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Don't Fly In A Boeing Aircraft for Pete's Sa

**A Sympathetic, Well-meaning, Elderly
Man with A Poor Memory**



In Sunshine And in the Shadow (Part 2)



**Book Review: Bending Reality
The India Way**

Editorial

A Sympathetic, Well-meaning, Elderly Man with A Poor Memory Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



Although president Biden has been maligned for being old, forgetful and sometimes inept, he has earned some feathers to his cap. Here are some examples. The House G.O.P.'s effort to tar him with the actions of his son Hunter haven't succeeded; the economy is powering ahead; economic sentiment is improving; and the stock market is doing so well that Trump is trying to claim credit for it. All said and done, presidential elections are mostly decided on the state of the economy. The U.S. economy is robust. Its

GDP in 2023 grew 5% and inflation dropped to 3.2% in the last quarter. This goes in favor of Mr. Biden.

However, there are some damaging reports and incidents that shade doubts about his ability to be the CEO of the U.S., Inc. The recent report from Special Counsel Robert Hur describes him being too old and too out of it to be prosecuted for keeping classified documents in his personal garage. Biden, 81, is described forgetting when his term as vice president ended, the general timeframe in which his son Beau died from

cancer, and the details of critical foreign policy debates during the Obama administration. Later the president said, “Frankly, when I was asked the question I thought to myself, it wasn’t any of their damn business. ... I don’t need anyone to remind me when he passed away.”

The worst of all he called a press conference to defend his mental acuity when he misidentified the president of Egypt as the president of Mexico. "As you know, initially, the president of Mexico, el-Sisi did not want to open up the gate to allow humanitarian material to get in. I talked to him. I convinced him to open the gate, said Biden," However, Jean-Pierre, Biden’s press secretary dismissed concerns about Biden’s misstatements, noting recent instances when House Speaker Mike Johnson mistook Iran for Israel and Fox

News host Sean Hannity confused former Representative Jason Chaffetz for Matt Gaetz.

“Many people, they can misspeak sometimes,” Jean-Pierre said.

Joe Biden is very sensitive about people doubting his mental alertness. He seems agitated with that label. When Fox News reporter Peter Doocy, who often gives the president a hard time, asked, “How bad is your memory?” Biden shot back, “My memory is so bad I let you speak. One time on a previous occasion he called him an SOB.

That’s the dilemma in front of the American voters. They, most probably, will have to choose between a twice impeached ex-president and a blundering sitting one.

Commentary

Don't Fly In A Boeing Aircraft for Pete's Sake

Musafir



Well, consider this as a warning for your sake and for the sake of your family. Please don't fly in a Boeing aircraft. My advice will be asking the airlines what kind of aircraft they fly on that route before booking your trip.

Boeing has a rash of failures both related to its civilian and military equipment. Here is a compressive list of recent failures.

On March 8, 2014 Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared from the sky while flying from Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia to its planned destination, Beijing Capital International Airport in China. It has

not been determined what caused its disappearance or what happened to the aircraft. With all 227 passengers and 12 crew aboard presumed dead, the disappearance of Flight 370 was the deadliest incident involving a Boeing 777 and the deadliest in Malaysia Airlines' history.

On March 9, 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX crashed into a field outside of Addis Abeba, 6 minutes after takeoff. The Flight Data Recorder was examined as well as the Cockpit Voice Recorder. According to them, the pilots had followed all instructions and communicated the problems to Air traffic

control ATC and then everything was over. So, it was not a human error. It was the aircraft defect.

On January 5, 2024: Alaska Airlines Flight 1282, a 737 MAX 9 shortly after take-off, after the loss of incorrectly installed door plug. The aircraft returned to Portland and landed. Some on board sustained minor injuries, and there were no deaths. The type was subsequently grounded for nearly a month.[]

On Jan 7, 2024 the United Arab Emirates' civil aviation said they detected a technical malfunction on a U.S. Boeing 737 MAX 9. At the same time, the U.S. regulators temporarily grounded 171 Boeing 737 MAX 9 jetliners for safety checks following a cabin panel blowout that forced a new Alaska Airlines jet carrying passengers to make an emergency landing.

