



# *Last Days Beacon*

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## **CALIFORNIA: HOW LIBERALS, PROGRESSIVES, COMMUNISTS, AND ILLEGALS TURNED THE GOLDEN STATE INTO ONE BIG ROTTEN MESS**



*By Carol Rushton*

Sun-kissed beaches that go on for miles. An almost perfect climate year-round. The majestic Redwood Forest. Theme and adventure parks. Rose Bowl Parade. Pacific Coast Highway. Golden Gate Bridge. Disneyland.

For over 150 years, the State of California has been the land of dreams for many Americans and non-Americans. People of all ages, backgrounds, and talents (real or imagined) have been attracted by California's promise of fame and fortune.

Sadly, the California many of us visited and heard about is no more. It is in the latter stages of almost complete disintegration. Americans are no longer flocking to California; they are fleeing the insanity that "the land of fruits and nuts" has become.

What has happened to this beautiful, wonderful state? California is now hurtling down the abyss so rapidly that no one can ignore it. This short article will highlight some of the destructive paths Californians have chosen that should serve as a wake-up call to the rest of our country.

### **AS HOLLYWOOD GOES, SO GOES CALIFORNIA**

Political commentators list various reasons for what has happened to California but I believe a major reason is because of the film industry which drives a lot of the extreme progressive, leftist elements in the state.

From the beginning, Hollywood, and the artistic community in general, was not known for having the highest moral standards. Many are the anecdotes of young, wannabe starlets having to

“accommodate” a powerful film producer or director on the infamous casting couch in order to secure a role in a film or television series.

When an entity has low moral standards, whether it is a business, industry, government, or country, this usually leads to deteriorating standards in other areas. Most of the Hollywood crowd has never embraced Christian values. A few Christians have been fortunate to make it in Hollywood but not very many. Generally, you have to compromise or abandon your Christian values to make it in Hollywood. With no Judeo-Christian moral compass to guide them, the vast majority working in the entertainment industry in California have drifted and embraced more and more liberal, progressive, and sometimes hard left progressive/communist tenets.

While most in the film industry were at least outwardly patriotic and supportive of our military during World War II, some had secret, very liberal if not outright leftist political leanings. The following list of Hollywood actors and actresses who supported Communists and communist political thought is stunning: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Katherine Hepburn, Danny Kaye, Gregory Peck, Gene Kelly, Burt Lancaster, Henry Fonda, Judy Garland, Ira Gershwin (Dr. Paul Kengor, *The Communist*, 2012, Threshold Editions and Mercury Ink, pg. 189).

This leftist trend is now like an uncontrollable avalanche barreling down an obstacle-free mountain. It is now unthinkable to be a conservative or a Christian in Hollywood. If you are, you have to keep it under wraps or you will not get or keep a job in the film or entertainment industry. You will be more likely to be accepted in Hollywood if you are an atheist, progressive, or even an outright Marxist. Some of the more famous and outspoken leftists/progressives of today include Barbra Streisand, Sean Penn, Meryl Streep, Jane Fonda, Debra Messing, Bette Midler, Alyssa Milano, Leonardo DiCaprio, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and Cher, among others.

Hollywood heavyweights rake in millions of dollars from each movie or television program they make. Money equals power, and power equals influence. As the Hollywood elite have become more leftist and progressive, they have poured more of their money into politics and have been more and more successful at changing the balance of political power in California. California used to be a solidly conservative, Republican state. Not anymore. The state legislature, governor, and bureaucracy are solidly, not just Democrat, but far left socialist, passing laws that reflect that political ideology.

One thing that has changed the state dramatically has been the ability of illegal aliens to get driver's licenses that also allow them to vote. Since 1993, California has automatically registered to vote anyone who applies for a California state driver's license. The Motor Voter Law paved the way for California eventually passing a law that would allow illegal aliens in California to legally obtain driver's licenses. In 2013, former California Governor Jerry “Moonbeam” Brown signed AB 60 into law.

