



SPOTLIGHT

Trump vs. DeSantis on AI: Who's Right?

By Dale M. Glading

President Trump and Gov. DeSantis are locking horns again... and I sure hope Gov. DeSantis wins this time.

No, they are not battling over the GOP presidential nomination, since President Trump is term-limited in 2028 and Gov. DeSantis faces strong headwinds should he decide to run against Trump's two heir apparents - Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Actually, this intra-party squabble may turn out to be far more important than who sits behind the Resolute desk for the next four years, beginning January 2029. It has to do with artificial intelligence, how it's used, whether it is regulated, and by whom.

President Trump fired the initial salvo by issuing a one-size-fits-all executive order that will protect the AI industry from individual state restrictions. However, Gov. DeSantis is refusing to relinquish Florida's right to regulate this new and vastly uncharted technology, hence the standoff.

Two Type-A personalities digging in their heels. What could possibly go wrong?

While acknowledging that President Trump has the right

continued on page 4

A Brave New World Isn't So Brave

By Dale M. Glading

*O wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is!
O brave new world, That has such people in 't.*

- William Shakespeare,
The Tempest, Act V, Scene I

A Brave New World is a dystopian novel written by British author Aldous Huxley in 1931. It tells of a futuristic World State in the year 632 AF (After Ford) or 2540 AD where citizens are environmentally engineered to fit into a pre-determined social hierarchy based on their level of intelligence. Embryos are grown in artificial wombs and treated with chemicals to prepare them for their preordained roles in life. For instance, the Alpha class is bred to be leaders, whereas the Epsilon class is manipulated to become menial laborers.

Through a combination of sleep-learning, childhood indoctrination programs, and the use of soma - a soothing, happiness-producing drug - the ruling class manages to control the populace and maintain order. Ironically (and rather tellingly), the citizenry appears to be satisfied with the system that is in place, the goal of which is to produce a pain-free society.

Fast-forward 95 years from the time Huxley picked up his pen - and backtrack 514 years from the date of his supposedly utopian World State - and

you find yourself plunked down in the middle of an America which stands at a critical crossroads. On one side is the rugged individualism espoused by our Founding Fathers that has served us so well for the past 250 years, transforming the United States into the world's greatest economic and military superpower. On the other side is a New Age strain of socialism that is being promulgated from without and within that threatens to destroy the American way of life by replacing capitalism and removing virtually everything that makes us special and unique as a nation.

If these modern-day Marxists have their way, you won't be able to tell the difference between Buffalo and Bolivia, Baltimore and Botswana.

But don't fret. All is not lost... yet.

According to a September 2025 Gallup poll, Americans remain more positive about capitalism than socialism, but the 54% that views capitalism favorably is down from 60% in 2021. Even more alarming is a May 2025 Cato Institute and YouGov survey showing that 62% of Americans aged 18–29 say they hold a "favorable view" of socialism, and 34% feel the same way about communism.

If you are a free market capitalist like me, those numbers are extremely troubling.

The Cato Institute poll did not define "socialism" and so, it is unclear whether the respondents view it in the historical way, where the state owns the means of production, or if

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...



A Crack in the Dike?...Page 2

A Brave New World

Isn't So Brave

continued from page 1

they see socialism as a modern-day “mixed economy” with cradle-to-grave welfare, price controls, and “fairness” enforced by the state.

As Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) wrote in *The Case Against Socialism* (2019), young Americans who identify as socialists don’t even agree on what the term means. Some want government ownership of industries and central planning, while others want heavy regulation, wealth redistribution, and a vast welfare state. However, what unites them is a disdain for capitalism and a preference for collectivism over individualism.

That is so anti-American... or at least it used to be.

As Ayn Rand warned in 1944, “Fascism, Nazism, Communism, and Socialism are only superficial variations of the same monstrous theme - collectivism.” In her 1965 essay titled, *The New Fascism: Rule By Consensus*, Rand added that socialism and fascism “both negate individual rights and subordinate the individual to the collective, both deliver the livelihood and the lives of the citizens into the power of an

omnipotent government - and the differences between them are only a matter of time, degree, and superficial detail”

“A mixed economy is a mixture of freedom and controls” employed together in a vain attempt to fix the alleged flaws in capitalism, Rand said. But the controls create economic distortions, which then lead to more controls - such as minimum wage laws and price controls on rent and health care - and this confluence may “collapse into dictatorship” if the temporary controls are not ended.

