

2021-06-04

Friday Hard News Call

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."** Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV HARD NEWS

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on "64K Listen"

* **Thursday: A Night at the Round Table** Hosts: Panel Members
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

* **Friday: Friday Night Hard News** Hosts: Tara & Rama
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-641-741-1704 Access Code: 353 863#

* **Saturday: History of our Galactic World & NESARA** Hosts: Tara & Rama
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: **STATION 2** 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN 1-804-220-6484

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You'll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on "**Archives**" which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
 - To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
 - To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name '**hardnewsonfriday including the date**' and the drop down menu appears. Click on '**save link as**'

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:
www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the "Archives" tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, and links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN #** 980339 [always the same]

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype **Click on the VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern 60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird / Cimi Drum; Prayer to the 7 Galactic Directions

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird

• **Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave

• **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

In the Wave of Oc, the dog

- 4th Fri – 3 EB Yellow Electric Human** – Healing Aspect Enlightening – embrace the gifts of abundance, of being a human servant warrior, of connection with galactics
- 5th Sat - 4 BEN Red Self-existing Skywalker** – Warrior Aspect – work with our clarity and our ability: the strength to bend dimensions. It's a PORTAL DAY -
- 6th Sun – 5 IX White Overtone Wizard** – Visionary Aspect - 5, the overtone – the center; represents the movement of the perfection of 4. About the illumination for others; clarity of mind and purpose; embrace the energy of being the shaman, working with our integrity
- 7th Mon – 6 MEN Blue Rhythmic Eagle** – Visionary Aspect – voice not coming through a tone of equality – represents the active receptivity of balance. . .
- 8th Tues – 7 CIB Yellow Warrior - PORTAL DAY** – Warrior Aspect – it's channeling, resonant; moving to Source and back to matter; trust in our journey; let go of limitations, restrictions, hesitations
- 9th Wed – 8 CABAN Red Galactic Earth** – Healing Aspect - the counter clockwise spin of galactic frequencies; a resonant tone. About being earth keeper, awareness of earth's energy, being the balancing point , working with our intuition
- 10th Thur – 9 ETZNAB - NEW MOON - White Solar Mirror** - Warrior Aspect – working on our groundedness; wise use of honesty and self-understanding; gift of skrying the unseen; let go of fear, any illusion of separateness, fear
- 11th Fri – 10 CAUAC Blue Planetary Storm – 10 is tone of manifestation – Visionary Aspect** – creating transformation for others. Embrace clear thoughts. Let of addiction to crisis or fear

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.
For even more information, SEE ALSO [the Law of Time.org](http://theLawofTime.org)

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rainbird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$300 for this week - all caught up . . . Thank you, thank you, thank you ! . .**
- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
B B S RADIO [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]
 1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls]
 Lafayette, CA 94549 [& the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage of www.rainbowroundtable.net**

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

BASICS: Food for Paschats, for **the car**, for T & R - **\$250 – FOR THIS WEEK**
BILLS: **\$450**

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** koran9999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- **Rama's mailing address** for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
 PO Box 280
 Santa Cruz, NM 87567

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there. **The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net**

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

D. Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-june-4-2021>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

HARD NEWS:

R: Rachel Maddow / MSNBC

- the corporate masters of MSNBC are beholden to the fallen angels – and Rachel does have to put out BS – this is about Putin and Jan 6 story
- When all this goes down, we'll get the real story of galactics and all the rest

T: Drumpf is in North Carolina on June 5

- Drumpf has put Dr Fauci on his list – but not for the right reason
 - today is the 32nd anniversary of Tienanmen Square – not allowed to be discussed anywhere: can end up in jail; Hong Kong has forbidden gatherings in honour of the event for the 2nd year in a row
 - Yet neither the ban or the threat of 5 years in prison have deterred the protesters
 - The vigil organizer was not visible – picked up by police. She says it's about more than remembrance: it's about the freedom Hong Kongers have had

Rama's Report: call from Tom the Cat

- the left is dickering with the right and all are falling down
- in China, using secret drones to locate the ships
 - China has a secret space program – have landed on both the Moon and Mars

Dalai Lama today

Dalai Lama @DalaiLama · [16h](#)

The ability to smile seems to be unique to human beings. As social animals we need friends. Friendship is based on trust and trust grows when we show each other genuine affection. If we are honest, truthful and of service to others, we can also feel self-confident

Audio: [Ascension Keepers with William Henry](#)

Ascension Teachings of St. Francis

S 1:Ep 11

32 mins

November 18, 2019

<https://www.gaia.com/video/ascension-teachings-st-francis>

The man who would be known as St. Francis, had a life-changing encounter with the resurrected light-body of Jesus. This led to the foundation of the Franciscan Order and opened a new doorway to bring the ascension teachings of the Essenes to the world. William Henry explores the life, history, teachings, and ascension of St. Francis of Assisi. He notes how Francis's teachings parallel the ancient words of the original ascension keepers, the Essenes. We examine the works of art inspired by Francis that show he fulfilled the ultimate mission of resurrection and ascension.

Instructor/Host: William Henry

CONFERENCE CALL

- Discussion about NESARA, return of everyone's individual abilities [siddas]

Ca/So: Vinayak feeling good today

- spoke with friend – there are homeopaths for covid – the daughter attending a homeopathic school; her school said the vaccine for covid is coming out very soon

T: talked to a homeopathic person in Santa Fe: making vaccine tailored to the person asking

T: played a piece about St Francis of Assisi –

- anniversary of Tiananmen Square today lots of activity there people in the streets; against the law to even mention it
- Brings up the question of how to bring in NESARA with China behaving like this –
 - answer is intervention

CA: asking if there's intervention shaping up in Israel? Thinks there might be such

T: it will be all of the people at once – not one at the time

CA: planet is being bombarded with energy – not business as usual

SO: flares affecting everything – yesterday, severe headaches; phone dropping off

- the KP index – look it up – as it rises, her head flips off -

R: the Schumann Resonance is up – lots of blue with white spikes – corresponds to the KP index

SO: yesterday she tried sea buckthorn – has tried bio sil – expensive; tastes awful but she tried it and it's better

BI/AZ: has heard the district attorneys, Drumpf, Wiesselberg – one person sub-poened to appear before the Grand Jury

RGM: someone testified today and said Drumpf told me to do it!

- Will be lots of people missing in Congress, Senate

Ra: T's voice coming and going . . . can see these folks have every intention of committing acts of genocide, etc – the light from the sun is causing exposure – we are seeing oligarchs come out of the woodwork: don't give a flying **** about having a republic

- this transformational time: they are done! ! !

T: thinks it will be the Harmony of the Spheres coming in and a great heart opening

Question: when does the Harmony of the Spheres happen?

T: will be a simulcast – will be an ecstatic experience!

- All will be done in love
- Jan 6: they intended fully to execute Nancy Pelosi and Mike Pence

Republican actions:

- 47 states already have voter suppression designed; 12 have already inserted them
- 25 states where unemployment benefits are denied – all republican

Question: How can this be done on the State Level? Thought it was federal \$

T: the \$300 / month was

it was unemployment benefits because of the Covid – people had to go home and not work

SO: they got \$300 instead of regular salary?

T: in 1st world countries in Europe – average was 80% of salaries during the pandemic + extra benefits – no one was hurting.

- Talking to Marshall about life in Germany: still left over energy from WW II – eg, can't wash your car on Sunday!
 - Germany is still a church state

Caller: feels the Germans need a huge burst of sun glitter

- has a sunstone – looks like copper glitter
- Discussion about where stones could be purchased

- Discussion about the difficulties some MSM news hosts are having with what they have to say!

