ideology. America is a flawed nation founded on racism. White men are oppressors. Capitalism is inherently exploitative. Socialism is the only path to social justice and environmental health.

The impact of the teachers' unions to reinforce and catalyze California's socialist vision for America and the world cannot be overstated. Year after year, their money pours over the Sierra Nevada to decisively influence countless political races in the rest of the nation. The national teachers' unions that lobby for similar curricula around America are dominated by the California leadership and California's dues revenue.

For over a generation, students thoroughly steeped in socialist ideology have graduated from California's K-12 schools. As graduates of this indoctrination, they have spread into every state, from the streets of Portland and Seattle to the precincts of Allegheny County. They staff HR departments and activist nonprofits. They are code warriors and social media influencers. The teachers' unions of California have done their job well. Their proteges are everywhere.

Foment Identity Group Tension

Fundamental to California's progressive culture is the deconstruction of meritocracy. It's all an illusion, of course. No start-up that aspires to be Google or Facebook's next unicorn acquisition expects to achieve such glory by hiring incompetent programmers. But the institutional drive towards erasing colorblind, genderblind criteria has progressed further in California than anywhere else in the United States. For any corporation still doing business in California, these policies have enterprise-wide impact.

In September 2020, for example, Newsom signed AB 979, which requires publicly traded corporations to "appoint directors from underrepresented communities to their boards." A close reading of this law reveals the brazen, punitive arrogance of California's Democrats, exemplified by the announced fine of \$100,000 merely for "failure to timely file board member information with the Secretary of State."

California Madness

A tactic of the Left, perfected in California, is to measure aggregate group achievement, by ethnicity or by gender, and then to ascribe all variation between groups either to racism or sexism. And to the argument that perhaps there are factors related to competence, qualifications, and merit, rather than racism or sexism alone explaining these disparities, the response has been to eliminate those factors as official evaluation criteria, or even as subjects we are allowed to discuss.

Why else is it that the regents of the University of California, yielding to pressure from the state legislature, have eliminated the use of the SAT and ACT tests as a method to evaluate college applicants? Why is it that California is lowering the score required to pass the bar exam and become a licensed attorney?

All of these steps and more are being pioneered in California. In November, California voters will even have the opportunity to bring back affirmative action, which would restore the explicitly racist (and sexist) requirement for public and private institutions to achieve proportional representation by race and gender in admissions, hiring, pay, and promotions. Where does this end?

It doesn't end there. Governor Newsom has just signed another bill, AB 3070, which will "establish a first-in-the-nation task force to study and make recommendations on reparations for slavery." Critics have suggested this is just Newsom's way to position himself to run for president in 2024 or 2028. Probably not now because of the recall because he's damaged goods. But meanwhile, given their record to-date, there is no evidence whatsoever that California's state legislature would not enact a reparations bill.

As part of their relentless, intrepid quest for social justice, California's woke Democrats are not just trailblazing quotas, affirmative action, and reparations and exporting them across the United States—another pioneering innovation is to declare racism to be a public health emergency. This notion gained national traction in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, but it was already being pushed by health providers in California.

Which brings us to California's excessive attention to public health, to the point of absurdity and beyond.

Health and Safety Mandates

The COVID-19 lockdowns may have grabbed the headlines, but California has been going off the deep end in pursuit of health and safety for decades. A good example is Proposition 65, the "Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act," sold to voters in 1986. This is the California law responsible for cancer-warning signs so ubiquitous that most Californians know it's better just to ignore them.

In bars and restaurants, on playground equipment, shoes, umbrellas, and golf club covers, even around Disneyland, consumers are warned that a product served on the premises—even the place itself—"is known to the state of California to cause cancer or reproductive harm."

California Madness

While most Californians have gotten used to these warning labels, they are no laughing matter. They expose small businesses to ruinous lawsuits. Prop. 65 is often out of step with scientific consensus because it draws from a reference list of nearly 1,000 chemicals, chosen if, according to state regulators, they could cause “one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed to the chemical over a 70-year lifetime.” But with criteria like that, everything causes cancer.

Like so many regulations, the biggest victims of Prop. 65 are small businesses. Prop. 65 deputizes private trial lawyers to search for evidence of noncompliance. Small businesses, which generally don’t have the resources to fight costly legal battles, are often compelled to settle. Because the penalties for “failure to warn” are so steep, businesses paid \$35 million in Prop. 65 settlements in 2018, with more than three-quarters of this total going to attorney fees. Some lawyers who specialize in this area take home more than \$1 million in fees per year.

The federal government is the only backstop against a law so broad that it applies to products produced anywhere in the world and that are sold in California. In August 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took the unprecedented step of issuing guidance stating it won’t approve of Prop. 65’s “false labeling” on the weedkiller Roundup because the science doesn’t support it. EPA didn’t mince words: “It is irresponsible to require labels on products that are inaccurate when EPA knows the product does not pose a cancer risk,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “We will not allow California’s flawed program to dictate federal policy.”

The California Battle for America is the Battle for the Future of the World

Most Californians have figured out that something is wrong, but they have been brainwashed into fearing the alternatives. They fear meritocracy. They fear capitalism. They fear racism. They fear climate change. They have slowly become accustomed to what is becoming tyranny, and they believe material poverty is necessary to save the planet and atone for racism. And in all these areas, the people who could offer common-sense solutions have been censored and disparaged.

But the progressive feudalists have one fatal weakness: They are wrong. The fundamental premises they use to justify their actions are flawed. Many maddingly—and a few idiotically.

Meritocracy is the only way a free people can create an efficient, prosperous, opportunity society. Without it, nobody has any incentive to innovate or work hard. The capable and hard-working become cynical and resentful, while the incompetent and the indolent know they don’t have to step up, because they can live for free.

Capitalism is not dangerous, it is the engine of progress. It has been conflated with corporate monopolies and financial speculators. What a free nation does is use thoughtful regulations to amputate the gangrenous appendages of capitalist corruption, the predators, and the gamblers, leaving the pure and competitive heart of capitalist competition to thrive.

California Madness

Finally, there is climate change, the trump card of the collectivists, played by progressive feudalists whenever they decide it's time to end the debate and get on with their agenda. But everything the environmental extremists have done in recent years has caused harm. Suburban expansion doesn't stop climate change, it just makes housing unaffordable. Forest "preservation" doesn't preserve forests, it turns them into tinderboxes that are periodically obliterated by fire. Natural gas is affordable and clean, and has already allowed Americans to lower their ratio of CO2 emissions to energy consumption to the lowest of all industrialized nations. Are the Chinese and Indians going to lower their emissions? Because if they don't, so what if Americans do? And what about nuclear power? Why is the renewables lobby shutting down Diablo Canyon?

These are the messages that must be taken to California's voters, without apology or equivocation. Expand suburbs along the freeway corridors into the vast rangeland of California. Build new reservoirs and restore the aqueducts. Build desalination plants up and down the California coast and keep Diablo Canyon open. Thin the forests, restore the timber industry, and build biomass power plants to turn the trimmings into clean electricity.

Instead of squandering billions on the bullet train, widen the roads with smart lanes for high speed, high tech cars. Drill for natural gas in the Monterey Shale. Mine lithium in the Mojave Desert. Deregulate, so builders and business owners can spend their time, talents, and money on productive work instead of permits and fees. And launch a frontal assault on the teachers' union by enacting school choice with vouchers parents can redeem wherever they want.

This is a contract with California that would entice everyone. This is the enlightened, empowering capitalism that delivers the broad prosperity and freedom that progressive feudalism promises but cannot possibly deliver. This is the agenda that will enable voters in California to understand that competitive abundance is a morally preferable choice. California can be affordable again without compromising environmentalist values.

California can deliver opportunity to everyone again, no matter who they are or where they came from. Americans who want to prevent the Californication of America must step up, dollar for dollar, to counter the spending of California's public sector unions and resident billionaires.

California's seething population, searching for answers, must realize the premises used to justify their misery rely on convenient illusions, conjured by special interests for their own gain. But the battle must be fought. Somebody has to tell them.

What is at stake in California is not just California. It is the future of America. It is the future of the world.

Are You Part of the Solution? Or Part of the Problem?

I still believe the California Dream and so do millions of others and we your help in making it golden again. Despite covering a lot of ground in this textbook of how California is

California Madness

transforming itself and the rest of the nation in the process, there are more examples of equal significance left unexamined or ones requiring greater detail that could make up a second volume of *California Madness*.

Nonetheless, I hope by now you get the straight-forward arguments and critical analyses presented and now recognize an idiocracy of epic proportions has put its own interests before the interests of its California residents. Sapient beings can fix this!

