

# The Retrospective Report

March-April -2022



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## French thinker Tocqueville explains the process of falling into tyranny



"Portrait of Alexis de Tocqueville (Alexis de Tocqueville)" painted by Théodore Chassériau in 1850. (public area)

[Epoch Times News on April 20, 2021] (Joshua Charles/Epoch Times reporter Cathy)

*Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville in his seminal book "Democracy in America." At the end he put forward a startling prophecy, that is, how democracy can easily fall into an unprecedented **tyranny**.*

**Nearly two centuries later, if his "prophecy" has not yet been realized, it seems that it is getting closer and closer every day.**

His "prophecy" breaks the field with the following plausible theory:

"I have noticed in the state where I am located in the United States that a democratic social country similar to the American model can open the door to the establishment of despotism with great ease... If despotism is established in today's democratic countries, it may

show different things. Characteristics. It will be more extensive and friendly. Although it does not torture people, it will make people degenerate.”

In American thought and speech, freedom is a very normal concept, so that our system can become [tyranny](#) "exceptionally easy" which makes us feel incredible. How is this possible? Tocqueville explained this.

He described a prosperous and luxurious society that has never been seen since ancient times. But at the same time, a large number of people "destroy themselves, restlessly looking for the trivial and vulgar happiness that fills their souls. Everyone is almost completely cut off from others. He exists only in the self and exists only for himself. "Tocqueville predicted.

[Social isolation](#) : tick.

Above this isolated large group of people, there is "a huge protective force, and only it is responsible for taking care of the enjoyment of this group of people and taking care of their destiny." Tocqueville described this power (government) as a reverse patriarchy. After all, fathers still want to "train men to become men", but this government "just wants them (citizens) to remain in their childhood forever."

Lack of maturity, more naive: tick.

You see, the spiritual core of this entertainment society has died out. "This government wants citizens to enjoy themselves, and the premise is that they only consider pleasure." Tocqueville declared. But here is a problem: "The government is willing to work hard for their happiness, but hopes to be the only provider and judge

of their happiness." This government provides and even predicts their needs, guarantees their happiness, and guides their industry. Tocqueville said in harsh words that its ultimate goal is to "make them completely disdain to think, and to avoid the troubles of life."

Mental retardation and superficiality: tick.

The end result is that the freedom of daily choice is increasingly restricted day by day, because the state "gradually removes the autonomy that every citizen originally had."

Society is full of laws, rules and regulations, supervising every detail of life. Even ambitious entrepreneurs can hardly break through, and Tocqueville has foreseen this. This network of rules and regulations "Although it did not defeat people's will, it can weaken, distort, and control people's will. Although it is not tyrannical, it inhibits, suppresses, squeezes, strangles, and kills many efforts, and finally makes the country It's just a group of timid and hardworking animals whose government is the shepherd."

Suffocating economic regulations: tick.

Such a system seems to run counter to the democratic system. But the irony is that the democratic principle itself gave birth to such a system. "They got comfort from it," Tocqueville observed that these future citizens, "They got comfort from being supervised, thinking that they had chosen their own supervisor." In other words, because on the surface they chose by voting. The government, so they are not afraid that the government infringes on their freedom. After all, (this government) seems to them to be elected by them.

But Tocqueville's view is quite the opposite. Such a government is not a product of the people, but the government gradually makes the people a product of it. The government's control over all aspects of people's lives "gradually obliterates their minds and weakens their spirits."

As a result, the people have delegated more and more of their ability to choose their lifestyles to this system. Their dependence on the system to make decisions and supplies for themselves has far exceeded their dependence on themselves.

Yes, they reserved the right to vote. However, Tocqueville pointed out in arguably the most penetrating speech in his entire career:

"Indeed, it's hard to imagine how people who have completely abandoned the habit of self-government can successfully choose those who manage their government. And no one will believe that a free, vibrant and prudent government will subdue from a servant country. Stand out in the vote."

In other words, it cannot be expected that a nation that no longer manages its own individuals will wisely choose those who manage them. They no longer know what free, virtuous, and wise decisions are. Therefore, retaining votes is not good for them, because the government they are shaping slowly but surely begins to shape them.

