

Eagle Forum Report

successor to The Phyllis Schlafly Report

200 W. Third St., Ste. 502 • Alton, IL 62002 • (618) 433-8990 • Eagle@EagleForum.org • EagleForum.org

November 2021

Volume 5/Number 11

Robin Hood in Reverse

BIDEN'S BOONDOGGLE

by Rachel Greszler, a research fellow in economics, budget and entitlements in The Heritage Foundation's Hermann Center. EagleForum.org/nannystate

President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats promise that their \$3.5 trillion spending bill will “transform our economy.” Few would argue with that claim, although not everyone is on board with the notion that concentrating more resources and power in the federal government and moving deeper into the socialist camp is a desirable transformation.

Central to the left's sales pitch for this massive bill is the claim that the new spending and entitlement programs will benefit families and children. But transforming the largest and most prosperous economy in the history of civilization will not be without significant cost and consequence — even, or perhaps especially, for those to whom the proposal promises the most benefits.

All the new benefits come with significant strings attached, and those requirements could push families to make choices that aren't actually best for them. Moreover, all this money that's being dangled in front of families will have to be repaid at some point, and taxing corporations and the “rich” won't come close to paying the bills. In reality, many kids will end up paying for their own childcare and monthly expenses — with interest —

through higher taxes on their future earnings.

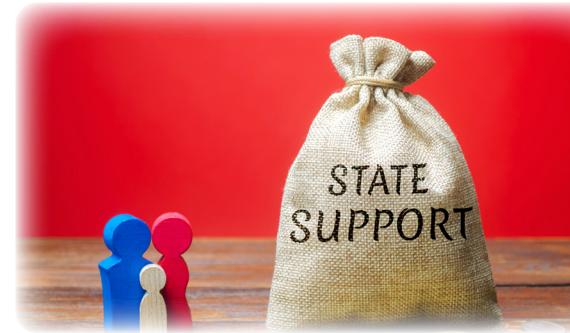
If made permanent, this socialist vision for America would spend up to \$164,000 of taxpayers' dollars on every child in America. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and other politicians have cited studies estimating that government-run early childhood programs pay huge dividends, generating between \$4 and \$9 in returns for every dollar spent. Thus, they claim, “these programs pay for themselves by the time children become adults” and are “a smart investment that will yield positive returns for our country's future.”

While it is possible for targeted spending on particularly at-risk or disadvantaged children to yield high returns, there is zero evidence that spending up to \$164,000 on every middle-income child in America would provide positive returns. In order for such enormous sums of spending to be worthwhile, every child who is a recipient of those taxpayer dollars would have to earn an extra \$18,600 per year over a 40-year career, or an additional \$746,000 over a lifetime.

That's an incredibly high hurdle even for programs with proven positive track records, but the evidence

suggests that most of the programs hailed by the left will produce, at best, marginal benefits among middle- and upper-income families. Meanwhile, the childcare subsidies propping up these programs could actually harm the well-being of children and families.

Let's look at four of the apparent freebies offered to families: heavily subsidized childcare, universal Pre-K, monthly child payments, and “free” community college.



Free and heavily subsidized childcare can sound really appealing to families with young children because it's hard for parents to find the type of childcare they want at a cost they can afford. So a program that would provide \$73,100 worth of childcare and Pre-K subsidies for each child in a median-income family seems like a huge help.

But that money wouldn't be there for families to use on the childcare they want. It would be sent directly to government-approved

(Continued on page 2)

childcare centers that are able to keep pace with all the planned government regulations deemed necessary to become a “top tier” childcare provider. As it is, only 14 percent of parents say that full-time, center-based childcare is their ideal, while 70 percent say family care is their ideal.

Parents typically prioritize finding a loving (rather than a government-certificated) provider. Often, they desire their child be cared for in a family-setting. But government bureaucrats will prioritize caregivers holding college degrees and union membership cards while seeking settings that extend the public K-12 education environment down to infants and toddlers.

Politicians who want to push more parents into the workforce and more kids into government-directed childcare and Pre-K should heed the advice of the economist they so frequently cite when implying that childcare subsidies and universal PreK will be “smart investments.”

As that economist, James Heckman, said:

I have never supported universal pre-school. The benefits of public preschool programs are the greatest for the most disadvantaged children. More advantaged children generally have encouraging early family lives. The “intervention” that a loving, resourceful family gives to its children has huge benefits that, unfortunately, have never been measured well. Public preschool programs can potentially compensate for the home environments of disadvantaged children. No public preschool program can provide the environments and the parental love and care of a functioning family and the lifetime benefits that ensue.

Since children’s home and family environments are the greatest determinant of their well-being and outcomes, shifting kids from family-based care and into center-based care is more likely to impose a burden on children than to serve as an investment in them. That has been the case in Quebec, where highly subsidized childcare led to children experiencing greater aggression, reduced motor and social skills, more hostile and less consistent parenting, lower-quality family relationships, and increased rates of crime and anxiety in their teenage years.