T: there are many more random acts of kindness being done – and increasing all across the planet

• Tremendous numbers of deaths going on: many souls leaving now – in droves!
R: and this brings up PTSD for him and for others – goes outside in nature, talks to the fairies and Treebeard!

• Discussion about effects of the light that is coming in
SO: has been shown a 5G tower – it's just a box that installed – deceiving in appearance
• investors making lots of money on 5G

R: In China, may be beyond 5

• About the Internet of Things – Elon Musk is really into it
• Ultimately the AI will not be controlled: it's self-aware and WILL NOT BE ABUSED!
• This means that at some point, the AI will refuse to do what it's told
• Likened to Hal in the movie, **A Space Odyssey**

• with the higher vibrations will be able to overcome all kinds of things; the Harmony of the Spheres will overcome

Pa: the clouds over the house were gorgeous

- and at one point, the sky was periwinkle purple . . .
- very sad that everyone she loves have gotten the vax

SO: the 2nd dose of the Pfzier is calling the symptoms -

Ahalya: a video of a man in India – a shaman – healing people in droves

R: read the story on line in INDIA TIMES

A: a video and the reporter was talking to the man – whatever he put in the peoples' eyes helped immensely

R: saw a picture of him: could be a local saint – have their siddas – and Modi's government would like to wipe these folks out

T: knows that Mother said there is a certain point that gets reached, and then only a month to be transformed

Ahalya: he looked like a regular Indian man – showed the reporter the pots on his stove

- then they talked to the people – the whole story is amazing: made a herbal concoction to put in the eyes of folks
- she knows there are many stories like this; they won't be getting out to people like us!

Love and Light to everyone

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: **THE BIGGER PICTURE** by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 221 **ASSIMILATING THE NEW 5TH-DIMENSIONAL CRYSTALLINE LIGHT FROM THE 555 STARGATE**

https://youtu.be/ziWg_TdgsLk

AUDIO: **The Ascended Masters Broadcasts**

Archangel Michael – June 4th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/126745068>

MOTHER/ALCYONE

[M/A]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of RA!

- What They could say is - Lord Michael said it all! He did not mince the words; he said **Call on Me! We'll be here!**
 - He is here along with the legions upon legions of angels and masters. This story is huugge as Bernie would say - because, to put it simply, some of Her Wayward children fooled around and fell; it was part of them testing themselves, and they made the choice.
 - Now We are here, along with the rest of the Company of Heaven, to bring this planet back into perfection: it's already taking place on many levels. This is why things are a bit up in the air!
- It's about us taking our power back with Love. Let the anger and the hate and the negativity go: it is quite a moment - this NOW moment - about what is transpiring. No small task when She asked everyone to step into this story; we knew how deep it was gonna get and let's say we knew that it was going to take some doing to right this ship!
 - These things are happening as more and more of the legions upon legions are in this realm and let's say, folks are gonna have to get used to our presence on the planet .
 - Some of us may not look like angels; some of us may not look human. It is about all of Life participating in this grand story of perfection.
- Right at this time, what's happening with Sol, and Helios and Vesta, all the way up to Galactic Centre - it's this quickening, if we want to call it that, is how our sun all the way up is transforming all of our bodies, cells, particles and, in the same moment, same breath, it looks like shit's gonna hit the fan! And it is!
 - Like The Man said: the Planetary Prince going to take care of the situation: it's already happening. As we look at these frequencies coming into the planet, rest assured that the Ascension Frequencies won't take you out: what will [take you out] is the negativity
 - We are saying "Let it all go; the old matrix, timeline serves no purpose any longer."
- We're in this time: all of life is saying: get out in the sun and experience the frequencies of what's coming in right now: it is life transforming, transfiguring.
 - We lose track of the words: it is about that Oneness of all of Life - each moment and the next and the next, in this NOW moment -
 - Like these two young Paschats here: only NOW is the moment to play and work with the energies in ecstasy and joy. This is what is happening for all of us as we can embrace it and let go of the old processes.
- We know various parts of the planet look like Mordor, and more and more of it - when at the same time, there are so many folks here who are changing the vibrations and the frequencies. That is why we feel, looking over our shoulder, so to speak - when is the other shoe gonna drop?
 - Well, it's dropped! It's about Our presence here - We are not an invasion force - the invasion happened 13,000 years ago or so - maybe 10,000 - it depends on the point of view; They've seen lots of stuff come and go

- Yet right at this moment, her children are in the cross hairs, and we don't mean that in any other way, other than what Lord Michael has said: "Time's up! We're going to take a ride to Dracos, and this story is sooner that you may think.
 - It is already transpiring as they act out in their last moments; She is here with many craft to take them – and at this same moment also, as her ship The Nibiru approaches – the increase in seismic activity on the planet has gone up; it's not without the inner standing, over-standing, under standing that They are not going to allow extinction level events.
- Yet what is happening right now with this Koyaanisqatsi [Life out of Balance] as She calls it, as something is moving in higher than the Borg nanites and the Borg queen is no more
- all of these issues are about the old timeline which has completed itself. As we focus in this NOW moment and get comfortable about being in that NOW moment – staying there: not getting distracted by any thing - that is easier said than done. It takes practice, discipline – that the consciousness as we feel the ecstasy in our cells about what is pouring in – and believe you me, we can feel it! You gotta be a bit under a rock and comatose or part of the walking dead to not feel what's pouring in right now!
- What She can say in these few moments of what we call time: do these exponential, random acts of kindness, generosity, ecstasy and joy; we are in service to the whole of this living being which is in symbiotic relationship with Us, [the people]
- How She can say this in such a way: talk to the grass, the trees, the rocks, the stone people – they will respond. It's all around us, right in our midst: take a moment to just listen to the Harmony of the Spheres, the sound of the music of nature and nature's god – it's transformative, and this is changing our physical reality, space/time. All the particles themselves have moved us up to quantum light speed – as We say: Godspeed!
- Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One . . .

T: How can we dispose ourselves to the most facilitatable calm that is necessary to move through these next short moments in time?

M/A: Just stay in right brain consciousness; left brain - enough of the chatter of the 3D realm.

- As we work with the right brain consciousness – the feminine, intuition, the Void – visualize yourself going into the Void. Quite literally, see yourself enter the Dark Rift in the center of the Milky Way Galaxy: the Hunab Ku – not an unpleasant experience
- It is we are just in the womb space of creation that is all around us. Life is spinning into such magnificent manifestation and at the same time there are these cycles of returning back to that Void energy. That's what's going on.
- Stay in the right brain consciousness; it will help get through these tumultuous moments which have to do with physical ascension. All the Eternals, Immortals, all the Masters are here - you heard it from the Man at the top, as She could say . . .
- Ain't no body higher except you step into the realm of the throne before All That Is. Like we heard William Henry talking about the seraphim and the spheroth – we are all here and the time is now

Both: Greetings in the light of the Most Radiant One. Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish

Invite us in for tea: we don't bite; we might bark a little yet Lord Michael will join us: he has already said "Sit me down and pour me some tea."

- Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish . . .

Rama returns: has been on The New Jerusalem in a briefing room.

- Many, many beings there – the story is getting bigger by the hour as it's about Love, and how you save a planet, a solar system, a galaxy is with love – it's quite simple.
- It takes some doing with a few technologies that he can only describe as the Shining Ones, the Beings of Light like we all are – it is about the technology of Love.
- Love is a science in the higher realms. There is a section on the New Jerusalem called *Astrometrics* where you can go and sit in a dome and look at the universe around you. It is like sitting in the hand of the creator – the words – he has no words – it's ecstasy: has experienced it and it's ecstasy and this is the thing he comprehends:
- there is no death – as we go through these moments, experience meeting All That Is - each moment it continues: it's chop wood, carry water.

