

Eagle Forum Report

successor to The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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October 2021

Volume 5/Number 10

Missing: American Leadership

CHI-COMS GET THE GOLD IN AFGHANISTAN

by Weizhen Tan, Markets Editor at CNBC's Asia Pacific headquarters in Singapore. In that role she oversees and reports on key Asian asset categories, international markets, central banks, global trade and macroeconomic trends.

Minerals and rare earth metals in Afghanistan were estimated to be worth between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion in 2020, according to a news magazine *The Diplomat*, citing Ahmad Shah Katawazai, a former diplomat at the Afghan Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Shamaila Khan, director of emerging market debt at Alliance-Bernstein, said the Taliban insurgents have emerged with resources that are a “very dangerous proposition for the world,” with minerals in Afghanistan that “can be exploited.” The international community should put pressure on China if it seeks to ally itself with the Taliban, Khan added.

“It should be an international initiative to make sure that if any coun-

try is agreeing to exploit its minerals on behalf of the Taliban, to only do it under strict humanitarian conditions where human rights, and rights for women are preserved in the situation,” said Khan. The Taliban’s harsh interpretation of Islam has meant that women’s rights were curtailed, before the U.S. toppled its regime in 2001. Communist China welcomed the Taliban a day after the Taliban militants took over the country’s rare earth minerals.

Afghanistan has rare earth minerals such as lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, and veins of aluminum, gold, silver, zinc, mercury, and lithium, according to Katawazai. Rare earth minerals are used in everything from electronics to electric vehicles, and satellites and aircraft.

Only hours after the Taliban overran Afghanistan, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Beijing was ready for “friendly cooperation with Afghanistan.... On the basis of fully respecting the sovereignty of Afghanistan and the will of all factions in the country, China has maintained contact and communication with the Afghan Taliban and played a constructive role in promoting the political settlement of the Afghan issue,”

said spokeswoman Hua Chunying. According to Hua, the Taliban said “on multiple occasions” that it “looks forward to China’s participation in Afghanistan’s reconstruction and development. We are ready to continue to develop good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation with Afghanistan and play a constructive role in Afghanistan’s peace and reconstruction,” Hua said.

In late July, before the Taliban’s latest blitz across Afghanistan, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with a delegation led by the head of the Afghan Taliban political committee Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Tianjin.

China’s state-run *Global Times* reported that China can “contribute to post-war reconstruction and development, pushing forward projects under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.” The BRI is a mammoth infrastructure investment plan to build rail, road, sea and other routes stretching from China to Central Asia, Africa and Europe.

China dominates the rare earth minerals market globally. About 35% of rare earth minerals global reserves are in China, the single largest supply in the world, according to the United States Geological Survey. The coun-

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try is also a mining machine, producing 120,000 metric tons or 70% of total rare earth minerals in 2018, compared to the U.S. which mined 15,000 metric tons of rare earths the same year, it said. Rare earth minerals mining could change the U.S.'s

dependence on China. U.S. reserves also pale in comparison to China. The U.S. has a total of 1.4 million metric tons of reserves, versus 44 million metric tons of reserves in China.

China used rare earth minerals as a threat during its trade war with the

U.S. in 2019, when Beijing threatened to cut off supplies to the U.S. The U.S. was heavily dependent on China for rare earth minerals in 2019, when the Asian country was exporting 80% of U.S. needs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. 

DOES CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSE RAPE?

by Marc Morano, the publisher of CFACT's Climate Depot and the author of *Green Fraud: Why the Green New Deal is Even Worse Than You Think*.

The climate is always changing and so too are the climate change activists' claims about how "the science" has changed its definitions and solutions.

When Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* came out in 2006, the former Vice President focused on purported science to justify the need for immediate action on climate change. Diminishing polar bear numbers, rising sea levels, global temperatures, and CO₂ level increases were cited by Gore as justifications for government action.



The modern climate change activists, however, feel they no longer need to use those typical metrics to prove global warming. For example, NBC News reported that "climate change could mean more airline turbulence." A U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientist conducted a study claiming "global warming sparks fistfights and war"

and that it "will systematically increase the risk of many types of conflict ranging from barroom brawls and rape to civil wars and international disputes."

In 2020, NASA scientist Dr. Kate Marvel warned that "climate justice and racial justice are the same thing, and we'll never head off climate catastrophe without dismantling white supremacy." Marvel is a U.N. Research Scientist at NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

The University of Rhode Island's Erik Loomis declared "The data is racist! Science, statistics, and technology are all inherently racist because they are developed by racists who live in a racist society, whether they identify as racists or not," he explained in 2020.