Those are some of the recent incidents. There are many more. The commercial crew

vehicle, which Boeing developed for NASA to ferry astronauts to and from the space station, made its orbital uncrewed debut in December, lifting off from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. But the craft failed to reach the orbiting laboratory due to a series of glitches and software issues.

At least five Boeing-made Patriot missiles apparently missed, malfunctioned, or otherwise failed when Saudi forces tried to intercept a barrage of rockets targeting Riyadh on March 25, 2023.

Boeing must shape up before I considering boarding a Boeing made plane in the future. In 1980s US made cars had similar reputation when Ford Pinto and GM's Nova were known as fireballs. Fortunately, they shaped up and are doing better. It's Boeing's turn now to turn over a new leaf.

HUMOR

WWIII Feels Like Walking Pneumonia

Musafir”

My friend Kamod whom we all believe blindly declared today that World War III had begun. He correctly identified the Korean, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine wars. He has an astute sense of

indefatigable habit of chewing tobacco. He was absolutely correct about that as Uncle Goof really died sixty years after his prediction.

When a child, Kamod one day said goodbye



to his grandma. His father, out of curiosity, asked him why did he say goodbye to

recognizing any situation before anyone else does.

His predictions are not limited to wars and international affairs only, he can also correctly foretell the fate of an individual. I remember him constantly telling me that Uncle Goof would die if he didn't give up his

grandma. Kamod replied, "I don't know daddy, it just seemed the right thing to do."

The grandma died that night in her sleep. Kamod also embarrassed his parents by calling his neighbor his dad. He stopped doing that after a good pounding albeit it

was too late as the word had already spread.

Anyway, coming to the topic, World War III has begun. Kamod is looking to move to either Bhutan, Chile, Iceland, Greenland, Fiji, Kiribati, Switzerland or New Zealand. Those are the only countries that may remain unaffected by the war.

The reasons for Kamod's firm assumption about WWIII are obvious. For instance, General Qassem Soleimani of Iran is still dead. The Israelis and Hamas both are having a good time killing each other. Volodymyr Zelensky, the comedian turned president of Ukraine is having fun watching the demolition of Kyiv. India is having fun watching and rescuing the Yemenis and Americans who are snatching each others' boats in the Gulf of Aden. America is selling more and more arms to other countries by admitting them to NATO. China, Pakistan and India are pointing guns at each other. North Korea's little Kim Jong Un is firing missiles every hour and China and the USA are saber-rattling over Taiwan. What could be a more thrilling time to walk on earth than the present?

This is like walking pneumonia when you don't feel that you have pneumonia though you have it. Similarly, we don't feel like having WWIII, but we are already going through it. Kim Jong un has been threatening to "deal a deadly blow

to thoroughly annihilate" us for a while now. Putin reminding us of Russia's nuclear capabilities by yelling "Don't they get that," is ominous but not shocking since the nation that sheltered Osama bin Laden also has nukes. What's most alarming is the lack of a direct flight from Russia to the U.S. and the departure of American businesses from Russia are the signs of WWIII.

Donald Trump who most likely will return to the White House in January 2025 has predicted a blood bath. The past Saturday he said, "there will be a "bloodbath if I am not re-elected in November."

Kamod is a big believer in Nostradamus who, probably predicted that WWIII will take place in 2023. Nostradamus has never been wrong so whether you believe him or not, WWIII has started.

In a powerful and emotional statement during her Celebration tour at London's O2 Arena, pop icon Madonna said that the killing of Hamas by Israel will be the cause of WWIII. Remember, It was not Nostradamus who accurately predicted the date of Corona-19 virus. It was Madonna who did.

So, with the combined assertion of Madonna, Nostradamus and Kamod I completely believe that WWIII has truly begun.

