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**Subject:** Greg Brown's Weekend Reading and Other Things.. 12/13/2015

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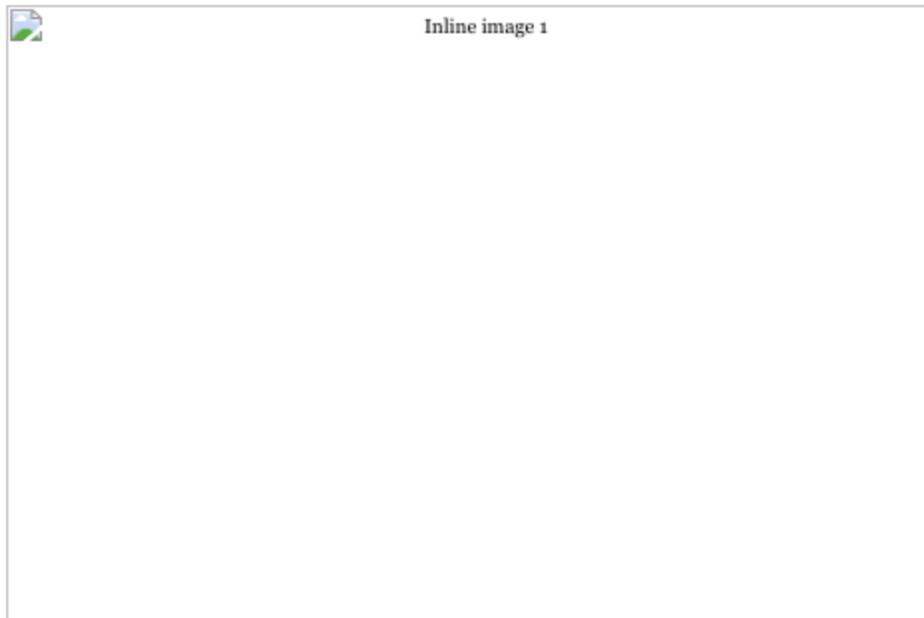
**Attachments:** Dionne\_Warrick\_bio.docx; 12.13.15\_Top\_10\_Most\_Socialist\_Countries\_in\_the\_World.docx

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**DEAR FRIEND.....**

## Top 10 Most Socialist Countries in the World



Last week I did a piece encouraged by Philip Bump's **New York Times** article – **Capitalist, Socialist, Communist, do you know the difference** – which he said was inspired when the day after the first Democratic presidential debate, Donald Trump called Bernie Sanders a maniac. "This socialist-slash-communist," Trump said to raucous cheers. "I call him a socialist-slash-communist, because that's what he is." Well, no. Bernie Sanders calls himself a "democratic socialist" which has as much to do with communism as it does with capitalism.

Trump employed the label socialist as a slur, and for those who weren't sure of its implication, linked it to communism. Most Americans having been told their entire lives that both Socialism and Communism are evil, whether they can tell the distinction between them is not important as they are being used to disqualify someone who is far more trustworthy than his accuser. But like capitalism, in some countries socialism works really well and in almost every capitalist country there are successful socialist programs.

The term socialist has been thrown around quite a bit in the past few years. Not since the cold war has the term garnered so much attention in the press and from politicians. But when you look at countries who actually have a socialist economic structure, you can see some similarities to the United States – but there are some really stark differences. And if you notice in the list below, it is said that Canada is a bit less socialist than the Netherlands but more than Sweden, Norway and Ireland.

Below, you will see some of the most socialistic nations in the world today:

- China
- Denmark
- Finland
- Netherlands
- Canada
- Sweden
- Norway
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- Belgium

Despite popular myths, there is very little connection between economic performance and welfare expenditure. Many of the countries on this list are proof of that, such as Denmark and Finland. Even though both countries are more socialistic than America, the workforce remains stronger.

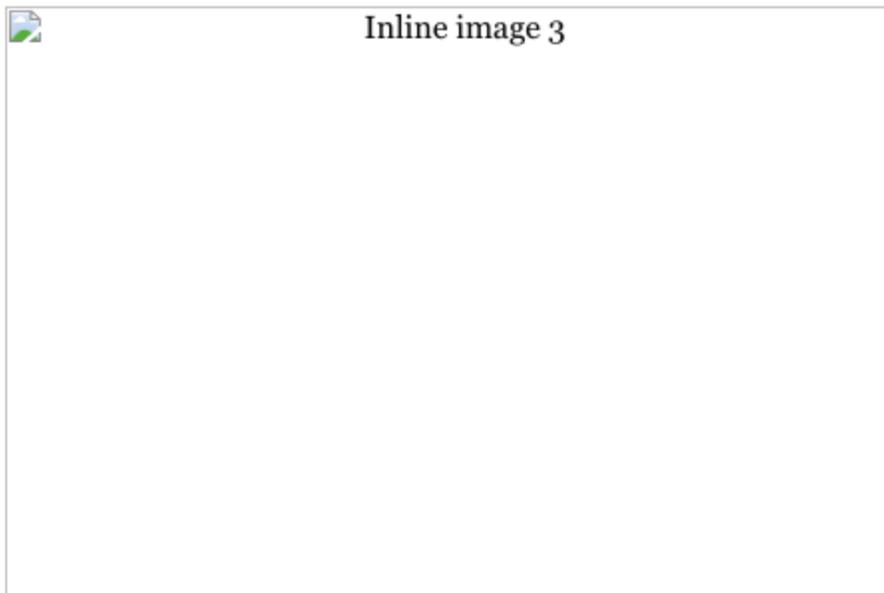
## China

In China the government manages and controls the economy. Many of the domestic companies are owned and run by the government. Recently, the Chinese economy has become more geared towards capitalism, but is still officially socialist. Life in China remains relatively less stressful and more relaxed than life in capitalist countries like America.



## Denmark

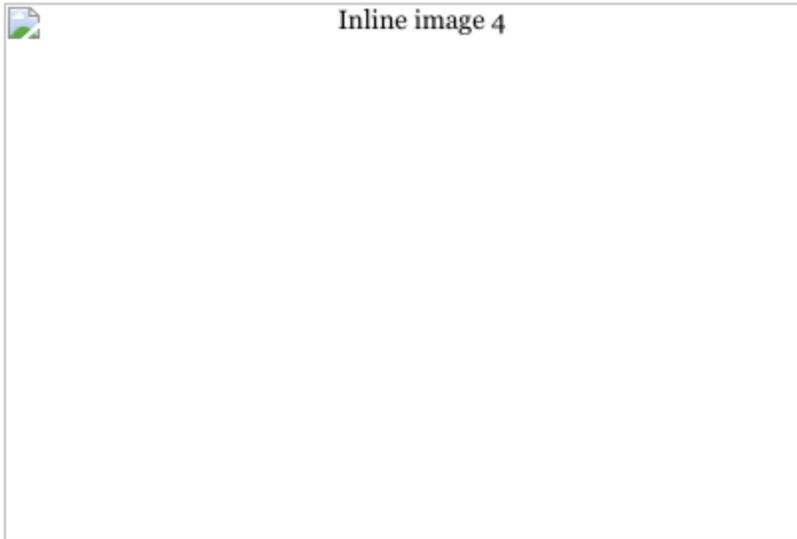
Denmark has a wide range of welfare benefits that they offer their citizens. As a result, they also have the highest taxes in the world. Equality is considered the most important value in Denmark. Small businesses thrive, with over 70 percent of companies having 50 employees or less.



Amagertorv in Copenhagen, Denmark

## Finland

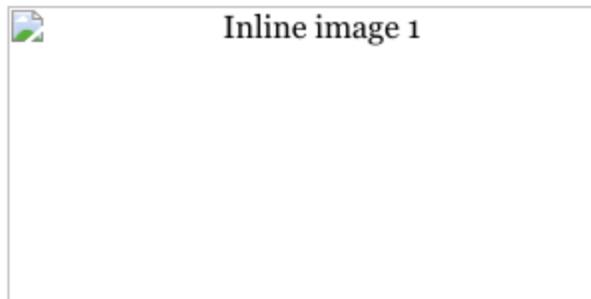
Finland has one of the world's best education systems, with no tuition fees and also giving free meals to their students. The literacy rate in Finland is 100 percent. Finland has one of the highest standards of living in the world. Like Denmark and other European countries, equality is considered one of the most important values in society. Whereas in the Netherlands, government control over the economy remains at a minimum, but a socialist welfare system remains. The lifestyle in the Netherlands is very egalitarian and organized, where even bosses do not discipline or treat their subordinates rudely.



Paasitorni by the Sea in Helsinki

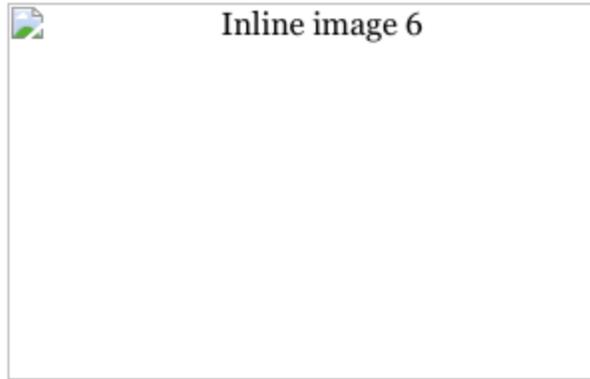
## Canada

Like the Netherlands, Canada also has mostly a free market economy, but has a very extensive welfare system that includes free health and medical care. Canadians remain more open-minded and liberal than Americans, and Canada is ranked as one of the best top five countries to live in by the United Nations and the Human Development Index (HDI) rankings.



