

## School Choice or No Choice

By Donna Garner

Education Policy Commentator *EducationViews.org*

With all the vicious and deadly riots occurring around the U. S., the public is finally waking up to the fact that our nation's young people of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds have been "brainwashed."

Let's look carefully at the rioters that we see on social media and on the nightly news. The one thing most of them have in common is that they are young people.

No, they are not all people of color. In fact, if a person starts noticing, a huge percentage are white.

### WHO SHOULD GET THE BLAME?

I keep waiting for some leader in our country to put the blame right where it belongs – at the feet of Obama and his Common Core Standards. While most of the nation slept, Obama (almost on his first day in office) pushed this social justice, Marxist, socialist, Communist belief system straight into nearly all curriculum standards and teaching units.

Because of the radical shift in standards, Common Core forced Pre-K through 12 schools to purchase all new curriculum, most

of it digitized and produced by unknown leftists from who knows where.

The "Race to the Top" funds from the feds were contingent upon implementing the Common Core Standards. Of course, the colleges/universities were only too glad to follow suit since many of the professors for years had been spouting that same dogma.

For ten years, students in Pre-K through 16 have had a steady diet of this leftist dogma; and the seeds for these riots were sown, waiting only for this moment in time to ripen into full-blown Antifa and BLM anarchists.

Once the dogma was thoroughly imbedded in the curriculum in nearly every subject area, it has been very difficult to pull it out. Homeschoolers and private school students have not escaped this leftist dogma either because the man who was the architect of the Common Core (David Coleman) became the president of the College Board. He quickly announced publicly that all CB products would be aligned with Common Core — that means Pre-SAT, SAT, and Advanced Placement – all of which impact students

in every educational setting throughout the country. The ACT followed suit as have other testing programs throughout the nation.

"What gets tested gets taught." The reason for this is that if students are going to do well on a test, they have to understand the philosophy that controls the type of answers required on the Common-Core-driven tests.

Because of the takeover by Obama's Common Core Standards, traditional, fact-based curriculum (a.k.a., Type #1) was thrown aside and was replaced 24/7, Pre-K through 16 with what is referred to as Type #2.

Please take the time to study carefully the differences between Type #1 vs. Type #2 as shown in this chart:

11.4.13 — Type #1 vs. Type #2 Chart — <http://www.educationviews.org/comparison-types-education-type-1-traditional-vs-type-2-cscope-common-core/>

### WHY IS KNOWING THIS IMPORTANT?

As a classroom teacher for over 33 years, I believe that every parent should have the right to

*Continued on page 2*

choose the best type of educational setting for his/her children.

I have taught in public, private, homeschool, and online settings. We have two sons of our own and five grandchildren with experiences in varied educational environments.

I also understand that school choice has become widely acclaimed particularly after parents during COVID have begun to pay more attention to what

their children are studying. Many parents do not like what they are seeing.

The big problem is this: ***IF ALL CURRICULUM IS TYPE #2/COMMON CORE, THEN PARENTS HAVE NO REAL "CHOICE."***

**To take back our children's hearts, minds, and souls from the leftist dogma, we must move every educational setting into Type #1, traditional, fact-based standards and curriculum. If we do not do this,**

**then our nation will keep on producing more of these badly deceived young people who have been stripped of learning the most basic, common sense, knowledge and skills.**

From the standpoint of the student, there can be no mixing of Type #1 and Type #2. Either there are right or wrong answers based upon time-honored facts; OR people's opinions, feelings, and beliefs are what is of ultimate importance.

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## All Mail Balloting: A Convenience or a Rigged Election Ploy?

As we draw closer to the November 3, 2020, General Election, those calling for universal vote by mail continue to push to make vote by mail the norm everywhere in our country. Those who oppose this point to the many cases of vote fraud in those states that have legalized such voting as well as calling out the numerous cases of vote fraud in routine absentee voting nation-wide.

Absentee voting is essential for those who truly have reasons for not being able to vote in person. However, our voting should be considered as a duty, not just a convenience.

What is the truth about vote fraud or even problems with receiving and counting mail in ballots?

The Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Database presents a sampling of recent proven instances of election fraud from across the country. This database is not an exhaustive or comprehensive list. It is intended to demonstrate the vulnerabilities in the election

system and the many ways in which fraud is committed.

They show on their website 14 Alabama cases of vote fraud that led to convictions between 2004



and 2019. All but one involved the fraudulent use of absentee ballots. Nationwide, they report 1296 proven cases.

