

Opinion / Editorial

MAINSTREAM MEDIA CONTINUES TO LOSE CREDIBILITY OVER IRAN WAR

By Bill Connor

As Donald Trump is attempting negotiations with the Iranian regime leadership, progressives in the media continue to harm us. From the first day of the kinetic phase of Operation Epic Fury, Democrats and media allies viciously attacked Trump and demanded a vote on the War Powers Act to stop operations. <https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/us-israel-strike-iran-democrats-call-immediate-vote-trump-war-powers> This group predicted the operation would bog America down in another Iraq war with horrendous casualties. That didn't happen, and no ground troops were used. Days before the April 7 ceasefire, Sky News reported the following about the left's perfidy: "Centre of the American Experiment

President John Hinderaker claims the Democrats have been rooting for the mullahs in Operation Epic Fury. 'The Democrats have been rooting for the mullahs, hoping that we'll fail in Iran and nothing that Trump says will please them,' Mr Hinderaker told Sky News host Rita Panahi. 'Most Americans support the action in Iran and want it to succeed, but they also want it to end.'" <https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/rita-panahi/nothing-will-please-them-dems-rooting-for-mullahs-in-usiran-war/video/c48ff5d58fabaa5ac5d59841a2d45d9> Democrats and the liberal media lost much credibility starting with the Russian collusion hoax, through COVID-19 origin misreporting, and finally the coverup of Joe Biden's mental decline. They are now harming America's efforts to prevent the catastrophe of a nuclear Iran and this



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must stop.

Many in the mainstream liberal media and Democrat allies are taking the preposterous position that Operation Epic Fury made things worse for US security. As the New Yorker put it "it's back to square one, or worse" <https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-lede/the-epic-disaster-of-operation-epic-fury>. That's despite the US and Israel destroying Iran's Air Force, Navy, Air Defense and two tiers of leadership. That's despite destroying most of Iran's nuclear processing and missile production capability. Despite the Iranian economy left in ruins and continuing US Blockade of Iran depriving the regime of half a billion dollars a day. The ceasefire negotiations are moving towards Iran giving up nuclear capability and enriched uranium and opening the Strait of Hormuz. During Epic Fury, the world learned Iran lied about its missile ranges, claiming only 2000 kilometer ranges, when the truth was 4000 kilometers (putting Europe at risk).

Though negotiations are tough right now due primarily to the decimated regime leadership, the regime is a hollow shell. All this came at the loss of only 13 service members. No ground troops were used. We are not bogged down as was predicted. The chance of the regime being overthrown by the people of Iran is high in the coming months. All this accomplished in a matter of weeks, versus 20 years for Iraq/Afghanistan.

Media malfeasance comes down to predictable bias due to being aligned with progressivism and the Democratic Party. An alignment that has become tighter every year. In 1971, the percent of journalists identifying as Democrat was virtually equal to the 25% who identified Republican (remainder identified as Independent). By 2022 Republican identifying journalists were only 3.4% and Democrats were 36% https://www.theamericanjournalist.org/files/ugd/46a507_4fe1c4d6ec6d4c229895282965258a7a.pdf. Journalism schools are now virtually free of conservatives among both faculty and students. Aspiring journalists quickly learn to adapt to the liberal media culture and this continues into the newsroom. Young journalists in places like the New York Times have caused the resignation of moderate editors. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/07/business/media/james-bennet-resigns-nytimes-op-ed.html>

Due to this dynamic, trust in the media among conservatives is now under 15%. According to the Christian Science Monitor "Overall trust in the media has been falling for decades..... Four in ten Americans today say they have "no confidence" in the media's reporting, while only 32% have a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence. Back in 2003, when Gallup asked the same question, only 1 in 10 expressed "no confidence" while more than half expressed confidence. <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2024/0503/news-media-decline-polarization-distrust>. On issue after issue, the media is with the Democrats. For example, Americans are almost equally split on the abortion issue and yet 90% of media leaders are pro-choice <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/american-media-proabortion-and-it-shows-9657>. This helps answer the overwhelmingly biased coverage against the pro-life half of America. Though Trump won an elective landslide in 2024, during the 2024 ABC Presidential debate between Trump and Harris, Trump was having to debate the moderators who were fact checking

Family & Marriage

The Two-Legged Marriage

"If a couple isn't following God's guidelines for life or being led by the Holy Spirit, disagreements and misunderstandings skyrocket." – Elizabeth George

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." – Bible (Acts 1:8)