The unprecedented dependence of daily life on the government: tick.

It is weird that Tocqueville predicted the rise of inciting politicians, who would claim that "the defects they see have much more to do with the country's constitution than with voters." Isn't this exactly

what we are seeing today? The people are endlessly flattered, but the constitution is constantly being ruined.

The termination point described by Tocqueville is chilling:

"The vices of the governor and the incompetence of the governed will soon lead to its destruction. The people will be tired of their representatives and themselves, they will establish free institutions, or they will soon return to being a master. Bow your head and become a minister."

This is the inevitable outcome of any people who have lost their virtues and their vigilance to the system, and they are attached to this government but mistakenly believe that they control this government.

When this is the case, there are only two options left: restore freedom, or further integrate power into the hands of fewer and fewer people-perhaps even one person.

I pray that we have not gotten there yet, but I am afraid we are much closer than expected.

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Editor: Gao Jing

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Joshua Charles is also the senior editor and concept developer of "Global Impact on the Bible" published in 2017 by the Bible Museum in Washington, D.C., and an affiliated scholar of the Philadelphia Center for Faith and Freedom Exploration. He is a Tikvah and Philos researcher and has given lectures across the country on topics such as history, politics, beliefs, and worldviews. At the same time he is a concert pianist with a master's degree in government and a law degree.

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## Anti-Conscience Mandates Force Doctors to Violate Their Religious Beliefs



*Commentary by Wesley J. Smith*  
The Epochtimes. 23. October.2021

Coercion is becoming ubiquitous in medicine. It's not just vaccine mandates. Doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who oppose morally contentious medical procedures are increasingly being forced to choose between remaining in their professions and violating their deepest-held religious beliefs.

Take the new “[Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill of 2021](#)” just passed in Queensland, Australia. The law authorizes doctors to kill terminally ill patients who ask to die. That’s bad enough. But it also requires conscientious objectors to become complicit in homicide by finding another doctor known to be willing to kill.

The euthanasia legalization law in Ontario, Canada, similarly requires doctors to kill or refer patients who are legally qualified for euthanasia—which includes people with disabilities and soon will encompass the mentally ill and dementia patients.

When Catholic and other conscientiously opposed doctors sued to be exempted because the referral requirement violated their Charter rights to “freedom of religion and conscience,” a court ruled that their morality must take a back seat to the patient’s right to access legal medical treatments. If doctors don’t like it, the judge sniffed, they can get out of medicine.

The right not to participate in [abortion](#) is also under attack. Dr. Mark Hobart, a Catholic physician in Melbourne, Australia, ran afoul of a law requiring doctors to either abort or refer, when he refused to procure an abortionist for a patient seeking a sex-selection abortion. When the medical association found out about his act of conscience, Hobart was investigated and received a letter of formal caution—a black mark on his career and a warning to other doctors that they will be punished if they allow pro-life views to impact their professional lives.

Readers may think that these overseas restrictions have little to do with the United States. Don’t you believe it. “Medical conscience,” as the issue is known, is also on the boil here with medical journals and the popular media ubiquitously attacking the right of doctors to say no to procedures with which they are morally opposed.

For example, Ezekiel Emanuel—perhaps the country’s most influential bioethicist—coauthored an advocacy article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*—the world’s most important medical journal—



arguing that “to invoke conscientious objection is to reject the fundamental obligation of health care.” This specifically included abortion. So, according to Emanuel, if a doctor wants to deliver babies, she must also be willing to kill the unborn.

Medical conscience is moving to the center of our ongoing societal discord. After Ohio recently passed a law strengthening medical conscience rights, LGBT activists screamed that it opened the door for discrimination against patients simply for being gay. It did no such thing. But proving that ideology often trumps facts, California lawmakers were so incensed they enacted rules **forbidding** all state-funded travel to the state.

It’s not just theoretical advocacy in medical journals or California-style tantrum throwing. The Equality Act—which has passed the House of Representatives—seeks to obliterate existing medical conscience rights around abortion by transforming conscientious refusals into acts of sex discrimination.