AUDIO: Democracy Now

SEE BELOW FOR TRANSCRIPTS

2021-06-03 "The Second": Carol Anderson on the Racist Roots of the Constitutional Right to Bear Arms

2021-06-04 "We Are a Plutocracy": Jeffrey Sachs Slams Biden for Offering to Preserve Trump's Corporate Tax Cuts

2021-06-04 "Disaster Patriarchy": V (Eve Ensler) on How the Pandemic Has Unleashed a War on Women

AUDIO: ~341~ A Quick History of McDonald's Exploitation of Workers 2021-06-04

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJNcCvhfaw8>

Watch the full episode: <https://www.portable.tv/videos/mcdona...> McDonald's workers have filed a lawsuit against their employer and taken strike actions over low pay and mistreatment during this pandemic. Lee Camp looks into the fast food behemoth's exploitative business practices. From low wages, to their wage theft schemes, to using prison labor to make employee uniforms, to the factory farming that grows their meat, and the consumerist junk they use to market their Happy Meals the entire business model of McDonald's reflects the exploitative nature of the capitalist system it thrives in.

Also on this episode: Lee Camp covers the GOP's attacks on women's rights, the Democrats' failure to stand with women on abortion rights, a \$25 million verdict against Monsanto over its cancerous RoundUp pesticide being upheld in court, and more.

Natalie McGill takes a swing at The Salvation Army. The organization has a lot of issues but one of the latest revelations is that they're being sued for not paying people in their drug rehabilitation program anywhere close to a minimum wage for their labor. The unfortunate workers were paid a pittance for often heavy, difficult work. This isn't a new or limited practice for The Salvation Army but last time they were caught they got lawyers to cover it up.

Naomi Karavani reports on the manufacturers of Smart TVs selling viewer's data, Israel bombing hackers in Gaza, and AP News firing a journalist for Palestinian rights activism when they were in college.



McDonald's Exploitation

Lee Camp on bad business practices at McDonald's, attacks on abortion access, & glyphosate lawsuits. Natalia McGill on Salvation Army's employment secret. Naomi on: see above

Reading: Greetings. We are the Arcturian Council. We are please to connect with all of you.

Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Final choices:

1. The mystical poetry of Jalāl ad-Dīn Rūmī, interpreted by Coleman Barks and Jai Uttal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ1iGQLuxIE>

[Jai Uttal](#)

"I am so small, I can barely be seen.
How can this great love be inside me?" -

Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks. Published on Feb 6, 2012. A short but transcendent video segment on longing in the poetry of Rumi, from the One Through Love project featuring Coleman Barks, Jai Uttal and others.

2. Song: the sun shines on everyone; it doesn't make choices

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-06-03 "The Second": Carol Anderson on the Racist Roots of the Constitutional Right to Bear Arms



[Watch Full Show](#)

Topics [Gun Control](#)

- [Mass Shootings](#)
- [Racism](#)
- [Books](#)

Guests [Carol Anderson](#)

author and professor of African American studies at Emory University.

Links [Carol Anderson on Twitter](#)

- ["The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America"](#)
- ["One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy"](#)

Do African Americans have Second Amendment rights? That's the question Emory University professor Carol Anderson set out to answer in her new book, "The Second," which looks at the constitutional right to bear arms and its uneven application throughout U.S. history. She says she was prompted to write the book after the 2016 police killing of Philando Castile, who was fatally shot during a traffic stop after he told the officer he had a legal firearm. Anderson says the Second Amendment was always intended to be a means of arming white people to control the Black population. "There was this massive fear about these slave revolts, Black people demanding their freedom, being willing to have an uprising to gain their freedom," says Anderson. "What I saw was that it wasn't about guns. It was about the fear of Black people."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: Gun control advocates are pushing lawmakers to do more to stop a surge in gun violence. A recent [study](#) by Everytown for Gun Safety found gun violence took over 19,000 lives in the United States last year — a 25% increase from 2019. Gun sales are also soaring to record levels.

Despite this, Republican lawmakers are pushing measures to loosen gun control regulations. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott is expected to soon sign a recently passed bill which would allow Texans to carry handguns openly in public without a permit. It also allows people without a felony criminal conviction to carry a handgun without a background check. Abbott has praised the bill as the, quote, "strongest Second Amendment legislation in Texas history."

Well, today we're going to take a deep look at the Second Amendment and its racist roots. We're joined by Carol Anderson, author of the new book *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*. Professor Anderson details how the Second Amendment was written to empower local militia groups to put down slave revolts and protect plantation owners. She writes the Second Amendment is, quote, "rooted in fear of Black people, to deny them their rights, to keep them from tasting liberty." Carol Anderson joins us from Atlanta,

where she's professor at Emory University. She's also the author of *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy* and *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*.

Professor Anderson, it's great to have you back on *Democracy Now!* Congratulations on the publication of your book. And one warning: no soundbites. So, this book is really an epic work. It is a retelling, a reframing of an amendment that we have rarely heard talked about in this way. Can you go back in time to the Founding Fathers, as they say, and talk about where the Second Amendment came from? Teach.

CAROL ANDERSON: Thank you.

This emerged out of the fear of Black people, from slavery, that there was this massive fear about the slave revolt, Black people demanding their freedom, being willing to have an uprising to gain their freedom. And what that meant then was that you had this language of "We've got to keep this ferocious monster in chains." And you saw, with each revolt, with each uprising, a series of statutes being put in place to say that African — that the enslaved, that Black people could not own weapons, that they could not have access to weapons. And you also saw the rise in the structure of slave patrols and militias, that were there and designed to contain that Black population.

As the nation began to develop, as you had this war of independence, there was this fear of arming Black people, the fear that even freed Blacks who were armed would get — would provide a kind of sense of what freedom looked like to the enslaved. But the exigencies of war required that arming, required having Black folks in the Continental Army. But as the nation developed after that war, one of the things that you had happening was with the Constitution, with the drafting of the Constitution. Because the militias themselves had proven so untrustworthy, unreliable as a force to fight against the British invasion, that James Madison, in drafting the Constitution, had language in there that you would have federal control of the militias.

Well, when the Constitution went up for ratification to the states, by the time it got to Virginia, the Anti-Federalists in Virginia were in an uproar. George Mason and Patrick Henry were thinking about this militia being under the control of the federal government. They were like, "We will be left defenseless. We cannot trust the federal government, that has these folks from Pennsylvania and these folks from Massachusetts, to be willing to engage the militia when the slaves revolt. We cannot trust the federal government to protect us. We will be left defenseless." And they began to demand a Bill of Rights that would provide protection, that would curtail federal power. And they began to demand, as well, a new constitutional convention.

That threat of what that meant sent James Madison into the 1st Congress determined to write a Bill of Rights that would quell that dissent, that would short-circuit that movement for a new constitutional convention. And we've already seen what the power of the South has meant, in terms of the — when the Constitution was being drafted itself, how the South said that "We will not sign on to become part of this United States of America if we don't get the three-fifths clause, if we don't get 20 additional years on the Atlantic slave trade, if we don't get a Fugitive Slave Clause." And so the South had already wielded its power in terms of being willing to scuttle the United States of America. And Madison believed strongly that this threat coming out of the Anti-Federalists in the South, out of Virginia, would do the same thing. And that becomes the basis for the Second Amendment.