Idiocracy: Is democracy gone wrong through idiocy. It is the unfortunate situation where the vote of a person ignorant of even the most basic of facts surrounding an issue or candidate counts exactly as much as the vote of someone who is well-informed about the specific issue or candidate.

Sapience: Also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Being a sapient being is not about identity politics, it's about doing what is right and borrows many of the essential qualities of Centrism that supports strength, tradition, open mindedness, and policy based on evidence not ideology.

Sapient beings are independent minded thinkers that achieve common sense solutions that appropriately address America's and the world's most pressing issues. They gauge situations based on context and reason, consideration, and probability. They are open minded and exercise conviction and willing to fight for it on the intellectual battlefield. Sapient beings don't blindly and recklessly follow their feelings or emotions.

Their unifying ideology is based on the truth, reason, logic, scientific method, and pragmatism—and not necessarily defined by compromise, moderation, or any particular faith—but is considerate of them. The love of truth and the desire to attain it should motivate you to think for yourself. Open-mindedness, critical thinking, and debate are essential to discovering the truth.

Thinking for yourself means questioning dominant ideas even when others insist on their being treated as unquestionable. It means deciding what one believes not by conforming to fashionable opinions, but by taking the trouble to learn and honestly consider the strongest arguments to be advanced on both or all sides of questions—including arguments for positions that others revile and want to stigmatize and against positions others seek to immunize from critical scrutiny.

Are you a sapient being? For the sake of California—and America—I hope so!

California Madness

Appendix

50 MADNESS Textbook Titles: <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/madnessbooks>

- *Fake News Madness*
- *Crime Rate Madness*
- *Voting Madness*
- *California Madness*

Ballotpedia: https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_identification_laws_by_state

California 2020 Propositions and Election Results: https://ballotpedia.org/California_2020_ballot_propositions

California Policy Center (CPC): <https://californiapolicycenter.org/>

California's Largest School Districts Are Underwater Full Spreadsheet With Sources:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kZWd9URNjQ1Uzzu8B7mqLeUPlucMy9sFvLrc5PW8o0/edit#gid=2010638064>

California's State and Local Liabilities Total \$1.5 Trillion: <https://californiapolicycenter.org/californias-state-and-local-liabilities-total-1-5-trillion-3/>

CalMatters: <https://calmatters.org/commentary/>

Convention of States (COS): https://conventionofstates.com/take_action

Election Observer Training Program - Voter Integrity Project: <https://voterintegrityproject.com/vip-launches-election-observer-training/>

Hoover Institution: <https://www.hoover.org/publications/californiaonyourmind>

Independent Institute: <https://www.independent.org/>

Judicial Watch: <https://www.judicialwatch.org/>

Little Hoover Commission: <https://lhc.ca.gov/about/history>

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC): <https://www.ppic.org/>

Redistricting - We Draw The Lines California; https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/sign_up?recruiter_id=13418

San Francisco City and County, California Ballot Measures:

https://ballotpedia.org/San_Francisco_City_and_County_California_ballot_measures

Save Our States: <https://saveourstates.com/>

The Facts About Election Integrity and the Need for States to Fix Their Election Systems:

<https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity-facts>

SAPIENT BEING PROGRAMS:

- **Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program:**

California Madness

<https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>

- **Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>
- **World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW) Program:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>
- **World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW) Journalism Code of Ethics, Practical Logic & Sapience Guidelines:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/resources>

The S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being: <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/books>

Voter's Defense Manual–2020 Edition: https://static.votesmart.org/static/pdf/2020_VSDM.pdf

Vote Harvesting - A Recipe for Intimidation, Coercion, and Election Fraud:
https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/LM253_0.pdf

Glossary

Absentee Ballot Vote Fraud – A person attempts to fill out and turn in an absentee ballot containing false information. For example, this can occur when a person attempts to fill out and turn in an absentee ballot with the name of a false or non-existent voter. The term can extend to manipulation, deception, or intimidation of absentee voters.

American Dream -- Is a national ethos of the United States, the set of ideals in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success, as well as an upward social mobility for the family and children, achieved through hard work in a society with few barriers.

Ballot Harvesting – A Ballot collecting is the gathering and submitting of completed absentee or mail-in voter ballots by third-party individuals, volunteers, or workers, rather than submission by voters themselves directly to ballot collection sites.

Ballot Initiative – Is a means by which citizens may propose to create, amend, or repeal a state law or constitutional provision through collecting petition signatures from a certain minimum number of registered voters.

Californification – Is a word, an expression that refers to the influx of Californians into various western states in the U.S.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – Is a California statute passed in 1970 shortly after the United States federal government passed the National Environmental Policy Act, to institute a statewide policy of environmental protection.

Crony Capitalism – Is an economy in which businesses thrive not as a result of risk, but rather as a return on money amassed through a nexus between a business class and the political class. This is done using state power to crush genuine competition in handing out permits, government grants, special tax breaks, or other forms of state intervention.

Democracy – A government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections; a political unit that has a democratic government.

Dystopia – An imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.

Global Warming Solutions Act – Or Assembly Bill 32, is a California State Law that fights global warming by establishing a comprehensive program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources throughout the state.

Hollywood Glitterati – Another name for Hollywood elites.

Homeless Industrial Complex – A situation where “non-profit” organizations utilize taxpayer dollars, ostensibly, to “fix” the homeless crisis.

California Madness

Identitarian – A supporter or advocate of the political interests of a particular racial, ethnic, or national group, typically one composed of Europeans or white people.

Idiocracy – An idiocracy is a disparaging term for a society run by or made up of idiots (or people perceived as such). Idiocracy is also the title of 2006 satirical film that depicts a future in which humanity has become dumb.

Illiberalism – The 21st century term is used to describe an attitude that is close-minded, intolerant, and bigoted.

Intellectual Humility – A mindset that encompasses empathy, trust, and curiosity, viewpoint diversity gives rise to engaged and civil debate, constructive disagreement, and shared progress towards truth.

Intersectionality – A theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities might combine to create unique modes of discrimination.

Judicial Fiat – Refers to an order or a decree especially an arbitrary one.

Libertarian – An advocate of the doctrine of free will; a person who upholds the principles of individual liberty especially of thought and action; a member of a political party advocating libertarian principles.

Little Hoover Commission – Formally known as the Milton Marks "Little Hoover" Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy, is an independent state oversight agency created in 1962.

Mainstream Media (MSM) – Traditional forms of mass media, as television, radio, magazines, and newspapers, as opposed to online means of mass communication.

Marxism – The political, economic, and social principles and policies advocated by Marx and a theory and practice of socialism including the labor theory of value, dialectical materialism, the class struggle, and dictatorship of the proletariat until the establishment of a classless society.

Meritocracy – Is the only way a free people can create an efficient, prosperous, opportunity society. Without it, nobody has any incentive to innovate or work hard. The capable and hard-working become cynical and resentful, while the incompetent and the indolent know they don't have to step up, because they can live for free.

Municipal Elections – Elections for sub-state municipalities, such as county government or city government. Mayors, councilmembers, city attorneys, school boards, and sheriffs are some of the people who may be elected by municipal elections.

New Suburbanism – Is an urban design movement which intends to improve on existing suburban or exurban designs.

New Urbanism – Is an urban design movement which promotes environmentally friendly habits by creating walkable neighborhoods containing a wide range of housing and job types.

NIMBY – Not in my backyard.

Occam's Razor – Is a principle of theory construction or evaluation according to which, other things equal, explanations that posit fewer entities, or fewer kinds of entities, are to be preferred to explanations that posit more.

California Madness

Preen – Congratulate or pride oneself and (of a person) devote effort to making oneself look attractive and then admire one's appearance.

Progressivism – A political philosophy in support of social reform based on the idea of progress in which advancements in science, technology, economic development, and social organization are vital to improve the human condition.

Republic – A government having a chief of state who is not a monarch and who in modern times is usually a president; a political unit (as a nation) having such a form of government; a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law.

Sage – Wise through reflection and experience. b archaic : grave, solemn. 2 : proceeding from or characterized by wisdom, prudence, and good judgment sage advice.

Sapience – Also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Section 8 Housing – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) operates a housing voucher program under Section VIII of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This voucher program is commonly known as Section 8 assistance, and is designed to help low income, elderly, and disabled people afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

Smart Growth – Is an urban planning and transportation theory that concentrates growth in compact walkable urban centers to avoid sprawl.

Social Justice – A political and philosophical theory which asserts that there are dimensions to the concept of justice beyond those embodied in the principles of civil or criminal law, economic supply and demand, or traditional moral frameworks.

Socialism – Any various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. A system of society or group living in which there is no private property. A system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state. A stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done.