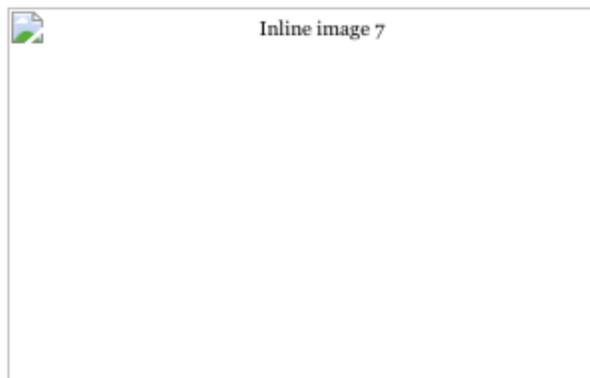
## Sweden

Sweden has a large welfare system, but due to a high national debt, required much government intervention in the economy. In Norway, the government controls certain key aspects of the national economy, and they also have one of the best welfare systems in the world, with Norway having one of the highest standards of living in all of Europe. Norway is not a member of the European Union.



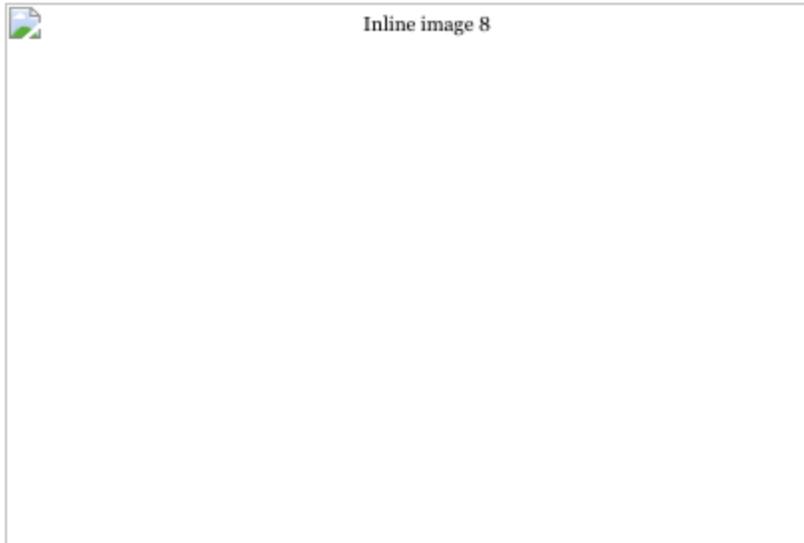
## Ireland

Ireland has arguably one of the best welfare systems in the world, with unemployment checks higher on average than Denmark or Switzerland's average. Around 25 percent of Ireland's GDP goes towards paying for the welfare system, as compared to 15 percent of America's GDP towards America's social support programs.



## New Zealand

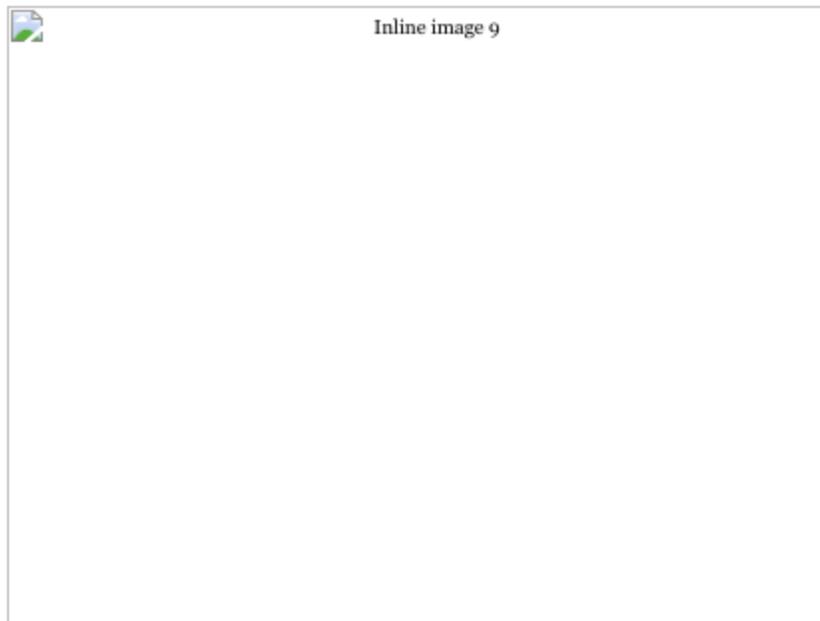
New Zealand may not be a socialist country, but the welfare system in the country is very wide ranging, offering support for housing, unemployment, health, child care, and education as well. Therefore, New Zealand has many of the characteristics of a socialist country, even while remaining officially free market.



The location of Hobbiton, as used in the Lord of the Rings films. Near Matamata in New Zealand

## Belgium

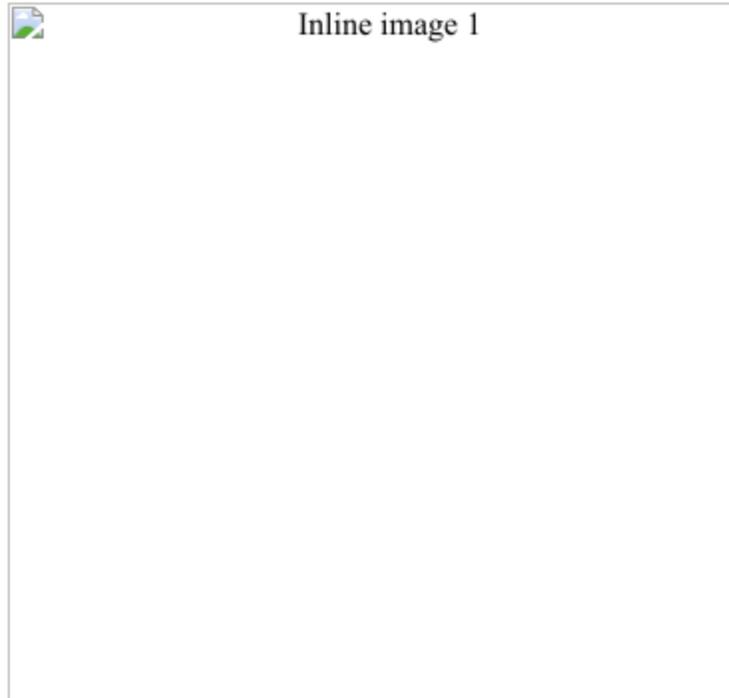
Lastly, Belgium has most of the same social security benefits that New Zealand offers, including invalid and old age pensions. The welfare system causes much of the country's budget deficit though, and so is considered by some to be a burden on society.



Het Plein at the Hague, Belgium

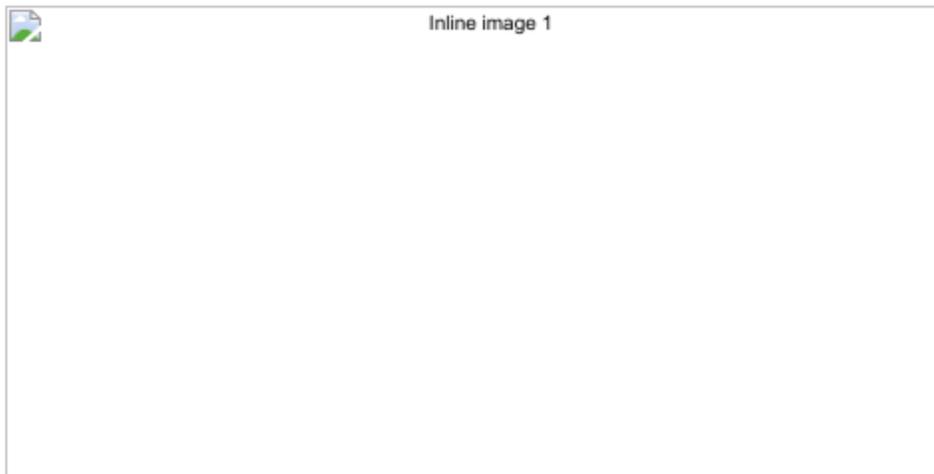
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# So True



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One map that puts America's gun violence epidemic in perspective



Above is a map of firearm ownership around the world, using 2012 data compiled by The Guardian. The United States has nearly twice as many guns per 100 people as the next closest, Yemen — 88.8 guns per 100 as opposed to 54.8 in Yemen:

Zack Beauchamp: October 1, 2015

Now, gun ownership doesn't translate directly to more homicides. For instance, the United States has over 12 times as many guns per person as Honduras, but the 2012 US gun homicide rate per 100,000 people (2.97) is 1/22 of Honduras' (68.43). That's because, while guns make murder easier, internal instability or weak governance, or especially a recent history of internal conflict, can also contribute to this sort of violence.

But when you compare the United States to nations like Britain and Japan, it becomes clear that firearm ownership contributes to America's murder problem. The American firearm homicide rate is about 20 times the average among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries (excluding Mexico).

### "MORE GUNS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE HOMICIDES ACROSS INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES"

Harvard researchers Daniel Hemenway and Matthew Miller examined 26 developed countries, and checked whether gun ownership correlated with murder rates. They found that "a highly significant positive correlation between total homicide rates and both proxies for gun availability." They also didn't find much evidence that a higher rate of gun murders led to lower rates of other kinds of murder (i.e., stabbings).

Interestingly, these results tended to hold true even when you exclude the United States and its super-high homicide and gun-ownership rates. "*More guns are associated with more homicides across industrialized countries,*" Hemenway and Miller conclude. Another study, by Berkeley's Franklin Zimring and Gordon Hawkins, found that the US has crime rates comparable to those in similarly developed countries, but much higher rates of lethal violence — owing in significant part to our high rates of gun ownership.

Data from inside the United States suggests the same thing. A recent, highly sophisticated study found that, once you control for general crime rates and other confounding factors, "*each 1 percentage point increase in proportion of household gun ownership*" translated to a 0.9 percent increase in homicides. A meta-analysis — study of studies — found a strong consensus among researchers that access to guns correlated with higher homicide rates in the United States.

