

M/W LOVE THE WAY YOU LOOK
MEN'S WEARHOUSE

Opinion: Are autocrats always adversaries of the United States?

Posted Wednesday, December 15, 2021 6:00 am



PATRICK BUCHANAN

By **PATRICK J. BUCHANAN**

When did the political systems of 193 nations become the business of the government of the United States? And who elected us Americans to write the moral code for the regimes that rule other lands?

Consider: On taking office, President Joe Biden pledged to center his foreign policy "on the defense of democracy and the protection of human rights." At his Summit for Democracy, he said it was America's intent to undertake the bolstering of democracy and human rights worldwide.

Yet no nation bristles more than we Americans do when we discover foreign regimes meddling in our politics or presidential elections.

Why? Historically, Americans have collaborated not only with democracies but also with autocrats, dictators, monarchs and tyrants.

George Washington danced a jig when he learned an alliance had been forged with the France of King Louis XVI to fight beside us in our war of independence against the England of King George III, in whose army Washington had himself fought in the

French and Indian War.



Goodbye Cell Phone, Hello VoIP (Find Out Why Everyone...

Perform A Simple Search On The Next Page To See VoIP Phone...

sponsored by: [WalletGenius](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

In the War of 1812, the United States fought the same British enemy as Napoleon was fighting, which may explain why the British enthusiastically burned our Capitol and White House in August 1814.

In World War I, we "make-the-world-safe-for-democracy" Americans were wartime allies of the British, French, Russian and Japanese empires.

At the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, President Woodrow Wilson signed the documents that parceled out Germanic lands and peoples against their will and in violation of Wilson's own professed doctrine of self-determination.

Against Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1945, our principal allies, whose armies did most of the fighting and dying, were Joseph Stalin and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Neither was a democrat.

During the Cold War, we were at times allied with South Korean dictators, Argentine generals, Greek colonels, the shah of Iran, Gen. Augusto Pinochet of Chile, Latin American despots, African kleptocrats and assorted royals across the Middle East.

The world's largest democracy during the Cold War was India, which sided with Moscow, while autocratic and Muslim Pakistan lined up with us.

President Richard Nixon's great diplomatic achievement, the 1972 opening to China, established a detente between the world's greatest democracy and its most monstrous and murderous tyranny. U.S. elites were elated.

The point of the recitation? In times of crisis for our republic, we have often found allies in autocrats and dictators while democracies such as India and Sweden remained basically neutral.

M/W LOVE THE WAY YOU LOOK
MEN'S WEARHOUSE

Nations judge friends not by the ideology that they profess but by how they behave when a crisis comes.

When the Yom Kippur War broke out in 1973, autocratic Portugal allowed the use of the Azores for U.S. planes carrying tanks and guns to Israel. Some of our other allies remained neutral.

Lately, we have been preaching the superiority of our democracy as a political system for all peoples, as it manifests "universal values."

But if tomorrow the kings of Morocco, Jordan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and the emirs of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, fell to popular uprisings in the name of democracy, how beneficial would this be to the U.S.?

A decade ago, when the Arab Spring produced free elections in Egypt and the Palestinian territories, the big winners were the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas.

Again, when did the political systems of foreign nations that do not threaten or attack us become an American concern?

When did they become any of our business?

During the Cold War, Stalin imposed communism on that half of Europe he had conquered in World War II. Nikita Khrushchev brayed, "We will bury you!" and, "Your grandchildren will live under communism."

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING
Search public notice ads from virtually all S.C. newspapers now at [SCPublicNotices.com](#)

But Russian President Vladimir Putin does not say, "Your grandchildren will live under communism" or under autocracy. Or under Russian rule.

Nor does the China of Xi Jinping, who preaches the supremacy of his system, attempt to impose communist ideology on his neighbors who have not embraced it.

China is communist to the core, but outside the territories it claims as its own - such as Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Inner Mongolia - it does not impose its ideology. It does not impose Communist Party rule.

It was the U.S. under President George W. Bush that preached a global crusade for democracy. It is the United States that today backs color-coded revolutions to overturn regimes in the Balkans, Caucasus and Near East.

It is the United States whose National Endowment for Democracy and its subsidiaries, and government-backed NGOs, interfere incessantly in the internal affairs of other nations to extend our democratist ideology.

Most autocrats are nationalists, not transnational crusaders.

It is not Putin who is dividing the world based on ideology.