Soft Fascism – Is a process of anti-democratic governing that is not as overtly totalitarian or authoritarian as more historically memorable fascist states.

Supermajority – The current 2020 election condition in the California legislature where Democrats in both houses, Senate and Assembly, have a two-thirds voting threshold, which allows them to pass most legislation without Republican help.

Useful Idiot – Is attributed to Vladimir Lenin. It describes naïve people who can be manipulated to advance a political cause.

Viewpoint Diversity – Viewpoint diversity occurs when members of a group or community approach problems or questions from a range of perspectives.

California Madness

Voter Registration Fraud – Filling out and submitting a voter registration card for a fictional person or filling out a voter registration card with the name of a real person but without that person's consent and forging his or her signature on the card.

Voter Suppression – An artificially created term that unfairly condemns any perfectly legal election reform with which liberal critics disagree. It is a linguistic trick designed to taint reasonable and commonsense safeguards that protect voters by lumping these policies together with illegal activities like poll taxes and literacy tests that did occur in the Democratic South prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 – The Voting Rights Act of 1965 expanded the 14th and 15th amendments by banning racial discrimination in voting practices. The act was a response to the barriers that prevented African Americans from voting for nearly a century.

YIMBY – Yes in my backyard.

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Index

1

130 million trees died · 129
1986 immigration act · 150

2

2000 Census · 37
2021-22 state budget agreement · 53

7

7-Step Fix for 'Mismanaged' Caltrans ·
201

A

AB 119 · 197
AB 1460 · 180
AB 155 · 204
AB 1937 · 197
AB 2886 · 197
AB 28X1 · 204
AB 2935 · 197
AB 3034 · 197
AB 3070 · 225
AB 32 · 46, 128, 129, 203, 221
AB 5 · 13, 206, 212, 213, 220
AB 83 · 197
AB 953 · 18
AB 979 · 224
AB-2017 · 197
AB-2049 · 197
AB5 law · 11
Abbott, Greg · 104
Academic Senate of the California State

University · 180
active management · 131
activist CEOs · 40
aerospace · 54, 77
affirmative action · 10, 12, 13, 29, 43, 48,
65, 66, 68, 212, 217, 225
African-Americans · 14, 50, 60, 67, 68,
69, 80, 83, 105, 171, 180, 234,
AFSCME · 196, 208
Ahmanson Sr., Howard · 55
Airbnb · 39
Alabama · 143
Alameda · 11, 75, 87, 106
Alameda County · 11, 75, 87
Alaska Native · 69
Allegheny County · 224
Alliance College Ready Public Schools ·
171
Alliance Network · 169
Altman, Sam · 39
Alvarado, Gloria · 29
Amazon · 83, 207
American Community Survey (ACS) · 97
American democracy · 4
American exceptionalism · 4, 64
American Federation of Teachers (AFT) ·
169
American Institutes for Research · 142
American Left · 87
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) · 57
American Society of Civil Engineers · 158
American Southwest · 64, 139
amnesty · 87, 108, 140
Anglo-Saxon · 140
anti-Americanism · 64
antibusiness state · 79
anti-commandeering · 92
anti-fascist · 48
anti-Western, anti-White, anti-American
propaganda · 181
Apartment List survey · 111

California Madness

apartments · 48, 109, 111, 112, 116, 120
API scores and graduation rates · 172
Apple · 39, 83, 156
aquifers · 46
arbitrage bonds · 186
Arizona · 13, 49, 55, 82, 85, 99, 154, 201
Armenians · 63
Asia · 50, 97, 102, 106, 107
Asian American Coalition for Education · 66
Asian Americans · 66, 180
Asian immigrants · 149
Asian-American neighborhoods · 149
Asians · 13, 43, 66, 67, 68, 69, 76, 80, 95, 111, 142, 145, 149, 151, 176, 177, 178, 180, 218
Assembly · 37, 45, 69, 78, 96, 186, 204
Assembly Bill 953 · 45
Associated Press · 91, 128
Atkins, Toni · 53
Atlanta · 14
Atlantic · 8, 58
Austin · 83
Australia · 110, 125, 150
Australians · 63
Awan, Imran · 108
Aztlán · 64, 108

B

B.A. completion · 142
baby boomers · 102
Bakersfield · 127, 128, 165, 166, 200
Ball, Rob · 128
ballot propositions · 210, 211, 213
bankruptcy · 42, 184, 192, 193, 195, 196, 241
Bartel Associates · 193
Basques · 63
Bay Area · 11, 12, 15, 26, 28, 29, 39, 55, 82, 83, 87, 115, 116, 136
Bay Area Council Economic Institute · 87
Becerra, Xavier · 66, 67, 78, 107
Beckford Hoge, Roxanne · 162
Beeuwsaert, Michael · 81
Bell · 144

Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies · 104
Bernal, Rafael · 97
Berry, Anita · 141
Beyer, Scott · 75
Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California's Middle Class · 7, 14
Biden administration · 14, 137, 138
Biden, Joe · 10, 29, 138, 161
bigot · 5, 6
bilingual education · 141
Billingsley, Lloyd · 69, 107
birth rates · 101
bisexual · 69
black · 65, 66, 67, 68, 78, 95, 111, 150, 177, 218
Bleiman, Ben · 76
Bloomberg News · 7, 52, 53, 242
Bloomberg, Michael · 36
blue-collar industries · 28
Board of Regents at the University of California · 177
Boise · 104
Bonta, Rob · 37
boondoggles · 89, 202
Borjas, George · 147
Boston · 105, 151
Boudin, Chesa · 74
Brave New World · 41, 48
Breed, London · 67, 74, 118
Brown protégé · 78
Brown, Jerry · 16, 31, 38, 69, 80, 91, 107, 108, 124, 185, 217, 222
Brown, Pat · 37, 38, 125, 135, 153, 215, 217
Brown, Willie · 24, 26, 78
bubble · 41, 79, 119, 188, 205, 216
Buckley, Thomas · 160
budget deficits · 54, 211
budget surplus · 54, 160, 187
bullet train · 44, 154, 165, 202, 203, 227
Burbank · 166
Bureau of Labor Statistics · 32, 83
Bush, George W. · 139
Business Roundtable · 83, 211
Buss, Jerry · 55

C

- Cal Fire · 130, 131, 132
- Cal Fire Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation report · 132
- California Air Resources Board (CARB) · 131, 221
- California Association of Realtors · 103, 115
- California Center for Jobs & the Economy · 33
- California Citizens Redistricting Commission · 96
- California Coastal Commission · 134
- California Comeback · 32, 33, 53, 54, 235
- California Comeback Plan · 32, 53, 54, 235
- California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) · 191
- California Democrats · 37
- California Department of Finance · 99, 114
- California Dept. of Education · 18
- California DMV's "motor voter" program · 162
- California Dream · 8, 67, 83, 117, 227, 237
- California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America's Public Pension Crisis · 204
- California EITC · 57
- California elite · 47, 60, 61, 86
- California emissions · 124
- California Department of Housing and Community Development · 117
- California Employment and Development Department (EDD) · 115
- California Energy Commission · 127
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) · 32, 46, 117, 125
- California forests · 128
- California gas and electricity prices · 123
- California Globe · 160, 162
- California Golden Fleece® Award · 93, 132, 165, 237
- California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) · 171
- California High Speed Rail Authority · 202
- California History, Social Science Framework · 170
- California Housing Partnership · 116
- California Labor Federation · 206
- California Latino households · 83
- California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) · 101
- California legislature · 37, 116
- California Lutheran University · 216
- California Natural Resources Agency · 131
- California Nurses Association · 38
- California Organization of Police and Sheriffs (COPS) · 191
- California Policy Center · 1, 2, 8, 12, 16, 17, 22, 35, 36, 40, 43, 45, 57, 59, 60, 70, 71, 80, 85, 86, 118, 123, 128, 135, 154, 155, 156, 157, 168, 171, 172, 175, 176, 186, 187, 196, 197, 198, 201, 203, 207, 209, 210, 217, 218, 229, 236, 238, 239, 240, 241
- California policymakers · 46, 47, 81
- California Poverty Measure (CPM) · 56
- California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) · 192
- California public schools · 179
- California Restaurant Association · 68
- California Rule · 20, 186
- California ruling elites · 60, 80
- California School Dashboard · 168
- California Small Business Roundtable · 211
- California Standards Tests · 142
- California state budget · 158
- California State Legislature · 37
- California State Sheriffs' Association · 91
- California State University · 1, 64, 142, 143, 171, 180, 181, 242
- California State University Council on Ethnic Studies · 180
- California State University freshmen · 171
- California State University Fresno · 64
- California Teachers Association (CTA) · 169, 189, 205