So it seems very, very likely that the US' exceptional rate of firearm ownership is contributing to its exceptionally high murder rate. That's one reason why, despite the fact that the murder rate is falling sharply both inside the United States and around the world, America's murder rate remains much higher than the rest of the developed world's.

And for those who claim that they want a gun for protection, it is a false argument. More than two-thirds of gun deaths in America are suicides and (96.5%) gun suicide attempts are successful, compared slashing wrists (5.4%) or poisons (7.4%). Nearly 6 times more women were shot by husbands, boyfriends, and ex-partners than murdered by male strangers. A woman's chances of being killed by her abuser increase more than 5 times if he has access to a gun. And for those who believe that arming schools, college campuses and theaters — **Mass shootings stopped by armed civilians in the past 30 years: 0.**

For more information I invite you to click on the web link below and then on the video in the **VOX** article.

Web Link: [REDACTED]

Finally suicides are impulsive actions thus any reduction of access to guns would also reduce the suicide death rate. And for those who believe that carrying guns make a person safer, a Philadelphia study found that the odds of an assault victim being shot were 4.5 times greater if he carried a gun. His odds of being killed were 4.2 times greater. Finally 1 in 5 shootings in an ER involve guns taken from armed guards. And as someone who was shot at by a transient who took and killed a police officer with his own weapon I can personally attest to that fact. More than 30,000 people die via gun violence in America each year and the only sure way to reduce this scourge is by getting rid of guns no matter what your interpretation of the Constitution, *which by the way doesn't say that every person is entitled to own a gun.*

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## Obama on the Goal of his Foreign Policy

**Obama's Foreign Policy: *Don't do stupid shit!***



*Inline image 1*

Web Link: <https://youtu.be/Icq60Uxd3As>

When it comes to foreign policy, is President Obama a realist or an idealist? Turns out he rejects both terms.

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## Understanding the war in Syria

Syria's war: A 5-minute history



Web Link: [REDACTED]

Above is a web link to a video by Ezra Klein that attempts to why the bloody convoluted conflict is happening in Syria as well as the history of the players involvement in this proxy war. And yes, this video could be seen as a bit of propaganda but it also shows the complexly of the situation which will only be resolved when all of the major participants get together and cut a deal that they later support.

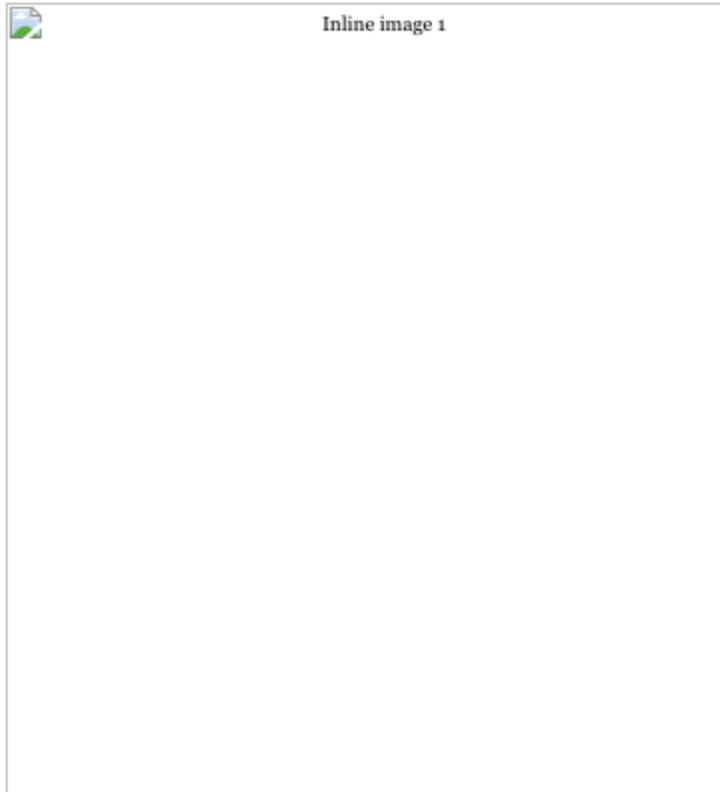
One Comment: I agree with one of the people who commented on the factual truth of the video as the "Chemical Attack by Assad on his own people," is the same narrative that Western governments used as a reason to attack Iraq. Also I disagree with President Obama who as joined the neocons in branding President al Assad as an international piranha who should be overthrown, without realizing that the vacuum created by his departure most likely will result in a totally chaotic situation like Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan. And for those of you who truly believe that bringing more military weaponry into Syria either by supplying more equipment and support would have made things better, understand that there are multiple sides in this proxy civil war.

So if you would like to better understand why this war is happening, this video is a good start.

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## DANGEROUS

No Longer Entertaining and This is Why



As Arianna Huffington wrote in the **Huffington Post** this week, “**Donald Trump is no longer entertaining**,” after the current leading Republican presidential candidate in the polls he made his fascist impulses explicit on Monday calling for the “*total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.*” And as Jeffrey Goldberg tweeted, “*Donald Trump is now an actual threat to national security. He’s providing jihadists ammunition for their campaign to demonize the US.*” And as someone who over the years has met ‘*The Donald*’ on numerous occasions and found him to be entertaining and at times self-effacing, except that the emergence of Barack Obama he has morphed from an headline grandstanding force of nature who challenged a President’s citizenship and credibility into an ugly and dangerous force in American politics.

As today’s ■■■. Barnum in American politics, like most of America I too was amazed and amused by the Trump campaign sideshow which took over the 2016 Republican presidential primary this year like a force of nature in spite of his many exaggerations, innuendos, lies and crazy statements such as building a war to keep out immigrants and making the government of Mexico pay for it. And as a Liberal Democrat I found it hilarious knowing that he was alienating a generation or two of brown and black people from the Republican Party who refused to try to rein him in. Yet he continued breaking all of the rules and somehow his popularity continued to grow. But what Donald Trump is proposed this week is both unconstitutional and ridiculous, unless you believe that suspected terrorist will tell immigration/custom officers the truth when asked, “*are you a Muslim,*” which is how Trump described his program would work.

But enough is enough. Let’s remember this is a man whose wealth and privilege allowed him to avoid the Vietnam War with five deferments, even though he likes to tell audiences that President Obama is weak and he somehow can defeat ISIS – but with what experience or evidence. This is a man who berates the President’s economic policies, which has taken the country from the worst recession since the Great Depression to the strongest economy on the planet, even though Mr. Trump has have four bankruptcies costing shareholders and lenders billions of dollars. This is a person who is against

immigrants even though he married two, and his current wife posed nude with multiple pictures on the Internet. This is what I call "*White Privilege*" because there is no way that

Barrack Obama would have ever become President, if Michele Obama had taken the same type of pictures.

Yet somehow Donald Trump has become the voice of the Teabag Movement and the loudest voice in the Republican Party, which shows you how corrupt the movement really was and how damaged the GOP had become. Big media likes to say that Donald Trump's political success is because he has tapped into the middle class and poor whites who have finally realized that the American Dream is no longer attainable for them and their families. But Donald Trump's fear mongering that it is Reverend Wright, Noam Chomsky, Big Government, Barrack Obama, Obamacare, Hillary Clinton, immigrants, liberals and as Sarah Palin likes to call them, "*the lame-stream liberal media*" -- is not the reason why they were not enjoying the wealth around them..... Because if you really want to understand today's economic inequality, "*follow the money*," as Deep Throat would say. And as D. H. Hugley said, "*when Donald Trump says that he wants to make America great again*" what he really saying to his supporters is "*that he wants to make America white again.*" This 'code' is not lost on people of color, just like one of its predecessors "*silent majority*" definitely didn't include me or any other black, brown, yellow or red person in America.

Donald Trump's latest racist epitaph is so vile that Mr. Darth Vader himself, Dick Cheney, immediately denounced his anti-Muslim plan, saying that it "*goes against everything we stand for and believe in*" and "*religious freedom has been a very important part of our history and where we came from.*" I also applaud Chris Christie who didn't mince words in a radio interview this week saying, "*This is the kind of thing that people say when they have no experience and don't know what they are talking about. We do not need to resort to that type of activity nor should we.*" But I am calling out some the other candidates, GOP officials and conservative pundits who tried to spin and soft peddle the ugliness of Donald Trump's latest suggestion.

Trump's chin-out toughness, sweeping right-hand gestures and talk of his "*huge*" successes and his "*stupid*" opponents all evoke the Italian dictator's style. Monday's breathtaking announcement that he would block all Muslims from entering the United States has many pointing out the obvious fascist overtones. Trump uses many of the fascist's tools: a contempt for facts, spreading a pervasive sense of fear and overwhelming crisis, portraying his backers as victims, assigning blame to foreign or alien actors and suggesting only his powerful personality can transcend the crisis. He endorsed the violence done to a dissenter at one of his rallies, and he now floats the idea of making entry to the United States contingent on religion. A quantitative analysis of Trump's speeches by the New York Times found that Trump echoes what historians said were "*the appeals of some demagogues of the past century*" in his repetition of "*divisive phrases, harsh words and violent imagery.*" Again.... more troubling than Trump is the reluctance among Republican leaders to disavow him.

If you substitute the word Jew for Muslim you can see that Donald Trump is playing out of the same Goebbels playbook that the Nazis employed in the 1820s, 30s and 40s and you will realize that he is a unmitigated racist and bigot. There is no dancing around this. And for Ann Coulter and the others who defend him by saying that Donald Trump is only exposing what millions of Americans believe, he is playing to their fears, prejudice and ignorance which is dangerous and destructive and disgusting. But then Trump is speaking to the same ignoramuses who also support the current number two candidate the GOP Presidential primaries, Ted Cruz who response was to say that Donald Trump spoke the truth and the week after 150 World Leaders along with 40,000 delegates gathered In Paris to

negotiate and sign a binding agreement that would hopefully help slow the pace of global climate change, held his own Senate committee hearing aimed at casting doubt on the scientific theory that global warming is at least in part man-made.

