

# NEWS BYTES

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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

## Who's Running the Country?

by Daniel Greenfield

July 8, 2024

- Candidates past their prime go up to bat because they have the biggest networks of fellow politicians, donors and party activists. It's as if Major League Baseball favored players on the basis of seniority and how well they networked, not based on how well they can pitch or hit.
- Voters self-importantly think of elections as the big political competition, but that's like judging companies based on the keynote addresses of their CEOs. Elections are the least important part of politics. All the really important parts of politics happen behind closed doors. What politicians do isn't run for office, they network, they cut deals and they plan their careers.
- That network, which we occasionally call by wholly inadequate names like the "establishment" or "D.C. insiders" is the reason Biden is up again in 2024. And why he can't be gotten rid of.
- But where did Obama come from? He came out of that network of radical activists, donors and government personnel now running the country. Obama is not a brilliant genius or one-man dynamo, he was a lazy and unoriginal activist lawyer, one of tens of thousands of Ivy Leaguers who join the political side of the network....
- It's not really Biden's 'turn' though. It's the turn of the strategists, lobbyists, staffers, donors, allies and more nebulous figures known as 'friends' whom he accrued over the years. They're invested in his success, and they're profiting from it. And they won't easily give it up.
- It's not just about Jill and Hunter Biden. Joe Biden has tens of thousands of political mouths to feed. Money has been collected, favors promised, people have bought homes in D.C. bedroom communities, lobbyists have secured fat contracts and donors have opened up their wallets.

- Replacing Biden with another candidate would upend much of D.C., put tens of billions of dollars in flux and create massive instability in this corrupt local economy. Much of D.C. would rather ride it out (especially since the campaign people will make just as much money if Biden loses) and preserve the integrity of the networks and the illicit pinkie swears that allow special interests to buy influence without having to worry if their man will suddenly be swapped out.
  - That is what "it's his turn" really means.
  - Not just Biden, but many, if not most, elected officials are figureheads who exist to broker favorable arrangements between their personal networks of donors and staffers, and those of other elected officials, and the ones in the bureaucracy that actually make policy. The revolving door between staffers, personnel, appointees and lobbyists who move between administrations, offices, boards, corporations, think tanks and firms is the actual force that runs the country more than most elections.
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Pictured: President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event in Madison, Wisconsin, on July 5, 2024. (Photo by Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images)

The 2016 presidential election was going to come down to two candidates, Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, whose 'turns' had come. And then Donald J Trump rode down an escalator, took their 'turn' and the establishment has never been the same since. Because it was their 'turn'.

In 2020, it was the 'turn' of Joe Biden, a man whose only political credential was that he had stuck around long enough to stick to things, like the Senate and the Vice Presidency.

Now in 2024, it's Joe Biden's 'turn' again. No one in his party was under the impression that he was the best candidate, the best campaigner or the best president, but damn it, it was his 'turn'.

And now the Democrats are panicking because the candidate taking his 'turn' is imploding.

Biden's debate meltdown has frightened Democrats, but they still have no answer for how to stop the car accident that everyone else could see coming from miles away. And no good strategy beyond getting the party leaders to confront their candidate and ask him to step down. But how do you take away Biden's 'turn' when turns are the most sacred thing in politics.

It's not an exclusively Democrat problem. The GOP put up Bob Dole against Bill Clinton and John McCain against Barack Obama because it was their 'turns'. They let

Mitt Romney go up against Obama a second time because it was his 'turn'. And after Republicans lost two straight presidential elections because they ran establishment candidates taking their 'turn', voters were so sick of it that they did what they would have never done before and picked Trump.

Because it wasn't his 'turn'.

'Turn' politics mostly still rules. Candidates past their prime go up to bat because they have the biggest networks of fellow politicians, donors and party activists. It's as if Major League Baseball favored players on the basis of seniority and how well they networked, not based on how well they can pitch or hit.

But unlike sports, politics isn't a meritocracy, it isn't even a democracy, it's an oligarchy.

Voters self-importantly think of elections as the big political competition, but that's like judging companies based on the keynote addresses of their CEOs. Elections are the least important part of politics. All the really important parts of politics happen behind closed doors. What politicians do isn't run for office, they network, they cut deals and they plan their careers.

That network, which we occasionally call by wholly inadequate names like the "establishment" or "D.C. insiders" is the reason Biden is up again in 2024. And why he can't be gotten rid of.

People who naively think that Obama is secretly running the Biden administration don't understand the network or how it works. Obama took on Hillary when it was her 'turn' in 2008. He won and brokered a deal that moved the Democrat network further leftward. And he did the same thing again in 2020, bringing in Bernie Sanders' people and Elizabeth Warren's people (and his own people) so that the Biden administration is even more radical and extreme than his was.