Specifically, the bill **redefines** the term “sex” to include “pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.” It then bans “pregnancy discrimination” and requires that pregnancy “shall not receive less favorable treatment than other physical conditions.” Moreover, it would gut the right to refuse participation in abortion based on religious belief.

Put all of this together and *refusing to perform an abortion becomes an act of discrimination based on sex* against which a religious objection claim would no longer be a defense.

Another Democrat agenda item—the Do No Harm Act—would gut the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) by exempting the law from anti-discrimination statutes “if the exemption would impose the religious views, habits, or practices of one party upon another.” Thus, refusing to, say, block a transgender youth’s puberty would be interpreted not as an act of protected conscience but unlawful discrimination.

A recent court ruling illustrates the importance of the RFRA to medical conscience protections. Last August, a federal judge granted a

permanent injunction [protecting](#) a religious doctor from being penalized by a Biden administration anti-conscience regulation, ruling that “the current ...regulatory scheme threatens to burden Christian Plaintiffs’ religious exercise ... by placing substantial pressure” on the doctor “to perform and provide insurance coverage for gender-transition procedures and abortions.” But for the RFRA, that doctor’s medical conscience goose would already be well cooked. Why resort to coercion when there are plenty of medical professionals willing to participate in controversial procedures?

I think there are three reasons: First, stifling medical conscience would be a triumph for secular progressive ideology that predominates in bioethics and among the medical intelligentsia.

Second, compelling doctors’ participation in contentious procedures would *silence the moral message* communicated when a doctor or nurse says, “No, I won’t do this. It is wrong.”

Third, obliterating medical conscience would allow political progressives to remove one of the few remaining cultural obstacles to their societal dominance.

There is a practical predicament posed by this issue as well. If we force health care professionals to violate their moral beliefs as the cost of licensure, the country could see a mass exodus from the field—just as we are seeing people quit their jobs over vaccine mandates.

At the very least, older doctors and nurses will retire when they might otherwise have continued working, taking their experience and knowledge with them. Most alarmingly, exceptional young people who would make splendid doctors, nurses, or pharmacists may avoid the health care field altogether.

Community is essential to societal cohesion in our moral polyglot age. Medical conscience allows patients to obtain morally contentious procedures that they want, while permitting dissenting medical professionals to stay true to their own moral and religious beliefs. Compelling doctors to adhere to secular cultural values in their practice of medicine is both authoritarian and un-American. If the anti-medical conscience campaign succeeds, we will all be the poorer

for it.

**A ward-winning author Wesley J. Smith is host of the Humanize Podcast (Humanize. Today A), chairman of the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism and a consultant to the Patients Rights Council. His latest book is "Culture of Death: The Age of 'Do Harm' Medicine."**

*Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.*

## The Wind with a Tide

Recently I met two friends. Somehow they decided to talk about a controversial subject. One said I agree with euthanasia if a person is suffering or in pain.

'Why let the person die under such conditions? Another friend said, Yes, my father suffered from phthisic. Every time he vomited blood we had to clean it up for him. He was like that for many years. My sisters and I were sick of this. When I heard this I was speechless.

After we went to the boarding school, my mother moved to another house it that was on the same side of the street as our school. The house belonged to a Christian group related to friends of my mother's friend at the Christian school for the blind. They gave my mother the room that was behind the house. It was made from sheets of iron and was not attached to the main house.

During the weekends and school holidays we stayed with our mother, but my sister only stayed a short time because our house was so close to our school. At school she had many friends and could do more than at home.

Our street was at the bottom of a hill-side on some low-lying land. When the rainy season and typhoons came, lots of rain water flowed down the hill side and flooded the land. In the winter the cold wind came into the room through gaps in the iron sheets. It was freezing cold and in these living conditions my mother's pneumonia came back, then reason she lost her sight in the first place. My mother's coughing was severe and she became seriously ill. One long winter holiday I caught pneumonia and it took me six months to recover. Sister White gave me injections every second day.

During those years my mother and I often went to the government health clinic to see a doctor, to take medicine, have medical examinations, injection, drugs, and x-rays - everything that could get rid of this disease. My mother was to retain the lung problem for the rest of her life.