Most important, ISIS, Sharia law, Islam and Mexicans coming over the border are not threats to America. And yes the shooting in San Bernardino which killed 14 people was an egregious act of madness but to paint the almost one-quarter of the world's population with the same brush is as ridiculous as blaming Christianity for Jim Jones who killed 911 people and Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols for killing 168 and injuring more than 500 innocent civilians or the more than 340 plus other mass shootings in the United States this year that didn't involve Muslim shooters. Using Trump's logic, you would think that he would also be in favor of banning all assault rifles and military grade ammunitions but he is not neither are the other GOP 2016 Presidential contenders or Republican Establishment. Another example of '*White Privilege*.'

As Ryan Grim wrote this week – It is our responsibility to reject religious tests on who we admit into this country. It's our responsibility to reject proposals that Muslim-Americans should somehow be treated differently. Because when we travel down that road, we lose. That kind of divisiveness, that betrayal of our values, plays into the hands of groups like ISIL. Muslim-Americans are our friends and our neighbors, our co-workers, our sports heroes. And, yes, they are our men and women in uniform who are willing to die in defense of our country. We have to remember that. We were founded upon a belief in human dignity that no matter who you are, or where you come from, or what you look like or what religion you practice, you are equal in the eyes of God and equal in the eyes of the law. Even in this political season, even as we properly debate what steps I and future presidents must take to keep our country safe.

In a segment on **NBC's Nightly News**, the much admired **Tom Brokaw** cautioned that Trump's proposal "*is more, much more, than a shouted campaign provocation*," comparing the move to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the Nazi persecution of Jews, and McCarthyism.

"Trump's statement, even in the season of extremes, is a dangerous proposal that overrides history, the law, and the foundation of America itself," Brokaw said. "In my lifetime alone, we have been witness to the consequences of paranoia overriding reason."

The journalist pointed to examples from throughout world history where fear and hatred of other races or religions—whether it was Japanese Americans, Jewish people in Germany, or Black people in the Jim Crow era—led to internment, genocide, and systemic oppression, respectively.

"By stoking fears about Islamic extremists in America, Trump is allowing that same type of bigotry to inform his policy proposals, despite the fact that discriminatory actions against Muslim Americans feeds directly into the agenda of terrorist groups such as ISIS and also ignores the service and sacrifice of Muslims in the U.S. military."

“Fear and intolerance and an entire category of people are marginalized. Trump’s statements and dangerous proposals override history, the law and the foundation of America itself. And during the past century we have witnessed paranoia overriding reason. During WW11 law-abiding Japanese American citizens were herded into remote internment camps, losing their jobs, businesses, homes and social standing, while during the same time an all-Japanese division fought heroically in Europe. And in Germany it declared war on its own citizens if they were Jewish. With Germany paying the ultimate price, defeat and history’s condemnation.”

“But after the war America still had to learn about demagoguery the hard way. Senator Joe McCarthy’s rhetoric and anti-Communist witch-hunt, making evermore outrageous claims damaging reputations until one day when on June 9, 1954 a US Army lawyer, Joseph Welch responded, **“have you no sense of decency sir?”** All that while African Americans whose ancestors who first came here as slaves were treated as second or sometime third class citizens, in uniform or out.”

"Yes, the jihadists are radical Muslims, but they're a minority in a world with a billion and a half Muslims," Brokaw says, walking through Arlington National Cemetery, where Muslim American servicemen who died in combat are buried and honored. "Even so, defeating ISIS will be long, hard, and expensive—perhaps even more so now because ISIS is likely to use Donald Trump's statements as a recruiting tool."

Let's make sure we never forget what makes us exceptional. Let's not forget that freedom is more powerful than fear. That we have always met challenges, whether war or depression, natural disasters or terrorist attacks, by coming together around our common ideals as one nation and one people. We cannot turn against one another by letting this fight be defined as a war between America and Islam. That, too, is what groups like ISIL want. As a result, Donald Trump is more dangerous if not more than the terrorist he rants against, as his divisive rhetoric and bigotry plays right into their hands and against the goal of assembling support here and abroad to isolate and defeat this latest terrorist madness of the ISIS and its supporters. ***And this is my rant of the week.....***

## WEEK'S READINGS

CAUGHT



## Exxon's Funding of Climate Denial Turned Americans Against Their Own Government for Profit

There is new scandal brewing that although much more important than Hillary's emails but has gone almost unnoticed as several investigations by the media discovered that Exxon and other fossil fuel companies may have committed a crime of enormous proportions, but now more and more elected officials and others are demanding an investigation. Hopefully something finally will be done. The charge is that Exxon scientists and management knew since the late 1970s that the company's product was helping cause our planet to warm "*catastrophically*," but management responded by covering this up and disseminating disinformation - joining with other companies to commit an enormous fraud on the public for profit.

For some time, environmentalists have been warning that oil and coal companies were behind a broad campaign to deceive the public and block the government from regulating or taxing carbon pollution. Sites like *ExxonSecrets*, the *Union of Concerned Scientists*, *SourceWatch* and their *Coal Issues portal*, *CoalSwarm* and many others have been exposing, warning, documenting and working to get the word out.

This campaign is said to have included strategic use of misinformation, propaganda disseminated through front groups disguised as ideological organizations and purchased political influence to turn a substantial portion of the public against their own government. This was so that the companies could continue to profit from selling a dangerous, destructive product.

Recent investigative reporting has been able to access internal Exxon documents and statements from company scientists that confirms what the environmentalists have been telling us.

### Exxon Knew

In September Inside Climate News (ICN) broke a story they called "***Exxon: The Road Not Taken.***" Using internal Exxon documents, **Climate News** showed how "*Exxon conducted cutting-edge climate research decades ago*" that its executives suppressed as it went about "*manufacturing doubt about the scientific consensus that its own scientists had confirmed.*"

The report begins:

At a meeting in Exxon Corporation's headquarters, a senior company scientist named James F. Black addressed an audience of powerful oilmen. Speaking without a text as he flipped through detailed slides, Black delivered a sobering message: carbon dioxide from the world's use of fossil fuels would warm the planet and could eventually endanger humanity.

According to the reporting, beginning in the late 1970s Exxon scientists repeatedly warned management that their product was contributing to warming the planet, and that this could be "*catastrophic*." A senior Exxon scientist, for example, warned in 1977 that "*Present thinking holds that man has a time window of five to ten years before the need for hard decisions regarding changes in energy strategies might become critical.*"

**That was in 1977.** Exxon scientists continued sounding the alarm and at first the company responded responsibly by launching an ambitious carbon/climate research effort. Within months the company launched its own extraordinary research into carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and its impact on the earth. Exxon's ambitious program included both empirical CO<sub>2</sub> sampling and rigorous climate modeling. It assembled a brain trust that would spend more than a decade deepening the company's understanding of an environmental problem that posed an existential threat to the oil business.

The **Los Angeles Times** looked at that research effort, in "***What Exxon knew about the Earth's melting Arctic***," part of a year-long project "*researching the gap between Exxon Mobil's public position and its internal planning on the issue of climate change.*" The Times' investigation was extensive, with broad access to documents and experts:

As part of that effort, reporters reviewed hundreds of documents housed in archives in Calgary's Glenbow Museum and at the University of Texas. They also reviewed scientific journals and interviewed dozens of experts, including former Exxon Mobil employees." The **LA Times** report found that Exxon scientists - and management - understood clearly that carbon was contributing to climate change and that the effects were real and severe.

Reporter Neela Banerjee on Exxon and climate change | FRONTLINE



## Inline image 2

**Web Link:** <https://youtu.be/tLIRQoJi4c>

Neela Banerjee is a senior correspondent with Inside Climate News, which has been investigating Exxon's early scientific research on climate change.

From the ICN report:

Exxon's research laid the groundwork for a 1982 corporate primer on carbon dioxide and climate change prepared by its environmental affairs office. Marked "*not to be distributed externally*," it contained information that "*has been given wide circulation to Exxon management*." In it, the company recognized, despite the many lingering unknowns, that heading off global warming "*would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion*."

Unless that happened, "*there are some potentially catastrophic events that must be considered*," the primer said, citing independent experts. "*Once the effects are measurable, they might not be reversible*."

Exxon knew. The company was part of an industry that was profiting from a product that was polluting the planet with potentially "*catastrophic*" consequences that "*endangered humanity*."

So what did Exxon do with that knowledge?

## What Exxon Did

What did Exxon do after company scientists provided indisputable evidence of the risks their product posed to the planet and humanity? The ICN report continued:

Then, toward the end of the 1980s, Exxon curtailed its carbon dioxide research. In the decades that followed, Exxon worked instead at the forefront of climate denial. It put its muscle behind efforts to manufacture doubt about the reality of global warming its own scientists had once confirmed. It lobbied to block federal and international action to control greenhouse gas emissions. It helped to erect a vast edifice of misinformation that stands to this day.

Exxon hid its corporate lobbying effort using a network of front groups disguised as ideological organizations and "*think tanks*" to disseminate disinformation and anti-government propaganda. They worked to sow doubt about the science - including smearing scientists and environmental activists - and to delegitimize potential efforts by governments to regulate its product. They also funded politicians who would help block efforts to regulate them. The ICN report explains:

Exxon helped to found and lead the *Global Climate Coalition*, an alliance of some of the world's largest companies seeking to halt government efforts to curb fossil fuel emissions. Exxon used the *American Petroleum Institute*, right-wing think tanks, campaign contributions and its own lobbying to push a narrative that climate science was too uncertain to necessitate cuts in fossil fuel emissions.

