

2019 Year in Review: From Corporate Capture of Social Media to Trump's War Agenda to Climate Change

Conversations with Project Censored, Abby Martin and Robbie Martin

By [Michael Welch](#), [Abby Martin](#), [Robbie Martin](#), and [Andy Roth](#)

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Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#), [Middle East & North Africa](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Economy](#), [Environment](#), [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#), [Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

"It just seems like people have really lost their way, severed ties with reality completely, where we're listening to some pied piper online instead of really questioning authority, questioning the power structures like we should be all along!" – Abby Martin (from this week's interview.)

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." – Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass [1]

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The year 2019 saw the unfolding of a number of dramatic events.

At the beginning of the year, the Venezuelan opposition [orchestrated a coup](#), with dozens of countries including a number of South American countries [recognizing](#) opposition figure **Juan Guaidó** as president. This attempt appears to have [failed miserably](#) as the military and the bulk of the Venezuelan population appear to oppose an undemocratic regime change.

In March, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) would release a [report](#) detailing the deaths of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli Defense Forces in the wake of the great March of Return protests at the Gaza-Israel perimeter fence would approach 200, with 29,000 injured.

In April, Wikileaks founder **Julian Assange** was [forcefully removed](#) from the Ecuadorean Embassy in the United Kingdom where he had sought sanctuary from a wrongful and unjust prosecution at the hands of the U.S.

In June, [U.S.- Iran tensions would escalate](#) with attacks on oil tankers in Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz culminating in the [drone killing](#) in early January of high ranking Iranian

military figure **Qasem Soleimani**.

[Popular uprisings](#) around the globe were unquestionably a feature of the year. The Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests) movement endured throughout the entirety of the year with weekly demonstrations against the Macron government's neoliberal reforms. Likewise, the uprisings in Hong Kong grabbed much of the media spotlight, and later in the year, the world would see popular eruptions in Ecuador, Chile, and other Latin American centres, in Haiti, in Sudan and in Lebanon.

On the climate change front, while **Greta Thunberg** and the youth climate activists took centre stage in [unprecedented numbers](#), infernos light up the [Amazon](#), [California](#) and [Australia](#), scientists highlight the threat to global food supply from climate change, the world's oceans are being depleted of oxygen, the melting of glacial and polar ice accelerates, and the UN's World Meteorological Organization [reports](#) that the concentration of climate-heating greenhouse gases has hit another all-time high with "no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline."

And of course, the impeachment drama in Washington continues to transfix many Americans while poverty has increased in 30 percent of U.S counties, and while a bi-partisan consensus on Capitol Hill approved last August military spending exceeding what was spent at the height of the Cold War, even adjusting for inflation.

For independent media outlets like the Global Research News Hour, news stories are curated according to how they impact the broader population, not according to their service to the corporate and State interests that underwrite most press outlets. Through that lens, the show takes an overdue opportunity to evaluate some of the more important stories and developments of the past year.

Our first guest, **Andy Lee Roth** of Project Censored, discusses some of the Top 25 most censored stories of 2018-2019, and other themes from the publication Censored 2020. These include think tank partnerships which turn Facebook into a tool of U.S. [Foreign Policy](#) (2), high rates of unemployment among formerly incarcerated Americans (17), and a more equitable model for providing meals for schoolchildren in the U.S. (23).

In the final half hour, we present a wide-ranging conversation on the news stories and trends of 2019 featuring independent media icons **Abby** and **Robbie Martin** (Media Roots radio) along with Global Research News Hour co-hosts **Michael Welch** and **Scott Price**. Themes range from the marginalization of dissident viewpoints and analysis under the guise of controlling 'fake news' to the co-opting of 'Deep State' analysis and 'conspiracy culture' into a kind of partisan cudgel, to the growth of the U.S. empire under Trump, to the corporate and ecological elements missing from coverage of the fires raging around the planet.

Andy Lee Roth, is the Associate Director of [Project Censored](#), a media research program which fosters student development of media literacy and critical thinking skills as applied to news media censorship in the United States.

Abby Martin is an investigative journalist and co-producer of Telesur's *the Empire Files*. She also wrote and directed the 2019 documentary film *Gaza Fights for Freedom*. She co-hosts the Media Roots Radio podcast along with her brother Robbie Martin.

Robbie Martin is a writer, musician and film maker. He produced the three part documentary film series [A Very Heavy Agenda](#), about the rise and persistent role of the neocons within the Washington establishment.

(Global Research News Hour episode 283)

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The [Global Research News Hour](#) airs every Friday at 1pm CT on [CKUW 95.9FM](#) out of the University of Winnipeg. The programme is also podcast at [globalresearch.ca](#).

The Global Research News Hour now airs Fridays at 6pm PST, 8pm CST and 9pm EST on Alternative Current Radio ([alternativetransradio.com](#))

Community Radio Stations carrying the Global Research News Hour:

[CHLY 101.7fm](#) in Nanaimo, B.C - Thursdays at 1pm PT

[Port Perry Radio](#) in Port Perry, Ontario -1 Thursdays at 1pm ET

[Burnaby Radio Station CJSF out of Simon Fraser University](#). 90.1FM to most of Greater Vancouver, from Langley to Point Grey and from the North Shore to the US Border.

It is also available on 93.9 FM cable in the communities of SFU, Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Surrey and Delta, in British Columbia, Canada. - Tune in at its new time - Wednesdays at 4pm PT.

Radio station [CFUV 101.9FM](#) based at the University of Victoria airs the Global Research News Hour every Sunday from 7 to 8am PT.

[CORTES COMMUNITY RADIO CKTZ 89.5](#) out of Manson's Landing, B.C airs the show Tuesday mornings at 10am Pacific time.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 6am pacific time.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](#) in Saint John, N.B. airs the Global Research News Hour Fridays at 10am.

Caper Radio CJBV 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday Morning from 8:00 to 9:00am. Find more details at [www.caperradio.ca](#)

RIOT RADIO, the visual radio station based out of [Durham College](#) in Oshawa, Ontario has begun airing the Global Research News Hour on an occasional basis. Tune in at [dcstudentsinc.ca/services/riot-radio/](#)

Radio Fanshawe: [Fanshawe's 106.9 The X \(CIXX-FM\)](#) out of London, Ontario airs the Global Research News Hour Sundays at 6am with an encore at 3pm.

Los Angeles, California based [Thepowerofvoices.com](#) airs the Global Research News Hour every Monday from 6-7pm Pacific time.

Notes:

1. Lewis Carroll (1871), *Through the Looking Glass*, published by Macmillan

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