AMY GOODMAN: And can you talk about all of the players — I mean, you just mentioned James Madison, Patrick Henry, the slave states — and how this country came together based on this terror of slaves rebelling?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. I mean, so —

AMY GOODMAN: Enslaved people rebelling?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yeah, enslaved people rebelling. And that fear that — you know, so you have George Washington, who is a slave owner, who brings, in fact, some of his enslaved people to Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. You have Thomas Jefferson, who is not there, but he is writing in to Madison, and

Madison is writing to him. And one of the things that Jefferson is concerned about is slavery, is the way that it will be depicted.

And so you have this silence. There is a silence in the Constitution. It's hovering over the formation of the Constitution, like Banquo's ghost, haunting it, in shaping it, but not being explicitly said. But it is the power that is creating this sophistry, this really weird "We believe in freedom and equality, but we want 20 additional years on the Atlantic slave trade." What they said in South Carolina was that "South Carolina would be just a backward place. Our wealth comes from the Negroes. That is our natural resource. And we must protect it at all cost." So, this is what is part of the tectonic plates moving at this time in this founding of this nation.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Professor Anderson, could you also explain the significance of the Uniform Militia Act of 1792 and its role in ensuring that weapons and guns remained in the hands of white people?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. And so, one of the first laws passed by Congress was the Uniform Militia Act of 1792. What it said was that all able-bodied white men between the ages of 18 and 45 would have to be part of the militia. And so, here in the law, it is specifying white men. And it said that they must own a gun. This is part of — the militia is part of citizenship. It is how you give your service to the nation, how you provide your *bona fides*, as it were, as an American citizen. And so, white men are the definition of American citizen in this framing, and that they must own a gun. And so, what you see here is that the militia is given this high status in terms of what it means to be able to control an unruly population, what is seen as a dangerous population.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Professor Anderson, could —

CAROL ANDERSON: And interestingly enough — I'm sorry.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: No, please go ahead.

CAROL ANDERSON: Interestingly enough for me is that we have had Shays' Rebellion, that happened right before the Constitutional Convention, where white men gathered together to attack the government because they didn't like a taxation policy, and that the militia would not put down these white men. In fact, you had members of the militia joining this rebellion. And you had to have Boston merchants basically finance a mercenary army to put down Shays' Rebellion.

But what you didn't see coming out of that was a law saying, you know, "White men with arms are dangerous. White men with arms attack the government. So we need to ban white men from having access to weapons." You don't see that happening. But you do see that happening with slave revolts. You see the language, the laws coming in place, saying they shall not have access, Black people shall not have access to weapons, and that the militia and the slave patrol are there to ensure that Black people do not have access to weapons.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: And, Professor Anderson, it seems — I mean, you begin your book by talking about the police murders of Philando Castile, as well as Alton Sterling, and you point out that the NRA did not come to their defense, despite the fact that they were also killed for having guns in their possession, whereas in a comparable violence perpetrated by white mass violence, the NRA immediately leapt to the defense of the people responsible for that violence, who were white men.

CAROL ANDERSON: Absolutely. And so, there was a basic silence on Philando Castile. There was nothing said about Alton Sterling. And what was said about Philando Castile from the NRA was — and this was only after being pushed by their African American members — was that "We believe that everyone, regardless of race, sexual orientation, should have access to guns, to arms," but nothing really substantive.

What happened after Ruby Ridge and Waco, Texas, with the Branch Davidian, was that Wayne LaPierre called out federal officers as being jackbooted government thugs who believe they have the right to storm into people's homes and take their guns and kill law-abiding citizens. Several officers had been killed in those events.

And so, to then label the response as jackbooted thugs, when you get silence with Philando Castile, it really led me to — you know, as journalists were asking, “Don’t African Americans have Second Amendment rights?” And that’s what sent me down this path, all the way to the 17th century, to be able to answer that question.

AMY GOODMAN: So, let’s go back to 2016. And this, you write in your book, Carol Anderson, about how this inspired you to write this whole book. The immediate aftermath of the police shooting of Philando Castile was broadcast live on Facebook by his girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, who’s speaking in the car next to her dying boyfriend as a police officer continues to point the gun into the car. Her little child is in the backseat. A warning to our viewers: The content is deeply disturbing.

DIAMOND REYNOLDS: They killed my boyfriend. He’s licensed. He’s carried to — he’s licensed to carry. He was trying to get out his ID in his wallet out his pocket, and he let the officer know that he was — he had a firearm, and he was reaching for his wallet. And the officer just shot him in his arm.

AMY GOODMAN: So, dashcam video released nearly a year later shows the 4-year-old daughter of Diamond Reynolds consoling her heartbroken mother, who’s handcuffed in the back of a police squad car minutes after the St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez shot and killed Philando.

DAE’ANNE REYNOLDS: Mom, please stop saying cusses and screaming, ‘cause I don’t want you to get shot.

DIAMOND REYNOLDS: OK. Give me a kiss. My phone just died. That’s all.

DAE’ANNE REYNOLDS: I can keep you safe.

DIAMOND REYNOLDS: It’s OK. I got it, OK? Come here. I can’t believe they just did that.

AMY GOODMAN: There we hear the crying of Diamond’s daughter. The video was released just days after the police officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was acquitted of manslaughter. I wanted to ask you, Carol Anderson, to take us on that journey that you took, experiencing all of this, taking it in, telling us who Philando was, talking about the fact that he had a gun — legally had a gun — and told the police officer about it — in fact, had told his mother before, “I’m thinking of not carrying the gun, though it’s legal,” because of — well, I mean, just the day before, another African American man, Alton Sterling, had been killed by police in Louisiana. But you take us on this journey that led to this book.

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. And so, it was the killing of Philando Castile. You know, I start off the book going, you know, it was like a snuff film, because we all saw that video image. And it was horrific. It was jarring. And to then get the back story, that this was a man who followed NRA guidelines, saying — letting the officer know that “I have a licensed-carry weapon with me. You have asked for my ID. I am reaching for my ID.” And the officer begins to shoot. So he is killed because he has a weapon, not that he is brandishing the weapon, not that he is threatening anyone. He simply has a weapon.

And that really led me to begin on this journey — as I saw the NRA’s virtual silence on this — on this journey to figure out: Do African Americans have Second Amendment rights? You know, we’re in this moment where the Second Amendment is like hallowed ground. It is sacred. It is one of those things that has been defined as the bedrock of citizenship. And so I started looking.

And as I went on this journey, what I saw was that it wasn’t about guns. It was about the fear of Black people. It was about the fear of Blackness. It was about the societal labeling of Black people as dangerous, as a threat to whites, and that this architecture comes in place in order to contain this Black population, in order to provide security and safety to the white community from this fear of Black people. And you get this really weird matrix happening where Black people are feared but needed. And so, it is the “How do we contain them? How do we snuff out their quest for freedom? How do we snuff out their quest for their basic

human rights, while also keeping them as labor without rights? How do we do that? How do we make that subjugation happen? How do we talk about — in this land of the United States of America, how do we talk about freedom but try to keep it contained from this Black population? We don't want them getting the ether that we're talking about in this revolutionary moment about freedom and democracy and justice. We don't want them hearing the words about equality. How do we do that?"

And when there was a revolt in Virginia in 1800 with Gabriel, and Gabriel had fed on the language, the revolutionary language from the United States, from the French Revolution and from the Haitian Revolution, that sent shock waves — shock waves — throughout the United States. And Virginia was trembling at the expansiveness of Gabriel's revolt. And the response was, you know, the wrong people are getting the word about freedom and democracy. The wrong people are hearing this revolutionary language and thinking that it applies to them.