Faced with the failure of its initial intervention, a government “is not prepared to undo its interference with the market and to return to a free economy,” but instead adds “more regulations and restrictions,” wrote Ludwig von Mises, a 20th century Austrian and American political economist and philosopher. “Proceeding step by step on this way it finally reaches a point in which all economic freedom of individuals has disappeared.”

Enter Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich... or Mao Zedong and the CCP... or Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, and the USSR. Combined, these totalitarian dictatorships were responsible for more than 100 million noncombatant deaths during the 1900’s.

And yet, Americans today - especially those under the age of 30 - are ready and willing to embrace the failed ideologies these monsters espoused and then inflicted on their unsuspecting and defenseless masses.

My friends, we must teach the next generation (and the one after that) the grand and glorious story of America’s founding and guiding principles while simultaneously educating them about the inevitable horrors of collectivism. They must be warned and they must be warned now, lest they be lulled to sleep by an overdose of soma and wake up in a Not So Brave New World where they have been stripped of their individual rights and responsibilities, the pride that comes from personal ownership, and the freedom to forge their own destinies.

As for me, I don’t want a pain-free life, because growth causes pain and pain results in growth. I, for one, want to live life to its fullest, for God’s glory, while experiencing all the highs and lows along the way that build one’s character and deepen one’s faith.

In other words, you can keep your stinkin’ artificial wombs and government-enforced caste system. No soma-induced coma for me!

A Crack in the Dike?

By Dale M. Glading

In the Netherlands, they call them dikes. In New Orleans, they call them levees. In other places across the country and around the world, they call them seawalls, jetties, or milldams. Their purpose is to hold back the waters that are forever encroaching, forever threatening, the surrounding land and the people that live there.

For instance, in the Netherlands, about half of the land mass sits - and more than 60% of the population lives - below sea level. Consequently, the Dutch have been building dikes for over 700 years to hold back the powerful North Sea and its tributaries. However, when a dike fails or is breached, the results can be catastrophic, such as the North Sea Flood of 1953 that claimed 1,836 lives, displaced thousands, and flooded vast areas

of the country’s southwestern provinces.

Likewise, when Hurricane Katrina, a Category-5 storm, struck New Orleans in 2005, it caused 53 breaches to the levees protecting the city from the rising waters of Lake Pontchartrain. As a result, more than 80% of “The Crescent City” was inundated with water, over 900,000 residents lost power,

continued on page 3

A Crack in the Dike?

continued from page 2

and an estimated 1,400 people were killed. The economic damage totaled \$125 billion.

In other words, remove or weaken a dike - or fail to properly maintain a levee - and you risk disaster.

O.K., so where am I going with this analogy? Well, on September 30, 1976 (my 17th birthday), the U.S. House of Representatives voted 312-93 to override the veto of a funding bill by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Named for its chief sponsor, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL), the Hyde Amendment took effect in 1980.

Prior to its passage, an estimated 300,000 abortions were performed annually using taxpayers' money. However, the Hyde Amendment turned off those spigots, barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortions except to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

"Abortion is a lethal assault against the very idea of human rights and destroys, along with a defenseless, little baby, the moral foundations of our democracy," Hyde said on the House floor.

Over the past 45 years - and through eight different administrations (five Republican and three Democratic) - the Hyde Amendment has held firm, serving as a veritable seawall against the floodwaters of unlimited abortions performed at taxpayer expense.

Until now, that is. And the culprit who may be guilty of breaching the bulwark that has protected so many preborn babies for almost a half-century is none other than President Donald J. Trump.

Now, don't get me wrong. Since being elected to his first term in 2016, President Trump has delivered on one pro-life promise after another. He has appointed three pro-life justices - Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett - to the United States Supreme Court. He also reinstated the Mexico City Policy, a U.S. government policy that requires foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to certify that they will not "perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning" with non-U.S. funds as a condition for receiving U.S. global family planning assistance.

President Trump has also pushed to prevent Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, from receiving federal funds.

All of which makes it hard to fathom why President Trump told congressional Republicans last week that they were going to have to be "a little flexible on Hyde."