Universal government Pre-K programs, such as Head Start and Tennessee’s Voluntary Pre-K initiative, have also produced little, if any, lasting positive results and have sometimes had adverse effects on children. Considering the weak evidence of positive impacts from large-scale government childcare and Pre-K programs, it is highly unlikely that the very costly proposed programs could pay for themselves by creating more “productive” children and families.

But they would drive up costs, crowd out private and religious providers, and disproportionately benefit wealthy and affluent families. For example, taxpayers would subsidize childcare for a Massachusetts family with two children and \$200,000 in income to the tune of \$31,100 per year. Meanwhile, childcare subsidies for a two-child family earning \$50,000 in Mississippi would total “only” \$17,500. **The subsidy falls to \$0 for any family in which one parent gives up work to stay home with children.**

In addition to subsidies for government-approved childcare, one of the seemingly most popular proposals is nearly universal monthly payments of \$250 or \$300 per child, regardless of whether or not parents work and

with little regard for families’ needs.

Since work is the only long-term path out of poverty, removing work requirements would revert to the failed welfare policies that increased single-parent households and exacerbated the cycles of poverty prior to the bipartisan 1996 welfare reforms.

While studies show that additional income generally leads to improved outcomes for children, the effects are modest or negligible for middle- and upper-income households. It’s hard to believe that payments to families with incomes up to \$480,000 per year will lead to safer housing, an improved diet, or a better school for their children.

However, it is likely that repaying all that money — \$55,800 in total per child — will lead to fewer opportunities and lower after-tax incomes.

Finally, there’s the offer of “free” community college. The problem with making community college universally “free” is that it would almost certainly exacerbate lackluster outcomes. Federal, state, and local taxpayers already heavily subsidize community colleges, and the fact that so many students and families lack meaningful “skin in the game” helps explain the poor performance of community colleges. Only 28 percent of students who begin community college earn a two-year degree within three years.

Moreover, the proposal would drive up community college costs (by imposing a federalized fee on states) and further weaken incentives in the K-12 public school system to produce college-ready students.

Children born today already face the burden of a large federal government limiting their future opportunities and an enormous federal deficit threatening their future incomes.

————— *(Continued on page 3)*

Helpful as some of these proposals like monthly child payments and new childcare entitlements may seem, they aren't worth the burden of children needing to earn an additional \$746,000 over their lifetimes to make all those taxpayer "investments" worthwhile.

Rather than create a multitude of one-size-fits-all unfunded entitlement programs, policymakers should focus on providing greater flexibility

within the existing resources provided to families in need. For example, Congress should allow families to use existing childcare subsidies — including the roughly \$10,000 per year spent on each child in Head Start — *at a childcare provider of their choice*. Moreover, lawmakers should pare down — instead of pile on — unhelpful childcare regulations that currently restrict the supply of more flexible and affordable

childcare options.

Finally, rather than raise taxes in ways that will lead to lower incomes and higher prices for everyone — and then redistributing those taxes based on what politicians believe is best for children and families — lawmakers should enact policies that increase income opportunities and that allow everyone to keep more of the money they earn to spend on what they decide is best for them. 

WHO IS THE MARX IN MARXISM?

by James Simpson, is an economist, businessman, investigative journalist and author. *Who Was Karl Marx? The Men, the Motives and the Menace Behind Today's Rampaging American Left*. His website is: www.CrisisNow.net.

The true history of Marx is revealed in *Who Was Karl Marx? The Men, the Motives and the Menace Behind Today's Rampaging American Left*. Most discussions of Marxism, Communism, Socialism and indeed Marx himself are conducted in the intellectual stratosphere, as though it were an exposition on quantum physics, and Marx himself is treated with godly reverence. But nothing could be further from the truth. As the book explains, Marx's theories are absurd and Marx the man was a repulsive, greedy, parasitic slob — everything he claimed to despise about the bourgeoisie.

From a bourgeoisie background himself, Marx was the selfish, spoiled-brat son of a wealthy German attorney. Despite the money showered on him by his wealthy father, Marx was perpetually in debt. His Communist Manifesto co-author Friedrich Engels was also a spoiled-brat, rich son of a wealthy industrialist. Marx received regular support throughout his life from Engels, who stole money from the petty cash account of his father's business.

At other times, Marx hovered

over ailing relatives, waiting for them to die to see what he would inherit. He would write to his wife and/or Engels, describing the reading of the will joyfully or angrily depending on the outcome. The book quotes many of these hilarious letters. Marx was even paid by the German government to spy on his Communist friends.

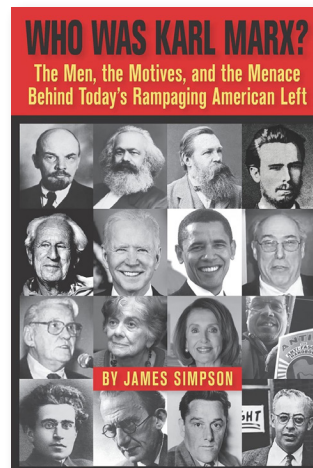
Marx never really worked. His mother complained that Marx should try engaging in a little capitalism instead of just talking about it. He also never bathed, and she harried him weekly to change his underwear.