Exxon and other companies utilized a network of front groups to push what has come to be called "*climate denial*." The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) looked at what they call Global Warming Skeptic Organizations and warned,

These organizations play a key role in the fossil fuel industry's "***disinformation playbook***," a strategy designed to confuse the public about global warming and delay action on climate change. Why? Because the fossil fuel industry wants to sell more coal, oil, and gas -- even though the science clearly shows that the resulting carbon emissions threaten our planet.

The Union of Concerned Scientists' "*Climate Deception Dossiers*" examine a "*coordinated campaign of deception*" that is "*underwritten by ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, BP, Shell, Peabody Energy, and other members of the fossil fuel industry.*" *ExxonSecrets* has mapped the networking of many of these organizations. And from 2007, New report from Union of Concerned Scientists documents ExxonMobil's disinformation campaign:

**Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air: How ExxonMobil Uses Big Tobacco's Tactics to "Manufacture Uncertainty" on Climate Change**, a report released today by the Union of Concerned Scientists, details how ExxonMobil has adopted the tobacco industry's disinformation tactics, as well as some of the same organizations and personnel, to cloud the scientific understanding of climate change and delay action on the issue. The section of the report on "***Buying Government Access***" includes discussion of documentation we made available in 2005 and issues we have raised since then.

## The Tobacco Model

The Exxon/industry campaign strategies and tactics did not come out of nowhere. Tobacco companies had paved, refined and perfected the way. After scientists and doctors began to warn that tobacco was causing cancer in people, tobacco companies came up with a plan to block the government from regulating their product. They created a campaign to convince the public that the science was not certain. They pioneered the use of organizations disguised as political and ideological organizations to disseminate anti-government propaganda aimed at preventing regulation of their product.

More than 480,000 Americans still die every year because of what the tobacco industry did. But their campaign to keep the profits rolling in didn't just kill people; it turned a substantial portion of the American public against their own government. They disguised their propaganda as "*limited government*" ideology, but it was really just a plan to limit the government from regulating them.

The tobacco campaign worked for decades – bringing billions more in profits after the dangers of the product were known. Now that strategy serves as a model for other corporations that push products that injure, kill, scam, cheat or otherwise hurt people and worry that the government might try to do something about them.

In 2008 Chris Mooney wrote at **The American Prospect** about companies using the tobacco industry's model in, "***The Manufacture of Uncertainty***," reviewing the book "***Doubt is Their Product: How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health***" by David Michaels. Mooney wrote:

### Sabotaging Science

The sabotage of science is now a routine part of American politics. The same corporate strategy of bombarding the courts and regulatory agencies with a barrage of dubious scientific information has been tried on innumerable occasions - and it has nearly always worked, at least for a time. Tobacco. Asbestos. Lead. Vinyl chloride. Chromium. Formaldehyde. Arsenic. Atrazine. Benzene. Beryllium. Mercury. Vioxx. And on and on. In battles over regulating these and many other dangerous substances, money has bought science, and then science – or, more precisely, artificially exaggerated uncertainty about scientific findings – has greatly delayed action to protect public and worker safety. And in many cases, people have died.

Tobacco companies perfected the ruse, which was later copycatted by other polluting or health-endangering industries. One tobacco executive was even dumb enough to write it down in 1969. "*Doubt is our product*," reads the infamous memo, "*since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the minds of the general public. It is also the means of establishing a controversy.*"

### Polluting Democracy, Too

This propaganda and the money that propelled it has polluted our entire political system. Look into almost any organization (or political party) promoting "*limited government*" and complaining about "*burdensome government regulation*" and you will find oil money. This is not ideology; this is corruption. This is giant corporations trying to keep the government from doing something about their dangerous, destructive products.

This is a crime against our country and the world. It is a crime against our democratic system. The companies behind this enormous fraud on the public must be investigated for possible criminal activity. The front groups that disseminate anti-government, anti-regulation propaganda at their behest should be exposed as frauds and brought under control.

Now we have to move forward as quickly as possible to limit the burning of fossil fuels. Because of these companies and their fraud and disinformation, it is too late to stop the climate from changing – but it might not be too late to ward off the worst effects.

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## The "Gun Problem" Isn't Only a "*Mental Illness Problem.*"

**“It's Just Really a "Gun Problem."**



**Inline image 3**

Increasingly, when we talk about gun violence in this country we also talk about mental illness. In many ways, this is not surprising: A number of instances of gun violence are committed by those with untreated, or undiscovered, mental disorders. This has lately led many politicians to place the blame for incidents of gun violence squarely on the lack of resources available for those suffering from mental illness. "*It's a mental illness problem,*" Donald Trump recently declared on "***Meet the Press***" on **NBC**. "*Guns, no guns, doesn't matter. You have people that are mentally ill and they're going to come through the cracks and they're going to do things that people will not even believe are possible.*"

And, it seems, most Americans would agree. A joint poll conducted by the **Washington Post** and **ABC News** and released last week found that while 82 percent of Americans surveyed thought gun violence is a serious problem, more people -- by 2 to 1 -- believe such violence is a result of

inadequate methods and means of treating the mentally ill than of inadequate gun laws. The problem with these findings, though, is that they likely won't be used to implement, or even argue for better, detection and treatment of those with mental illness. Instead, they'll be co-opted by politicians -- like Trump -- who'll use the survey and others like it as evidence that gun controls are just fine; that, as one site put it, "*guns don't kill people; crazy people do.*"

Except that's not entirely true: The vast majority of gun violence is still committed by people who are not mentally ill. Many incidents are accidents. Many are committed by children who happen upon guns in their/their neighbors'/their relatives' houses. And many, as we know, are committed by teenagers who are just beginning to show symptoms of the onset of mental illness -- cases in which early detection wouldn't necessarily apply. And, of course, not everyone suffering from mental illness will commit gun violence -- in one study, in fact, fewer than 5 percent of gun-related deaths were committed by those diagnosed with mental illness. (As President Obama recently said, "*we are not the only country on Earth that has people with mental illnesses... we are the only advanced country on earth that sees these kinds of mass shootings every few months.*") Meanwhile, efforts to imply that all, or even most, incidents of gun violence are at the hands of the mentally ill only serves to increase the stigma directed towards those who suffer, which a 2013 study out of the **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health** acutely confirmed.

So while it's easy to put the blame for gun violence on the mentally ill -- or the lack of support for them -- it's misleading, and ultimately unlikely to do anything to end needless gun-related deaths.

Especially if levels of support for the mentally ill do not change. Because despite all this talk of mental illness in the context of gun violence, few have offered any solutions to problems of inadequate or inaccessible mental health care. According to the **National Alliance on Mental Illness**, 61.5 million Americans suffer from mental illness in any given year -- while the **CDC** reports that just over a third of people with severe depression had been to see a mental health professional within the previous year -- though we rarely hear about this underserved group of people until a tragedy occurs. But for those impacted -- as well as for their families -- mental illness is an everyday tragedy too often ignored -- until, it seems, it's needed as a scapegoat. As "**Last Week Tonight**" host John Oliver recently said on his show, "*there is nothing like a mass shooting to suddenly spark political interest in mental health.*"

That's because the real motive behind bringing up mental illness in the context of gun violence isn't to discuss ways we might better the services available to those suffering, but to steer the conversation away from the topic that's really at hand: that guns are too readily available to too many people. While it's true that in some cases -- some cases -- the "crazy person" might pull the trigger, it's also true that someone else gave the crazy person the gun.

Which is why, if reform is to be had in either or both the spheres of mental health or gun violence, it's not an either/or blame game: The U.S. needs mental health reform, and it also needs tighter gun laws, and the two need to work in concert to make any sort of impact. There are other ways to make a difference, too. For one thing, manufacturers should be required by law to use available safety technology to prevent accidental deaths. For another, there should be increased funding for medical research on guns, an area of research where there is very little funding at all. But the real, and increasingly untold, story is that there are two concurrent crises going on, and while these two crises occasionally overlap, it's naïve -- and flat out wrong -- to think that simply solving one will magically solve the other.

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## Really Really Rich

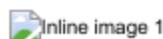
### The world's richest 0.00168% people

There are 123,800 **ultra-high-net-worth** (UHNW) individuals in the world, according to Credit Suisse's 2015 Global Wealth Report. These folks have a net worth of over \$50 million. Furthermore, about 44,900 of them have a net worth of at least \$100 million, and 4,500 have assets of \$500 million. Notably, the number of UHNW individuals has dropped over the past year. "The strong dollar has reduced the number of UHNW adults by 800 since mid-2014; but our calculations suggest that there has been a small increase in the number of individuals owning more than USD 500 million," according to Credit Suisse analysts.