The U.N. and Congressional Democrats claim that man-made global warming is increasing prostitution. A study featured in the Los Angeles Times claimed rape will increase dramatically by 2099, as will murder and car theft increase all due to man-made global warming.

Just 15 years ago, "solutions" to global warming included carbon taxes, cap-and-trade schemes, carbon credits, and U.N. treaties. In today's woke culture, one must ditch the hard sciences and examine logically unrelated things like airline turbulence, rape statistics, crime statistics, vehicle theft statistics, train derailments,

police shootings, toxic masculinity, white supremacy, and car accidents. To solve climate change, Americans must cancel pet ownership, wish death to climate "deniers," shrink humans, eat insects, end white supremacy, stop having kids and defund the police.

A reality check exposes these silly claims. Since the 1970s global cooling scare, crime is down dramatically per capita in the U.S. A study also claimed that the Statue of Liberty would be underwater by 4000 A.D., making that iconic final scene from the film *Planet of the Apes* now only 2000 years away.

It gets even more absurd. The *Washington Post* in 2021 rewrote history and reality claiming that Ronald Reagan should be blamed for "global warming." According to the *Post*, "If President Carter had gotten an extra term in office, we likely wouldn't be having a climate crisis right now." Did you get that? Reagan's 1980 landslide victory for President caused the alleged climate crisis! A climate tipping point that we somehow all missed 40 years ago is a bizarro world fantasy.

Furthermore, President Carter was not a visionary when it came to climate or energy. Carter's infamous "malaise" speech in 1977 claimed, "The oil and natural gas that we rely on for 75% of our energy are simply running out," adding that "world oil production can probably keep going

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up for another 6 or 8 years. But sometime in the 1980s, it can't go up anymore. Demand will overtake production. We have no choice about that."

This is the man the *Washington Post* thought could save the planet if only he had another four years in office?!

Carter could not have been more wrong. In 2019, "U.S. energy exports exceeded imports for the first time since 1952," the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported. The EIA also reported, "In 2019, U.S. energy production exceeded energy consumption for the first time since 1957," when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. Under President Trump's energy achievements, U.S. energy production went so off the charts that the last time the U.S. saw this kind of energy dominance was when Harry S. Truman was president in 1952!

Even more absurd, CBS News just reported that the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan may not be President Joe Biden's fault, but the fault of — climate change — "How climate change helped strengthen the Taliban," CBS claimed that, "Rural Afghanistan has been rocked by climate change. The past three decades have brought floods and drought that have destroyed crops and left people hungry. And the Taliban — likely without knowing climate change was the cause — has taken advantage of that pain."

But the CBS News claims were refuted by James Taylor of the Heartland Institute using the U.N.'s crop yield data: "Afghanistan has fully doubled its crop yields during the past three decades. Also, Afghan farmers have set new production records on a regular basis, especially during the past few years... If global warming has had any impact on Afghan farmer sentiment throughout the country, it has clearly been to make farmers

happier, more prosperous, and less vulnerable to the Taliban," Taylor wrote.

Greenpeace co-founder Dr. Patrick Moore also ripped CBS News writing, "It's like there is a contest to invent the most implausible fabrication about the climate. At a certain point, it becomes too silly to even bother trying to counter it with reason. Could that be their ambition, to get away with being uncontested?"

In 2013, climate activists and media blamed the conflict in Syria on drought caused by global warming, despite the fact there are declining or no trends in global drought. The claim echoed a 1933 Syrian government claim that resulted in the banning of the children's toy, the Yo-Yo, due to the belief that the toy caused droughts. Climate skeptic Tony Heller commented, "In 1933, drought was blamed on Yo-Yos. Eighty years later, modern Yo-Yos blame drought on CO₂."

In August 2021, *Newsweek* magazine's headline shrieked: "Seeking World Recognition, Taliban Vows to Help Fight Terror and Climate Change." Newsbusters Joseph Vazquez explains:

"*Newsweek* Senior Writer of Foreign Policy Tom O'Connor pushed how Taliban Cultural Commission member Abdul Qahar Balkhi 'told *Newsweek* that his group sought worldwide recognition of the Islamic Emirate.' Balkhi propagandized to the outlet how the organization's drive for 'recognition' would be bolstered in part by

the terror group's commitment to 'fight terror' and so-called climate change. 'We hope not only to be recognized by regional countries but the entire world at large as the legitimate representative government of the people of Afghanistan,' Balkhi said in part, according to *Newsweek*." Vazquez added: "It is damning that a U.S. publication would lower itself so far down the eco-extremist cesspool that it would attempt to humanize an Islamic terrorist group currently slaughtering people in Afghanistan as a result of President Joe Biden's massive foreign policy failure."