“The new measure, known as Assembly Bill 60, requires the California Department of Motor Vehicle to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants who can prove their identities, have established California residency and pass driving exams. The law goes into effect no later than January 1, 2015” (Jaqueline Hurtado, Catherine E Shoichet, “New California Law Gives Undocumented Immigrants Driver's Licenses,” October 3, 2013, CNN).

Not only are illegal aliens “alive and well and respected in the state of California,” they are also voting! An article that appeared on *The Daily Caller* website in 2018 admitted that illegal aliens were indeed voting in the state.

“The spate of improper registrations was the second major statewide error at the California DMV in the last two months. The agency admitted in early September that it had mishandled about 23,000 voter registrations by assigning them to the wrong political party or mislabeling vote-by-mail preferences” (Dan Cadman, “California DMV on Improperly Registering License Applicants, Including Aliens, to Vote: Oops!” Center for Immigration Studies, October 11, 2018).

How do you think the average illegal alien, or just regular California citizen, is going to vote when the state automatically registers them to vote? Those registered to vote automatically through their driver’s licenses will vote Democrat every time, which helps to keep the Democrat Party, no matter how insane it becomes, in power in California.

## **KEEPING ITS HEAD ABOVE WATER, LITERALLY**

One casualty of the left/progressive/Marxist Democrat agenda in California has been water. In the last ten years, California’s battle with wildfires have made major headlines. Fires, followed by mud slides, have repeatedly swept and ravaged the state. While much finger pointing occurs after event, two basic issues contribute to this problem.

First of all, proper forest management is important. That includes clearing forests on a regular basis. Over time, dead wood, brush, trees, grasses, and other debris accumulate over a forest’s floor, making the forest susceptible to catching on fire. All it takes is a storm and a lightning strike, or even a careless camper or hiker that doesn’t completely put out a campfire, and a peaceful forest can become a raging inferno very quickly, destroying everything in its path.

In 2018, Reuters reported on the findings of the Little Hoover Commission, a California state agency investigating the causes for the increasing fires in the state. According to the commission’s report, “California’s forests are reaching a breaking point . . . The costs of long neglecting and mismanaging forests have become an unsustainable burden in California.”

The article continues that “the Little Hoover Commission report found poor management policies for the last century have left forests vulnerable to fires. Before Europeans settled in California, Native American fire practices, including periodic low-intensity fires, helped renew forests and keep them from becoming too dense. Policies of aggressively fighting every fire, however, have resulted in the loss of that natural thinning.

“In addition, federal and state restrictions on logging caused timber harvesting in California to decline more than 70 percent between the late 1980s and 2012, according to a U.S. Forest Service Report” (Nicholas Groom, “Explainer: Blame Climate, But Crowded Forests Also Fuel California Fires,” November 14, 2018, Reuters).

The California Environmental Quality Act demands that every governmental action must take into consideration its impact upon the environment, making it virtually impossible to clear the forest of any debris. So, nature has taken its course in the natural way. Firefighters spend not just days but sometimes weeks trying to put out wildfires that California’s insane environmental policies have created. When the rains come after a series of wildfires, there are fewer trees and grass to absorb and use the water. This is why you see the Hollywood elite doing everything they can to protect their homes from fires and then seeing a few months later the mud slides swallowing up those same large mansions.

California also has a water problem. The state has a number of reservoirs but has not built a new one since 1979, 41 years ago. The population of California in 1970 was already almost 20 million. In 2018, the state population had doubled to almost 40 million. What was adequate in the 1970s is sorely inadequate in 2020. Yet California remains stubborn about NOT building any new reservoirs to serve their needs.

Farmers and ranchers in California have complained for years that they do not have enough water resources for their crops and livestock while the radicals in the environmental movement do all they can to protect the "Delta smelt" from extinction, a minnow-like critter that my father would have used for fish bait. The insanity of putting the survival of a small fish before the survival of people in your state should be obvious to all.