But more important is where you find these people, according to the report:

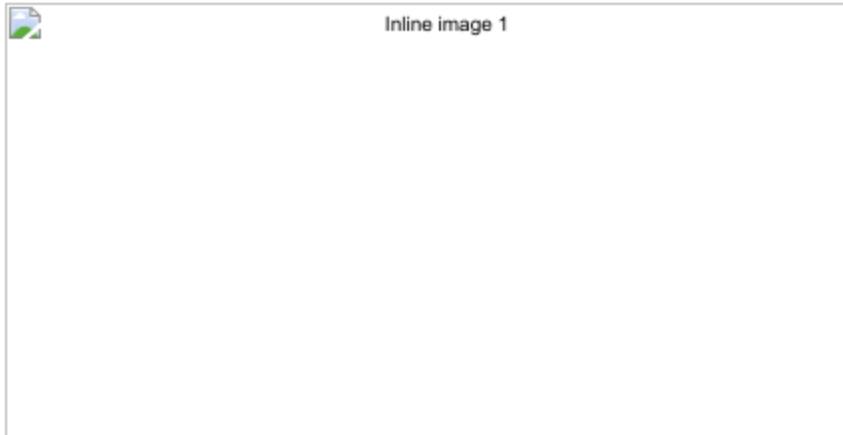
North America dominates the regional rankings, with 61,300 UHNW residents (50%), while Europe has 29,900 (24%) and 15,900 (13%) live in Asia-Pacific countries, excluding China and India. Among individual countries, the United States leads by a huge margin with 58,900 UHNW adults, equivalent to 48% of the group total (see graphic below). This represents a rise of 3,800 from the number in mid-2014. China occupies second place with 9,600 UHNW individuals (up 1,800 on the year), followed by the United Kingdom (5,400, up 400) which switched places with Germany (4,900, down 1,000). Switzerland (3,800, down 200) moved up by overtaking France (3,700, down 600). The biggest ranking gains were achieved by Hong Kong SAR (1,600, up 200), which climbed three places and Taiwan (2,200, up 100), India (2,100, up 100) and Korea (1,800, up 100) which all rose two places. Going in the opposite direction, Russia (1,800, down 1,000) dropped three places and Brazil (1,500, down 500) and Sweden (1,400, down 300) each dropped two.

If that's too much to read, here's what it looks like in a chart:



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## Why Eat Organic



It is easy to come to the conclusion that eating pesticides is probably not in one's best interest. As a result, one of the strongest selling points for eating organic food is the fact that doing so can significantly lower your exposure to pesticides and other harmful chemicals used in conventional agriculture. Since organic standards prohibit the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides, it stands to reason that organic foods would be less contaminated, and studies have indeed confirmed that those who eat a primarily organic diet have fewer toxins in their system. Considering the fact that long-term pesticide exposure has been linked to infertility, birth defects,<sup>1,2</sup> endocrine disruption, neurological disorders, and cancer, it's also a common sense conclusion that having fewer toxic chemicals in your body can result in improved health. In fact, a key part of a healthy diet and lifestyle in general is the absence of toxic chemicals.

Even if you're of the belief that pesticides are safe, and therefore of no concern when selecting foods, you may want to look at the **Organic Affect** video that you can access on the web link below for your convenience

**Web Link:** <https://youtu.be/oB6fUqmyKC8>

More recently, a report by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), which represents OB-GYNs in 125 countries, warns that chemical exposures now represent a major threat to human health and reproduction. Pesticides are one of several categories of toxins included in the report. Pesticides were also included in a new scientific statement on endocrine-disrupting chemicals by the Endocrine Society task force. This task force warns that the health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals is such that everyone needs to take proactive steps to avoid them — especially those seeking to get pregnant, pregnant women, and young children.

## When Kids Eat Organic, Their Pesticide Levels Decline

One of the most recent studies into organic food and its impact on your pesticide load was published in the October issue of Environmental Health Perspectives. The study included 20 children living in Oakland, California, and another 20 living in Salinas, California, the latter of which is a major agricultural community. For the first four days, all of the children ate a conventional diet. The following seven days, they ate only organic food, followed by another five days of conventional food.

As reported by The New York Times: "About 72 percent of their urine samples, collected daily, contained evidence of pesticides.

Among the six most frequently detected pesticides, two decreased by nearly 50 percent when children were on the organic diet, and those of a common herbicide fell by 25 percent. Three other frequently detected pesticides were not significantly lower on the organic diet. Levels were generally higher in the Salinas children than in the Oakland children. Similar results were obtained in the study shown in the featured video at the beginning of the article, conducted by the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute. When a family switched to all organic food, both the occurrence and the number of pesticides were reduced in all members of the household.

## People Who Eat Organic Have 65 Percent Lower Levels of Organophosphates

Organophosphates (OPs) are among the most commonly used pesticides on American farms. In one of the largest studies of its kind, researchers looked at the diets of nearly 4,500 people living in six US cities, assessing the level of exposure to organophosphates via food. Participants' organophosphate levels were estimated using USDA data on the average levels of pesticide residue found in the fruits and vegetables that each individual reported eating. To verify the accuracy of their estimates, they compared their calculated pesticide exposures to the actual levels of pesticide metabolites (breakdown products) excreted in the urine of a subset of 720 participants.

As expected, those who ate conventionally-grown produce had high concentrations of OP metabolites, whereas those who ate organic produce had significantly lower levels. Those who "often or always" ate organic had about 65 percent lower levels of pesticide residues compared to those who ate the least amount of organic produce. According to lead author Cynthia Curl: "If you tell me what you typically eat, I can tell you how high your pesticide exposure is likely to be. The study suggests that by eating organically grown versions of those foods highest in pesticide residues, we can make a measurable difference."

## When to Buy Organic: A Produce Cheat Sheet | Consumer Reports

Everyone can be harmed by pesticides, but if you're a woman of childbearing age or have young children, taking steps to reduce your exposure is especially important. Ideally, all of the food you and your family eat would be organic. That said, not everyone has access to a wide variety of organic produce, and it can sometimes be costlier than buying conventional. One way to save some money while still lowering your risk is to purchase certain organic items, and "settle" for others that are conventionally grown. Animal products, like meat, butter, milk, and eggs, are the most important to buy organic, since animal products tend to bio-accumulate toxins from their pesticide-laced feed, concentrating them to far higher concentrations than are typically present in vegetables.

**Web Link:** <https://youtu.be/uvoPWXOPV0E>

Unlike conventional fruits and vegetables, where peeling and washing can sometimes reduce the amounts of these toxins, the pesticides and drugs that these animals get exposed to during their lives can become incorporated into their very tissues, especially their fat. So if you're on a budget, choose organic animal foods first. Beyond animal foods, the pesticide load of different fruits and vegetables can vary greatly. Consumer Reports analyzed 12 years of data from the USDA's Pesticide Data Program to determine the risk categories (from very low to very high) for different types of produce.<sup>24</sup> Because children are especially vulnerable to the effects of environmental chemicals, including pesticides, they based the risk assessment on a 3.5-year-old child. They recommended buying organic for any produce that came back in the medium or higher risk categories, which left the following foods as examples of those you should always try to buy organic.

## Most Widely Used Herbicide Has Been Deemed Carcinogenic

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's best-selling herbicide Roundup, is one of the most commonly used herbicides in the world, both on conventional and genetically engineered plants. An estimated one billion pounds a year is sprayed on our food crops, resulting in the average American eating several hundred pounds of glyphosate-contaminated food every year. In March, glyphosate was reclassified as a Class 2A "*probable carcinogen*" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World Health Organization (WHO). The California's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) followed suit, recently issuing a notice of intent<sup>13</sup> to label glyphosate as "*known to cause cancer*."

## Ag Workers Sue Monsanto over Glyphosate Exposure

Since the IARC's determination, agricultural personnel have begun suing Monsanto over past glyphosate exposure.<sup>14</sup> US farm worker Enrique Rubio claims nine years of glyphosate application using nothing more than a paper mask for protection caused his bone cancer, and Judi Fitzgerald, a horticultural assistant, sued claiming it played a role in her leukemia.

The lawsuits accuse Monsanto of "scientific fraud" in the marketing and sale of Roundup, intentionally misleading regulators about Roundup's dangers, and failing to properly warn users about its carcinogenic potential. According to Bloomberg: "An Environmental Protection Agency audit of Bio-Test Laboratories — a firm hired by Monsanto to test the toxicity of Roundup in the 1970s — revealed 'routine falsification of data' at the lab invalidating its studies of the Monsanto product, according to the complaints. Fitzgerald and Rubio also claim the owner of Craven Laboratories — another firm hired by Monsanto in the 1990s — was convicted of fraudulent laboratory practices in the testing of pesticides and herbicides, including Roundup."

Rubio's complaint specifically states that: "Monsanto assured the public that Roundup was harmless. In order to prove this, Monsanto championed falsified data and attacked legitimate studies that revealed its dangers." "I'm sure mothers in Anniston, Alabama would especially disagree after receiving a \$700 million lawsuit settlement from Monsanto poisoning their town.

## EPA Found Guilty of Violating Law When It Approved Powerful Insecticide

During the Bush administration, the Cornucopia Institute orchestrated a pressure campaign that resulted in the removal of Dr. Barbara Robinson, a corrupt official running the USDA's organic program at the time. We now ask you to help them do it again — this time we need to remove the entire management team for the USDA's National Organic Program, the actions of which threaten to destroy the credibility of the organic label.

As explained by the Cornucopia Institute:

*"In September 2013, Mr. McEvoy unilaterally announced sweeping changes in the operation of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). This 15-member, multi-stakeholder body was established by Congress as a buffer between agribusiness lobbyists and organic stakeholders to ensure that Big Ag did not corrupt the organic label. Mr. McEvoy has stripped much of the power from the NOSB. Along with the illegal stacking of the board with agribusiness executives instead of working farmers, this body has become a rubber stamp for corporate/industrial organics."*

Pesticides threaten not only human health, but can be devastating to our precious pollinators as well. Honey bees and Monarch butterflies are two species that have dwindled due to excessive pesticide use. Neonicotinoids have been identified as being particularly harmful to these important insects, yet little is being done to curb their use in the US.

Two years ago, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the neonicotinoid Sulfoxaflor — a move that raised great concern among commercial beekeeping trade groups, including the American Honey Producers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation. After reviewing the registration data, EarthJustice discovered the agency had not met its own guidelines when approving the insecticide, so a lawsuit was filed against the EPA.

Courts typically give EPA a great deal of deference in these matters because they involve a fair amount of scientific expertise; the courts are often reluctant to second-guess the science. But in the case of Sulfoxaflor, Earth Justice staff attorney Greg Loarie says, 'the science was so lacking and it was so clear that EPA just didn't have this fundamental information, the court found that the registration had to be overturned unless and until that information is brought to bear. So for now, Sulfoxaflor is off the market, but it's really quite astounding that the EPA would be so reckless as to approve a pesticide without adequate safety testing when bee die-offs pose such a grave threat to human food production. It just goes to show to what extent corporate profits are permitted to take precedent over long-term sustainability and human survival.