But where did Obama come from? He came out of that network of radical activists, donors and government personnel now running the country. Obama is not a brilliant genius or one-man dynamo, he was a lazy and unoriginal activist lawyer, one of tens of thousands of Ivy Leaguers who join the political side of the network, who wanted to live out his egotistical ambitions.

And the leftist networks gave him the opportunity to do it in exchange for seeding it deeper across the Democrat Party, the government and the country. Then his time came.

Obama did not want Biden to succeed him. He pushed Biden out in favor of Hillary, and then tried to bring in a surprise candidate to run against him in 2020. But some things are sacred and not even Obama, especially once out of the White House, could take away Biden's 'turn' twice.

It's not really Biden's 'turn' though. It's the turn of the strategists, lobbyists, staffers, donors, allies and more nebulous figures known as 'friends' whom he accrued over the years. They're invested in his success, and they're profiting from it. And they won't easily give it up.

Trying to replace Biden with Gavin Newsom (aside from the legal and logistical issues) would be a clash of two networks that would require either careful negotiations or outright civil war. It's done all the time with primary rivals who become vice presidents or cabinet members, but displacing a sitting president who also won the nomination and has raised and spent a massive fortune would require a level of delicate negotiations akin to bringing peace to an African civil war.

Especially if that president is unstable, prone to fits of anger, and is insulated by the same political allies whose wealth and power depend on Biden winning a second term in office.

It's not just about Jill and Hunter Biden. Joe Biden has tens of thousands of political mouths to feed. Money has been collected, favors promised, people have bought homes in D.C. bedroom communities, lobbyists have secured fat contracts and donors have opened up their wallets.

Replacing Biden with another candidate would upend much of D.C., put tens of billions of dollars in flux and create massive instability in this corrupt local economy. Much of D.C. would rather ride it out (especially since the campaign people will make just as much money if Biden loses) and preserve the integrity of the networks and the illicit pinkie swears that allow special interests to buy influence without having to worry if their man will suddenly be swapped out.

That is what "it's his turn" really means.

It's not impossible for the Democrats to replace Biden but despite all the 'Orange Man Bad' alarmism that is their only campaign slogan, none of them view him as enough of an existential threat to disrupt a political way of life which allowed a mediocre grifter like Biden to get this far.

People who don't understand that were baffled that Biden would run and that he would get the nomination. After his disastrous debate showing, much of the party panicked and outsiders assumed that they would dump Biden. The truth is that the Democrats wish they could.

'Turn' corruption once again threatens the survival of the party and yet they can't break away from it because parties are vehicles for careerism and cash. The networks around powerful politicians build careers and move money. And those networks are running the country.

When people ask "who's been running the country" after Biden's debate performance, the answer is that it's the same people who run most of the government. And have all along.

Politicians in a state of obvious mental decline like Biden or Senator Dianne Feinstein who go on introducing bills, signing legislation, tweeting and expressing strong opinions on issues in their press releases are not aberrations, they're symptoms of a much bigger problem.

Not just Biden, but many, if not most, elected officials are figureheads who exist to broker favorable arrangements between their personal networks of donors and staffers, and those of other elected officials, and the ones in the bureaucracy that actually make policy. The revolving door between staffers, personnel, appointees and lobbyists who move between administrations, offices, boards, corporations, think tanks and firms is the actual force that runs the country more than most elections. Politicians play their part, meeting, greeting and signing off on what they're told will be good for their careers within the networks they're part of.

And if they build up enough cachet, one day it will also be their 'turn' to be at the top.

That's why Democrats can't solve their Biden problem. The issue isn't one man's decline, but a systemic crisis. Biden embodies what the Democrats (and the two-party system and politics really is) and while getting him out may fix the immediate problem, it won't fix the system.

Biden is a test of how much the system is willing to risk and how high a public implosion it's willing to tolerate to protect the sacred right of the 'turn'. Will Democrats let their party go down to protect the system? Will they go on lying to their voters and their donors? Will the media, which briefly broke away from the lies after the debate, resume going along with the scam?

Other 'Bidens', some elderly, confused and inept like Joe, others middle-aged, confused and inept, like Kamala, and some even young, confused and inept like AOC, fill the system because they are how the system works. It's not a meritocracy that elevates the best, a democracy chosen by the people, but an oligarchy that runs the system and is also the system.

*Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's Front Page Magazine.*

# Birth Pangs Department:

## **Mumbai paralyzed after receiving 300 mm (11.8 inches) of rainfall in just 6 hours**

Mumbai experienced severe disruptions on Monday, July 8, 2024, due to heavy rains, with a downpour of 300 mm (11.8 inches) in just six hours. The extreme waterlogging delayed several flights, trains, and buses, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue a Red alert for the city. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) declared a holiday for schools and colleges in response to the weather conditions.