Some of the reasons cited for California's refusal to build new reservoirs is that the best places for reservoirs have already been used and also that the state's strict environmental laws make it impossible to build new reservoirs. While the latter reason is certainly true, it's the general population that suffers most when the state experiences drought conditions as it has in recent years.

## HOMELESS IN CALIFORNIA: WELCOME TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

In the 1300s, Europe experienced one of the worst events to ever occur in human history: The Black Death, otherwise known as the Bubonic Plague. Historians have recorded that the plague was brought to Europe by flea-infested rats living on ships that traveled the known world at that time.

Welcome to the homeless crisis in 21<sup>st</sup> century California. The Bubonic Plague is making a comeback.

Every state has a certain amount of their population characterized as homeless, and most states' homeless population is very low. According to a report in 2019, California has over 150,000 homeless, "the highest number since at least 2007, and represents a nearly 17% uptick since 2018. The number of unsheltered Californians - living on the streets or in cars - has surged the past year" (Matt Levin, Jackie Botts, "California's Homeless Crisis - And Possible Solutions - Explained, "December 31, 2019, Cal Matters).

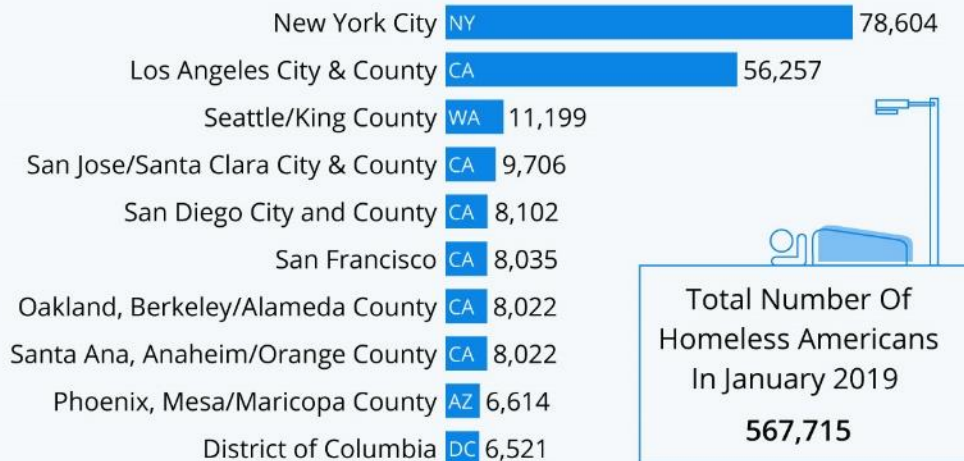
The report continues:

"It's not surprising that California, the largest state, has the biggest homeless population in the country. But while about 1 in 9 Americans lives in California, roughly 1 in 4 homeless Americans lives here. New York and Hawaii have slightly higher per capita rates of homelessness, but California has the largest proportion of people living without shelter. That means the state's homeless population is far more visible than in other places, and more vulnerable to the illness, violence and death that accompany living on the street."

The article doesn't really show the dramatic homeless problem that exists in California. Statista.com gives a more illuminating picture of the problem. Their chart lists the 10 American cities with the highest homeless population. What a surprise. California has the most with six (Niall McCarthy, "The U.S. Cities With The Most Homeless People," January 14, 2020, Statista.com).

# The U.S. Cities With The Most Homeless People

CoCs with the largest numbers of people experiencing homelessness in 2019\*



\* CoC - Continuums of Care that are local planning bodies who coordinate homelessness services in certain areas  
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



statista

The average price of a home in California is one million dollars. If you're a television or movie director, producer, or actor, you can afford a nice house in California because your multi-million-dollar yearly salary enables you to do so. But if you're a regular person with a regular job, you can work until the cows come home and still be living on the streets. Those successful in the movie and other related industries have increased property values so high that any home in California is out of reach for many who live there.