California Madness

California tech industry · 155, 156
California UC System · 176, 177
California Values Act · 91
California Water Project · 217
California's 124 billionaires · 20
California's Environmental Quality Act · 18, 203
California's labor movement · 220
California's unions · 211, 220
Californification · 3, 13, 231
CalMatters · 1, 30, 32, 64, 77, 98, 135, 180, 184, 192, 229, 237, 241, 242
CalPERS · 158, 185, 186, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 203, 205
CalTrans · 201
CalWORKs · 57
Camarota, Steven A. · 152
Caminos de la Liberta · 81
Camp Fire · 131
campaign contributions · 86, 174, 208
campus orthodoxies · 6
Canada · 81, 86, 110, 154
cancel culture · 4
Cantonese · 107, 140
Capitol · 1, 173, 195
Capitol Resource Institute · 174
CapRadio · 24
caravans of illegal immigrants · 140
carbon dioxide · 124
CARES Act · 57, 161
Casa Teresa · 141
catch and release · 138
Center for Immigration Studies · 144, 150, 152
Center for Migration Studies · 102, 106
Central America · 97, 107, 137, 138, 139
Central Americans · 102, 138, 151
Centrism · 5, 228
centrist Democrat legislators · 38
centrist ideology · 61
CEO Magazine · 85
CEQA · 18, 46, 117, 202
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Advocacy PAC · 211
Chancellor's Office · 180
Chapman University · 2, 7, 40, 49, 56, 68, 76, 82, 103, 112, 153, 170, 236
Chapman University Center for Demographics & Policy · 7, 49, 76, 82, 112, 124, 153, 170, 236
Charlotte · 83
Charter schools · 172
Chicago · 55, 56
Chicanismo · 64
Chief Executive Magazine · 153
Child Tax Credit (CTC) · 57
China · 27, 51, 52, 86, 99, 102, 106
Chinese · 50, 63, 107, 149, 227
Chinese immigrants · 149
Christians · 88
CHSRA · 165, 166
CHSRA Business Plan · 165
Citigroup Pension Liability Index (CPLI) · 158, 188
City Journal · 2, 10, 14, 25, 37, 63, 67, 81, 84, 102, 103, 110, 136, 140, 141, 145, 151, 182, 183, 188, 215, 236, 237, 241
clean energy · 119, 122, 127, 132
Clever Real Estate · 114
climate activists · 38
climate-change policies · 27
Clinton, Bill · 139
Clinton, Hillary · 108
CNN · 74
CO2 emissions · 86, 221, 227
Coachella Valley · 96
coal · 27, 38, 51, 123
Colorado · 13, 85, 104, 134
Colorado River · 134
Comer, James · 161
Commerce Department · 96
Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report · 131
Congress · 97, 98, 108, 220, 222
congressional seats · 35, 36, 96
Connecticut · 104
Connerly, Ward · 65
conservatives · 10, 12, 16, 26, 40, 70, 71, 90, 105, 179, 217, 218
Contreras, Frances · 182
Cooper, Jim · 13
CoreLogic · 116
coronavirus · 11, 15, 16, 29, 50, 83, 161, 206

California Madness

corporate California · 52
cost of living · 16, 31, 50, 56, 60, 80, 85,
98, 102, 103, 112, 199, 206
Costco · 68
Council of Economic Advisors · 84
Court of Appeals · 205
COVID-19 · 23, 31, 32, 55, 56, 57, 155,
186, 200, 224, 225
Cox, John · 44
Cox, Wendell · 102, 110, 236
Coyle, Timothy · 117
Coyote Valley · 86
Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce · 68
crime · 91, 151, 152
critical race theory · 179
crony capitalism · 200
crony capitalists · 41
CSU San Jose · 145
Curley Effect · 105
Curley, James Michael · 105
Current Population Survey · 144

D

DACA · 90
Dallas · 54, 55, 83, 104
Dallas News · 104
Dallas-Ft. Worth · 54
dams · 46, 134, 158
David Horowitz Freedom Center · 1
Davis, Gray · 80, 192, 194
Davis, Rodney · 161
de Blasio, Bill · 73
de Crèvecoeur, J. Hector St. John · 77
de la Torre, Martha · 145
de León, Kevin · 38, 91
Deep South · 68
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
(DACA) · 90
defund the police · 67, 209
Delaney, M. Quinn · 212
Demark · 125
Democrat machine stable · 76
Democrat supermajority · 154
Democratic Caucus · 108
Democratic Party · 3, 35, 37, 38, 138,

140, 161, 183, 192
Democrats · 9, 12, 15, 27, 30, 35, 36, 37,
43, 44, 105, 108, 154, 161, 169, 174, 176,
196, 215, 216, 217, 218, 220, 221, 223,
224, 225
demographics · 103, 237
Denver · 12, 55
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) ·
162
Department of the Interior · 124
dependent on government · 48, 199
Desert Sun · 95, 241
detaining of illegal aliens · 138
Detroit · 105
Deukmejian, George · 80, 189
Dhillon, Harmeet · 162
Diablo Canyon nuclear power station ·
19, 46, 123, 227
Disney · 11, 29, 55
Disney, Walt · 55
Disneyland · 11, 100, 225
District of Columbia · 99
domestic migration · 104, 115
Don't California My Texas · 104
Donald Trump Act · 108
Door Dash · 212
dot-com bust · 99
Douglas, Donald · 55
droughts · 27, 129
drug abuse problem · 75
drug users · 75
Duck Curve · 127
Dunsmore, Anne · 30
Dust Bowl · 68
Dwyer, Katherine · 129, 131, 238
dystopia · 3, 52

E

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) · 57
East Coast · 77
Ebenstein, Lanny · 189
ecologists · 129
economic cycles · 54
Economic Freedom of North America
report · 81

California Madness

economically challenged · 103
EDD · 33, 115, 160, 170, 235
EDD fraud · 160
Edmund G. Brown Aqueduct · 135
Education Freedom Scholarships · 173
Eisenberg, Elliot · 115
El Clasificado · 145
El Salvador · 102
Elder, Larry · 181
Election Day 2020 · 13
Election Integrity Project® California (EIPCa) · 160, 164
election irregularities · 4
electrical power shortage · 135
Employment Development Department (EDD) · 33, 160
energy policies · 27, 28, 123, 127
energy poverty · 56
energy prices · 28, 105, 125
English · 7, 106, 140, 141, 145, 149, 150, 169, 170, 174
English learners · 140, 141
English proficiently · 106
entertainment industry · 36, 40, 41, 48, 128
environmental justice · 13, 86
Environmental Protection Agencies · 131
environmentalist causes · 42
environmentalist movement · 41
environmentalists · 125, 128, 130, 135, 204, 213, 216, 222, 239
equity and inclusion bureaucrats · 212
era of limits philosophy · 222
ethnic capital · 149
Ethnic Studies requirement · 180
ethnocentrism · 63
Executive Order on CSU General Education Breadth Requirements · 180
extremist environmental policies · 85

F

Facebook · 15, 29, 83, 156, 173, 224
faculty · 6
FAIR · 91
family-preference visa program · 151

Fantus Company · 80
fascism · 48, 64
Faulconer, Kevin · 110
Fazel-Zarandi, Mohammad M. · 97
federal crime · 91
Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) · 91
Feinstein, Dianne · 38
Ferenstein, Greg · 39
feudal state · 40, 199
Filipinos · 63
fire prevention · 131, 132
fire suppression · 129, 131, 132
first-generation Mexican Americans · 149
Fitbit · 75
Florida · 11, 28, 81, 101, 103, 201
Florida, Richard · 103
Floyd, George · 67, 225
foreign-born population · 106
foreign-born residents · 99, 107
Fortune 500 companies · 55
Fox and Hounds Daily · 10
Fox News · 25, 161, 235, 241
fracking · 127, 222
France · 83, 126
Franchise Tax Board · 101, 154
Fraser Institute · 81, 154
Fratire Publishing · ii
Freedom Foundation · 208
Freedom of Information Act · 93
freeways · 44, 47, 86, 125, 136, 153, 202, 203, 217
French Laundry · 25, 26, 160, 235
Fresno · 1, 84, 107
Friedersdorf, Conor · 8
Friedman, Milton · 146
Friedrichs v. the CTA · 175
Friedrichs, Rebecca · 175
FrontPage Magazine · 96, 107, 235