Today half a century has passed. New medicines have been developed as has technology. This has made our lives more convenient and comfortable. We believe that such new technology can bring us happiness and we do every thing we can not to have to suffer as a result of previous generations living conditions.

What is the reason people want have a comfortable life?. We were refused such a life, so is this an argument for their being no God? Do people believe that modern science and technology are their salvation ?

I remember that my mother experienced suffering and pain. This was my chance to learn how my mother sacrificed for us. The father of my friends must have been pleased his daughters looked after him and were responsible for him in life.

This article was taken from the book by "Over the Rainbow"  
Author Wai I Watt.



## Sir Russell Coutts Wants to Join Anti- Forced Vaccine Campaign

[Epoch Times, February 20, 2022]

Yang Yifei [New Zealand](#) reported) On February 17

Sir Russell Coutts (Russell Coutts) said on his Facebook that he will Join the 10-day [protest against mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations](#) in New Zealand's capital [Wellington](#) .

Russell Coutts is the chief executive of the International Sailing Grand Prix (Sail GP), a 1984 Olympic sailing gold medalist, a five-time America's Cup champion, and numerous international competition winners with an extraordinary record of 15 victories. He was knighted in 2009.

Sir Russell Coutts said he was not opposed to the COVID-19 [vaccine](#) , which he had had, but he opposed the government forcing people to get vaccinated. He said that [New Zealand](#) 's current regulations on vaccinating against COVID-19 were "unreasonable" and had a number of absurd and contradictory restrictions.

He slammed some of New Zealand's mainstream media for getting paid from the government in exchange for helping to promote government policy, propaganda and echoes.

"I also strongly disagree with the constant violation of our human rights and the increasing restrictions on our right to choose freely. I believe we should have the freedom to be able to question the opinions of so-called 'experts'," he said.

"I'm against racism, and I'm against the derivation of different rights, laws and privileges based on race," he said.

In 2021, the International Sailing Grand Prix was forced to cancel its New Zealand event after the government rejected applications from competitors to use New Zealand's centralized quarantine facility (MIQ).

In October 2021, he accused the government of using the COVID-19 pandemic to erode New Zealand's democratic freedoms, claiming the government had devolved into a "dictatorship".

Responsible editor: Lan Ke#

## Lessons from History: From Dancing Plague and Black Death to Modern Day Pandemic – Abridged

April 23, 2021 | By Zheng Liming

**(Minghui.org)**

Hans Christian Andersen, one of the most well known writers of fairy tales, left the world a great deal of humor, wisdom, and tales of morality. Almost 200 years have passed, and some of the stories he penned are still profoundly meaningful to children and adults alike.

**Dancing Plague and Red Shoes**

One of the works, “The Red Shoes,” tells the story of a little girl named Karen. Her enchanted red shoes caused her to dance without stopping. In the end, the only solution was to cut off her feet.

This story of Andersen's was based in part on a true event. On July 14, 1518, a “dancing plague” occurred in the European town of Strasbourg (in today's France). A young woman named Frau Troffea began dancing in the street. Within a week, a group of entranced dancers of all ages joined her.

With no clue as to what to do, the city government first banned gambling and prostitution, but that did not stop the dance mania. The city council also donated a 100-pound candle to the local church, which did not help stop the dancing either. Some physicians believed the dancers suffered from “hot blood.” The city council hired musicians to play music for the dancers, hoping to wear them out. But that made the situation worse. In the end, about 400 people lost their lives, mostly from fatigue, heart problems, or stroke. Physicians still cannot understand exactly what happened.

The story of Karen from Andersen's tale depicted a similar situation. Born in a poor family, Karen was adopted by an old lady. Now dressed in neat and clean clothes, she was also able to learn to read and to sew. Obsessed by vanity, however, she tricked the old lady into purchasing an expensive pair of red shoes for her.

Little by little, things went awry after that. The red shoes occupied Karen's entire mind. She disobeyed the old lady and wore the shoes to church. Even inside the church, what she thought of was only the red shoes. As she left the church, the shoes caused Karen to dance. As the coachman lifted Karen into the carriage, “her feet continued to dance, so that she kicked the good old lady violently. At last they took off her shoes, and her legs were at rest.”