The homeless live any place they can. Some of the more resourceful started erecting makeshift tent homes in alleys, streets, or anywhere there are vacant spaces. Tent cities in Los Angeles and other cities are now common throughout the state. However, the residents of these tent cities do not have access to running water, which means the homeless have no way to clean themselves or their clothes. They have no toilets - unless you use public facilities in businesses or restaurants, providing they will allow the homeless access to them.

But not to worry! California has an answer for that problem - just urinate and defecate on the public streets! If you're a drug addict, you don't have to worry about those pesky needles, you can just throw those on the street, too!

"Medieval Diseases Are Infecting California's Homeless" by Anna Gorman and Kaiser Health News, published March 8, 2019, reports the results of all these great public policies California has implemented.

"Infectious diseases - some that ravaged populations in the Middle Ages - are resurging in California and around the country, and are hitting homeless populations especially hard . . . Our homeless crisis is increasingly becoming a public-health crisis," California Governor Gavin Newsom said in his State of the State speech in February, citing outbreaks of hepatitis A in San Diego County, syphilis in Sonoma County, and typhus in Los Angeles County . . . The diseases spread quickly and widely among people living outside or in shelters, helped along by sidewalks contaminated with human feces, crowded living conditions, weakened immune systems, and limited access to health care . . . There were 167 cases of typhus from January 1 2018, through February 1 of this year, up from 125 in 2013 and 13 in 2008 . . ."

The homeless problem has become so bad that San Francisco lost the opportunity to host a large medical convention that would have brought the city at least \$40 million in revenue.

Can you say, "unintended consequences"?

You might ask, "But doesn't any of this bother the rich and famous?"

Are you kidding? Not one little bit! California's "beautiful people" live in lavish suburbs with gated communities, behind high walls covered with higher bushes and shrubs, far away from the common riff raff. Besides, they're too busy flying to glamorous locales for lavish vacations or award shows where they pose on the red carpet wearing clothes they will toss after one appearance that cost more than most of us make in a month, all the while lecturing the rest of us that we should downsize our lifestyles, homes, expenses and travel to "save the planet."

## LAWLESS IN CALIFORNIA

The state's crazy progressive policies are also negatively affecting the state's businesses and companies.

California's business owners are struggling to survive. It's hard to attract shoppers to come into your store when homeless people are living, sleeping, defecating, and urinating right outside the doors of your shop. Some business owners recently tried to install barriers disguised as planters filled with cactus plants outside their shops to discourage the homeless filling up the streets, but they were condemned by the "compassionate" progressives. The outcry by progressives against planters and other objects that business owners installed to protect their businesses was so great that they bullied local officials to pressure business owners to remove the planters.

Then there is the new shoplifting law. Proposition 47, also known as The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, was passed in 2014 by California voters. What an Orwellian term! Proposition 47 is anything but safe for the regular citizens and is a boon for those who can't wait to break the law. Supporters touted the lowering of certain crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. One of those was shoplifting. Any person in California must steal at least \$950 worth of merchandise before they can be arrested and prosecuted. "California's Prop 47 Leads to Rise in Shoplifting, Thefts, Criminal Activity Across State" by Barnini Chakraborty, published by Fox News on November 1, 2019 gives a good overview of the anarchy occurring across the state.

"In a lighted garage on one of San Francisco's busiest streets, a young man in baggy trousers and messy brown hair pulled down his pants. He had been hiding two pairs of stolen jeans with the tags still on them. He handed them to another man waiting nearby, took some money, pulled up his pants

and headed back into another store on Market Street - home to the city's high-end designers and big-chain retail shops.

"The incident wasn't a one-off. These brazen acts of petty theft and shoplifting are a dangerous and all-too-common consequence of Proposition 47, a referendum passed five years ago that critics say effectively gives shoplifters and addicts the green light to commit crimes as long as the merchandise they steal or the drugs they take are less than \$950 in value. The decision to downgrade theft of property valued below the arbitrary figure from felony to misdemeanor, together with selective enforcement that focuses on more "serious" crimes, has resulted in thieves knowing they can brazenly shoplift and merchants knowing the police will not respond to their complaints, say critics . . .