G

Galbraith, John Kenneth · 153
Gallegos, Marina · 193
Gallup · 104, 105
Gandara, Patricia · 182

gang members · 90
Garcetti, Eric · 39, 55, 67, 89
García Bedolla, Lisa · 144
García Zarate, José Inez · 108
gas prices · 104
Gascon, George · 56, 212
gay · 69, 70
General Assistance (GA) · 57
George, Robert · 5
Georgia · 102
German electricity costs · 126
Germany · 7, 48, 52, 125, 126
Gerston, Larry N. · 145
Getty family · 26
gig economy · 220
Glaeser, Edward · 105
glitterati · 40, 55, 129
global warming · 27, 38
Global Warming Solutions Act · 46, 125, 129, 204, 221, 231
Globe · 2, 127, 160, 162, 163, 235
Golden State Stimulus payments · 53
Gonzalez, Lorena · 13, 30
Google · 15, 27, 83, 156, 173, 224
Gordon, Steve · 162
government unions · 58
government workers · 36, 59, 183, 185, 189, 199, 200, 205, 209, 210
Governor Newsom's Strike Force report · 132
Governor's Budget for 2019-2020 · 154
Great Recession · 99, 192
Greater Los Angeles · 84
green policies · 56
Greenfield, Daniel · 1
greenhouse gas (GHG) · 27
greenhouse gas emissions · 119, 129
Greenhut, Steven · 133, 134
greens · 13, 28
Grimes, Katy · 130, 162
gross domestic product · 52, 113, 148, 219
grouptthink · 6

H

H1-B visa-holders · 39
Haitians · 151
Hanson, Victor Davis · 1, 137, 235
harboring · 92, 178
Harris, Kamala · 14, 27, 67, 76, 77, 107, 161
Harvard · 147, 149
Hastings, Reed · 212
Hawaii · 23, 26, 32, 96, 103
heatwaves · 129
Help America Vote Act (HAVA) · 161
Hendry, Bruce · 96
Heriot, Gail · 65
Herriges, Daniel · 164
Hice, Jody · 161
high density coalition · 122
high penetration of intermittent renewables · 126
high school dropouts · 146, 148, 149
high-speed train · 47, 165, 166
high-tech billionaires · 125, 223
high-tech feudalism · 28, 39
Hispanic · 12, 66, 68, 69, 95, 103, 111, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 148, 182, 237, 261
Hispanic cognitive skills · 142
Hispanic households · 111, 143, 148
Hispanic poor · 144
Hispanics · 39, 67, 95, 140, 142, 143, 144, 147, 182
Hmong · 63
Hoffman, Reid · 39
Holden, Chris · 69
Holland · 110
Hollywood · 3, 25, 39, 55, 99, 129, 216, 231
Hollywood glitterati · 39
home building · 38, 122, 124, 203
homeless crisis · 47, 55, 72, 89
Homeless Industrial Complex · 88
homeless population · 47, 84
homelessness · 3, 8, 21, 53, 54, 73, 75, 76, 84, 105, 110, 115, 116, 117, 118
Hoover Dam · 134

California Madness

Hoover Institution · 1, 2, 21, 22, 50, 72, 75, 159, 200, 209, 229, 238
House of Representatives · 14, 96, 223
House Oversight and House Administration Committees · 161
housing costs · 28, 50, 68, 103, 104, 105, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118
housing development · 110, 117
housing market · 110, 114, 115
housing shortage · 21, 24, 32, 117, 118
Houston · 2, 8, 9, 10, 28, 55, 119
Howard Zinn · 170
Huxley, Aldous · 48
Hyatt, Gilbert · 101
Hydraulic Fracturing · 127
hydroelectric power · 135

I

ICE · 93
ICE detainer requests · 93
Idaho · 104
identitarians · 17
identity politics · 3, 5, 40, 48, 66, 77, 78, 161, 170, 176, 178, 204, 228
Iger, Robert · 11, 29
illegal aliens · 90, 91, 93, 151, 152
illegal entry · 97, 138
illegal immigrants · 147, 151
illegal Muslims · 150
immigrant assimilation · 64
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) · 93
immigration nonenforcement · 139
immigration policy · 40, 90, 138, 150, 151
Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) · 93
Imperial Valley · 85
independent · 5
Independent Institute · 1, 2, 69, 81, 93, 94, 113, 117, 129, 131, 132, 165, 200, 204, 229, 235, 237, 238, 241
Independent Institute Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation · 81
India · 7, 51, 78, 86, 102, 106
Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act (IDEA) · 169
Informed Parents of California · 173
Inland Empire · 26, 136
Inside Higher Ed · 65, 236
International Brotherhood of Teamsters · 212
international migration · 115
internet of things · 125
Ireland · 69
Irish · 63
Irvine · 81
Italians · 63
Italy · 69
Ivanpah solar farm · 27
Izumi, Lance · 170

J

Jamaica · 78
Jamaicans · 151
Janus decision · 58, 71, 170, 196, 207
Janus v. AFSCME · 58, 196
Janus, Mark · 175
Japan · 52
Japanese · 63
Jaschik, Scott · 65
Jewish · 78, 261
jobless rate · 32
Joffe, Marc · 171, 188
Johnson, Hiram · 210
Jordan, Wayne · 212
Judeo-Christian ethics · 64
Judicial Watch 2.0 · 162

K

K-12 system of public school indoctrination · 223
Kaepernick, Colin · 169
Kamangar, Katia · 117
Kaplan, Edward · 97
Kapolczynski, Rose · 30
Katz, Lawrence · 147
Keen, Daniel · 193
Kennedy, John · 65

California Madness

Kentucky · 28
Kern County Council of Governments · 128
Kiplinger Report · 154
Klein, Christopher · 195
Kotkin, Joel · 2, 7, 10, 14, 25, 37, 40, 49, 54, 67, 76, 82, 102, 110, 112, 120, 136, 153, 170, 215, 236, 237
Kounalakis, Eleni · 36
Kurimska, Alicia · 112

L

L.A. area · 11
LA County · 56
La Puente · 144
La Voz de Aztlán · 64
Lake Mead · 134
Lake Oroville · 24, 134
Laotians · 63
Lara, Ricardo · 37
Las Vegas · 54
Latin America · 102, 106
Latinas · 69, 141, 180
Latino Americans · 180
Latino political power · 145
Latinos · 12, 14, 43, 50, 57, 60, 67, 68, 69, 76, 78, 80, 83, 95, 102, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 149, 171, 176, 177, 178, 180, 181, 182, 204, 218, 235
Latzner, Barry · 151
LAUSD Alliance charter schools · 172
LAUSD traditional schools · 172
law enforcement · 18, 74, 88, 90, 92, 93, 160, 208, 212, 213, 221
League of California Cities · 193
left-wing billionaires of Silicon Valley · 41
left-wing ideology · 43
left-wing oligarchy · 41, 42
Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) · 101, 114
lesbian · 69
liberal elites · 17, 70
liberals · 16, 43, 70, 71, 90, 144, 179, 212, 218
light rail and streetcars · 202

Lin, Judy · 98
LinkedIn · 39, 126, 242
lobbying · 174, 189, 191, 204, 208, 222
Lodi · 193
Loneragan, Brian · 93
Long Beach · 11, 28, 53, 141
Long Beach Unified School District · 141
Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan · 221
López del Río, Karla · 136, 236
Lopez Obrador, Andres Manuel · 139
Lopez-Sanchez, Juan Francisco · 108
Los Angeles · 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 38, 39, 41, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 66, 67, 68, 71, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 95, 96, 99, 101, 103, 106, 110, 111, 112, 116, 128, 140, 143, 144, 145, 147, 151, 162, 165, 166, 168, 169, 171, 190, 192, 194, 205, 212, 220, 236
Los Angeles County · 8, 29, 56, 85, 87, 95, 96, 101, 112, 116, 140, 162, 192, 205
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health · 56
Los Angeles Daily News · 190
Los Angeles teachers · 190
Los Angeles Times · 14, 26, 27, 166
Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) · 168, 171
Loveridge, Ron · 136
Lungren, Dan · 192
Lyft · 11, 13, 75, 206, 212, 220

M

Ma, Fiona · 37
Mac Donald, Heather · 2, 140, 141, 143, 144, 182
MacArthur Park · 140
Madrid, Mike · 67, 83
Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program · 4
Malanga, Steven · 2, 81, 84, 103, 145, 183, 188, 237
Mandarin · 107, 140
Manhattan · 2, 129
manufacturing jobs · 83, 84