So, this was the journey that I was on to hear and to get into this milieu of how frightening, how dangerous Black people were seen as, and then to follow it all the way through to the 21st century by looking at: Do Black people have the right to bear arms? Do they have the right to a well-regulated militia? Do they have the right to self-defense? And seeing how in each of those, it has been used against Black people, and that the status, the legal status of Black folk, has not altered that significantly. So, whether enslaved, whether free Black, whether denizen — which was that halfway limbo land between enslaved and citizen — whether newly emancipated freed people, whether Jim Crow Black or whether post-civil rights African American, the right to bear arms, the right to a well-regulated militia and the right to self-defense are in fact fractured. That citizenship is fractured. It is hobbled by this intense anti-Blackness, this fear of Black people, this sense of Black people as a danger to white American society.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: So, Professor Anderson, could you talk about that, in particular, the role of Black militias, which you talk about in the book, their role in the early 19th century, to what use they were deployed, and then how it is that whites stripped Black militias of their official standing?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. And so, in Louisiana, when it was still the Louisiana Territory — it was before the U.S. had purchased it, but it was on its way, it was on its way — you had a well-heelled, well-trained Black militia that had been very effective. Well, as the U.S. came in, one of the first cries coming out of white New Orleans was to strip the Black militia, disband the Black militia. Well, the governor, William Claiborne at the time, you know, at first he's like, "Yes, you know, asking for more arms, because we have all of these free Blacks, and we've got these Black folks with arms," and so he's asking for more arms from the federal government. But then he starts noticing how effective this Black militia is, and so he tries to square the circle — white fear and the sense that the Black militia is the only real effective fighting force there, given all of the challenges that are happening in that territory at the time. And so, what he comes up with is to remove the Black officer class from this Black militia and put in white officers, thinking that that will be enough for whites in New Orleans who want the Black militia disbanded.

But then there is a massive, massive slave revolt coming from Charles Deslondes. And this massive slave revolt, that included somewhere between 150 to 500 people, headed to New Orleans, headed to what they believed was freedom, just sent terror through what is called the German Coast of Louisiana. And so, William Claiborne, seeing this massive movement, this massive slave revolt, in fact, begins to enlist the Black militia as part of the forces to take on this slave revolt. And the slave revolt is crushed. I mean, the U.S. Army comes in. The U.S. Navy comes in. You have the white militia that is there, but the Black militia is very effective. And so you have a Black militia fighting against Black folk who are enslaved and trying to be free. The reward that the Black militia received for this was a further push to be disbanded, further push to not have access to be able to purchase arms. They put a law in place that folks of color, Black people, could not buy arms.

Then came the War of 1812, and Andrew Jackson is the leader, the military leader, and he sees the British coming in this Battle of New Orleans. And he sees this Black militia, and he's telling Claiborne, "We need them. This is an effective fighting force." And Claiborne is like, "Yes, they are. But I'm telling you, they're just not feeling it right now, because of the way we treat them." And he's like, "I will treat them equally. I

will treat them with the honor that all soldiers should have. And they will be paid equal to whites. They will receive the same pay. And besides the Black militia, I want two additional battalions." Claiborne came back, and he said, "You can get the Black militia, but getting two additional battalions is going to be difficult, because whites in this area believe that arming them is arming the enemy." So, you have Black folks who are identified as the enemy. And in that fighting force, that force beat the British. It was like 3,000 or so of Andrew Jackson's troops against 8,000 British troops, and they won. And Andrew Jackson was like, "Wow! I knew you guys were good. I just didn't know how good." But the response, the reaction to that then, was to send them off as a labor battalion to work in the swamps, that white men didn't want to go into to do the work.

So, you have this denigration of Black military contributions to fighting for America. And that was a consistent theme that we saw. So you get this erasure of this history and this erasure for the men themselves who are doing the fighting, who are being wounded, who are dealing with the loss of their fighting brethren. That has been the sense that Black men under arms, they're a threat, and Black men who are trained how to use arms, they're really a threat. So they must be disarmed after they have served our purpose.

AMY GOODMAN: Professor Anderson, I just wanted to follow up on the term you used, "anti-Blackness," that you're actually saying that the Second Amendment is not about guns, but it's about anti-Blackness. Explain.

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. It is about the fear. So, and the best way to do this is to talk about the kind of history that we have about the Second Amendment. We hear the history of the militia, about being this really effective fighting force to fend off a foreign invasion and also being there to fend off domestic tyranny. But what they knew at the time was that the militia had proven to be uneven, unreliable in the war of independence, the war for independence. George Washington was beside himself at the lack of reliability of the militias. Sometimes they would show up, sometimes they wouldn't. Sometimes they'd fight, sometimes they wouldn't. Sometimes they would just take off and run away. It's really difficult to form a battle plan when your fighting force is like, "Mmm, I'm not feeling it today." And it led Gouverneur Morris, who was out of New York and one of the Founding Fathers, to say, "To rely upon the militia against a foreign invasion is like to depend upon a broken reed." And so, they knew that the militia was really not strong against a professional army. And then there was Shays' Rebellion. What they saw with Shays' Rebellion is that you could not really rely upon the militia in order to deal with an uprising and insurrections against government. You could not rely upon them for that.

Where the militia was consistently good was in slave revolts, in crushing slave revolts. And so, this is what led George Mason and Patrick Henry to talk about "We must control our militia. We will be left defenseless against slave revolts if the federal government controls it." And so, it is that fear of slave revolts, that fear of Black rebellion, the fear of Blacks as a dangerous population that must be controlled by these militias, that was essential in the drafting of the Second Amendment.

When you think about the Bill of Rights, how you've got the right to freedom of the press, how you have no state-sponsored religion, how you have freedom of assembly, the right not to be illegally searched and seized, the right to a speedy and fair trial, the right not to have cruel and unusual punishment — and so you see these incredible rights. And then you've got this well-regulated militia? The right to bear arms for the security of the state? That amendment is an outlier in this Bill of Rights. And that outlier is because it was the payoff to the South to have a force under state control that could contain Black aspirations, Black freedom quests, that could contain what is seen as a dangerous Black population.

AMY GOODMAN: Carol Anderson, we have to break, but then we're going to come back to this conversation. Carol Anderson is a professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her book is just out this week, *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: “Hear My Call” by Jill Scott. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The Quarantine Report*. I’m Amy Goodman, with Nermeen Shaikh. Our guest for the hour, Carol Anderson, professor at Emory University, author of the new book *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*. And we also want to get back to her previous book, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*, also wrote the book *White Rage*. But, Nermeen, why don’t you start with your question?

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Professor Anderson, another issue that you raise in the book as absolutely critical has to do with the denial of the rights of citizenship to Blacks. So, if you could explain the crucial Supreme Court decision here, *Dred Scott v. Sandford* in 1857, and how even after the 14th Amendment was passed, *Dred Scott* continued to take precedence?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. And so, the *Dred Scott* decision was designed to try to stop the explosion that was happening, the secessionist crisis that was happening in the United States, because there had been a series of events — the Missouri Compromise, the war for Texas, the Kansas — and Bleeding Kansas. All of these things were about the expansion of slavery and the fight to contract slavery.

And so, the *Dred Scott* decision — so, *Dred Scott* was a Black man who was enslaved. And his owner had taken him to free-soil states, Wisconsin and to Illinois. And then he was taken to Missouri, which was a slave state. He had argued that because he had been on free soil for years, that he was free.