"Since Proposition 47 was passed, there has been an increase in theft across the state. Cities like San Francisco have seen organized crime rings turn shoplifting into a well-organized racket involving desperate thieves and unscrupulous black-market resellers.

"Among the nation's 20 largest cities, San Francisco now has the highest rate of property crime, which includes theft, shoplifting and vandalism.

"Del Seymour, founder of the non-profit Code Tenderloin, told Fox News that fencers - often from Mexico and Guatemala - set up shop in the middle of the day and night around the city's United Nations Plaza area. He said he's also noticed that the stealers and dealers have gotten bolder by the day. The retail heists taking place, he said, aren't some small-time operation but instead a sophisticated network of international dealers who cross the border to buy stolen goods. What's worse is that a majority of the handoffs happen in view of San Francisco's City Hall."

San Francisco is not the only city that has this problem. Shoplifting is exploding across the state. The above article quotes Rachel Michelin, president of the California Retailers Association that the shoplifters "bring in calculators and get all the way up to the \$950 limit . . . one person will go into a store, fill up their backpack, come out, dump it out and go right back in and do it all over again . . . They know no one is going to prosecute them."

How in the world can a business owner survive in a state that has basically legalized rampant stealing?

## **ANARCHY AND THE LORD OF THE FLIES**

There simply is not enough space to detail all of California's failed programs, such as the high-speed rail boondoggle, the end of cash bail for criminals, and other insanities. However, the following report by Heather Knight, "Lord of the Flies": Fights, Bullying, Chaos Upend San Francisco Middle School," published by *The San Francisco Chronicle* on February 14, 2020 about what is happening at Aptos Middle School is a real eye-opener and describes perfectly what is going in California:

"One of the scariest incidents at Aptos this school year occurred in September, when two girls attacked a sixth-grade girl on the schoolyard. The girls pulled the sixth-grader to the ground by her hair, pulled a chunk of it out of her skull and kicked her in the face and the back of her head.

"Lisa Merrall, the girl's mother, said the same girls had yanked her daughter's hair before, and her daughter reported it to her counselor, who did nothing about it . . . School administrators held a

'restorative justice' meeting with the families of each girl. That's the school district's preferred way of resolving disputes, and it centers on mediation and acknowledging harm.

"There were no apologies,' Merrall said. When asked specifically what they would do differently, the girl said, 'Well, I guess I wouldn't have kicked her in the face.' . . . Those girls have approached her (Merrall's daughter) multiple times since then and said, 'You better keep your mouth shut, you little bitch.' . . . 'It's kind of 'Lord of the Flies' around here,'" Merrall said.

"Cristine Egami said kids have kicked her son repeatedly and rubbed orange peels in his eyes. She said one of his teachers warned him he'd probably get beaten up if he reported the other kids' behavior.

"It's this systematic terrorization by whoever the heck is roaming the halls that day,' said Egami's Husband, Kiyoshi . . ."

What we are seeing in California is the destruction of the civil society into complete and total anarchy right before our eyes. If Californians don't wake up soon, California will be undistinguishable from Venezuela.

Editor's Note: There is an encouraging development in California as patriots in the New California State movement are planning to secede from "Old California" within the next two years. Go to [www.NewCaliforniaState.com](http://www.NewCaliforniaState.com) for details.

**Are you a Patriot?**  
**Are your God given rights vanishing before your eyes?**

**Do you want a Constitutional government?**  
Californians are fleeing the state at record levels. Taxes on everything, escalating prices, too many regulations, constant attempts against our 2nd amendment rights, forced vaccinations, a horrible education system, and the list goes on and on.  
Our state government is operating like a dictatorship, not constitutionally.

**Voter fraud and corruption is so deep we can't vote them out!**  
What to do?

**STAND YOUR GROUND!**  
There is a Constitutional solution to these issues. We can re-establish and restore our Constitutional freedoms following the same process as West Virginia to establish their statehood.

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We are using the Constitution to restore our freedom and unalienable rights given to us by God.

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