California Madness

- Marxist · 10, 26, 170, 179, 180, 216, 233
Marxist theory · 216, 233
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) · 97, 124
Master Plan on Aging · 102
Matosantos, Ana · 69
Maywood · 144
Mazarei, Ali · 162, 163
McCarthy, Kevin · 35
McClintock, Tom · 130
McCraner, Tracy · 194
McMahon, Fred · 81
McQuillan, Lawrence J. · 2, 81, 93, 94, 113, 117, 129, 131, 165, 204, 237, 238
MEChA · 64, 108
media establishment · 36
Median gross rents · 111
Median house prices · 111
median household annual income · 114
Medicaid · 21, 148, 191
MediCare for All · 169
melting pot · 44, 78
Mendonca, Lenny · 7, 14, 67
Mendota · 107
Meng, Ben · 185
Merced · 84, 165, 166, 200
Meuser, Mark · 162
Mexican citizens · 97
Mexican immigrants · 149
Mexican-American · 143
Mexicans · 63, 138, 151
Mexico · 64, 68, 81, 99, 102, 106, 107, 108, 137, 138, 139
Mexico City · 81
Mexifornia: A State of Becoming (third 2021 edition) · 137
Michigan · 28, 91, 179
Microsoft · 83
middle-class · 3, 13, 15, 17, 29, 38, 39, 40, 49, 53, 56, 59, 60, 67, 68, 72, 74, 80, 103, 111, 112, 115, 124, 136, 145, 199, 215, 219
middle-class families · 39
Midwest · 27, 77
Migrant President · 139
Mill, John Stuart · 6
millennials · 12, 103, 111, 223
Miller, Andrew Mark · 73
minimum wage · 83, 116, 217
Minneapolis · 67, 225
Minnesota · 96, 103
minorities · 13, 15, 29, 39, 43, 65, 67, 68, 82, 103, 128
minority voters · 44
Mississippi · 103, 143
mixed ethnicity · 78
MLS Listings · 115
Mod Squad · 38
moderates · 105
Mojave Desert · 135, 227
monopolies · 39, 199, 226
Monterey Shale · 227
Moody's · 158, 188
Moorlach, John · 201
Moretti, Enrico · 115
Moss Landing · 135
MS-13 · 107
Mt. Hamilton Range · 86
Muir, John · 135
multiculturalism · 63, 64, 106, 241
multi-family dwellings · 85, 89
Murphy, Ken · 11
Musk, Elon · 11, 27, 29, 55
-
- ## N
- Napa Valley Register · 128
NAS studies · 148
NASDAQ · 83, 156
Nashville · 54, 83
Nation, Joe · 16
National Academy of Sciences · 147, 148
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) · 143
National Association of Homebuilders · 111
National Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan · 64
National Education Association (NEA) · 169, 174, 182, 189
National Park Service · 130
National Public Radio · 24
National Review · 133, 235

California Madness

National Voter Registration Act of 1993 · 162
Native Americans · 69, 180
Native Hawaiian · 69
natural gas · 9, 227
natural gas power plants · 46
Naturalization Service · 150
naturalized US citizens · 102, 106
needles · 73, 75
Netflix · 83, 212
Nevada · 13, 23, 26, 28, 49, 82, 85, 96, 99, 101, 130, 154, 222, 224
New Jersey · 104, 154
new progressive era · 7, 67
New Suburbanism · 118, 120, 121, 122, 240
New Urbanism · 120, 121, 122
New York · 7, 27, 28, 32, 52, 54, 55, 56, 66, 67, 73, 81, 97, 100, 102, 103, 110, 114, 116, 141, 147, 150, 171, 235
New York City · 66, 73
New York Times · 7, 27, 28, 67, 102, 116, 141
New Zealand · 69
Newsom, Gavin · 7, 21, 22, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 53, 69, 76, 77, 89, 102, 105, 115, 127, 156, 157, 159, 160, 164, 179, 180, 218, 220, 235
Newsom, Jennifer · 28
Newsweek · 54, 236
non-citizens · 96, 97, 108, 152, 163, 164
North Texas · 104
Northern California · 130, 134, 136
Norway · 69
Notice of Violations Letter · 163
Numira Biosciences · 81

O

Oakland · 28, 87, 101
Obama administration · 88, 140, 191
O'Brien, Matt · 91
Ohanian, Lee · 2, 21, 22, 50, 72, 75, 159, 200, 209, 238
oil and gas · 13, 46
oil industry · 27, 127

Oligarchical Socialism · 40
oligarchs · 11, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 60, 80, 204
open borders · 87, 90, 139, 146
open borders immigration · 146
Orange · 8, 26, 29, 40, 54, 81, 82, 96, 112, 136, 189
Orange County · 26, 29, 81, 82, 96, 112, 136, 189
Orange County Labor Federation · 29
Orange County Register · 81
Oregon · 99
Orlando · 83
Oroville · 135, 193
orthodoxies · 6
orthodoxy · 6
Oscars · 55
Other Government Agencies · 132
Other Post-Employment Benefits · 187
overregulate · 110

P

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) · 105
Pacific Islander · 69
Pacific Research Institute · 133, 134, 170
Padilla, Alex · 78, 101, 161, 162, 163
Paine, Linda · 164
Palantir · 12
pandemic · 16, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 53, 54, 55, 56, 73, 75, 155, 160, 172, 173
Park, Hayeon Carol · 129, 131, 165, 237, 238
Pasadena · 69
Pastor Pederson · 144
Pelosi, Nancy · 14, 26, 35, 76
pension benefits · 61, 158, 167, 185, 195, 203, 204, 205, 221
pension bonds · 186
pension finance · 186
pension liabilities · 157, 158
Pension Madness · 183, 208
pension reforms · 186
pension spiking · 185
people of color · 43, 44, 66, 86, 176

California Madness

- Pepperdine University · 145, 208
permanent supportive housing · 18, 47, 87, 88, 89
permanent underclass · 182
personal income tax revenue · 155
Peterson, Dean · 24
Pew Research Center · 98
Philippines · 99, 102, 106
Phoenix · 54
Plos One · 97
plutocrats · 40, 60, 80
police · 74, 93, 190, 191, 221
police statistics · 74
Politico California · 29, 242
Ponderosa Pine · 128
poor Mexican immigrants · 140
Population Reference Bureau · 67, 76
Portland · 224
Portuguese · 63, 149
Portuguese Americans · 149
poverty · 8, 11, 14, 28, 31, 32, 49, 56, 57, 61, 67, 70, 83, 84, 87, 99, 103, 124, 125, 141, 144, 175, 176, 226, 238
poverty rates · 57, 83
Powell Jobs, Laurene · 39
prejudice · 63, 77
Princeton · 5
Principles of New Suburbanism · 121
prison population · 74
private sector unions · 43, 57, 167
privileged youth · 176
Pro Publica · 27
professors · 5
Progressivism · 60, 72, 215, 216, 233
Progressivism Madness · 4, 72
Prop 16 · 65, 66, 236
Prop 47 · 18, 93, 94, 237
Prop. 13 · 71, 188, 211
Prop. 13 Privileged Class · 71
Prop. 15 · 211, 213
Prop. 16 · 212, 213
Prop. 187 · 70
Prop. 19 · 210, 211
Prop. 20 · 212, 213
Prop. 22 · 212, 213
Prop. 57 · 18
Prop. 65 · 226
Proposition 13 · 43, 188, 189
Proposition 15 · 11
Proposition 16 · 64, 65, 66, 241
Proposition 1A · 165, 166
Proposition 209 · 65, 66
Proposition 22 · 11, 26, 206
Proposition 23 · 206
Proposition 30 · 204
Proposition 47 · 45, 74, 93, 94, 217
Proposition 65 · 225
Proposition 8 · 206
Proposition C · 76
public education unions · 174, 223
public employee pensions · 203
Public Employee Relations Board · 197
public pension officials and politicians · 184
Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) · 2, 43, 56, 63, 66, 83, 95, 100, 106, 142, 143, 170, 176, 187, 229, 236, 238
Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, HR 1154 · 220
public schools · 18, 48, 54, 60, 64, 71, 159, 168, 171, 172, 173, 175, 179, 200, 205, 209, 215, 217, 218, 224
Public Sector · 42, 57, 71, 175, 183, 240
public sector unions · 42, 57, 167, 168, 202, 207, 208
Public Utilities Commission · 221
public-union heavyweights · 192
Puerto Rico · 69
Punjabis · 63
-
- ## Q
- quarter acre lots · 85
Quillin, Patty · 212
Quinnipiac University poll · 115
-
- ## R
- R&D · 52, 53
race · 15, 17, 23, 27, 54, 61, 65, 68, 77, 85, 86, 95, 96, 105, 108, 173, 176, 179, 181, 192, 220, 225, 240