An article in *TownHall.com* by Beth Baumann posted on 8/30/2020 shows that voting by mail is prone to error, whether all mail voting or regular absentee ballots. She documented:

- A reporter in Pennsylvania conducted a mock election to

see how many ballots would be returned to be counted once they were mailed from different parts of Philadelphia. The USPS lost three percent of the ballots.

- Back in May, the Department of Justice pressed charges on a mail carrier for altering mail-in ballot request forms.
- The primary elections in New York's 12th and 15th Congressional Districts took more than six weeks to count because election officials were unprepared for a massive increase in absentee ballots.

According to the article, a Democrat operative in New Jersey admitted that he changed votes in a number of elections for decades. He said that not only had he changed votes, he had led teams of people who did the same thing.

The article went on to explain: "The envelopes were the security feature and there was no way to duplicate them. His team would go to voters and offer to return

*Mail in ballots continued on page 7*

President Trump has signed an Executive Order to bring drug manufacturing back to the U. S. to ensure that U. S. citizens have access to the life saving medicines they need. The order will establish “Buy American” rules for Federal Government agencies. It will strip away regulatory barriers to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, and will help spark the manufacturing technologies needed to keep drug prices low and move more medicine production on shore. From *The White House*

On August 6, 2020, the White House reported that the President has released over \$35 million in Department of Justice grants to go toward the aftercare of human trafficking victims. This comes six months after President Trump issued an executive order to improve methods of fighting modern slavery. The funds will provide assistance in finding safe transitional housing for six to 24 months, occupational training, counseling, permanent housing, and funding for basic home expenses for these victims. From *the White House*

President Donald Trump issued a posthumous pardon Tuesday, August 18, 2020, to celebrate women’s suffragist [Susan B. Anthony](#) to mark the 100th anniversary of the [19th Amendment](#) to the Constitution recognizing the right of women to vote. Anthony was arrested in 1872 for voting in an election at a time in America when only men could vote. She was indicted, convicted of illegal voting, and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and court costs. She had never been pardoned.

From *the White House*, 8/18/2020

The *1619 Project*, an ideologically-driven revisionist history of the United States, has been getting a lot of attention since Senator Tom Cotton (R AR) threatened to offer legislation to defund any school that uses curriculum based upon it. Cotton’s threat appears to have forced the creator of the controversial project to go on the defensive—where others—including historians critical of the premise she built the project from—did not. Now the originator of the *1619 Project* has admitted in a Tweet that the project was not a history, insisting that it was a project of journalism. However, the project has been pushed by the *New York Times* and other supporters as the definitive history of the United States, arguing that the “true” history of the nation started with the arrival of the first slave ship in 1619 rather than from the Declaration of Independence.

*Red State.com 6/27/2020*

The Department of Energy recently announced a settlement to recover \$200 million in taxpayer funds from a loan guarantee issued under the Obama Administration in 2011 for a solar project in Nevada which has consistently faced technical failures. This settlement will maximize the recovery of funds while allowing it to continue in the private sector. (Where it should have been all along.) No funds for this project have been awarded by the Trump administration.

Source: *Department of Energy July 30, 2020*

"Life is like a play: it's not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters."

*SENECA*

“Unfortunately, I have lived long enough to know that history is often not what actually happened but what is recorded as such.”

Memoir of Henry Stimson *On Active Service in Peace and War*

“Men fight for liberty and win it with hard knocks. Their children, brought up easy, let it slip away, poor fools. And their grandchildren, are once more slaves.”

*D.H. Lawrence*

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.” Albert Einstein—from the *Harper Book of Quotations Revised Edition*.

As Edmund Burke wrote over two centuries ago, “Men are qualified for civil liberties in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites. ...Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon the will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without.”

“Unless bureaucracy is constantly resisted it breaks down representative government...having authority over everybody and being responsible to nobody.”

*Calvin Coolidge*

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.” ~*Albert Einstein*

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What is Good about America?  
**Why We Have a Republic, Not a Democracy**  
By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum

When Benjamin Franklin left the meeting of the Constitutional Convention, he was asked, “What have you given us?”. Franklin wisely answered, “ a Republic, if you can keep it.” In our pledge of allegiance, we pledge to the flag of the United States and “to the Republic for which it stands.”

Why quibble over terminology? Is this just the same principle with different titles? Why is this important?

Consider these quotes from our founders: John Adams, Second President of these United States said in 1814, “Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide”, James Madison, primary author of the US Constitution said in *Federalist Paper 10*. “Measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority.”

Edmund Randolph said, “that in tracing these evils to their origin, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy.” Then-Chief Justice John Marshall observed, “Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is between order and chaos.”