## **Record-breaking heat in Japan leads to 4 deaths as mercury touches 40 °C (104 °F)**

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued extreme heat warnings on July 7, 2024, after parts of Japan broke record heat levels. On the same day, Shizuoka touched 40 °C (104 °F), marking its highest recorded temperature since records began in 1940. The heatwave has led to four deaths and over 2000 hospitalizations.

## **Life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds hit southeastern Texas as Hurricane "Beryl" makes landfall near Matagorda**

Hurricane "Beryl" made landfall near Matagorda, Texas at around 09:00 UTC on Monday, July 8, 2024, with maximum sustained winds of 130 km/h (80 mph), making it a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir Simpson scale.

## **Record-breaking heat in Las Vegas, Nevada**

Las Vegas recorded its highest daytime temperature on Sunday, July 7, 2024, when the mercury reached 48.9 °C (120 °F) at the Harry Reid Airport. The extreme heat in the region claimed 2 lives and left one hospitalized.

## **Severe cold snap freezes rivers in Santa Cruz, Argentina**

A severe cold snap has been affecting most of Argentina, including the capital Buenos Aires, since Saturday, July 6, 2024, with Patagonia becoming one of the coldest regions of the world. Argentina's National Meteorological Service issued an Orange alert for regions surrounding the county's capital and Yellow alerts for most other provinces.

## **Wildfires rage through Russia's Far East**

Yakutia, a Republic in Russia's Siberia, is currently dealing with over 350,000 hectares of fires, the regional operational headquarters has reported. The fires, which have devastated vegetation all over the region, are also in the vicinity of eight different populated areas, and will devastate homes.

## **Extreme Solar Blasts and Weak Magnetic Fields Threaten Life on Earth**

These phenomena, occurring roughly every thousand years, can significantly disrupt the Earth's ozone layer, leading to severe consequences for all life on our planet.

## **Violent tornadoes rip through east China's Shandong, damaging 2,800 homes and leaving at least 5 dead**

A series of destructive tornadoes struck China's Shandong province on July 5, 2024, claiming at least five lives and leaving 83 injured. The tornadoes damaged 2 820 houses, 48 powerlines, and 4,060 ha (10,032 acres) of crops, according to local media reports.

## **Moscow records highest July 3 temperature since 1917, Russia**

Cities across Russia saw temperatures above 35 °C (95 °F) this week, while in Moscow, the mercury hit 32.7 °C (90.86 °F) on July 3 — the highest temperature for July 3 since 1917, according to the FOBOS weather center. This week, records were broken from Russia's Pacific coast and the wilds of Siberia to the European parts of Russia.

## **150 Million Americans Under Weather Alerts As "Potentially Historic Heatwave" Tests Major Power Grids**

Let's start with the good news: The Lower 48 has reached peak summer, backed by 30 years of seasonal temperature trend data from Bloomberg. Now for the bad news: A heat wave continues to set records across the Lower 48, with 150 million Americans under weather alert this holiday weekend.

# Iran's New President Is Anything But 'Moderate'... But The Western World Prefers The Illusion

By Erick Stakelbeck



A new so-called "moderate" Iranian president has been chosen, "voted freely" by the people... or not.

There are two things to know about any presidential election in Iran. Number one, you can have the charade, but any winner in the Iranian presidential elections is handpicked by the Supreme Leader of Iran. If Ayatollah Ali Khamenei doesn't want you, you are not getting in that slot as Iran's president. Remember, the supreme leader of Iran is exactly what his name suggests: he is the "supreme leader" who rules over the nation with an iron fist. The Iranian president is essentially a figurehead in charge of the day-to-day "political game," and, in some respects, he is the regime's face to the world. Iran's new face is Masoud Pezeshkian.

The second thing to know about Iran's elections is that if the mainstream media is hailing the victor as a "moderate" or "reformist," then you can bet your bottom dollar that he is anything but. Masoud Pezeshkian keeps to the same old radical standard of every one of his predecessors, including the Butcher of Tehran, Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May alongside Iran's Foreign Minister.



There's a great song by The Who, "*Won't Get Fooled Again*." One of the closing lines was, "*Meet the new boss, same as the old boss*." That gives you a pretty good idea of what we are looking at with Iran and the presidential landscape.

A true so-called "reformer" would have to abandon Iran's Terror proxies. Right? How can you call someone a "moderate" when they still desire the destruction of Israel and wholeheartedly support the likes of Hezbollah?

The mainstream media has swallowed the Kool-Aid. They desperately want some great moderate Iranian reformer to take the helm. We've seen this script before.