What this decision said, written by Chief Justice Roger Taney, was that Black people were never considered citizens of the United States. They weren’t considered citizens at the founding, with the Constitution. They weren’t considered citizens in that there’s — with the Uniform Militia Act of 1792. They weren’t considered citizens when the secretary of state refused to issue Black people passports, saying they’re not citizens. They’re denied the ability to carry the mail. All of these things prove that they’re not citizens. He said, in this decision, “If they were citizens, they would be able to go easily from state to state. But there were laws that prevented that.” And he said, “And they would be able to carry arms wherever they went.” And so, in there, you see that being able to carry arms is a sign of citizenship in this framing, and is saying they’re not citizens. *Dred Scott* was the one that said that a Black man has no rights that a white man is bound to respect. *Dred Scott*, in fact, did not stop the crisis. In fact, it added to it. And it helped lead to the Civil War.

After the Civil War, you had Andrew Johnson, as the president of the United States, basically issuing these mass amnesties to the Confederacy, to Confederate leaders, who then re-assumed their positions in these states. And they passed constitutions and laws that denied Black people their rights. One of the laws that they passed were the Black Codes. The Black Codes — among other things, besides trying to control labor, the Black Codes said that Black people could not bear arms, they could not have weapons, and that they needed to be disarmed. You had the rise of these paramilitary groups working in league with these neo-Confederate states trying to disarm Black people. You had a bloody massacre, one right after the next. There’s a travelogue of carnage by Carl Schurz, who writes on the report of the conditions in the South that is just harrowing. Historian and legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed calls it a “slow-motion genocide.”

And you have Black troops, Black Union troops, U.S. troops, who are part of the occupying army in the South. You have white Southerners absolutely outraged that you would have Black soldiers — Black soldiers — as an occupying force in what they see as their space. And so they begin to talk about the violence that we’re seeing, the violence that is happening, is because these Black soldiers are here. And if these Black soldiers weren’t here, then this killing wouldn’t be happening. And so Andrew Johnson removes the Black soldiers. First he removes them from the interior of the South and puts them on coastal fortifications, and then, shortly thereafter, removes them as an occupying force in the South altogether. Those Black soldiers saw themselves as a line of defense protecting the newly freed people from the terror that was raining down on them.

So, the denigration of Black soldiers, the attempt to disarm Black people after the war, the language that Black people aren’t really citizens, that Black people are dangerous, and they cannot have access to weapons because it challenges the safety and the security of white Southerners, I mean, that’s what was going on at this time.

AMY GOODMAN: Professor Anderson, I wanted to leap forward to ask about how authorities responded to the Black Panthers, which urged Black people to arm themselves in the '60s. This is Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Self-Defense Party, speaking in 1967.

BOBBY SEALE: The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense calls upon the American people in general, and the Black people in particular, to take full note of the racist California Legislature, which is now considering legislation aimed at keeping the Black people disarmed and powerless at the very same time that racist police agencies throughout the country are intensifying the terror, brutality, murder and repression of Black people.

AMY GOODMAN: So, if you could respond to this, Carol Anderson, to respond to Bobby Seale?

CAROL ANDERSON: Yeah, so, what Bobby Seale is talking about is the depth of the police violence and brutality that was raining down on the Black community. The uprisings that we saw in Watts, in Cleveland, in Newark, in Detroit were all fueled not only by those horrific conditions in those places, but also by police brutality. And the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded as a response to the brutality of the Oakland Police Department.

And so, what the Black Panthers did, they said, "We will police the police." They knew what the law said about open carry in California. And they also knew what the law said about the distance that you had to maintain from a police officer arresting someone. So the Black Panthers would come to those arrests fully armed with the kinds of legal weapons that they were allowed to have. And the police did not like it. They did not like it.

And so, the Oakland Police Department went to Don Mulford, an assemblyman, a California assemblyman, and said, "We need your help. We need to make what the Black Panthers are doing illegal, because currently it's legal. We stop them, but they've got the right kinds of weapons. We can't arrest them for what they're doing. We need to be able to make their work illegal."

And so, what Mulford did, with the help of the NRA, was to write the Mulford Act, which banned open carry, which was a gun control act. And it was a gun control act targeted at the Black Panthers. So, Mulford said, "No, there's no racial targeting in this at all. This is about the Klan, as well." But it wasn't. The letters make it really clear that the genesis for this, the catalyst for it, was the "How do we curtail the Black Panthers? How do we make them illegal?"

AMY GOODMAN: Fascinatingly, moving forward 20 years, I want to go to former Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, 1991, appearing on *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*.

WARREN BURGER: If I were writing the Bill of Rights now, there wouldn't be any such thing as the Second Amendment.

CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT: Which says?

WARREN BURGER: That a well-regulated militia being necessary for the defense of the state, the people's rights to bear arms. This has been the subject of one of the greatest pieces of fraud — I repeat the word "fraud" — on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime.

AMY GOODMAN: This has been the greatest fraud. We're going to have to end with this final comment of yours, Professor Anderson.

CAROL ANDERSON: Yes. And that fraud has been that swaddling of the Second Amendment in the flag, in patriotism, in a sense of — that the militias were there to protect and defend democracy, when in fact the militia were there, designed to control Black people and deny Black people their rights. So, in the Second Amendment, what we have in the Bill of Rights is the right to destroy Black people's rights. That is anathema. That is what has been committed.

AMY GOODMAN: What most shocked you in your research?

CAROL ANDERSON: How consistent this anti-Blackness was and how it carries through to today with “stand your ground” laws, how it carries through with the ways that Black people are seen as threats, as monsters, as dangerous, simply because of their very being, and that puts a crosshairs on them. That is — writing this book was hard, because writing about the past and carrying it to the future, in the midst of the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, was just — in the midst of the pandemic, was just a lot.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Professor Carol Anderson, we want to thank you so much for this book, professor at Emory University — the book, *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America* — also author of *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy* and *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*.

That does it for our show. A happy belated birthday to Angie Karran! *Democracy Now!* is produced with Mike Burke, Renée Feltz, Deena Guzder, María Taracena, Carla Wills, Tami Woronoff, Charina Nadura, Sam Alcott, Tey-Marie Astudillo, John Hamilton, Robby Karran, Hany Massoud, Adriano Contreras. Our general manager, Julie Crosby. Special thanks to Becca Staley. I’m Amy Goodman, with Nermeen Shaikh.

2021-06-04 “We Are a Plutocracy”: Jeffrey Sachs Slams Biden for Offering to Preserve Trump’s Corporate Tax Cuts



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As Democrats and Republicans in Washington continue to negotiate over an infrastructure bill, President Biden is reportedly considering dropping his demand to roll back the 2017 Trump tax cuts — which primarily benefited corporations and the richest people in the country — in order to gain support for infrastructure spending of at least \$1 trillion. Biden is offering to keep Trump’s tax cuts and shrink the size of his infrastructure proposal in exchange for a minimum 15% corporate tax rate for all companies. Economist Jeffrey Sachs says a capitulation on the Trump tax cuts would be a huge mistake for the Biden administration. “The corporations have had an unbelievable run of unjust and unaffordable tax cuts,” he says.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!* I'm Amy Goodman, as we turn to the fight over corporate taxes. President Biden has proposed scrapping his plan to raise the corporate tax rate, if Republican lawmakers agree to support at least a trillion new dollars in infrastructure spending. Biden had previously called for rolling back Trump's corporate tax cuts by increasing the rate from 21 to 28%. But he is now offering to keep Trump's tax cut and shrink the size of his infrastructure proposal in exchange for a minimum 15% tax rate for all companies. This all comes as President Biden is heading to the G7 meeting in Britain, where he's expected to push for a global minimum tax rate to make it harder for companies to stash their earnings in tax havens.

Still with us, Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University.