## Majority of EU Nations Seek to Opt Out of Cultivating GMOs

While one of the selling points of genetically engineered (GE) plants was that they would reduce pesticide usage, such promises have turned out to be completely inaccurate. Since the introduction of

GE crops, pesticide usage has skyrocketed, and with it, pesticide exposure via food, as these crops are more heavily tainted. Bt crops are even designed to produce the Bt toxin internally, and the plants themselves are registered as a pesticide. GE crops also promote environmental destruction by worsening soil quality and reducing biodiversity, both of which are basic tenets of sustainable agriculture and food security. Europe has, overall, been more resistant toward genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and that resistance shows no sign of dwindling. In fact, 19 of the 28 EU member nations have now requested opt-outs from cultivating GE crops<sup>21</sup> — an option that was signed into law in March.

Countries refusing to grow GMOs in parts or all of their territories include: Austria, Belgium for the Wallonia region, Britain for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovenia. "The law was introduced to end years of stalemate as genetically modified crops divide opinion in Europe. Although widely grown in the Americas and Asia, public opposition is strong in Europe and environmentalists have raised concerns about the impact on biodiversity...

Under the new law, the European Commission is responsible for approvals, but requests to be excluded also have to be submitted to the company making the application. In response to the first exclusion requests in August from Latvia and Greece, Monsanto said it was abiding by them, even though it regarded them as unscientific."

### More Good News: American Academy of Pediatrics Ends Partnership with Monsanto

Europe opting out of GMO cultivation may not directly benefit Americans, but it definitely slows down the global take-over attempt by the biotechnology industry, and it offers hope that we may still be able to turn the tide in the US as well. Monsanto has long been given a free pass to wield its power at will in the US, but signs of a shift can be seen here too. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has now confirmed it is cutting ties with the chemical technology giant, following a successful campaign started by concerned moms. (The Academy has also ended its relationship with Coca-Cola — another "win" for children and families across the US.) "It appears that the severing between the divisive biotech company and the pediatricians association was spearheaded by Mamavation founder and 'food activist' Leah Segedie, who confronted the AAP's public affairs team after learning about this 'unholy alliance...' 'I reached out to the AAP behind the scenes to discuss the negative impacts a company like Monsanto could have on their image,' Segedie told EcoWatch...

Big food companies are now trying to obfuscate and corrupt the Organic designation. As a result, it's really imperative to concentrate our efforts on Congress right now, and to inform them accurately. They're being deceived by industry lobbyists, and this is our last chance to preserve our right to know what is in our food. Rep. Mike Pompeo (*R-Kan*) recently introduced a bill that would preempt states' rights to enact GMO labeling laws. It would specifically prohibit Congress or individual states from requiring mandatory labeling of GMO foods or ingredients. It would also allow food manufacturers to use the word "natural" on products that contain GMOs. Unfortunately, the bill has been passed in the House and now heads to the Senate. There needs to be an extra push to put an end to the absurdity. As such it's imperative that everyone contact their senators today urging them to not support HR 1599. Tell them this bill is an attack on consumer rights and states' rights, and you expect your elected officials to protect you. It is crucial that we demand transparency because whatever Monsanto and

other big agri companies claim, the idea that pesticides are safe to eat should be left to the consumers to decide.

## THIS WEEK'S QUOTE



## THIS IS BRILLIANT



The flagship timepiece of Patek Philippe's highly anticipated 175th anniversary collection is the Grandmaster Chime Ref. 5175, the brand's most complicated wristwatch to date. It combines a 1366-part grand complication movement with a massive, Baroque case that is reversible and wearable on both sides.



Inline image 2

In the Grandmaster Chime Ref. 5175 Patek Philippe has combined several traditional complications in a movement that has a whopping 1366 components. Not only is it Patek Philippe's first Grande and Petite Sonnerie wristwatch, the Grandmaster Chime also features an alarm, date repeater, perpetual calendar and a swiveling, double-faced case that can be worn on both sides. This grand complication is presented in a 47.4 mm case decorated with an ornate laurel wreath motif. Technically and aesthetically, the Grandmaster Chime is a lot more than what many would ask for.

**Web Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/robert.khachatryan.3/posts/10205108906182567>

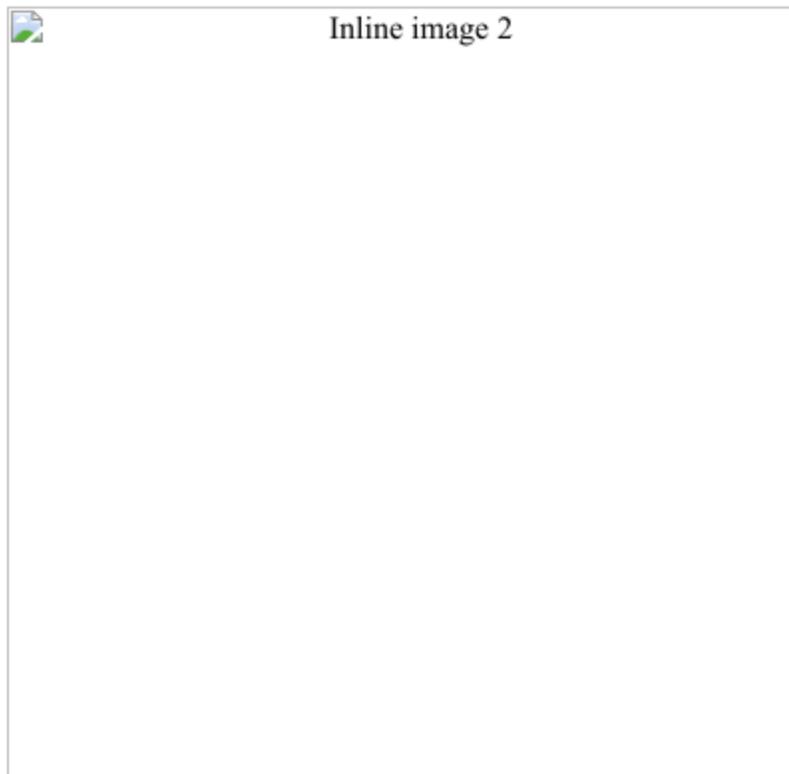


Inline image 3

This double-faced reversible Patek Philippe wristwatch is one of the most complicated handcrafted instruments in the world with 20 complications, 1366 movement components and 214 case components. It took seven years to develop and two years in production

- **5 Chimes: Grande Sonnerie**
- **5 Chimes: Petite Sonnerie**
- **5 Chimes: Minute Repeater**
- **5 Chimes: Patented Repeater**
- **5 Chimes: Patented Alarm with time strike**
- **3 Gongs**
- **Total of 6 patented inventions**

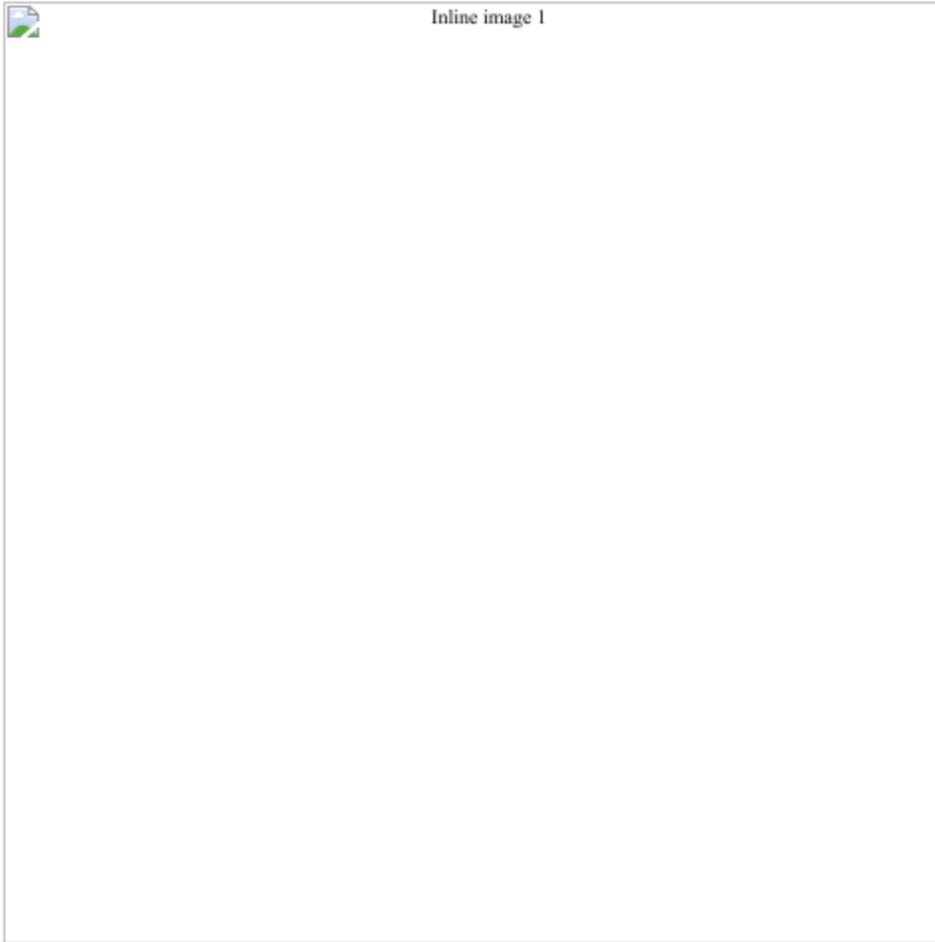
Understand the detailed work that is required to build this amazingly handcrafted instrument. In addition to cutting edge technology it obviously requires a deep exercise of patience and care. Build lasting things generally demand a lot of perseverance. It is worth seeing how they do it. Please enjoy the video that you can access through the above web link. As it is simply amazing.