-

Women's Basketball Is Catching Excitement

Musafir



I find nothing more thrilling than rivalry in sports. It seems to when rivals compete. Stakes are higher and emotions stronger when adversaries have a history. Again and again, the desire to best an old foe has led to memorable moments. I have witnessed numerous rivalries in my life time. The most memorable are Joe Frazier vs. Muhammad Ali (Boxing), India Vs. Pakistan (Cricket and

Field Hockey), Michigan Wolverines Vs. Ohio State Buckeyes (College Football), Los Angeles Lakers Vs. Boston Celtics (Basketball), Russia vs. USA (Ice Hockey), Nadal vs. Roger Federer (Tennis). I have the latest rivalry that emerged during NCAA women's events this season. That is between Caitlin Clark (Iowa) vs. Angel Reese (LSU) (Women's College Basketball). It's a

display of fire and ice between them, Caitlin Clark is ice with her cool and composed manner whereas Angel Reese is fire with her teasing and aggressiveness.

Not much is talked about women's sports except for tennis and gymnastics, but I must confess that I am hooked on Women's college basketball this season because of those two players. To put the Iowa-LSU numbers in perspective, the 2023 NBA Finals only averaged 11.64 million viewers. Clark's rematch against Angel Reese cleared that mark last Monday. Those ratings are higher than the 2023 World Series, which checked in at 9.11 million viewers. That's quite a feat for Women's College basketball game. I watched the game in its entirety and I must admit that it was a treat.

Angel Reese's LSU is the reigning champion. They beat Iowa in last year's finals. So, it was a sweet revenge for Caitlin Clark's Iowa this time beating LSU by 94 to 87. Iowa marched on to beat Connecticut. As I am writing this article, Iowa has just lost the championship game to South Carolina 87-75 ending the season without the championship ring.

Coming to women's basketball, for years now, most of the men and women including me have rejected women's basketball, discounting it for a lack of dunks speed and excitement. Women's college team couldn't beat the local high school boys team, and this hypothetical was true and not misogynistic.

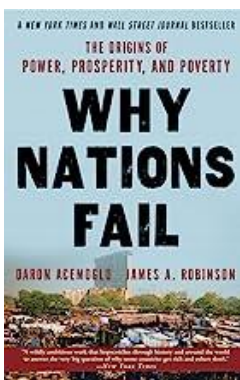
However, a new crop of women's college players such as Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese of LSU, Tessa Johnson of South Carolina, Paige Bueckers of Connecticut and Laren Betts of Stanford are some of the players who are changing that notion. These players are showing the world what female athletes are capable of through their determination, unapologetic emotion, pure talent, and devotion to the game they play. Not only are these women playing a great game of basketball, they are showing grace, respect, and support for one another. Each athlete uplifts and celebrates the other, which is admirable and simply enjoyable to watch. We have entered a new era of women's basketball, and if you're not tuning in, you're missing out on history in the making.



Why Nations Fail

Author: Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson

Publisher: Crown Publishers 2012 (463 pages)



Why Nations Fail presents a comprehensive comparison between prosperous and poor nations and between powerful nations and failed states in the context of history as well as it relates to the present day world. In the view of the

authors, Acemoglu and Robinson view the key to a nation's success lie in sufficiently centralized government to insure personal security, individual property rights, and rule of universally equally applied law. They think that governmental institutions should be what they call inclusive rather than extractive, having a broad pluralistic base rather than using the population as a source of labor, taxes or other rent-seeking behavior that benefits a minority at the expense of the general population.

Schumpeter's concept of creative destruction is also firmly embraced by the authors. In their view, change and the ability to welcome new technology and use it to advantage is as essential to a nation's progress as it is to human development. Historically, entrenched

elites resisted any change that had the potential to reduce their existing superior position. They use the example of railroads where England embraced them and Austria forbade them, and the result was the movement of goods and people from the farms to the cities that promoted the industrial revolution in England and kept a repressive feudalistic society in Austria where the status quo was maintained at the expense of the population.

The authors use many examples to support their idea of extractive vs. inclusive economies. The Kingdom of the Kongo came in contact with the Portuguese in 1483. They adopted Christianity and firearms, but not the wheel, the plow, or other productivity enhancing technologies of the time. This was, according to the authors, a result of a society that was what we would call a kleptocracy. Any gains the people could achieve were confiscated by the king, so there was no incentive to use technology to improve their lives.