Jim was in need of a new tripod for his camera, but he was very particular. It had to be one that was designed well and would meet all his needs. He was having a hard time finding what he wanted. After shopping in the local stores his wife invited him to take a break and go visit some garage sales with her. He wasn't much of a garage-sales person, but it gave him some time to spend with his wife. And maybe he could find a good used tripod. The first garage-sale they where they stopped had a lot of miscellaneous paraphernalia, including some old cameras. He told the nice lady running the garage-sale what he was looking for. She immediately said she had just what he needed. It was a new tripod, top of the line, weather resistant, and lightweight. It folded up and fitted neatly into a backpack. It adjusted to fit any camera. The nice lady was practically willing to give it away. As Jim inspected the tripod, he noticed it was really a bipod – it only had two of the three legs. The nice lady said that made it even lighter and easier to pack. Jim said thanks to the nice lady but decided he would keep looking for a three-legged tripod. Many marriages are like the two-legged "tripod" at the garage-

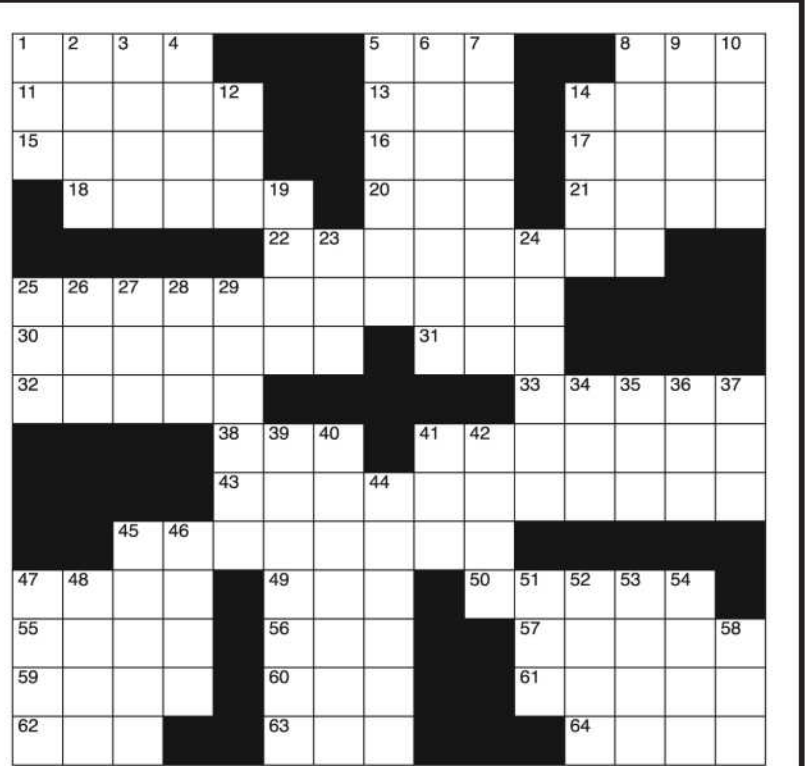
sale. The married couple goes to church, and they believe in God. If asked "Who is God, the Father?" they have an answer. Again, if asked to "Describe God, the Son," they don't have a problem. But ask them, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" They may struggle. They're just not sure. However, when the present of the Holy Spirit is not recognized in a marriage, God's influence in a marriage is significantly diminished. In fact, the Bible says, "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit." (Bible, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b) We may try to live a good life and treat our spouse and children well. We may go to church and even listen to what the preacher says, but when we walk out the door, we often forget what we have just heard, and continue to live our worldly life. We get upset at our spouse, mad at our children, and have a terrible day at work. We act as if we are on our own, and without the third part of the tripod, e.g. the Trinity, we struggle – to do what's right or even to know what's right.

It will help us a great deal if we remember that God knew we would need help. He didn't leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit because He knew we needed the Holy Spirit to live Godly lives. Following are some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit Is Personal. He is a divine person. He thinks and knows. He can be grieved. He intercedes. He comforts and counsels. The Holy Spirit Is Divine. The Holy Spirit possesses the char-



Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

acteristics of God. He is omnipresent: He is omniscient. He is eternal. He does things that only God can do. He is a part of the Trinity. He IS God. The Holy Spirit leads believers away from the desires of the flesh and into righteousness. He produces fruit that makes every believer more like Christ. The Holy Spirit is also active among unbelievers, in giving us that feeling that something is amiss. Because the Holy Spirit is personal, we can know Him and fellowship with Him; because He is divine, we can worship and obey Him; because He is active, we can rely on His perfect work in our lives. [Many of the illustrations above come from Max Lucado's book "Unshakable Hope," and www.gotquestions.org] Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.