"I almost fell out of my chair," said one House Republican who was in attendance at the GOP retreat where President Trump made the comment.

To suggest that the Hyde Amendment - the only barrier standing between Americans and the Democrats' ultimate dream of unlimited taxpayer-funded abortions - is negotiable after almost five decades set off alarms throughout the conservative movement.

"I'm not flexible on the value of every single child," Senator James Lankford (R-OK) said. "Every single child is valuable. There aren't some children that are disposable, and some children that are valuable. Every child is valuable. And so, that's not an area that I'm flexible on."

"That's a red line I'm not going to cross," Sen. Lankford reiterated.

"The VA doesn't do abortions," Lankford pointed out. "DOD doesn't do abortions. [Native American] health care doesn't do abortions. We don't do abortions with Medicare, Medicaid. We should not have it anywhere."

"The only place that abortion funding for elective abortion exists," Lankford said, "is in Obamacare... and that needs to go away."

Sorry, Mr. Trump, but it doesn't sound like Sen. Lankford is willing to give an inch for the sake of reaching an agreement with the Democrats on Obamacare subsidies. Neither is Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ).

"We need to be flexible?" Rep. Smith repeated. "What does that mean?"

"These are children who are about to be exterminated in a very painful way, especially through dismemberment, [or] starved to death through the abortion pill [which is] very dangerous to women. Based on the most recent data that came out last April, [there's] a complication rate of 11%, when they advertised that it's less than one-half of 1%. So women are suffering. Babies are suffering. We need to reassert our commitment to the most defenseless group of people on earth: unborn children."

Polls show that 83% of Republicans reject the idea of taxpayer-funded abortions, so please stick to your guns, Mr. President. Continue to defend the lives of precious preborn babies by telling Chuck Schumer, Hakeem Jeffries, and the rest of the bloodthirsty Democrats

continued on page 4

Trump vs. DeSantis on AI: Who's Right?

continued from page 1

to issue executive orders and admitting that many of the aspects of Trump's EO are in line with Florida's concerns, Gov. DeSantis draws the line on constitutional grounds.

"First of all, an executive order can't block the states. You can preempt states under Article 1 powers through congressional legislation on certain issues, but you can't do it through executive order."

As you might expect, President Trump disagrees and has instructed Attorney General Pam Bondi to "establish an AI Litigation Task Force whose sole responsibility shall be to challenge State AI laws inconsistent with the policy set forth" in his EO, saying that such actions by a state would "unconstitutionally regulate interstate

commerce."

The goal, per Trump's EO, is to establish "a minimally burdensome national standard - not 50 discordant State ones" to "sustain and enhance the United States' global AI dominance."

However, Gov. DeSantis remains unfazed.

At an AI roundtable last month, Gov. DeSantis voiced his apprehension about data centers staffed by foreign workers, as well as the power usage they would require. He also expressed concerns about Chinese technology, AI mental health therapy, deepfakes and people using false images and likenesses.

Declaring the need for a statewide "AI Bill of Rights", Gov. DeSantis is seeking strong data privacy protections for consumers as well as an enumerated list of parental rights.

"This is basically protecting against this technology running amok," DeSantis said.

Like I said at the beginning, I sure hope Gov. DeSantis wins this battle because I don't like the idea of Washington D.C. dictating AI policy for every American. Not only does it trample on the 10th Amendment, but it sounds eerily reminiscent of George Orwell's 1984 and Aldous Huxley's A Brave New World to me.

A Crack in the Dike?

continued from page 3

who want to sacrifice our children on the altar of personal convenience that we will not budge, we will not compromise, and we will not allow a single crack to form in the Hyde Amendment.

Editor's Note: The first warning signs of President Trump's apparent willingness to negotiate on abortion was the 2024 Republican Party Platform. Since Ronald Reagan, every GOP platform has contained bold and unambiguous language proclaiming the personhood rights of preborn children. Unfortunately, President Trump instructed the RNC to slash the platform's pro-life language from more than 1,300 words in 2020 to a mere 90 very vague words in 2024.

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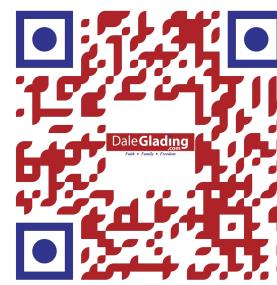


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