The authors don't agree with Jared Diamond's geography based determinism or Samuel Huntington's culture and

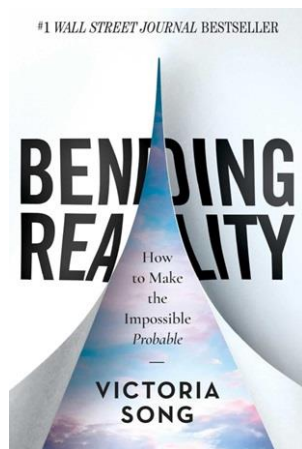
religion based views. They use the examples of Nogales Sonora vs. Nogales Arizona and Natal and Transkei to show places where the culture and geography were the same, but the outcome was drastically different.

An important quote, early in the book, crystalizes the main thesis, "The main obstacle to the adoption of policies that would reduce market failures and encourage economic growth is not the ignorance of politicians, but the incentives and constraints they face from the political and economic institutions in their societies." In the eyes of the authors, a lack of shared freedom is why nations fail.

Bending Reality -How to Make the Impossible Probable

Author: Victoria Song

Publisher: Forefront Books 2021 (192 pages)



According to the author, Victoria Song, Bending Reality is the innovative process used by billionaires, tech leaders, and the world's most successful people to make the impossible probable. The

author tells readers how to unlock the hidden power within their bodies to get what they want. According to Ms. Song, though she achieved success, she lacked fulfillment as a student at Yale University and Harvard Business School, and then as a Forbes 30 Under 30 Venture Capitalist. Victoria set off on a quest to study, train, and work with more than 24 of the best coaches, therapists, and healers in the world. She then deployed the skills and tools she learned with a diverse group of the world's highest performers. Through it all, she discovered the codes that enable her clients to bend reality toward the directions they wanted. By accessing this extraordinary ability, Victoria's clients have sold a company for 4 billion dollars, grown revenue 1,000% during a pandemic, and pivoted to design a more effective COVID-19 vaccine. Victoria reveals the framework behind peak performance, self-development, therapy, and meditation that is accessible for all.

She explains how the world's elite use this knowledge to achieve more while doing less in this fast-paced environment.

The book is packed with powerful tools and exercises. This is not another mindset book. After learning how to bend reality, one no longer will need to memorize rules, tips, or tricks, but will embody the essence of a remarkable leader who can make the impossible—probable.

That's what Ms. Song claims. Though it was an interesting read, I am not convinced about her modus operandi.

In Sunshine And Shadow (Musafir's Memoir)

Chapter 2: Reminiscing



I couldn't forget the women of Kothia. Their plights still haunted my unconscious mind, especially Ragho's Wife.

I vividly remember that arid and hot summer afternoon in the eastern part of India. I was running with a soccer ball on the dusty village trail. A bunch of village boys were chasing me to tackle the ball away from me. Suddenly I saw the mailman rushing on his bike with a telegram in his hand. He almost bumped into us but managed to steer his bike away to safety. He hurled a profane remark at us for getting in his way and then made a sharp turn towards Ragho's house. I knew, at once, there was something wrong with Ragho.

Suddenly I heard Ragho's mother crying at the top of her voice, "My son is dead! Now who will take care of me? How am I going to

survive in my old days? O God! Why did I worship you all my life? Is this the reward I get from you, O Merciless! Take me to my son!"

I ran to her house. She was frantically beating her chest. She threw herself on the ground in front of her house and started rolling around hysterically. Soon, the neighbors gathered at her house. The women surrounded her. Men stood at a distance talking about Ragho's sudden demise.

Ragho's wife, who was not permitted to come outside of the house, sensed the situation and started wailing loudly. That infuriated Ragho's mother. She ran towards her house with an intention of nabbing Ragho's wife, but the neighbors controlled her. "Tell that *rundy* (prostitute) to stop shrieking. She has brought bad luck to our

family. If she had any shame, she'd have killed herself by now. That disastrous rogue never brought enough dowry with her. How am I supposed to feed her for the rest of her life now? O Goddess of wealth! Help me now!"