What about our enemies? Vladimir Lenin said, “Democracy is indispensable to socialism.” Karl Marx, father of Communism, went farther and said, “Democracy is the road to Socialism.”

Let’s break down the words. The word Democracy comes from two Greek words: *Demos* which means *the people* and *cracy* which means *to rule*. Thus, democracy is the rule of the people.

What could be wrong with that? Let us consider the word Republic. *Republic* comes from a Latin phrase *res publica* which describes a government not ruled by private concerns, thus, without a monarch. Thus, the ownership of the government is a public matter.

The French definition of Republic is, "state in which supreme power rests in the people via elected representatives". Our system is a Constitutional Republic, where our people rule within the confines or guidelines of a stated document that prescribes the limits of government.

James Bovard opined, “Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.” What are the differences between a Republic and a Democracy?

1. A Democracy means that the people rule. The masses can mandate policy. But in a Republic, the people can mandate policy, only up to the limit of the rights of an individual. In a Democracy, the majority can determine to take away your rights, your life or property. In a Republic, you live with the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.
2. A Democracy means that rule comes by the all-powerful majority. In a Republic, the majority cannot cross the boundary of personal rights. A Republic has a written constitution of basic rights that protect the minority from being completely unrepresented or overridden by the majority.
3. A Democracy has free elections. But a Republic has free elections governed by a Constitution and set within boundaries so that individuals are represented.
4. In a Democracy, religious freedom is determined by the will of the majority. A majority can limit the freedom of a minority. In a Constitutional Republic, the rights of the people to worship freely or to abstain from worship is guaranteed.

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5. Issues of free choice and decisions of private property are set by the population in a democracy. In a Republic, these decisions are set by the individuals, with limits set by the Constitution.
6. In a democracy, minority rights are overridden by the majority. Conversely, a Republic system protects the rights of minority groups or an individual.
7. In a democracy, the rule of the majority of people prevails, whereas in the case of the republic, the rule of law prevails.

In coming newsletters, we will further consider the implications of the difference between a Republic and Democracy. With the very structure of our liberty-based system facing challenges, we must lean on the God-granted wisdom of our founders in facing our challenges and preserving our liberty.

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## Wokeness and Its Ties to Marxism

“Wokeness” has become the common nomenclatures for the ideology of left wing activists at colleges, protests and on social media. But what actually does it mean and where did it come from? In an article from the *Daily Signal*, the online news from *The Heritage Foundation*, dated August 2, 2020 entitled, “How Wokeness is a Product of Marxism”, Jarret Stepman writes about a panel discussion at *The Heritage Foundation*. At that discussion, James Lindsey, an author, stated that, “Wokeness is a fusion of the critical theory school of neo-Marxism, which is a form of identity politics, and radical activism that separates everything into oppressed vs oppressors.”

Marxism is a mostly economic theory, which we know has led to massive oppression everywhere it has been tried. Traditional Marxism ideas were adopted but changed in the 1920’s by Antonio Gramsci which led to what is known as the Frankfurt school of critical theory. This focused on shaping culture, according to Lindsey. It combined traditional Marxism with Freudian psychology and other social theories to change the way people think. This is what led to the activists of the 1960’s, which burned out over time, but many of those radicals embedded themselves into our schools and universities and have taught their theories to the generations since.

Lindsay said, “It has all of the conflict theory—separate the world into oppressors versus oppressed classes... with no ability to understand one another...and then takes on the postmodern understanding of truth being just politics by other means, which removes all of the brakes standing up against it.” Seeing the world through that lens is what constitutes “wokeness.”

Mike Gonzales, a senior fellow at *The Heritage Foundation*, stated that, “ ‘Anti-racism’ training is a con, but we have to take it seriously because there is a strong ideological component of it. The true name of anti-racism training is consciousness-raising struggle sessions.”

Christopher Rufo, from the *Center on Wealth and Poverty* at the *Discovery Institute*, said that, “This ideology has become the default ideology of the bureaucracy in the Human Resources organization of both government and industry.” This explains such things as the training sessions by the U.S. Army’s Equity and Inclusion Agency at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. AL Rep. Mo Brooks opposed the teaching of racist and political ideas with taxpayer funds. But, the agency said that they will continue to hold such sessions at all military commands. We are glad to report that on September 4, 2020, President Trump directed Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify all such training within the federal government, including the military, and ensure that they cease and desist from using taxpayer dollars to fund these divisive un-American propaganda training sessions. We applaud this strong action.