Racial and Identity Profiling Act · 45
racial equity discipline · 173
raising taxes · 60
Raley, Spencer · 91
Rankin, Corrin · 162
Reagan, Ronald · 170
Real Clear Politics · 2, 173, 182, 235
Reason · 75, 235
recall · 4, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32,
74, 75, 210, 225, 235, 238, 241, 242
Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes
Initiative · 45
Redwood · 128
Regional Housing Needs Assessment
(RHNA) · 112
registered California voters · 116
Regressivism · 215
regulation · 4, 12, 15, 38, 51, 112, 144
relocation experts · 79
Rendon, Anthony · 38
renewable electricity standards (RES) ·
127
renewable energy subsidies · 127
renewable portfolio standard (RPS) · 126
renewables · 19, 46, 123, 124, 125, 126,
127, 135, 136, 221, 227, 242
renewables mandates · 135
republic · 4
Republican Party · 37
Republicans · 30, 35, 36, 37, 43, 45, 105,
154, 161, 175, 176, 178, 192, 241
retirement benefits · 184
Ring, Edward · 2, 8, 16, 17, 22, 35, 36, 40,
43, 45, 57, 59, 60, 70, 71, 80, 85, 86, 118,
123, 128, 135, 154, 156, 168, 172, 175,
186, 187, 188, 196, 201, 207, 210, 217,
218, 238, 239, 240, 241
Ristoff, Brandon · 197
Riverside · 96, 136
roaring back · 30, 31, 32, 53
Rodriguez, Julian · 141
rolling blackouts · 104, 124
rooftop photovoltaics · 123
Ross, Armen · 68
Ryan, Casey · 91

S

S&P 500 companies · 83
Sacramento · 13, 23, 26, 38, 73, 80, 81,
84, 101, 103, 108, 142, 144, 154, 161,
164, 165, 176, 184, 189, 201, 202, 205
Sacramento Bee · 108, 161, 165
Safe Drinking Water and Toxic
Enforcement Act · 225
Salesforce.com · 39
Salinas · 193
Salt Lake City · 81, 82, 83
San Antonio · 83, 261
San Bernardino · 196
San Diego · 8, 28, 50, 65, 66, 96, 99, 103,
110, 111, 112, 164, 180, 186, 194
San Diego County · 96
San Diego metropolitan area · 112
San Diego State University · 180
San Francisco · 8, 10, 14, 24, 25, 26, 38,
50, 63, 67, 68, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 83,
84, 86, 87, 99, 100, 103, 106, 108, 111,
112, 114, 115, 118, 119, 136, 164, 165,
166, 171, 212, 229, 235, 238
San Francisco Bay Area · 8, 84, 86, 114,
115, 119
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce ·
72, 73
San Francisco County · 115
San Francisco Peninsula · 83
San Gabriel Mountains · 166
San Joaquin Valley · 128
San Jose · 86, 145
San Jose metropolitan area · 111, 112
San Luis Obispo · 103
San Luis Reservoir · 135
San Mateo · 106
San Onofre nuclear power station · 19,
123
Sanchez, Loretta · 108
sanctuary · 92, 93
sanctuary city · 92
sanctuary state · 91, 92, 107
sanctuary state bill · 91
Sand, Larry · 169, 170
Sanders, Bernie · 15

California Madness

Santa Ana · 12, 141, 144
Santa Barbara · 103, 189
Santa Barbara Board of Education · 189
Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing · 87
Santa Cruz · 86, 103
Sapience · 5
SAPIENT Being · 3, 4, 6
Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program · 4
Saragosa, Michael · 145
SAT · 48, 167, 172, 176, 177, 225
SAT scores · 48, 172, 177
Saudi Arabia · 128
Saunders, Debra · 190
SB 129 · 53
SB 201 · 197
SB 285 · 197
SB 375 · 118, 203
SB 50 · 116, 118
SB 54 · 91, 92, 93
SB 550 · 197
SB 827 · 39
SB 866 · 197
SCAAP · 91, 151
Scalia, Antonin · 175
school districts · 101, 169, 171, 172, 174, 193, 197, 198, 241
school vouchers · 213
Schumer, Charles · 150
Schwabauer, Steve · 193
Schwarzenegger, Arnold · 69, 128, 221
Scott, Bill · 74
Seattle · 55, 224
Secretary of State (SOS) · 160, 161
Section VIII of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations · 89, 233
Secure Fence Act of 2006 · 139
SEIU · 183, 191, 192, 206, 211, 212
SEIU-UHW West health-care workers union · 206
self · 5, 6
Senate · 77, 78, 91, 92, 96, 107, 116, 161, 174, 180, 194, 204, 205, 223
Senate Bill (SB) 827 · 116
Senate Bill 1 · 204
Senate Bill 400 · 205
Senate Bill 54 · 92
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) · 183
sexual assault · 93
sexual indoctrination · 173
Shleifer, Andrei · 105
Sierra Club · 68, 128, 135, 222
Sierra Nevada · 222
Sierra Nevada forest · 130
Silicon Valley · 15, 40, 41, 50, 60, 80, 83, 84, 99, 111, 128, 143, 150, 151, 156, 204, 213, 216
Silicon Valley billionaires · 60, 80
silver tsunami · 101
Singman, Brooke · 161
Sisyphian · 208
SKD Knickerbocker · 161, 162
slavery reparations · 12
Smart Growth · 118, 120, 121, 122, 233, 240
soaring housing prices · 99
Social justice · 28, 61
social media · 6
social media mobs · 6
social safety net programs · 57
Social Security numbers · 150
socialist · 3, 10, 15, 22, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 61, 71, 87, 169, 224, 239
socialist oligarchs · 45
solar panels · 19, 27, 51, 123
South Asian immigrants · 149
south central Los Angeles · 56
South Dakota · 81
South Los Angeles · 68
South Sea Islanders · 63
Southern California · 29, 31, 33, 55, 83, 128, 136, 145, 186
Southern Methodist University · 81
Southern Pacific Railroad · 210
Spanish · 107, 140, 145
Spanish-language media · 140
speak English fluently · 149
200, 206, 210, 213, 223, 227
Spectrum Location Solutions · 85
Spiegel, Karen · 136
Stanford · 1, 56, 100, 108, 158, 188, 192, 194

California Madness

Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality · 56, 100
Stansel, Dean · 81
Starr, Kevin · 153
State Assembly · 37
State Board of Equalization · 96
state budget · 200
state bureaucrats · 125
State of the State address · 22, 164
State Senate · 37
Steinle, Kathryn · 108
Steinmetz, Katy · 91
Steyer, Tom · 36, 38
Stockton · 195, 196
Strike Force · 132
Strong Towns · 164, 236
students · 6
SummerHill Housing Group · 117
Summers, Adam B. · 129, 131, 204, 237, 238
supermajority · 3, 70
Supreme Court · 92
Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act · 18, 125
Swaim, Will · 187

T

Tahoe National Forest · 130
Taiwan · 99
Taper, Mark · 55
Target · 68, 165
Tawney, R.H. · 17
tax burden · 51, 80, 216
Tax Foundation · 80, 154, 216
Tax Foundation 2019 State Business Tax Climate Index · 154
tax increase · 29, 76
teachers unions · 168, 169
tech boom · 16, 39, 115
tech oligarchs · 38, 39
Technology Elite · 71
Tehachapi Mountains · 166
Tenderloin district · 75
Tennessee · ii, 81
Tesla · 11

Texas · 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 33, 49, 52, 55, 81, 82, 83, 85, 99, 100, 103, 104, 112, 139, 153, 154, 171, 211
The California Values Act · 92, 93
The Center for Immigration Studies · 152
The Guardian · 15
the H1-B visas · 150
The Hill · 2, 97, 235
The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies · 181, 182
The Octopus · 210
Thermite · 133
Theroux, David J. · 81
Third World Liberation Front · 180
Thoreau, Henry David · 174
Thornton, Bruce · 63
Thurmond, Tony · 37
timber industry · 222, 227
Time · 40, 80, 91, 164, 166, 184, 196, 241
Title IX · 38
Toplansky, Marshall · 7, 14, 49, 56, 76, 82, 153, 170, 236
Torra, José · 81
transgender · 69
Treu, Rolf · 205
trial lawyers · 42, 80, 212, 226
tribal resentment · 175
trifecta · 37
Trump · 90
Trump administration · 67, 90, 137, 138, 139
Trump, Donald · 11, 27, 90, 108
Truth in Accounting · 198
Twitter · 39, 75
two-tier economy · 67, 76
tyranny of public opinion · 6
Tyson, Laura · 7, 14, 67

U

U.S. Bureau of Land Management · 130
U.S. Census Bureau · 67, 95, 97
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) · 89, 233
U.S. Election Assistance Commission ·