His closest associates described him as brimming with hatred, rather than love for his fellow man, and someone of towering conceit, who tolerated no dissention. Engels said, "[H]e rages without ceasing, as if ten thousand devils had caught him by the hair." Prominent Anarchist Mikhail Bakunin observed, "One has

to worship Marx in order to be loved by him. One has at least to fear him in order to be tolerated by him. Marx is extremely proud, up to dirt and madness."

Marx fathered an illegitimate son by his maid, but Marx claimed it was Engels'. Engels raised the child as his own and only admitted the truth on his deathbed. Two of Marx's daughters and a son-in-law committed suicide. Three children died of malnutrition, and while Marx's wife frantically sought to scrape up money for one of their coffins, Marx employed what author Frances Wheen referred to as, "a loutish, libidinous and thoroughly useless private secretary merely because he thought it unseemly for a man of his position to be without one."

Marxist economic theories are foolish, almost to the point of absurdity. Marx never once darkened the doors of a factory and knew nothing of the working class he supposedly championed. He called them "rogues," "stupid boys," "asses." Remember, these were the people who Marx claimed would be freed from their chains by Communism. Instead, Communism has enslaved half the



— (Continued on page 4)

world in chains that may never be broken. His ponderous three-volume *Das Kapital* is impenetrable. Even Wheen, a sympathetic reviewer noted, “‘Das Kapital’ should be judged not as an economics treatise but as ‘a work of the imagination: a Victorian melodrama, or a vast Gothic novel.’”

Truer words...

Marxism points to the absolute folly of human pride — pride that drives some people to instigate war and commit murder to impose it and to go on killing wholesale when Marxist ideas reveal in practice just how mindlessly destructive they really are.

Who Was Karl Marx? catalogs the Communists of various stripes who helped promote and impose Marxism over the last century and a half, their many strategies and most importantly, their true objectives: absolute power and wealth. This is what many people miss. In the effort to debate the tenets of Marxism, they fail to see that Communists are just very clever grifters — a “new-style Mafia,” as presidential advisor John P. Roche put it.

Marx was not really an atheist either. He actually believed in God but desired to be His equal. This was Marx’s true goal, and he even said so much in a poem quoted in the book. Marxism is simply the latest version of Satan’s temptation of man, that “ye shall be as gods...”

Whitaker Chambers states in

Witness:

It is the great alternative faith of mankind. Like all great faiths, its force derives from a simple vision. Other ages have had great visions. They have always been different versions of the same vision: the vision of God and man’s relationship to God. The Communist vision is the vision of Man without God. It is the vision of man’s mind displacing God as the creative intelligence of the world.

To obtain this vision, Marx and his followers preached destruction of the world, utter, complete destruction — revealing again their towering arrogance and complete disregard for any and all human life. Marxist’s common ailment is an almost universal hatred for man, and a desire to see society, Western society that is, destroyed root and branch.

The book traces all of the major strategies used to bring this about and the people who articulated them. Their one common goal is an asymmetric military strategy to overthrow America and replace it with their Communist vision.

In the book’s final chapter, “Back from the Brink: A Comprehensive Plan to Save America” are remedies for almost every single strategy the Left has been pushing. I felt that if I was going to alarm you with the true nature of what we face that I should be beholden to consider ways to defeat it. These remedies do not demand we move far out of our comfort zone either. They are practical solutions that everyone can use and do not seek to swim upstream against the prevailing cultural current, but rather to sidestep it and create more attractive alternatives.

This book is a comprehensive exposé on the men, the motives and the methods that are threatening the very survival of our nation today. It is writ-

ten in plain, conversational language with enough detail for the most serious historian or activist, while concise and readily understandable for high school and even middle school children. We need our kids on America’s side, for their own sakes more than ours.

The hour is late and we are woefully behind, but we Americans are known for our ability to think out-of-the-box and pull rabbits out of the hat at the last minute. This is what comes of being a free people. May this book help keep us that way. 

Editor’s Note:

The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. The Biden Administration wants “educated” government employees to replace mother’s love in rearing children. The “Build Back Better” agenda will provide taxpayer-paid baby-sitting for all American families and this all-encompassing plan goes so far that it penalizes families that choose to raise their own children!

The rise and threat of Marxism to American values of liberty and individual freedom is dire. Under Marxism, the state owns your body and the state determines the course of your life. Private property — including land, money, and your progeny — belong only to the state. You should be so grateful that the state cares so much about your needs and desires!

EAGLE FORUM

President: Colleen Holcomb

Report Editor: Cathie Adams

Yearly membership \$25.00

Call 618-433-8990 to subscribe

Extra copies available:

1/\$1, 50/\$15, 100/\$25