Of course, we know the true source of all of “woke ideology”. It is denial of God and His eternal truths.

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## Marxism vs Christianity

While young people have too often been indoctrinated by government schools and universities to accept Marxism, many others in America who claim to be Christians also have been drawn to Marxism by the misguided desire to help the downtrodden and to promote equality and fairness, thinking it is the answer to all the ills of our society. This is not new. Carl Marx was actively promoting his ideas during the late 19th century in London. As he preached his humanist ideology, the famed preacher Charles Spurgeon was preaching against it. If not for his active voice against this Godless ideology, it may well have taken over England at that time. We are seeing the fruits of those being indoctrinated in Marxism in the riots in our streets here in America, where activists have hijacked the cause of civil rights to push Marxism. We must recognize it for what it is, an attempt to overthrow the American government with the goal of ushering in their “Marxist utopia.”

In a sermon on Isaiah 66 in April 1889, Charles Spurgeon, recognizing that many had confused the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the cheap, secular knock-off proclaimed by Marx and his ilk, thundered from his pulpit:

"For many a year, by the grand old truths of the gospel, sinners were converted, and saints were edified, and the world was made to know that there is a God in Israel. But these are too antiquated for the present cultured race of superior beings! They are going to regenerate the world by Democratic Socialism, and set up a kingdom for Christ without the new birth or the pardon of sin. Truly the Lord has not taken away the seven thousand that have not bowed the knee to Baal ...

The latter-day gospel is not the gospel by which we were saved. To me it seems a tangle of ever-changing dreams. It is, by the confession of its inventors, the outcome of the period—the monstrous birth of a boasted “progress”—the scum from the cauldron of conceit. It has not been given by the infallible revelation of God—it does not pretend to have been. It is not divine—it has no inspired Scripture at its back. It is, when it touches the Cross, an enemy! When it speaks of Him who died thereon, it is a deceitful friend. Many are its sneers at the truth of substitution—it is irate at the mention of the precious blood. Many a pulpit, where Christ was once lifted high in all the glory of His atoning death, is now profaned by those who laugh at justification by faith. In fact, men are not now to be saved by faith but by doubt. Those who love the Church of God feel heavy at heart because the teachers of the people cause them to err. Even from a national point of view, men of foresight see cause for grave concern."

Quote from *Karl Marx vs Charles Spurgeon: An Epic Struggle for the Souls of Men in 19th-Century London* Published by Larry on July 29, 2020. For the entire article, go to: <http://larryalextaunton.com/2020/07/Karl-marx-vs-charles-spurgeon-an-epic-struggle-for-the-souls-of-men-in-19th-century-london/>

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### Americans Are Academically Ill-Equipped to Defend the Constitution

*The Heritage Foundation* reports that just 23% of American eighth-graders are proficient in civics, according to the *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*. That number drops to 9% for African Americans and 12 % for Hispanic students. Only 18% of eighth graders are proficient in U. S. History. They report that former Pepperdine University President David Davenport discovered that students pursuing a Master of Public Policy had never read the Constitution.

Instead of presenting civics as essential content, many schools have cast aside these basics for a politicized “action” civics focused on neighborhood organizing and engagement with special interest groups. While there are those who propose federal programs to solve this problem, we CANNOT rely on government programs to solve this problem. Classroom, or homeschooling, is essential in this area, but civic learning takes place beyond the wall of the schoolhouse. It happens in youth and faith-based groups and summer camps as well as at home—where learning begins and a child’s first and foremost educators, his or her parents, reside.

Based upon a piece originally published in *The National Interest* at <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/americans-are-academically-ill-equipped-defend-Constitution-143092>

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their ballots. When voters would agree, the team would take those ballots, use boiling water to loosen the glue, pop open the envelope, pull out the real ballot, replace with the fraudulent ballot and re-seal the envelope. Each ballot took less than five minutes to change.”

They went on to say that they had mail carriers in on the act. A mail carrier in a mostly Republican area would throw out ballots knowing that the vast majority would be Republican. Or, instead of delivering ballots, they would turn over ballots to the operatives to be voted and returned.