It is Biden who sees the world as divided between saints and sinners, democrats and autocrats and, by coercion and conversion, seeks to grow the camp of the saints. Pakistan is invited to the democracy summit, while NATO ally Hungary is blackballed.

we have life insurance. so you can enjoy all of life's moments. simple human sense.

CRW INSURANCE
25 E. Calhoun, St., Sumter, SC
803-775-1168
[crwis.com](#)

Auto-Owners
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

In the great power struggle of the present, among America, Russia and China, it is the Americans who are waging relentless ideological wars. And ideological wars often end in shooting wars.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Nixon's White House Wars: The Battles That Made and Broke a President and Divided America Forever."

© 2021 CREATORS.COM

Get the best of The Sumter Item in your inbox. Sign up for our free daily newsletter.

email address

SUBSCRIBE

[Print](#) [Tweet](#) [Share 4](#) [Share](#)

Sumter city courier celebrates 20 years of service

Track My ROUTE

Did you know you can check your print delivery status? Go to the contacts tab and check your route for delivery updates!

the Sumter ITEM

the Sumter ITEM Friends [Follow](#)

MIDLANDS GIVES
Powered by **CENTRAL CAROLINA Community Foundation**

Midlands Gives breaks record for 2nd year in a row; Sumter, Clarendon, Lee county nonprofits raise thousands - The Sumter Item

The Sumter Item [Follow](#)

For the second year in a row, Midlands Gives Day raised more than \$4 million for hundreds of local nonprofits. Thanks to generous... ([View post](#))

01:00PM SHARE: [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#)

Powered by Friends2Follow

LATEST NEWS

100 years of the South Carolina PTA

Excellence on center stage: Sumter School District honors campus teachers of year and 3 finalists for district teacher of year

New state law requiring breaks for certain teachers before school board; public participation also listed for Monday meeting

Rotary Club of Sumter-Palmetto to hold vidalia onion sale May 10-12 on West Wesmark Boulevard

MIDLANDS GIVES
Powered by **CENTRAL CAROLINA Community Foundation**

Midlands Gives breaks record for 2nd year in a row; Sumter, Clarendon, Lee county nonprofits raise thousands

we have life insurance. so you can enjoy all of life's moments. simple human sense.

CRW INSURANCE
25 E. Calhoun, St., Sumter, SC
803-775-1168
[crwis.com](#)

Auto-Owners
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sumter Community Concert Band to perform movie, musical soundtracks at Patriot Hall on May 7

The Sumter Community Concert Band invites the public to go on a movie-musical ride at its spring concert on Sunday, May 7. Since Nov. 14, 1982, the band has hosted concerts to fulfill its four major purposes: to provide an opportunity for ...

This isn't 'goodbye' but simply 'see you later': More than 100 alumni, current dancers take the stage at the 43rd Freed Reunion Concert

For two days, April 28-29, Patriot Hall swelled with the sounds of taps, claps, laughter and cheers for the Freed School of Performing Arts 43rd Reunion Concert. Andrea Freed-Levenson, the school's owner and artistic director, beamed about this ...

MOVIES WITH ISAIAH: 'Are you There God? It's Me, Margaret' is heartwarming tale certain to bring back memories of those raised in the '70s

Coming-of-age stories create a specific gateway for the audience to experience fond reflections of their childhood. Curiosity, wonderment and a form of harmless envy reside in my mind when I think of how my parents lived through the full extent of ...

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

REBATES UP TO \$600*

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

BOYKIN
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES
COMFORT...IT'S WHAT WE DO
803.778.1937

[LEARN MORE](#)

THE RESTAURANT at Second Mill
(803) 774-0270
SOUTHERN • BAR • GRILL
2390 Broad Street (inside The Quality Inn)
[THESECONDMILL.COM](#)

MORE ARTICLES TO READ

Editorial cartoon: Thursday, May 4, 2023

Opinion: Circumstances at Morris require immediate attention

Opinion: When someone knocks on your door

Column by Sumter Pastor Joey Durham: The saved should be motivated to honor our Savior

The 81st Annual **Iris Festival** [IRISFESTIVAL.ORG](#) MAY 25-28, 2023

SECTIONS **SERVICES** **the Sumter ITEM** **CONNECT WITH US**

Newsletters Lifestyle About Us 36 W Liberty St, Sumter, SC 29150 [f](#) [t](#)
 News Classified Contact Us 803-774-1200
 Sports Magazines Advertising Rates newstip@theitem.com
 Sumter Today Contests
 Obituaries Contact Us