Ignoring this warning and obsessed with the red shoes, Karen chose to go to a ball in the red shoes instead of looking after the ill old lady. This decision led her to dance uncontrollably for days. In the end she had to beg an executioner to cut off her feet, leaving the shoes to dance off by themselves with the dismembered feet.

But the story did not end there. Now with carved wooden feet and crutches, Karen wanted to go to church, but the red shoes kept dancing in front of her, blocking her way. In the end, she sincerely repented, in tears. An angel appeared and Karen was able to join the others in the church.

“The organ played and the children’s voices in the choir sounded soft and lovely. The bright warm sunshine streamed through the window into the pew where Karen sat, and her heart became so filled with it, so filled with peace and joy, that it broke,” wrote Andersen. “Her soul flew on the sunbeams to Heaven, and no one was there who asked after the Red Shoes.”

Karen learned the lesson the hard way. When one indulges in vanity, the obsession can lead us to forget who we are, what we should be thankful for, and what duties we should fulfill.

One may say that the story of Karen sounds distant or implausible. But suppose the red shoes have now disguised themselves as electronic devices; haven’t we seen boys and girls obsessed with them uncontrollably, while their parents can do nothing about it?

### **The Black Death**

The dancing plague lasted only a few months. But the Black Death continued for more than seven years and took at least 25 million lives during its peak, from 1347 to 1351.

Some people made large donations to the church or flagellated themselves as atonement, but such superficial repentance, without searching their soul for the root cause of the plague, didn't help and the plague continued.

Website provided  
[www.minghi.org](http://www.minghi.org)



The logo for The Epoch Times, featuring the text "THE EPOCH TIMES" in a large, white, serif font, with the tagline "TRUTH AND TRADITION" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it, all centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

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# How the Specter of Communism Is Ruling our World

From the Editorial Board of Nine Commentaries on the Communist  
Party

Previous remarks

Though the communist regimes of Eastern Europe have disintegrated, the specter of Communism has not disappeared. On the contrary, this evil specter is already ruling our world, and humanity must not harbor a mistaken sense of optimism.

Communism is neither a trend of thought, nor a doctrine, nor a failed attempt at a new way of ordering human affairs. Instead, it should be understood as a devil- an evil specter forged by hate, degeneracy and other elemental forces in the universe.

**How The Specter of Communism is Ruling Our World and The  
Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party. Both video available on  
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## ***Zhou Xianwen, 73, who was suspected of being poisoned by drugs, died of persecution in Shanghai***



Minghui, report

On June 24, 2019, a 71-year-old Shanghai Falun Gong practitioner Zhou Xianwen bought rice dumplings at the Century Lianhua Supermarket. She used four five-yuan coins with the truth of Falun Gong written on them.

On September 23, Zhou Xianwen was taken by the police to undergo various physical examinations, and after being injected with unknown drugs, went home on "bail pending trial".

In the detention center the public security police dispatched four people to guard Zhou Xianwen. She was not allowed to participate in any activity.

After returning home, Zhou Xianwen felt very uncomfortable, couldn't sleep at all, couldn't breathe, was in a daze, sitting stupidly all day, and not wanting to move. This was something she had never experienced before her kidnapping.

Later, Zhou Xianwen's calf began to hurt like a knife. Dense large and small blisters appeared on her calf. In the end, her feet became swollen, ulcerated, and blackened, and she passed away unjustly on August 8, 2021, at the age of 73.

According to statistics from Minghui.com, from January to August 2021, the CCP police kidnapped and harassed 12,401 Falun Gong practitioners, 834 were illegally sentenced, and 91 died of persecution. From July to August alone, another 24 Falun Gong practitioners died of persecution.

Minghui.com has reported a large of cases of Falun Gong Practitioners being killed, maimed, and insane by the CCP' s the drugs persecution. The methods used by the CCP are extremely cruel.

Since the CCP launched the persecution of Falun Gong in July 1999, the persecution of drugs has been carried out to destroy the will of Falun Gong practitioners and force them to give up their practice.

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