California Madness

161
U.S. Forest Service · 130, 132
U.S. Geological Survey · 27
U.S. Immigration and Customs
Enforcement · 93
U.S. Supreme Court · 58, 70, 101, 175,
196, 208
Uber · 11, 13, 75, 206, 212, 220
UCLA · 2, 12, 84, 182
Ulrich, Amanda · 95
Ultra-Low Income and the
Undocumented · 71
Undocumented and unafraid · 91
unemployment · 11, 23, 26, 29, 31, 32,
33, 50, 55, 79, 84, 103, 146, 160, 184,
241
unfunded actuarial accrued liability
(UAAL) · 188
unfunded liabilities for pensions and
retiree health insurance · 187
union activists · 36
Union Madness · 59, 208
union members · 204
unionized state bureaucracy · 218
United Auto Workers · 192
United Kingdom · 99, 113
United States · 1, 3, 9, 35, 46, 90, 91, 97,
108, 110, 128, 137, 138, 139, 141, 146,
147, 149, 151, 162, 163, 164, 170, 174,
184, 202, 217, 218, 219, 223, 224, 225,
231
United Way · 83, 103
universal health care · 169
University of California · 2, 11, 48, 65, 66,
67, 78, 115, 116, 142, 177, 189, 217, 225
University of California at Berkeley · 67,
115, 116
University of California at Berkeley poll ·
67
University of California at Irvine · 11
University of California's Board of
Regents · 65
University of Michigan · 179
University of San Diego · 65
University of Washington · 182
unrestricted net position (UNP) · 198
USA Today · 95

useful idiots · 88
Utah · 49, 81, 82
Utah Senate · 82

V

Vallejo · 193, 196
Varner, Charles · 100
Velasquez, Eva · 23
Venice Beach · 87
verbal cacophony · 6
Vergara v. California · 205
Vergara v. the State of California · 168
victim industry · 181, 212
Vietnam · 102, 106, 170
Vietnamese · 63, 140
Volga Germans · 63
Vranich, Joseph · 84

W

Walgreens · 74
Wall Street Journal · 2, 58, 179, 235
Walters, Dan · 2, 30, 32, 64, 77, 135, 165,
184, 192, 241
Warner, Jack · 55
Washington · 49, 52, 66, 73, 82, 103, 114,
138, 145, 159, 182, 188, 189, 238
Washington Examiner · 73, 238
Washington Post · 188
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie · 108
Wasserman, Lew · 55
water projects · 125
water shortages · 52, 134, 135
Watson, Adria · 98, 237
wealthy · 14, 17, 28, 29, 36, 41, 50, 51,
58, 69, 84, 101, 111, 155, 156, 207, 210,
212
Weber, Shirley · 37, 66, 160, 161, 180
welfare reform · 146
Western European culture · 4, 64
White House · 13, 174, 191
white population · 66, 140
white privilege · 178
White, Jeremy B. · 29

California Madness

white, non-Hispanic households · 111
whites · 39, 43, 69, 142, 176, 182
Whitman, Meg · 145
Wiener, Mark · 39
wildfires · 14, 25, 27, 46, 53, 69, 70, 104,
118, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 200,
213, 222
Wildfires and Climate Change:
California's Energy Future · 132
Willard Intermediate School · 144
Wilson, Corey Lee · 6, 126, 261
Wilson, Pete · 80, 190
windmills · 123
Winkler, Matthew A. · 52
Winning the Water Wars · 133, 134
World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW)
Program · 4
Wright, Ruth · 193

Y

Yale · 96, 97, 98, 235
Yale, MIT study · 96
Yee, Betty · 37
YIMBY ("yes in my backyard") · 39
Yosemite Valley · 130
Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) · 57
Young, Coleman · 105

Z

zero-sum competition · 64
Zhao, Yukong · 66
Zinshteyn, Mikhail · 180
Zuckerberg PAC · 211, 212
Zuckerberg, Mark · 29, 213

California Madness

Author Bio



Author: Corey Lee Wilson.

Corey Lee Wilson was raised an atheist by his liberal *Playboy* Bunny mother, has three Anglo-Latino siblings, a brother who died of AIDS, baptized a Protestant by his conservative grandparents, attended temple with his Jewish foster parents, baptized again as a Catholic for his first Filipina wife, attends Buddhist ceremonies with his second Thai wife, became an agnostic on his own free will for most of his life, and is a lifetime independent voter.

Corey felt the sting of intellectual humility by repeating the 4th grade and attended eighteen different schools before putting himself through college at Mt. San Antonio College and Cal Poly Pomona University (while on triple secrete probation). Named Who's Who of American College Students in 1984, he received a BS in Economics and won his fraternity's most prestigious undergraduate honor, the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity's Shideler Award, both in 1985. In 2020, he became a member of the Heterodox Academy and in 2021 a member of the National Association of Scholars and 1776 Unites.

As a satirist and fraternity man, Corey started Fratire Publishing in 2012 and transformed the fiction "fratire" genre to a respectable and viewpoint diverse non-fiction genre promoting practical knowledge and wisdom to help everyday people navigate safely through the many hazards of life. In 2018, he founded the SAPIENT Being to help promote freedom of speech, viewpoint diversity, intellectual humility and most importantly advance sapience in America's students and campuses.

California Madness

The SAPIENT Being has three programs: Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC), World of Writing Warriors (WOWW) and the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) all working together to promote its mission and vision of sapience. The WOWW program plans to self-publish 50 *MADNESS* non-fiction textbooks in partnership with Fratire Publishing over the span of the 2020 decade in alliance with the MFSAOC program to start 50 chapters on America's high school and college campuses by 2030.

If you're interested in the MFSAOC Program and starting a S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being club, chapter, or alliance please go to <https://www.SapientBeing.org/start-a-chapter>, e-mail SapientBeing@att.net, or call (951) 638-5562 for more information.

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Hopefully, this book was enlightening and your journey through it—along with mine—made you aware of the issues and challenges ahead of us. If it has, your quest and mine towards becoming a sapient being has begun. If it hasn't, there's no better time to start than now. Come join us in creating a society advancing personal intelligence and enlightenment now together (S.A.P.I.E.N.T.) and become a sapient being.

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California Madness

A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the State's Recall, Leftist Policies & Progressive Downward Spiral

The **SAPIENT Being LLC** is an educational non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and think tank promoting these three programs:

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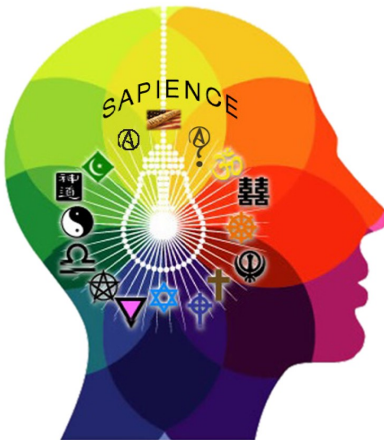
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SAPIENT BEING LLC

4533 Temescal Canyon Rd. # 308
Corona, CA 92883
Office: 1+951-638-5562
Email: sapientbeing@att.net
Website: www.sapientbeing.org

Today's California represents, by far, when compared to the rest of the United States, the worst that "so-called" progressivism has to offer—and if liberal, leftist, and Democratic Party pundits are correct with their declarations that "California is the wave of America's future"—the decline of our republic in most every category on the "sapience scorecard" is well on its way.

The state has earned many times over its various California "crazy" monikers such as the Left Coast, Californification, Mexifornia and a host of others that bring light to the enormous failures of this once golden state whose California dreamin' utopia is now just a blur in the rear view mirror of California's history. Today, it's a neo-feudal dystopia but still has the world's fifth largest economy. How bizarre!

In most every statistic, from homelessness, housing, income disparity, identity politics, illegal immigration, environmental mismanagement, climate activism, public education, free speech suppression, anti-business and middle class, pro crime and homelessness, underfunded pensions, big labor and government, excessive taxation, irrational governance, etc.—California has fallen from grace to disgrace in the 21st century.

So many of California's Democratic supermajority priorities, approved legislation, and socialist policies are beyond "unsapient"—more than just sheer "madness"—they're firmly encamped in the "idiocracy" zone with a one-way ticket to a progressivism nightmare. Nevertheless, together, and united, we can stop this Hollywood horror script from becoming a woke reality show if we take decisive action now.

California Madness provides a perfect object lesson for the rest of the United States as to how the California dream was destroyed, when, and by whom and why it's negative influence, if not corrected now, will eventually destroy the American dream as well.

As a once proud native Californian, I cover the major issues facing California using viewpoint diversity, sapient think tanks, renowned authors, and detailed reports—all free of fake news and false narratives.

Three formats (print+pdf+ebook) available of the 40 *MADNESS* book titles at www.FratirePublishing.com