NEWSLETTER

VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION™

SUMMER 2026

# Combatting the Rise of Marxism in America







VOICES OF VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION

OCT 2, 2026 | OP-EDS | DR. ERIC PATTERSON

Citizens across the country are discussing the rise of socialist candidates and their impact on elections in November. Take a look at what socialist activists said at a recent three-day conference in Chicago. One might expect that the Socialism 2026 gathering,… **Read More**

This year, as America celebrates her 250th birthday, our country finds itself at a crossroads with the rise in popularity of socialism. VOC is using this critical time of public interest to gain broader attention and educate more young people, especially through social media.

**As socialism gains new advocates in America, the need for truth-telling has never been greater.** VOC uses our platform on social media to educate viewers on the true goals of the Democratic Socialists of America as well as the dangers of communism using statistics, historical facts, and engaging content to reach a wider audience. Op-eds educating readers on the dangerous rise of Marxism in America have also been a priority.

This summer, VOC hosted monthly America250 educational events to discuss the brilliance of America's founding principles and examine how to combat Marxism in the US today, partnered with the American Journey Experience to feature a special exhibition on America's founding, and welcomed the Freedom Truck for the week of the Fourth of July which helped draw attention to the VOC Museum.



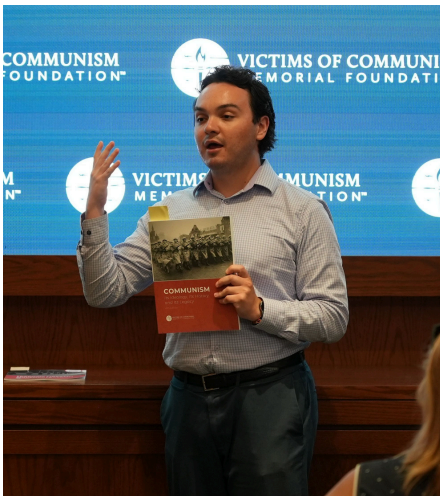
*VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson interviews Os Guinness.*




*VOC interns pass out VOC materials while the Freedom Truck parked in front of the VOC Museum during July 4th week.*

# Educating the Next Generation

This year, as America celebrates her 250th birthday, VOC has capitalized on broader attention towards America's founding to educate people about the values of the founding principles of America and the dangers of socialism and communism.



*VOC now offers six student curricula.*

VOC released a new curricular resource for middle and high school students, *First Principles: The American Founding vs. Communist Ideology,* which contrasts the principles of the Declaration of Independence with the beliefs and practices of communism, incorporating VOC *Witness Project* videos and engaging activities to support classroom instruction.

In June, we attended the Home Educators Association of Virginia Conference where our booth with educational resources was in front of 10,000 conference attendees and VOC's Catherine O'Connor delivered a lecture on adapting VOC's curriculum for different learners.

***"Whether I use the entire lesson or just some of the activities, I am prepared and confident to teach students in the classroom about the topic and engage them in a more meaningful way. The curriculum is powerful as it exists, and as more teachers find and utilize the resources, I see it becoming a powerful tool to combat Marxism in America's classrooms." —Rebekah Pignaloso***



*VOC at the 2026 HEAV Conference with 10,000 educators.*



*Teachers learn from VOC Academic Advisory Chair Dr. Flagg Taylor at our 2026 National Educators Seminar.*

# Educating the Next Generation



As part of VOC's *Witness Project*, Senator Mel Martinez shared his experience as a Pedro Pan child, fleeing communist Cuba and growing up in the United States.

***"Communism subjugates people. It forces them into a system, it determines for them how their lives are to be ordered... All of those things destroy the human spirit."***
***—Senator Mel Martinez***




Georgette Hadvina recounts the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and her experience fighting for freedom from the Soviet Union in Hungary as a teenager in another *Witness Project* video,

***"Freedom is actually my most prized possession. And I never get tired of it. It's just a gift that very few people in history ever experience."***
***—Georgette Hadvina***

VOC applauds the Department of Education's call to action for schools, administrators, and teachers to observe Victims of Communism Day on November 7 by teaching the atrocities of communist regimes and leaders.




*Teachers from Founding Forward visited the Victims of Communism Museum.*

# Students Tour VOC Museum

This summer, in honor of America's 250th anniversary, student groups visiting the museum were able to observe artifacts from America's founding, including an early manuscript of the Declaration of Independence in Thomas Jefferson's own handwriting and an early American signaling cannon.