Ragho's mother was not bashful about her feelings. "God will take care of you. Time will heal you. We don't have control over our destiny," A neighbor tried to console her.

Ragho's mother picked up Ragho's four-month-old son, who was crying for attention. She pressed him against her chest and started talking to him while wailing loudly, "Who'll take care of you and me now, baby? Who will feed us? You are too small to earn a living. O Goddess of power! Make him big and strong soon!"

No one was worried about Ragho's wife, who had just become a widow. Ragho and his wife had been married only for sixteen months. Ragho died from Cholera in a slum of Calcutta where he lived. I remembered the day when Ragho brought her to our village for the first time. She immediately became a proud possession of Ragho's mother, a commodity. She was made to perform all the chores of the house from daybreak until the night. She would cook, clean and serve her mother-in-law. She was not allowed to have any time to herself. What was perceived to be a marriage was a life imprisonment with a chance of parole only when her mother-in-law had passed away. Her face was always covered in a veil. Ragho's mother would lift the veil slowly for the visitors to display her to them. Everyone thought that Ragho's wife was too beautiful to belong to this family, but she got what her parents' dowry could afford.

Ragho's mother, on the other hand, was enjoying her new status as a proud mother-in-law. Her mother-in-law made her do the same what Ragho's wife was doing now. It was her turn now to relax and enjoy. She

was in no hurry to die. Ragho used to visit his wife two or three times a year. Both Ragho and his wife were very nice to me. Ragho's mother never gave him a chance to be alone with his wife until nightfall. I was their only go-between during the day. Ragho would give me messages for his wife and I would faithfully deliver them to her. "Ragho wants to know if you have any problems here," I asked his wife.

By nature, I used to be in a hurry. Ragho's wife always insisted that I should sit by her side and tell her the stories about Ragho and his friends. She used to grip me by my hand and say, "Why are you always in a hurry? Why don't you sit by me?" I sat by her side.

"Tell him that I am alright, but he should come to me a little early tonight," she requested. I went outside and conveyed the message to Ragho. Ragho smiled shyly.

A few few days after that Ragho had to go back to Calcutta to resume his duties. He sent letters and money orders regularly. The last message that came from him was the message of his death.

Soon I left my village for, supposedly, a modern upbringing, but Ragho's wife left a deep impact on my mind. I read about ancient slaves in social studies and which were akin to the plight of Ragho's wife. Hers was even worse than those slaves because the slaves could, at least, go outside and see the daylight. Ragho's wife couldn't.

I returned to my village a year later during the summer vacation. I visited Ragho's house. Ragho's wife looked very sick and ill fed. She was sweeping the floor at the time. She smiled to see me. Her smile formed dimples on her cheeks. Dimples were her trademark. But I also noticed a burn scar on her left cheek. She asked me to sit by her side again.

"How are you doing? You city boy!" She asked teasingly.

"I am fine. How about you?"

"Me? She laughed. I am just a maid. All I get in return is some food to eat. I am nothing more than a domestic animal," she continued, "I wasn't allowed go to Calcutta with my husband. If I did, he'd still be alive." She started to sob.

"Why didn't you go to Calcutta with Ragho?"

"You wouldn't understand. You are lucky because you are a man. We women are born to be slaves. First, we live under our parents' control and later it is the in-laws. Moreover, Ragho didn't earn enough to keep me in Calcutta."

"How did you get this burn mark on your cheek?" "Ragho's mother did that to me. One day I had an argument with her. She threatened to burn me alive," she answered with disgust.

I went back to school again, not returning to my village for a few years. I visited Ragho's house again. Ragho's mother was sitting with Ragho's son in her lap. "Where is Ragho's wife?" I asked.

"She is dead," she answered angrily.

"Really? Tell me what happened?" "That rundy was a burden to me. I didn't have money to feed her! So, I asked her to leave."

"But where did she go?" "I sent her to her parents' home. But those misers couldn't keep her too. Last I heard, she eloped with the neighbor's son and went to Calcutta with him."

