

# The Slippery Slope to Despotism: Paved with Lockdowns, Raids and Forced Vaccinations

By [John W. Whitehead](#)

Global Research, June 06, 2020

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

*"You have no right not to be vaccinated, you have no right not to wear a mask, you have no right to open up your business... And if you refuse to be vaccinated, [the state has the power to literally take you to a doctor's office and plunge a needle into your arm.](#)"—Alan Dershowitz, Harvard law professor*

You have no rights.

That's the lesson the government wants us to learn from this COVID-19 business.

Well, the government is wrong.

For years now, the powers-that-be—those politicians and bureaucrats who think like tyrants and act like petty dictators regardless of what party they belong to—have attempted to brainwash us into believing that we have no right to think for ourselves, make decisions about our health, protect our homes and families and businesses, act in our best interests, demand accountability and transparency from government, or generally operate as if we are in control of our own lives.

We have every right, and you know why? Because we were *born* free.

As the Declaration of Independence states, we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights—to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness—that no government can take away from us.

Unfortunately, that hasn't stopped the government from constantly trying to usurp our freedoms at every turn. Indeed, the nature of government is such that it invariably oversteps its limits, abuses its authority, and flexes its totalitarian muscles.

Take this COVID-19 crisis, for example.

What started out as an apparent effort to prevent a novel coronavirus from sickening the nation (and the world) has become yet another means by which world governments (including our own) can expand their powers, abuse their authority, and further oppress their constituents.

Until now, the police state has been more circumspect in its power grabs, but this latest state of emergency has brought the beast out of the shadows.

We are on a slippery slope to outright despotism.

This road we are traveling is paved with lockdowns, SWAT team raids, mass surveillance and forced vaccinations. It is littered with the debris of our First and Fourth Amendment freedoms.

This is what we have to look forward to in the months and years to come unless we can find some way to regain control over our runaway government.

The government has made no secret of its plans.

Just follow the money trail, and you'll get a sense of what's in store: more militarized police, more SWAT team raids, more surveillance, more lockdowns, more strong-armed tactics aimed at suppressing dissent and forcing us to comply with the government's dictates.

It's chilling to think about, but it's not surprising.

We've been warned.

Remember that [Pentagon training video created by the Army for U.S. Special Operations Command](#)? The one that anticipates the future domestic political and social problems the government is grooming its armed forces to solve through the use of martial law?

The chilling five-minute training video, obtained by *The Intercept* through a FOIA request and made available [online](#), paints a dystopian picture of the future bedeviled by "criminal networks," "substandard infrastructure," "religious and ethnic tensions," "impoverishment, slums," "open landfills, over-burdened sewers," a "growing mass of unemployed," and an urban landscape in which the prosperous economic elite must be protected from the impoverishment of the have nots.

But here's the kicker: what they're really talking about is martial law, packaged as a well-meaning and overriding concern for the nation's security.

This COVID-19 crisis is pushing us that much closer to that dystopian vision becoming a present-day reality.

For starters, let's talk about the COVID-19 stormtroopers, SWAT team raids and ongoing flare-ups of police brutality.

With millions of dollars in stimulus funds being directed towards policing agencies across the country, the [federal government plans to fight this COVID-19 virus with riot gear, gas masks, ballistic helmets, drones, and hi-tech surveillance](#) technology.

Indeed, although crime rates have fallen dramatically in the midst of this global COVID-19 lockdown, there's been no relief from the brutality and violence of the American police state.

While the majority of the country has been social distancing under varying degrees of lockdowns, it's been business as usual for the nation's SWAT teams and police trained to shoot first and ask questions later.

In Kentucky, plain-clothed cops in unmarked cars used a battering ram to break down Breonna Taylor's door and [carry out a no-knock raid on her home after midnight](#). Fearing a

home invasion, the 26-year-old emergency medical technician and her boyfriend—who had been in bed at the time of the invasion—called 911 and prepared to defend themselves. Taylor’s boyfriend shot one of the intruders—later identified as police—in the leg. Police fired at least 20 shots into the apartment and a neighboring home, [killing Taylor](#). The drug dealer who was the target of the late-night raid lived 10 miles away and had already been arrested prior to the raid on Taylor’s home.

In Illinois, [police opened fire in a subway station](#), shooting a 33-year-old man who allegedly resisted their attempts to tackle and arrest him for [violating a city ordinance by passing between two cars of a moving train](#). Ariel Roman, a short-order cook, claimed he was suffering from an anxiety attack when he was “harassed, chased, tackled, pepper-sprayed, tasered and shot twice” by police.

In Maryland, police dispatched on a nuisance call to break up a crowd of neighborhood kids (half of them teenagers, and the other half youngsters around 4 and 5 years old) gathered in an apartment complex parking lot [opened fire on a 29-year-old man seen exiting his car with a gun](#). An eyewitness claimed “the officer pointed a flashlight and his gun at the group immediately and began chasing and shooting a minute or two after getting out of the patrol car.” Police reportedly shot the man *after* he threw down his gun and ran in the opposite direction.