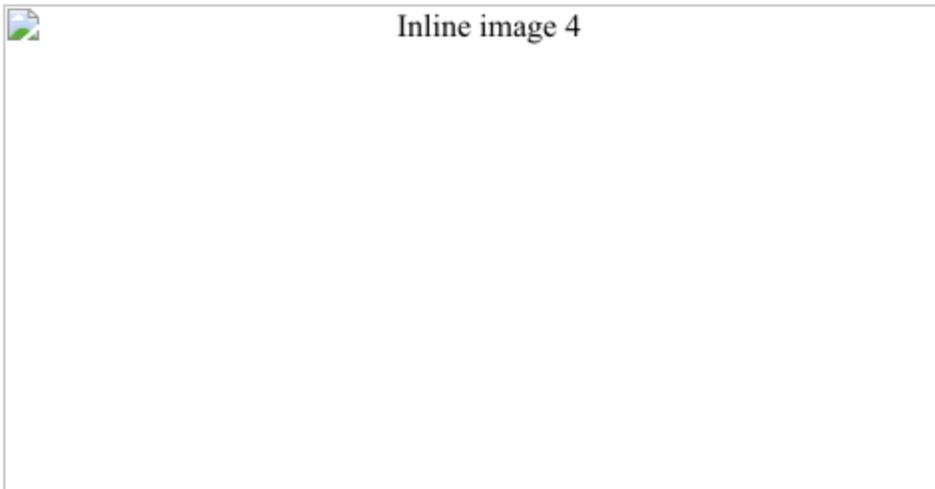
By the way if you are interested, this watch has been limited to seven pieces, one of which will reside in the Patek Philippe Museum, the Grandmaster Chime Ref. 5175 is priced at 2.5 million Swiss francs, equivalent to about US\$2.63 million.

*By the way if you were considering getting me something for Christmas this will do....*

# THINK ABOUT THIS



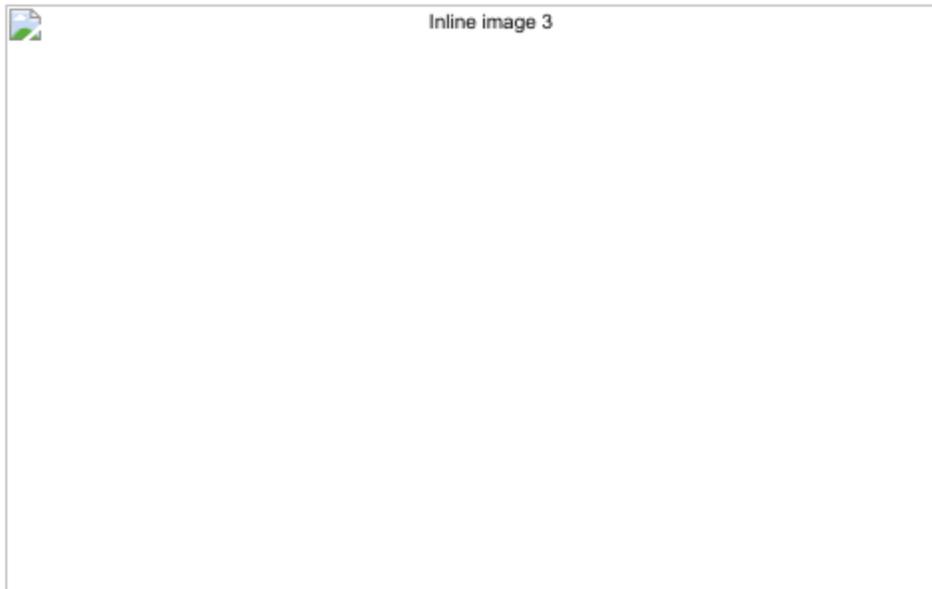
# BEST VIDEO OF THE WEEK



Comedian and actor Jamie Foxx shares the best advice he's gotten from Oprah Winfrey, and it is inspiring. Kudos to Oprah and I hope that you enjoyed the story as much as I did...

## THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

### Dionne Warwick



As yesterday was her birthday, as well as Frank Sinatra, Mayor Ed Koch and my own, this week I invite you to enjoy the music of **Ms. Dionne Warrick**, (born December 12, 1940) -- is an American singer, actress and TV-show host, who became a United Nations Global Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization, and a United States Ambassador of Health. Having been in a partnership with songwriters Burt Bacharach and Hal David, Warwick ranks among the 40 biggest hit makers of the entire rock era, based on the **Billboard Hot 100 Pop Singles Charts**. Dionne Warwick is second only to Aretha Franklin as the most-charted female vocalist of all time, with 69 of Warwick's singles making the **Billboard Hot 100** between 1962 and 1998.

Dionne Warwick begin sing in a gospel trio before recording her first hit songs. In 1962, Warwick released her first single, "*Don't Make Me Over*." It became a hit the following year. A typo on the record led to an accidental name. Instead of "Dionne Warrick," the label read "Dionne Warwick." She decided to keep the new moniker and went on to greater chart success. In 1964, Warwick had two Top

10 singles with "Anyone Who Had a Heart" and "Walk On By"—both penned by Bacharach and David. "Walk On By" was also her first No. 1 R&B hit.

More hits, including many written by Bacharach and David, followed as the 1960s progressed. "Message to Michael" made the Top 10 in 1966, and her version of "I Say A Little Prayer" climbed as high as the No. 4 spot the following year. Warwick also found great success with her contributions to movie soundtracks. The theme song for the 1967 film *Alfie*, starring Michael Caine, was a solid success for her, as was "Valley of the Dolls," from the 1968 movie of the same name. In 1968, Warwick had other hits, including her trademark tune "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," which earned Warwick her first Grammy Award. That same year, Warwick made history as the first African-American woman to perform for Queen Elizabeth II in England.

Warwick reached the top of the pop charts for the first time in 1974 with "Then Came You," which she recorded with the Spinners. But then Warwick suffered a career slump for several years. In 1979, she made a triumphant return to the charts with the ballad "I'll Never Love This Way Again." She also soon became a fixture on television with the music program **Solid Gold**, which she hosted in the early 1980s. Warwick also had several successful collaborative efforts. In 1982, she made the charts with "Friends In Love" with Johnny Mathis, and "Heart Breaker" with Barry Gibb.

Around this time, Warwick scored one of the biggest hits of her career with "That's What Friends Are For." Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Gladys Knight also appeared on this 1985 No. 1 hit, which was an AIDS charity single written by Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager. "Love Power," her duet with Jeffrey Osbourne two years later, marked her next major hit. In 2012, Warwick celebrated her 50th anniversary in the music business with the album *Now*. She filed for bankruptcy the following year.

In March 2013, she made headlines when she declared bankruptcy. Warwick owned more than \$10 million in unpaid taxes, but she stated that she only \$1,000 in cash and \$1,500 in personal property. According to CNN, her spokesperson explained that her economic crisis was because of "negligent and gross financial mismanagement" during the late 1980s through to the mid-1990s. Warwick has two sons, David and Damon Elliot, from her marriage to actor and musician William David Elliot. She has worked with both of her sons on different projects over the years. Whatever her financial status, it is not as important as the fact that Dionne Warwick is in the Pantheon of Popular Music and with this said, ***I invite you to enjoy the music of Ms. Dionne Warwick...***

Dionne Warwick – ***Don't Make Me Over*** -- <https://youtu.be/dDbIF-J6qvY>

Dionne Warwick – ***Walk On By*** -- <https://youtu.be/ERsxXYqv6X8>

Dionne Warwick – ***A House Is Not Home Live*** -- <https://youtu.be/olvaDzUi8c8>

Dionne Warwick – ***(Theme From) Valley of the Dolls*** -- <https://youtu.be/9xKkSSKmjbk>

Dionne Warwick – ***Alfie*** -- <https://youtu.be/Gx6zm2lGF90>

Dionne Warwick – ***Trains And Boats And Planes*** -- [https://youtu.be/MBNV\\_yhSbbs](https://youtu.be/MBNV_yhSbbs)

Dionne Warwick – ***Do You Know the Way to San Jose*** -- <https://youtu.be/jqWt49o7R-k>

Dionne Warwick – *Message to Michael* -- <https://youtu.be/R3-NRM-WRfQ>

Dionne Warwick – *There's Always Something There to Remind Me* --  
<https://youtu.be/56m63bsQvB8> and <https://youtu.be/sbi7uzp-RjQ>

Dionne Warwick – *I Say A Little Prayer* -- <https://youtu.be/kafVkJxjLYg>

Dionne Warwick – *Promises Promises* -- <https://youtu.be/dGqPbfjJarI>

Dionne Warwick – *(You'll Never Get to Heaven) If You Break My Heart* --  
<https://youtu.be/NgJDkvXcWtM>

Dionne Warwick – *HEARTBREAKER* -- <https://youtu.be/8VCuCm6XKeA>

Dionne Warwick & Barry White – *Never Gonna Give You Up* -- <https://youtu.be/Y5clivRpGBc>

Dionne Warwick & Barry Manilow – *I'll Never Love This Way Again* --  
<https://youtu.be/30whUaYDPsA>

Dionne Warwick, Whitney Houston, Luther Vandross & Stevie Wonder – *That's What Friends Are For*  
-- <https://youtu.be/NNHBT7wjqVI>

Dionne Warwick & Sacha Distel – *The Girl From Ipanema* -- <https://youtu.be/iRIxByKzIJE>

BONUS TRACK

*We Are The World* -- <https://youtu.be/WbachP6QhGk>

*I hope that you have enjoyed this week's offerings and wish you  
and yours a great week....*

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

--  
Gregory Brown  
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