"I see." I didn't know how else to react.

Seven years later I went to Calcutta on a school trip. Calcutta's railway station is a world in itself. A multitude of humanity comes through there every day as passengers, onlookers, vendors, thieves and beggars. I was late to the station. My train was about to leave. As I was running towards my coach, I bumped against a beggar in rags. I didn't have time to say sorry to her. No sooner did I enter the train than it started to pull out. I noticed the beggar in rags looking towards me. She resembled Ragho's wife. I also noticed a burn mark on her left cheek. As she smiled at me, dimples formed on her cheeks. It could have been Ragho's wife or someone else who resembled her. No matter what, how did that matter, anyway? ... **Part 2 to be continued.**

QUIZ

1. In 1906, an 8.0 earthquake devastated which US city?
2. What is the chemical symbol for chlorine?
3. When a volcano erupts and collapses, what is formed?
4. which is representative of half a circle's width?
5. Which novel starts with the first line, "All children, except one, grow up."
6. Which word fits here? I went to the _____ store to buy a birthday card. (Stationery or stationary)?
7. Which of these words mean "capable of being easily ignited and of burning quickly"?
 - a. (Flamable, Inflammable or both Flamable and Inflammable?)
8. Who was the Roman emperor during the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64?
(Nero, Caesar Augustus?)
9. What was the name of the war between Sparta and Athens that lasted from 431 to 404 BC
10. Who wrote "The Art of War," a classic treatise on military strategy? Sun Tzu, Kong Qiu, Sun Bin, Wu Qi

Answer: 1. San Francisco, 2. Cl, 3. A Caldrea, 4. Radius 5. Peter Pan, 6. Stationery, 7. Both Flamable and 8. Nero, 9. The Peloponnesian War, 10. Sun Tzu

Current Affairs

What's the Fuss about Iran-Israel Conflict?

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



Iran launched a retaliatory strike Saturday night on Israel for its deadly attack on Iranian officers in the Islamic Republic's embassy in Damascus after days of signaling it would do so.

The response came in waves throughout Saturday, beginning with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seizing a vessel in the Red Sea connected to Israeli

billionaire Eyal Ofer's company, Zodiac Maritime. By around 11 pm local time, which had graduated to multiple waves of attack drones and missiles headed toward Israeli targets. The missile barrage included both ballistic and cruise missiles.

The last two weeks and particularly Iran's attack Saturday have raised fears of the outright regional war in that area. After

years of US and Israeli assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists and military commanders, the regime likely calculated that it had no choice but to respond to the Damascus strike.

Because it took the drones hours to reach Israeli airspace, US, Israeli, and Jordanian forces were prepared to intercept the aircraft (Jordan and several other neighboring countries shut down their airspace Saturday night).

The US has vowed steadfast support in case of an Iranian attack on Israeli territory, increasing the number of US forces and assets in the region to prepare for such a situation, and the UK has supported the US's efforts in the region as well.

The drones were reportedly headed to the Golan Heights, a region that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War, and the Negev desert, where there are several Israeli military installations and a US base. Israel's primary nuclear research center and one of its largest air bases are both located in the Golan Heights.

Both Israeli and Iranian governments confirmed that Iran had also launched cruise missiles toward Israeli targets, synchronized to hit at the same time the drone swarms reached Israeli airspace. Israel's air raid alert system sounded warnings across areas of southern Israel including the Negev, as well as the occupied West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights, indicating that the Iranian weapons were headed toward their targets. Israeli missile defense systems reportedly intercepted many of them.

A major concern over the past six months of Israel's war in Gaza following the October 7 Hamas attacks has been whether it will spill into a regional war.

Iran's rhetoric in response to Israel's invasion of Gaza has been fiery, but until now, the Islamic Republic has been content to let affiliated groups, like Hezbollah in Lebanon and militias in Iraq and Syria, fight those battles. Hezbollah and Israel frequently trade fire over the southern Lebanese border, which has killed at least 66 Lebanese civilians and approximately nine Israeli civilians, and Iraqi and Syrian militia groups have attacked US installations in both those countries over 150 times in the past six months in response to the US's continued military support for Israel. Early on in the war, the US sent warships to the region to discourage further escalation. Yemen's Houthi rebel group has also targeted ships in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait of the Red Sea, claiming to target vessels in retaliation for the Israeli military's destruction of Gaza and killing of more than 33,000 Palestinians.

