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The War on the West, Continued

A conference in Egypt showed us the real agendas behind Agenda 21.

By Dan Happel

Anyone who believes that the “Green agenda” and attacks on private property are in retreat should have been in Egypt last November for the United Nations COP27 conference in the resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh. The levels of hubris and hypocrisy were unrivaled at the 27th “Conference of the Parties.” Calls for zero-carbon emissions by 2050 and the necessity for people to switch from beef to bugs and bioengineered protein were, as usual, made by environmental activists and political hacks, some of whom flew into Egypt in private jets and stayed in \$2,500-plus-per-night hotel suites, and were seen to enjoy lavish meals of red meat and seafood. Obviously it seems what was good for the common-people goose wasn’t good for the elite-status gander!

The initial focus of COP27 was how to make opponents to globalist initiatives take the bitter green pill of collectivism without ratcheting up excessive active resistance at the grassroots level. And although most Americans are historically a bit slow on the uptake when resisting dystopian government programs, when they finally come around they can be quite a force to be reckoned with.

The anti-globalism speed bump called Donald Trump’s “America First” agenda is rapidly receding in the Deep State’s rearview mirror after two years of the Mean Joe “Green” Biden administration’s “Globalist



PHOTOS VIA COP27

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First” agenda, but if zero-carbon by 2050 was the intended goal, why was China so often held up as a model for how all the developed countries should move forward?

China’s carbon footprint looks like Godzilla compared to that of the United States and Western Europe. Communist China’s disastrous environmental record should be the number one subject of concern within the sustainability movement instead of attacks on the developed free-market economies that have been systematically reducing pollution for decades. However, what seems to attract the admiration of the activists is China’s social and economic control. The takeaway from COP27 and all the other COP conferences is about controlling people and economies, not climate, and the U.N.’s self-anointed intelligentsia has made sure the communist Chinese are considered exemplars, not pariahs.

Joe Biden showed up toward the end of the conference to titillate the audience with a commitment of U.S. taxpayer dollars to Third World nations as reparations for what many enviro-activists imagine as the American sin of innovative thinking and economic development—a sin that has transported much of the Third World out of its poverty and misery. Not that these as-yet-unauthorized reparations might ever actually end up in the hands of the common people. The very apt



COP27 concluded with a historic decision to establish and operationalize a \$100 billion per year loss and damage fund for developing nations. “Together, let’s not relent in the fight for climate justice and climate ambition,” said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his closing message. “We can and must win this battle for our lives.” COP27 president Sameh Shoukry is shown in center of the video.

description of the United Nations as the “Dictators Club” virtually guarantees that any U.S. handouts to Third World countries will continue to fund the ruling class in their opulent lifestyles.

Throughout the conference was an ongoing discussion about the level of injustice suffered by indigenous people around the world at the hands of white Europeans who centuries ago traversed the planet to brutalize, rob, then enslave the native populations. Absent from the dialogue is the actual history of the eras, as well as the level of current Third World human trafficking. Equally absent was a conversation about the slavery and plunder that existed in virtually every culture including indigenous cultures since the dawn of mankind. Although property ownership was in general a subject of much derision at this conference, owning property appears to be O.K. if you fit the right politically correct demographic.

An increasingly troubling aspect of COP conferences is the number of seemingly sincere, intelligent, but apparently brainwashed young people in attendance. In sheer numbers, Frankfurt School-trained academics (Reds) now own the whole green movement, making it much more a force for political and social change than anything to do with the natural environment. Currently fashionable cancel-culture and woke-based ideas abound among such youth at these conferences, and conversations with students from Harvard was shockingly and explicitly anti-American. Tearing down property ownership, small businesses and self-reliance dominated their discussions. Destroying the bourgeoisie has become staple conversation between the

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white European and American kids in attendance, often on break from expensive university educations paid for by second- and third-generation wealthy liberal parents apparently suffering from “white guilt.” Often their wealth is multigenerational because of ancestors who had no personal connection with property theft or slavery and many times came from extreme poverty. Those forebears did however live in a time when the American system of free enterprise appealed to everyone who cherished freedom, took personal responsibility, knew hard work, and accepted personal sacrifice.

Much talk about carbon credits and creating carbon neutrality led to several panel discussions about various new forms of taxation





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ABOVE: Nothing too fancy for players at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. LEFT: U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm leads a panel called “U.S. Energy Earthshots: Decadal Goals to Power the Clean Energy Transition,” left to right: Secretary Granholm; Michelle Grisham, governor of New Mexico; Brad Crabtree, assistant secretary U.S. Department of Energy; Dr. Paul Kearns, director, U.S. DOE Argonne National Laboratory; and Yossi Matias, Google vice president of engineering and research.

that might be applied on an international scale. Various schemes for underdeveloped countries to sell carbon credits to developed countries led many in the audience to understand this as an undisguised wealth transfer from the haves to the have nots. Everywhere you looked someone was looking for a way to leverage faulty climate science and social consciousness to pick someone else’s pocket—usually Uncle Sam’s. Something that never seems to trip the commonsense trigger at these conferences is the fact that everything and everyone on the planet is composed of carbon and the only way to meaningfully reduce carbon is to reduce humans. Unsurprisingly, at every one of these U.N. Climate

and World Economic Forum conferences are calls for depopulation programs for all the “little people” and “useless eaters” who consume far too many of the resources that globalist elites both define and covet. Being technocrats and outspoken Marxists by nature, life for these people is evidently a zero-sum game where the only way they can win is by making someone else lose, and they don’t plan on losing.