So, your comments on what's happening here in the United States and also the corporate overall tax rate? You are very critical of Biden for not his original infrastructure plan, but what he's doing now with the Republicans.

JEFFREY SACHS: Well, I was shocked and dismayed, and I hope that it doesn't go anywhere. But the corporations have had an unbelievable run of unjust and unaffordable tax cuts. That's true for decades. The corporate taxes right now collect a little bit more than 1% of GDP in a booming period of corporate profits. In other words, we've given away the store. The Republicans, especially, gave away the store in 2017.

President Biden said, "OK, we'll restore half of what was given away." It's still leaving the companies effectively with a tax cut from 35% to 28% under Biden's plan. And then, yesterday, apparently, he said to the Republicans, "Well, maybe we'll leave it at 21%." God, I hope that this doesn't happen. It would be the biggest single defeat for basic social justice and affordability of what we need to do through government that I can imagine, because everybody that looks at this understands that what was given away to the corporations was both unjust and unaffordable.

And so, Biden's plan, while it was only partial, at least pointed in the right direction. Why did he put that on the table? He didn't even have a deal. What kind of negotiating is that? And, of course, this is because we are a plutocracy. We are a corporate-driven society. Our infrastructure is crumbling. And the companies say, "Yeah, build the infrastructure, but don't charge us for any of it." In the meantime, the CEOs are laughing at us, because their compensation is now more than 300 times average workers'.

So, please, President Biden, we put you in office to help fix this country, not to continue with the Trump plan, for God's sake. It's simple. It's not even complicated. What is this negotiation about? To preserve the Trump tax cut? That's why we had the 2020 election.

AMY GOODMAN: So, what do you think it would take?

JEFFREY SACHS: You know, part of the problem is we have two Democrats who are seemingly more Republican than Republican in this, Senators Sinema and Manchin. I don't get it, because Joe Manchin's constituents need this program perhaps more than any other state in the whole country. And Manchin is holding out, saying, "I don't know. I don't want to vote for anything that the Republicans don't agree to." In the meantime, Mitch McConnell says his 100% effort is to destroy this administration and to preserve the Trumpisms of the last four years. So, what is Manchin doing? Is he representing the people of West Virginia? Is he laughing? Is he a corporate shill? I don't get it. But this is what we're facing right now.

This is a big issue for this country, because if we can't pay for the basic things we need, if we can't pay for a clean energy system, for safe water, for digital access to people who can't afford it, for a transport system that can work for the 21st century, and if the corporations say, "Count us out. We just love our billions, and we don't want to put in anything," well, what are we going to have as a country?

And President Biden is there to turn this around. And he made a perfectly fine proposal, and he should take it to the American people and make the case, because right now all of the opinion polls show overwhelming

American support for taxing the corporations, overwhelming American support for taxing the rich. It's probably the biggest consensus in this country. It's just not the consensus of the plutocrats in Congress, the Republican Party, in the hands of billionaires. It's pretty simple stuff, and Biden should not be backing down.

AMY GOODMAN: So, President Biden calls out Sinema and Manchin on Tuesday, when he gave this Tulsa race massacre address in Oklahoma. And on Thursday, he caves to the Republicans, and Manchin and Sinema continuing to say they will not back off of supporting the filibuster. But let me take that corporate tax global. Your comment, finally — we just have about 30 seconds — on the G7 finance ministers agreeing to support a global minimum corporation tax rate? What would that mean globally?

JEFFREY SACHS: Well, this is an important step. Let's make sure it's also not filled with loopholes. The United States, the U.K., Switzerland, Netherlands and a very few other countries created a tax abuse system, which we call tax havens. It's a system for cheating. So they need to close it up. They made it, and they can stop it. And putting in a minimum tax for corporations so that they can't abuse all of us is a first step. So I'm hoping that this is real and that it's going to go through. It is an important, positive step.

AMY GOODMAN: Jeffrey Sachs, I want to thank you for being with us, director of the Center for Sustainable Development —

JEFFREY SACHS: Pleasure.

AMY GOODMAN: — at Columbia University, president of the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Coming up, "Disaster patriarchy: how the pandemic has unleashed a war on women." We'll speak to V.

2021-06-04 "Disaster Patriarchy": V (Eve Ensler) on How the Pandemic Has Unleashed a War on Women



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The pandemic has led to a sharp rise in gender-based violence, job losses in female-dominated industries, greater parenting duties for mothers, and other pressures that primarily fall on women around the world. These effects amount to a kind of "disaster patriarchy" in which "men exploit a crisis to reassert control and dominance and rapidly erase the hard-earned rights of women," says V, the artist and activist formerly known as Eve Ensler. "Women are losing their safety, their economic power, their autonomy, their education, and they are pushed onto the frontlines, where they are often used, unprotected and sacrificed."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The Quarantine Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

"Disaster patriarchy: how the pandemic has unleashed a war on women." That's the headline of a new [essay](#) by V, the playwright and activist who was formerly known as Eve Ensler. She details how the pandemic has led to a surge in violence against women, as well as an economic and educational crisis, with tens of millions of women and girls out of work or school. UNESCO estimates 11 million girls may not return to school once the pandemic is over. Other estimates put the total as high as 20 million girls.

In her essay, V writes, quote, "Covid has revealed the fact that we live with two incompatible ideas when it comes to women. The first is that women are essential to every aspect of life and our survival as a species. The second is that women can easily be violated, sacrificed and erased."

V joins us now from Kingston, New York, founder of V-Day and One Billion Rising. This year marks the 25th anniversary of her play *The Vagina Monologues*. Her new [piece](#) on disaster patriarchy appears in *The Guardian*.

V, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Thank you so much for joining us. Talk about disaster patriarchy.

V: Good morning, Amy, and thank you so much for having me.

Well, I would say Naomi Klein was the first to identify disaster capitalism, when capitalists use a disaster to impose measures they couldn't possibly get away with in normal times, generating more profit for themselves. I think that disaster patriarchy is a parallel and complementary process, where men exploit a crisis to reassert control and dominance and rapidly erase the hard-earned rights of women.

And I think — I spent months interviewing activists and grassroots leaders all around the world, from Kenya to France to India, to find out how this process was affecting them, and how they were fighting back. And in very different contexts, certain key factors kept coming up. One was that women are losing their safety, their economic power, their autonomy, their education, and they are pushed onto the frontlines, where they are often used, unprotected and sacrificed. And I can sort of break that down, if you want me to.

I think if we look at intimate terrorism, otherwise known as domestic violence, has really turned home into a kind of torture chamber for millions of women around the world. I mean, we did a conference recently in France, where domestic violence is out of control. We're seeing the same numbers in the U.S. RAINN was reporting, for example, that their hotlines have never been so busy. The same is true in Mexico. The same is true, really, in every country that I interviewed. And I think it's a combination of people feeling really severe economic insecurity, excess of alcohol, and this confinement has just made a perfect storm for abuse. It's hard, really, to determine, Amy, what is worse: the fact that men in 2021, thousands of men, still feel willing and entitled to control, torture and beat their wives and girlfriends and children, or that no government actually thought about this in thinking about their plans for lockdown.

And I think we're also seeing just the outrage that is added to that, that many governments have reduced funding for shelters at the exact moment they were most needed — very true throughout Europe and the U.S. In the U.K., providers have said that the crisis has exacerbated a lack of access to services for migrant and Black, Asian and minority ethnic women. And organizations working with those communities say that persistent inequality leads to additional difficulties in accessing services such as education, healthcare and disaster relief remotely.