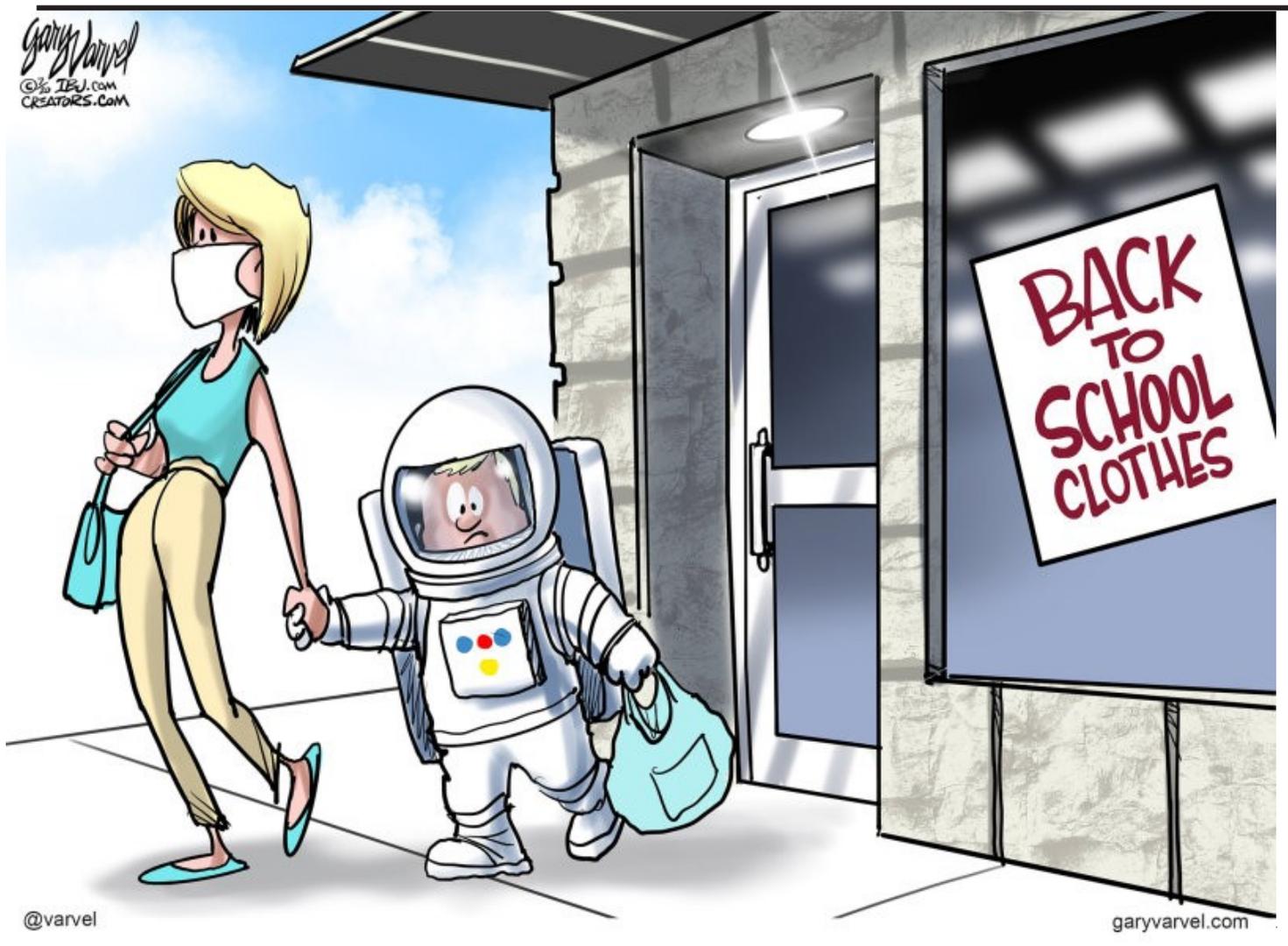
Added to those examples of blatant vote fraud are problems encountered by voters due to mis-

delivery or delayed deliveries of ballots by the U.S. Postal Service, as well as the higher rejection rates of absentee ballots. Ballots can be rejected by unscrupulous workers who can disqualify votes as the ballots come in prior to the counting process. They can base this on the most minute perceived error while they are actually disqualifying ballots based upon zip codes. The only way to know that this is not happening is to have poll watchers involved in the ballot certification process prior to the time the ballots are removed from the cover envelop. But this is rarely done as this occurs on a continuous basis as the ballots are received.

In universal mail in voting, the

ballots are mailed out to every registered voter. With the number undeliverable ballots that can be “redirected” or gathered up by those who would fraudulently vote the ballots and send them in to be counted, elections would be open to major fraud that could easily change the vote totals and the results of the election.

Again, while there are people who should be able to vote an absentee ballot based upon legitimate reasons, the best way to ensure that your vote is counted is to vote in person where you can enter the ballot yourself into the counting machine. If we can go to the grocery store, we very likely can go to the polls.





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