Mohammad Khatami was Iran's president from 1997 to 2005. They hailed him as a reformer and a moderate. Hassan Rouhani, who was at the helm from 2013 to 2021, apparently was also a moderate reformer. Khatami and Rouhani were both imams who smiled for the cameras and often cloaked their radical beliefs in more pleasing-sounding language. They knew how to play the game.

Sandwiched in between them was the notorious radical Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from 2005 to 2013, and after them, the Butcher of Tehran from 2021 until his demise in May 2024. They are going back and forth. A so-called "moderate reformer" followed by a hardcore fire-breathing radical. Why would Iran do this? Again, it's all up to the Supreme Leader.

When the supreme leader wants to present a certain face to the world, that will be reflected in the Iranian president. This time around is telling because Iran is sprinting to the finish line in its nuclear program. If they have a fire-breathing radical at the helm, it may result in more scrutiny of the regime.

Masoud Pezeshkian is pretty much a noname with not much of a history. We don't know a whole lot about him. He's a 69-year-old heart surgeon, and he hates Israel—more on that in a minute.

Pezeshkian is seen as a more moderate face, and Western diplomats, in addition to their compadres in the mainstream media, are ready to roll out the red carpet, "*Gee, look! The Iranian regime has moderated. They're pretty reasonable. Pezeshkian is a nice guy; they wouldn't want to develop nuclear weapons!*"

This plays right into the regime's hands. While Pezeshkian grinning at the UN General Assembly and elsewhere in Brussels, the centrifuges are spinning in Iran's nuclear program.

The game of chess was invented in ancient Persia—modern-day Iran. The Iranians are the craftiest, dirtiest players in the game. Every move is calculated, and no one ascends to the presidency of Iran without the blessing of the very radical, fire-breathing, apocalyptic supreme leader.

The one place where these Iranian presidents will drop their guard is talking about Israel. There's no semblance of moderation, charade, or facade when it comes to their rhetoric against the Jewish State.

However, Iran's radical anti-Israel stance doesn't seem to bother the mainstream media. You have got to love the way this [article](#) in the UK Telegraph starts, "***Iran's new moderate president told Hezbollah's leader that he will continue to support the terror group and other regional 'resistance movements' against Israel.***"



How could Akhtar Makooi, the author of this piece in the Telegraph, write that? How do you write “moderate” in the very same sentence that you say he pledges to support Hezbollah and other terror groups against Israel?

If that’s the case, then he can’t be moderate. Moderate in comparison to Ebrahim Raisi, perhaps, but radical in contrast to 99.9% of the world.

The Telegraph continued,

*In a letter to Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, Masoud Pezeshkian said: “The Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently supported the resistance of the regional people against the illegitimate Zionist regime [Israel].”*

*He emphasised that the support is “deeply rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ideals of Imam Khomeini, and the guidance of the Supreme Leader.” It marks Mr Pezeshkian’s first public statement on foreign policy since his election on Saturday. The letter suggests that Iran’s approach to regional politics and its relationship with Israel is unlikely to shift under the new administration **despite Mr Pezeshkian’s moderate stance.***

I haven’t read anything about Pezeshkian that suggests that he is remotely moderate. He is committed to the destruction of Israel and America—you can’t be moderate and hold those views.

Pezeshkian went on to say, “I am confident that the resistance movements in the region will not allow this regime [Israel] to perpetuate its warmongering and criminal policies against the oppressed people of Palestine and other nations in the region.”

By “resistance movements,” he means Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, Islamic Jihad, and the Shia militias in Iraq and Syria. AKA terrorists, not resistance movements.

How did he possibly gain this “moderate” and “reformist” moniker?

If you’re sitting in a Western capital right now, by and large, whether it’s the UK, France, Germany, or Washington DC, you want nothing more than to appease the Iranian regime. In their heart of hearts, they know that Iran is not going to stop at its nuclear program. They know Iran has nefarious, wicked, and demonic intentions to develop nuclear weapons to destroy Israel and destroy the West. Nonetheless, the illusion of “moderate” makes them feel better. It’s much more pleasant to convince themselves that the threat of Iran has diminished with its new president.

Western leaders are more concerned about what’s going on in the world when it fits into their great reset narrative. They would much rather enthusiastically focus their attention on propping up the secular, socialist, and radical left-wing movements globally gaining steam. The gathering storm involving Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism is all a distraction from the greater goal of fundamentally transforming the West.

The elections in Iran, the UK, France, and the United States and the move toward radical leftism hold severe ramifications for the Western World and, no doubt, Israel as well. Keep it all in prayer. In an upside-down, dark world, as believers in Jesus Christ, we need to shine light in the darkness.