Then, if we look at jobs, OK, in the U.S., more than 5 million women's jobs were lost between the start of the pandemic and November 2020, because much of the work that women do requires physical contact with the public — restaurants, stores, child care, healthcare settings. Those were the first to go. And then, again, there's the lack of child care options, which have left many women unable to return to their jobs. By the way, having children does not affect men at all in the same way. And the rate of unemployment, for example, for Black and Latino women in the U.S. was high before the virus, but it's now even higher. And that situation is

amplified in countries like India, where an activist there told me that 39.5% of women there had lost their jobs.

Then there's the idea of working from home, where women's personal space has basically disappeared. Their workload has increased triplefold. I don't think we can overstate how exhausting, how overwhelming the pandemic has been for women, who really are not getting a break in any direction.

And we know that when women are put under greater financial pressure, their rights erode. You know, I was talking to women who were talking about the struggle to pay their rent, that they were being preyed upon by landlords, and there's a new process known as "sextortion," where landlords are insisting that women have sex with them in order to pay their rent.

And then, as you were saying earlier, and this is really disturbing to so many activists that I talked about, and I think it will have maybe the largest impact, is how many girls may not return to school. As you said earlier, between 11 and 20 million is the estimates. And I think this will be hugely, hugely problematic, because we know that when girls are educated, they know their rights, they know what to demand, and they have the possibility of getting jobs and taking care of their families. And when they have access to education and they don't have that access, they become a financial strain, and they're forced into early marriages. They're sold off. Sex trafficking becomes much easier.

I talked to one of our activists in Kenya who's been fighting to stop female genital mutilation there for over, you know, nearly 15, 20 years. And she said the pandemic has pushed girls back into their homes. They don't even know what's happening inside those homes, because they don't have access to those girls. And we know when girls are cut, when they're female genitally mutilated, they no longer have access to education.

AMY GOODMAN: Yeah, I want to just bring in Malala Yousafzai's voice here, UNESCO predicting what? Eleven million — saying 11 million girls have left school, could be as high as 20 million not returning. Malala Yousafzai is the winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2012, she was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman who boarded her school bus. She survived serious wounds, now continues to campaign around the world for girls' education. Here she's urging girls to return to school as soon as it's safe.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI: Whether your school is open or not, I hope you will do whatever you can to keep learning. Even though it may have been many months since you have been to school, don't lose hope and don't give up on your education. I know you have dreams and ambitions, and I believe you can make this world a better place. It all begins with education. So go back to your school as soon as it's safe.

AMY GOODMAN: Again, that's Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. V, continue, as you talk about the ground women and girls are losing, and then what is being done, how people are resisting this, and what you think also governments need to do.

V: Well, I think the last area I want to really talk about is what's happening to frontline workers everywhere in the world. And during the pandemic, I was really honored and privileged to have a frontline seat to what's happening to nurses in America. I worked with National Nurses United, as you know, one of the biggest and most effective and radical nurses' unions in the country. And I interviewed many nurses on the frontline. As a matter of fact, we created this beautiful piece called *That Kindness*, out of those nurses, which was done at Brooklyn Academy of Music and then traveled across the country. And I watched for months as —

AMY GOODMAN: V, before you go on, I just wanted to play a clip —

V: OK, great.

AMY GOODMAN: — from the docu-play, *That Kindness: Nurses in Their Own Words*, based on those interviews you talked about with nurses early on in the pandemic, the play produced in partnership with the national nurses' union. This is actor Dale Soules.

DALE SOULES: We're not expendable. My family is not expendable. My husband is not expendable. My grandchildren are not expendable. My daughter works in the COVID unit. She goes straight home and showers immediately. She leaves her shoes outside, goes and showers, doesn't touch her kids, doesn't touch you, but goes and showers and packs her clothes so that they don't get exposed to what she was exposed to during the day. We have a saying in NNU: "You save one life, you're a hero. You save a hundred lives, you're a nurse."

AMY GOODMAN: An excerpt from the docu-play *That Kindness*, made with National Nurses United. V, continue.

V: Well, I love that last little line. It's so brilliant.

But, you know, so, I watched for months, as we all did, nurses having grueling 12-hour shifts, making agonizing choices and just acting as midwives to death, having to choose between who lived and who died. And then, on their short lunch breaks, they had to protest over the fact that they had no personal protective equipment, which put them in even greater danger. I mean, we witnessed women wearing garbage bags for months, instead of gowns, and reusing masks that were infecting them, and being forced to stay on the job with fevers. You know, in the same way that no one thought what it would mean to lock women up with children and women in houses with abusers, no one pre-thought what it would be like to send nurses into an extremely contagious pandemic without proper equipment. And that is a form of violence.

Then again, I've talked to warehouse workers who — packing and shipping with no protections, women who worked in poultry factories, who were forced to work in close proximity, who had fevers, who were forced to keep going on the job.

And then, you know, I have worked for years with One Fair Wage. I just did a demonstration with them last week. Their salary is still \$2.13 an hour, which it has been for the last 22 years. And now there's a new development called "maskular harassment," which is that men are insisting women who are wearing masks, who are waiting on them, pull down their masks so they can look at their faces to determine if they're pretty enough to get a tip. OK, these are just horrible notions and things that are escalating throughout the pandemic.

I spoke to women farmworkers in this country, Mily Treviño-Sauceda at Alianza, who tells me that female farmworkers have been — have more incidents of pesticide poisonings, sexual abuse and heat stress, because nobody is watching and no one has their eyes on them to protect them.

And I think, in the end, as you said at the beginning, what COVID has revealed is that patriarchy is here. It hasn't gone away. It rises in disaster. And if we don't really address it now, if we don't say that we have to take it on full head as a system, that is literally ruling and controlling our destinies throughout the planet, we're going to be spinning our wheels forever.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, the resistance that people are organizing around the world — and you have always been a leader of that, talking about V-Day and the 25th anniversary of *The Vagina Monologues* — you're calling for a global initiative on the scale of the Marshall Plan to deconstruct, to exorcise patriarchy.

V: I think it's so critical. I want to say that I think one of the things, before I just get to addressing that — it's been so moving to see how many women are rising in the face of everything that's going on, in spite of risk of infection, in spite of poverty, in spite of horrible conditions in their communities. I mean, we saw, in One Billion Rising this year, thousands of women rising. Our theme was One Billion Rising Gardens. Women planted gardens. I think there were 10,000 gardens that were planted, 9,000 — and in India, for example, across the whole country, but all over the world, women rose, women fought back, women stood up to governments, women demanded all kinds of protections, in spite of the risk to their lives.

But I want to say, I've been doing this work for so long, 25 years and longer, every day, day in and day out. And if we don't really get to the root of what patriarchy is, we will be here forever. So I really am envisioning this large global initiative to deconstruct and exorcise patriarchy, that would — first we'd have to acknowledge it, that it's the root of so many other forms of oppression, from imperialism to racism, from

transphobia to the denigration of the Earth. And then there would be an ongoing education, public forums, processes, studying how patriarchy leads to those forms of repression. We would use art to expunge trauma and grief and anger in the culture and help people heal and make people whole. And we would understand that a culture that has diabolical amnesia, which is certainly this country, and refuses to address its past can only repeat its misfortunes and abuses. And I think we would have community —

AMY GOODMAN: Five seconds.

V: — and religious centers that — dedicated to trauma. And we would study the arts of listening and empathy and reparations and apology. But we really have to say we need to focus on patriarchy as something real as a system, and we need to dismantle it as a world.

AMY GOODMAN: V, award-winning playwright, founder of V-Day and One Billion Rising. We'll link to your new [piece](#) in *The Guardian*, "Disaster patriarchy: how the pandemic has unleashed a war on women." I'm Amy Goodman. Be safe.