# VOC in the Media





In September, VOC's Ken Pope spoke with Natalya Murakhver on her *Restore Childhood* podcast to discuss the origins of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the rising appeal of socialism in America.




In August, VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson was featured on 77 WABC's Cats Roundtable with John Catsimatidis. Dr. Patterson discussed the dangers of not teaching future generations about the horrors of communism and how VOC is working to educate America's youth.




In August, the Museum was featured in an opinion piece by the Washington Post: "*A small museum, not far from The Post, is overshadowed by the leviathans of the Smithsonian, but what the institution lacks in size, it makes up for with purpose.*"




In response to the DSA celebrating Fidel Castro's 100th birthday, Dr. Eric Patterson joined News Nation to discuss Castro's regime, communism, and the rise of radical ideology in the United States.

***"Fidel Castro was a murderer and a tyrant, not someone to celebrate." —Dr. Eric Patterson***

# Intern Spotlight: Marina Artukovic

***Hear from a VOC intern about her experience:***



*Marina Artukovic, 2026 Summer Intern*

"My name is Marina Artukovic, I am an undergraduate student studying history at UCLA and a resident of Orange County, CA. This summer I had the privilege of working as the government relations intern for VOC. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for your continued support that made my internship at VOC possible.

I have personal ties with VOC's mission. My family is Croatian and fled former Yugoslavia in 1967. Economic hardships and targeted State oppression forced my grandfather to outsource his labor to Germany as a means of supporting his wife. Eventually, my family immigrated to the United States through a personal sponsorship, where they eventually created a successful small business in Carlsbad, California.

**I feel immensely privileged to say that my life today is a product of the American Dream.** VOC's mission is therefore personal. This recognition motivated me to join VOC for the summer, where my eyes were continually opened to the horrors of communism, not exclusively in former Yugoslavia, but across the globe.

As the Government Relations intern, I visited House Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill to explore the importance of VOC's bipartisan Congressional Caucus. It was exciting to work alongside representatives building a coalition of anti-communist leaders.

Your support has allowed me to observe the failure of communism around the world. As a history major, I have seen firsthand how the legacy of communism can be minimized in the classroom. Your continued support has helped educate students like me about the true extent of communism's failed legacy. Thank you!

In the future, I look forward to pursuing a career in international law. My time at VOC has left a profound mark on me and has influenced my future goals. Thank you for investing in VOC and for providing students like me with the opportunity to contribute to such a vital mission."

# Exposing the Atrocities of the CCP



VOC continues to expose the atrocities of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In June, we hosted a candlelight vigil at the VOC Memorial to mark the 37th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, during which survivors of the massacre shared their stories and VOC awarded its Dissident Human Rights Award to Frances Hui for her dedication to defending human dignity against communist overreach in Hong Kong.



*Frances Hui is presented the 2026 Dissident Human Rights Award.*

In July, a new methodological framework created by VOC's Director of China Studies Dr. Adrian Zenz was published in *Qualitative Research*, a peer-reviewed international journal, allowing researchers to overcome the barrier of CCP surveillance and restrictions. The rigorous evidentiary foundation that exposed the CCP's campaigns of mass internment and forced labor in Xinjiang was driven by this groundbreaking methodology developed by Dr. Zenz, known as Investigative Policy Analysis.

Through this method, resarchers at VOC have uncovered the systemic, state-directed mass interment, parent-child separation, coercive labor transfers, and birth prevention programs directed towards Uyghur populations.



*Jan Jekielek of* The Epoch Times *and author of* Killed To Order *which details China's organ harvesting industry.*

# Thank You to Our Supporters

**Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors. We are grateful for your partnership, which makes an impact on educating the next generation.**

***We especially recognize the following members of our Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society who have made a leadership gift in the past quarter.***

**Pillars of Memory**
Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
Maximo Alvarez

**Flames of Liberty**
Friedman Family Charitable Trust
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The Charles & Catherine B. Rice Foundation
Paul Schultheis
Catherine Windels

**Voices for Freedom**
The William S. & Ann Atherton Foundation
Maygene and Steve Daniels
Pattie Al-Attas Barrett and Rick Barrett
Drs. Josefina and Omar Vento
The Hon. James Burnley IV
Drs. Elizabeth and Matthew Spalding

*For more information about the VOC Museum Remembrance Society and to join, visit victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society.*




*In July, VOC hosted our annual Captive Nations Summit.*



*In August, VOC co-hosted a Black Ribbon Day commemoration in the McPherson Square Park in front of the VOC Museum.*