"The Iranians concluded that the risk of not responding outweighed the risk of responding," Vaez said. Hardliners within the government — the leadership's last remaining sector of support — had publicly criticized the lack of response to multiple assassinations and escalatory actions attributed to Israel.

Thus far there have been no reports of Israeli deaths. But whether and how Israel will respond remains to be seen.

Anarchy at Columbia by Anil Shrivastava

'Musafir'

The students at Columbia University are protesting U.S. support and arms shipment to Israel. They are accused of celebrating Hamas and targeting Jewish students. This is lawlessness.

Since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel, American college campuses have been hubs of protest and debate. The scene at Columbia has been



particularly contentious, with protests drawing hundreds of demonstrators, and some faculty members drawing attention for statements that critics considered to be antisemitic.

Columbia administrators, like their counterparts on campuses across the country, have struggled to fine-tune a response that balances discipline, free speech and institutional and national politics. For example, Columbia suspended two pro-Palestinian student groups after a

walkout, and it has rewritten its protest policies, suspended some students and moved to cut or reduce ties to some faculty members.

I wonder where are the parents and what their expectations are from their children who are sent to colleges for obtaining a

degree. After all, they (parents) are paying for their children's living and educational expenses. Are not the parents supposed to set expectations and standards for their children and then holding them to those expectations?

Columbia University faced a wave of fury over antisemitism on campus from billionaire donors Monday — with one calling pro-Palestinian mobs on the campus “f—ing crazy.”

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, a Columbia graduate, said he was stopping donations immediately and charged the college with failing to keep its Jewish students safe.

Billionaire investor Leon Cooperman, a business school graduate, said he would stick with a stop on donations which began shortly after the October 7 Hamas massacres.

Other billionaires, including industrialist Len Blavatnik may also consider pulling back as the campus is rocked by pro-Hamas protests which have left Jewish students traumatized.

“Columbia University’s leadership must take immediate steps to ensure that Jewish students are protected from threats and intimidation, and that those who violate their policies are held to account,” Blavatnik, the founder of Access Industries, said.

Cooperman, Blavatnik, and Kraft have donated nearly \$100 million in total to Columbia, according to some estimates — money that has created multiple buildings on campus, scholarships for engineers, and a center for Jewish students.

None of the donors has so far called publicly for the president, Nemat “Minouche” Shafik, to be replaced, even as she faced pressure from Republican members of Congress led by Elise Stefanik, the third-ranking member of the House majority, and from the Columbia Jewish Alumni Association to go.

“Donors aren’t issuing an ultimatum, it’s just that they aren’t writing checks

anymore,” another source with knowledge of the university’s finances said.

The spectacle of students building a mass encampment of tents at the center of campus, shouting pro-Hamas slogans and abusing Jewish students enraged Cooperman, the Omega Advisors founder, whose parents immigrated from Poland.

On Monday, Kraft posted to X and Instagram that he was pulling donations for the school, “I am deeply saddened at the virulent hate that continues to grow on campus and throughout our country.

“I am no longer confident that Columbia can protect its students and staff and I am not comfortable supporting the university until corrective action is taken.”

Billionaires aren’t the only donors pulling back, sources told The Post.

The school’s “annual fund” which covers the cost of scholarships, student life, and internships said participation among donors is down 25% to 30% this year as a result of the school’s inability to make Jewish students feel safe on campus, a source with direct knowledge told The Post. It’s a real hit to Columbia’s bottom line.”

Others who spoke on the condition of anonymity said they were confident members of the board of trustees, to which the president reports, was pushing her for stronger action against antisemitism.

I sent two of my children to universities and expected them to pay attention to studies and complete their degrees. I don’t know what other parents expectations are.

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