Squarely in the crosshairs of these globalist schemes stand American family farms and independent ranchers with their unfashionable ideals about private property, land stewardship, and feeding the world with beef, mutton, pork and poultry. Ever-expanding

federal environmental regulations have increased production costs for everything from fertilizer to equipment, fodder and fuel, forcing many small operators to scramble for ways to survive and pass their legacy on to the next generation. Standing in the wings with so-called solutions are U.N.-sanctioned environmental NGOs offering conservation easements that for many might provide a short-term solution to increasingly difficult economic circumstances. Although many CE contracts seem to be a financial blessing that allows for continued farming/ranching operations, any future development rights are relinquished. The seldom-mentioned dirty little secret is that many environmental NGOs purchasing these conservation easements are funded by the same people attending the COP conferences; and these people spend billions annually to lobby Congress and federal agencies for increased regulations that will eventually put CE-controlled family farms and ranches out of business. When

that eventually happens, buyers are scarce because of the unduly restrictive easements, and often the only buyers are the environmental NGOs originally purchasing the easements which pick up the property for 40 cents on the dollar.

The next major target of U.N. radical environmentalism is water, the lifeblood of the arid West. Most state constitutions assign jurisdiction over water and the adjudication process within their borders to the state. The early pioneers knew the importance of water, and many legally established water rights pre-date statehood by decades. In the West, water is property no less important than land and improvements. This has not gone unnoticed by U.N. technocrats, using woke indigenous peoples' language to circumvent traditional notions of water as property and allow the surreptitious transfer of water jurisdiction from state agencies to indigenous people with federal agencies acting as trustees. This transfers large watersheds with many private inholdings to tribal jurisdiction—thus blurring the idea of water rights as property and moving water one step closer to being classified as a global public asset.

Another high priority U.N. target is dams on streams and rivers used for water impoundment. These dams have become an essential part of city water supplies, irrigation projects, public recreation and electrical power generation. Rivers and streams when completely unimpeded frequently flood during rainy times and go nearly dry during dry times, making reliability as a resource extremely difficult. Much western agriculture has grown dependent on these dam projects for reliable crop irrigation and year-round stockwater. Dam destruction will disproportionately impact agriculture, turning large tracts of western lands into arid wastelands.

Although the dams' benefits far outweigh their costs, U.N. radical environmental programs have targeted more than 6,000 dams for destruction in the United States alone. In states like Montana, hydroelectric power has consequently been plentiful, affordable, reliable, renewable and remarkably clean, giving customers the lowest electricity rates in the country. But the United Nations endorses incredibly expensive and environmentally damaging projects like wind generators and solar panels that provide unreliable and heavily subsidized electricity at much higher rates. Private water wells will be their next targets, with feasibility studies underway that require residential wells to be metered and tied into a smart grid that will monitor water

usage and charge well owners according to U.N. standards that its technocrats will decide. Very soon all center pivot irrigation will be banned or so heavily taxed that many productive fields will go fallow. Learn more about these U.N. programs by going to sdgs.un.org. You will be amazed how far along its efforts are.

connection in ways that citified people cannot even comprehend. A day of branding calves, picking rocks or digging post holes will do more to get your head straight than a hundred sessions in a psychiatrist's office. We are losing our goodness as a nation as we shift from rural to urban lifestyles.

We must realize how deadly serious they



PHOTOS VIA COP27

According to *The Guardian*: "U.N. secretary-general Antonio Guterres has stepped up his rhetoric on the climate crisis over the last year, warning of 'collective suicide' and targeting fossil fuel companies, who 'have humanity by the throat,' calling for a windfall tax on their excessive profits that should be distributed to poor countries that are suffering 'loss and damage' from extreme weather.... His ability to influence the countries most antagonistic to international climate efforts—such as Russia and Saudi Arabia—is severely limited." Egypt's foreign minister and COP27 president Sameh Shoukry stands by. *The Guardian* writes that Shoukry "is acting as a neutral arbiter of the 196 nations attending, smoothing over differences while challenging laggards to step up with strong measures."



The very apt description of the United Nations as the "Dictators Club" virtually guarantees that any U.S. handouts to Third World countries will continue to fund the ruling class in their opulent lifestyles.

You didn't have to be a hardened anti-environmentalist to see that the real agenda behind COP27 and its underlying Agenda 21/2030 is to take down the American system of limited self-governance and replace it with a top-down control system run by global technocrats.

America has been blessed with a wealth of natural resources and industrious, inventive people with a desire to advance the entire human race and a secure future for their families. For over 200 years we respected our forebears and understood our responsibility as stewards of the land and protectors of truth. Much of our goodness as a society came from our connection with God and the land He gave us to toil. Rural folks understand this

are about wiping us off the face of the earth and become equally serious about making certain that they fail—and that the American inheritance of inventiveness, hard work, self-improvement and constitutionalism triumphs, for the benefit not only of the West, but for all mankind. ■

Dan Happel is a retired businessman, former county commissioner and legislative consultant. He currently hosts a podcast called "Connecting the Dots" via danhappel.com from his ranch in southwest Montana. This special feature could not have happened without extraordinary help from California cattle rancher Debbie Bacigalupi, who has attended many U.N. climate conferences.