Earlier this year, the Biden Administration blamed illegal immigration on climate change and a group of academics blamed the creation of ISIS on climate change. Clearly, the woke claims that we face a "climate emergency" and that everything causes climate change is all in keeping with furthering the Green New Deal and the 2015 U.N. Paris climate deal largely constructed by then Secretary of State and now President Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry. The truth is that it is all based upon implausible extreme climate scenarios that the UN has been pushing in recent years. When current reality fails to alarm, they just make scarier and scarier predictions for the future. 🦅



BIDEN'S FRAUD ON CLIMATE

by Peter Murphy is Senior Fellow at Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow.

Yogi Berra said, "It's getting late early." For President Joseph Biden, this nugget from the New York Yankees Hall of Fame catcher is accurate as his policy blunders pile up and Americans increasingly feel their baleful effects. They include the bungled withdrawal from Afghanistan, menacing inflation, the human tidal wave over the open Southern border, the new coronavirus outbreak, and his war on American energy.

These examples that suggest his presidency may soon implode — before his first year concludes. By contrast, it took Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon until their third and fifth years, respectively, for their presidencies to collapse beyond recovery.

President Biden's war on American-produced energy is galling and — dare I say — un-American. This is because of two recent administration actions that contradict his purported climate policy and confirm the blizzard of lies about the implications of climate change.

First, last May the president lifted U.S. sanctions on companies that were constructing the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, which expands the market for Russian fossil fuel energy. Biden gave Russia this energy gift for no discernable return benefit.

The president's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, called on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to increase production and exports in order to lower gasoline prices. OPEC, he said, "should move faster to restore the global supply of gasoline ... higher gasoline prices, if left unchecked, risk harming the ongoing global [economic] recovery." The same day, the president's top economic advisor

urged the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the gasoline market for any illegal conduct.

Clearly, President Biden and his administration are starting to panic about rapidly increasing gas prices and broader inflation. Their entreaty for more oil exposes their climate policy as a gigantic fraud.

Biden habitually claims that climate change is the "existential threat of our time." This is dogma in his administration and for many in Congress. But does Biden really believe? His gift to Russia and mendicancy toward OPEC suggest otherwise.

From day one of his presidency, Biden set forth to act on his claim of climate catastrophe by curbing domestic energy production in oil, gas and coal, starting with executive orders to cancel construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and stop new energy leases on federal lands. Another order last January committed the U.S. to a "whole-of-government approach to the climate crisis" and established "climate considerations as an essential element in U.S. foreign policy and national security."

Except when it's not.

The Biden actions on Nord Stream 2 and OPEC reveal these climate directives to be at best, rhetorical; at worst, a lie.

Seven months later, energy prices are skyrocketing and Americans are feeling the pinch. This is no accident or happenstance.

In the 12-month period through July, overall price inflation increased 5.4 percent, the highest in 13 years, while energy prices surged nearly 24 percent, more than four times the general rate. The ripple effect of skyrocketing energy prices will

reverberate throughout the economy with higher manufacturing costs and higher shipping costs.

With inflation rearing its ugly head, maybe the "existential threat" of climate change is not so existential and not even a threat, after all. The claptrap about a "zero-carbon economy" by the Biden team becomes just that with their public plea for more crude oil.

As Carter learned more than 40 years ago, the inflation genie is very hard to put back into the bottle quickly.

It is one thing for President Biden and his team of adherents to Tweet about climate change and issue executive orders. When these policies take hold and the inflationary effects occur, their demand for more foreign oil is evidence of a house of cards that is climate policy.

Sometimes presidential difficulties result from events beyond their control. Jimmy Carter did not abet inflation and Donald Trump did not unleash the coronavirus, but the issues cost them both re-election.

Nixon's problems from the Watergate scandal were self-inflicted. So it is with President Biden's climate policies and much else afflicting the nation.

President Biden should jettison this fruitless climate crusade — something he never embraced as a senator. Rather than beg OPEC for more oil, the president should immediately re-open American oil and gas production and restore our nation's energy independence. 

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