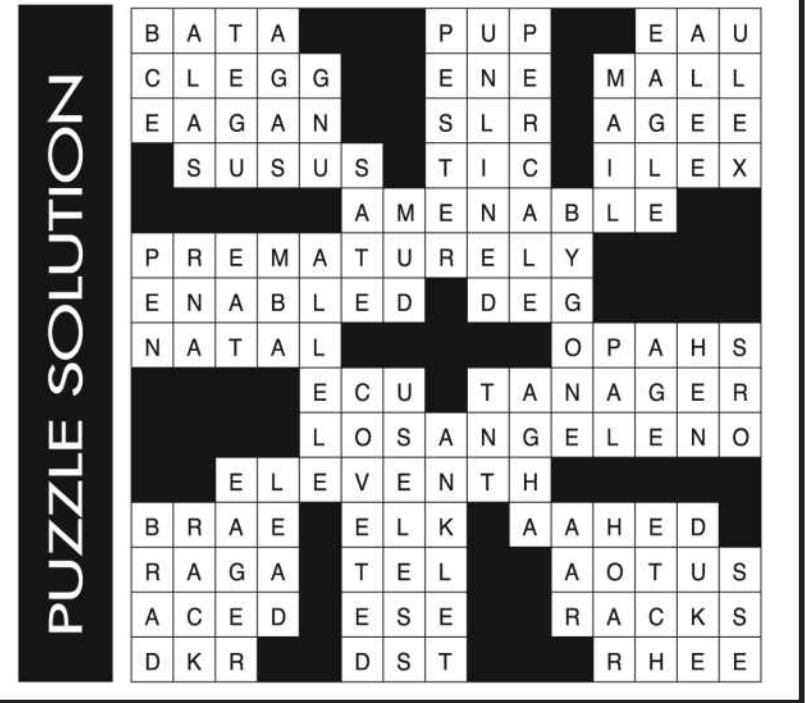


CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. A young canine
8. Cologne
11. Fictional British P.I.
13. Midway between northeast and east
14. A place to shop
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Single lens reflex
17. NY Mets great Tommie
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Habitual twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent or submit
25. In an early way
30. Made possible
31. Language in Ghana
32. Relating to one's birth
33. Deep-bodied fishes
38. Defunct European currency
41. Small American songbird
43. One from L.A.
45. After tenth
47. Hillside
49. Red deer
50. Partner to "oohed"
55. Indian musical pattern
56. Israeli city __ Aviv
57. Golden peas plant
59. Breezed through
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Frameworks
62. Danish krone
63. Fall back
64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Turkish leader title
5. Nag
6. Blank
7. Closely woven cotton fabric
8. A nice shot in golf
9. Away from wind
10. Evergreen shrub genus
12. Large African antelope
14. Something you receive
19. Satisfy
23. Wet dirt
24. No longer here
25. Writing utensil
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Consume food
28. Licensed for Wall Street
29. Alternative forms of a gene
34. Buddy
35. We all do it
36. Chicken
37. No seats available
39. Yearned to possess
40. Ineffectual
41. Explosive
42. Turkish title
44. Worn near the foot
45. Impatient
46. Set an example for others
47. Actor Pitt
48. Instrument of torture
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. A way to print
54. Storied college hoops program
58. Midway between south and southeast



his assertions while leaving Harris to lie without objection <https://nypost.com/2024/09/11/us-news/trump-was-fact-checked-by-abc-moderators-5-times-while-harris-was-left-alone/>

During the COVID crisis, the media generally held conservatives in condescension for expressing the view COVID may have originated in the Wuhan lab. Over time the "lab leak" theory has become the consensus position. When conservatives began to believe certain companies were censoring conservative viewpoints, media lampooned the alleged "conspiracy theorists". In 2022 Elon Musk purchased Twitter and proved Twitter had been censoring conservatives. Mark Zuckerberg later apologized for giving in to pressure from the Biden administration to censor <https://www.reuters.com/technology/zuckerberg-says-biden-administration-pressured-meta-censor-covid-19-content-2024-08-27/>

I attended the US Army War College as a Colonel. We were taught to recognize potential for bias and that most military officers were conservative. To critically think, we had to consider and compensate for that potential bias. The media makes no attempt to even admit much greater bias.

The misreporting of Iran has encouraged the regime to hold out. Regime leaders know about our media bias and believe the media will convince Americans they lost. It's time Americans demanded better from an institution purposed to act as neutral watchdog.

SUDOKU

		9	3					
	4	2				9		
		1	4			7		
	1	6			7	2		
3							1	5
	5		7				6	3
			2					8
4			1					

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	2	5	9	8	1	3	6	4
8	6	4	3	5	2	7	9	1
3	9	1	6	4	7	8	5	2
9	1	8	2	9	6	4	7	3
9	7	3	4	1	8	5	2	6
6	4	2	7	3	5	9	1	8
2	8	7	5	6	4	1	3	9
1	3	6	7	8	2	9	4	5
4	5	9	2	1	3	6	8	7

ANSWER