In Virginia, [more than 80 local, state, and federal police agents risked spreading COVID-19 to “a highly vulnerable population”](#) when they raided a low income, public housing community in an effort to crack down on six individuals suspected of selling, on average, \$20 to \$100 worth of drugs.

In Texas, [a SWAT team backed up with a military tank Armored Personnel Carrier raided Big Daddy Zane’s Bar](#) whose owner and patrons were staging a peaceful First and Second Amendment protest of the governor’s shutdown orders.

Police have even been called out to shut down churches, schools and public parks and beaches that have been found “in violation” of various lockdown orders.

Now there’s talk of [mobilizing the military to deliver forced vaccinations](#), mass surveillance in order to carry out contact tracing, and heavy fines and jail time for those who dare to venture out without a mask, congregate in worship without the government’s blessing, or re-open their businesses without the government’s say-so.

There are rumblings that the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\) will start thermal screenings to monitor passengers’ temperatures](#) in coming weeks. This is in addition to the virtual strip searches that have become routine aspects of airport security.

Restaurants in parts of the country are being tasked with [keeping daily logs of phone numbers, emails, and arrival times for everybody who participates in dine-services](#), with no mention of how long such records will be kept on file, with whom they will be shared, and under what circumstances.

With the help of Google and Nest cameras, hospitals are morphing into [real-time surveillance centers](#) with round-the-clock surveillance cameras monitoring traffic in patients’ rooms. Forget patient privacy, however. Google has a [track record of sharing surveillance footage with police](#).

And then rounding out the power-grabs, the [Senate just voted to give police access to web browsing data without a warrant](#), which would dramatically expand the government's Patriot Act surveillance powers. The Senate also voted to give Attorney General William Barr the ability to [look through the web browsing history of any American — including journalists, politicians, and political rivals — without a warrant](#), just by saying it is relevant to an investigation. If enacted, privacy experts warn that the new provisions threaten to undermine the free press by potentially preventing the media from exposing abuses of power or acting as a watchdog against political leaders.

If we haven't already crossed over, we're skating dangerously close to that line that keeps us on the functioning side of a constitutional republic. It won't take much to push us over that edge into a [full-blown banana republic](#).

In many ways, this is just more of the same heavy-handed tactics we've been seeing in recent years but with one major difference: this COVID-19 state of emergency has invested government officials (and those who view their lives as more valuable than ours) with a sanctimonious, self-righteous, arrogant, *Big Brother Knows Best* approach to top-down governing, and the fall-out can be seen far and wide.

It's an ugly, self-serving mindset that views the needs, lives and rights of "we the people" as insignificant when compared to those in power.

That's how someone who should know better such as Alan Dershowitz, a former Harvard law professor, can suggest that a free people—born in freedom, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, and living in a country birthed out of a revolutionary struggle for individual liberty—[have no rights](#) to economic freedom, to bodily integrity, or to refuse to comply with a government order with which they disagree.

According to Dershowitz, who has become little more than a legal apologist for the power elite, "You have no right not to be vaccinated, you have no right not to wear a mask, you have no right to open up your business... And if you refuse to be vaccinated, [the state has the power to literally take you to a doctor's office and plunge a needle into your arm.](#)"

Dershowitz is wrong: while the courts may increasingly defer to the government's brand of Nanny State authoritarianism, *we still have rights*.

The government may try to abridge those rights, it may refuse to recognize them, it may even attempt to declare martial law and nullify them, but it cannot litigate, legislate or forcefully eradicate them out of existence.

Up to now, we've been largely passive participants in this experiment in self-governance. Our inaction and inattention has left us at the mercy of power-hungry politicians, corrupt corporations and brutal, government-funded militias.

Wake up, America.

As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#), these ongoing violations of our rights—this attitude by the government that we have no rights—this tyrannical movement that is overtaking our constitutional republic and gaining in momentum and power by the minute—this incessant auction block in which government officials appointed to represent *our* best interests keep selling us out to the highest bidder—all of these betrayals scream for a response.

To quote the great Rod Serling: “If we don’t listen to that scream—and if we don’t respond to it—we may well wind up sitting amidst our own rubble, looking for the truck that hit us—or the bomb that pulverized us. Get the license number of whatever it was that destroyed the dream. And I think we will find that the vehicle was registered in our own name.”

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*This article was originally published on [The Rutherford Institute](#).*

*Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of [The Rutherford Institute](#). His new book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) is available at [www.amazon.com](#). Whitehead can be contacted at [johnw@rutherford.org](#).*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [John W. Whitehead](#), Global Research, 2020

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [John W. Whitehead](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](#)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](#) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.  
For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](#)