

## All the Wrong Moves

by James Hudnall, 30 March 2009

If the last two months are any indication, Barack Obama is a better bowler than he is a president. And to think all the "smart people" in Hollywood sold him as a "brilliant" mind. Of course, this is brilliant by Hollywood standards. The place that remade *The Beverly Hillbillies*...

**Continue:** <http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/jhudnall/2009/03/30/all-the-wrong-moves/>

You might not choose to click on every link that's included in the essay. But whatever you do, be sure to check out the [visualization of \\$1 trillion](#).

The truth about Canada's Orwellian "human rights" commissions. Democrats would like to have them in America. Mr. Klein's new book is *Shakedown: How Our Government is Undermining Democracy in the Name of Human Rights*.

### video: *Shakedown on the Michael Coren Show*

by Ezra Klein, 24 March 2009

A full hour of television is an impossibly long amount of air time. We live in an era when news clips are measured in minutes, if not seconds. So it was a luxury to spend a full hour today with Michael Coren on his show on CTS.

**Watch:** <http://ezrelevant.com/2009/03/shakedown-on-the-michael-coren.html>

## Spain's 'Universal Jurisdiction' Power Play

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 31 March 2009

As the U.S. government's myriad intrusions radically transform our economy, few seem to notice the dangerous progress of the international Left's assault on American sovereignty. Without firing a shot, transnational progressives are further along than the Soviet Union could ever have reasonably hoped to be, notwithstanding Lenin's prescient understanding that we would willingly participate in our own demise. In the Left's sights is the very concept of the American people's right of self-defense...

**...For all its bombast about enforcing the Geneva Conventions, the Left has never actually wanted them honored — just cherry-picked.** As written, the conventions expressly hold that disputes are to be resolved diplomatically. Controversies about compliance were never meant to be fodder for lawsuits, much less to be legal weapons in the arsenal of lawless barbarians. Had our diplomats had any inkling, when the conventions were adopted in 1949, that they were surrendering national-security decisions to politically unaccountable federal judges, let alone to foreign tribunals whose strings are pulled by perfervid anti-Americans, the conventions would never have been signed.

But they were. Now, in the hands of the Left's bottomless ranks of barristers, they have evolved into a cudgel, more effective than any armed force, for beating down our defenses. That cudgel is wielded under the auspices of **an abstraction portentously called "the rule of law," which in fact is simply the whim of a post-sovereign professoriate in the service of savages...**

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=Y2NjYTNjM2U4OWEyNDI1ZWRiMDhmMGEyNGYxYjE2N2U=>

## The Stages of Anti-Semitism

An avant-garde play revives an ancient hatred.

by Bret Stephens, 31 March 2009

Here's a sketch for a racist play about "moral decline" in black America since the civil rights era.

Act I: Heroic protestors gather at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., in 1965 to march in defiance of a segregationist state. Act II: The scene moves to San Francisco in the early 1970s, where the radical politics of the Black Panthers quickly give way to robbery and murder. Act III: A New York City crack house, circa 1985. Act IV: the trial of O.J. Simpson. Act V: The present, in which a black man on a prison furlough goes on a murder spree.

Appalled? I hope so.

Now substitute the word "Jewish" for "black" and change the scene to Europe and Israel and you have, roughly, the

plot of celebrated British playwright Caryl Churchill's *Seven Jewish Children*, which debuted last month to some controversy and much acclaim at London's Royal Court Theater. It is now in the U.S., playing in small but respectable venues to sophisticated audiences that—judging from the performance I attended in New York last Thursday—are overwhelmingly disposed to like it.

**Continue:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123846281350272143.html>

## **We have Chapter 11 for a reason**

by *William McGurn*, 31 March 2009

Our Beltway sans-culottes are tasting blood.

First the people's representatives took their tar and torches to American International Group's bonus payments. Now the president has dropped the guillotine on the chairman and CEO of General Motors. The irony, of course, is that far from signaling an end to federal dollars for a failing industry, the high-profile firing of Rick Wagoner paves the way for more aid down the road....

**Keep reading:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123845961513671825.html>

## **A Dubious Choice**

Why did the Navy honor John Murtha with its highest civilian award?

by *Mark Hemingway*, 31 March 2009

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NmM5ZDM5ZTk1MWNiYmRiZWZ3MWYyM2YwYjdiMTUyMjM=>

**Sign the Petition against Murtha (if you haven't already signed):**

<http://www.petitiononline.com/usmc2009/petition-sign.html>

**Two other pro-America, anti-Murtha websites:**

<http://bootmurtha.com/>

<http://murthamustgo.blogspot.com/>

## **If Capitalism Is 'Overthrown,' We'll Lose Our Political Freedom**

by *Janet Daley*, 30 March 2009

...Those who talk of "overthrowing" capitalism are determined to depict it as a system of government in a precise parallel with socialism, when in reality, capitalism is not a system in the ideological sense.

It is, if anything, an anti-system: the aggregation of human behaviour as it goes about fulfilling particular wants and needs. It can be described in anthropomorphic terms, such as "ruthless" or "benign" but of itself has no motives and no objectives. (Gordon Brown is more than usually fatuous when he insists that markets need to have "values": only people have values, methods of exchange do not.)...

...When we make the case for capitalism, we are defending the political principle of freedom, not arguing for one kind of rigid economic organisation over another. The debate is being hopelessly muddied by those late converts to free enterprise—politicians like Mr Brown who believe that markets should only survive if they can be made to serve Left-wing purposes...

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/janetdaley/5071721/G20-If-capitalism-is-overthrown-well-lose-our-political-freedom.html>

Must be global warming. Bush's fault, too.

## **Lights In Sky Prompt Flood Of Calls In Md., Va., N.C.**

30 March 2009

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/19044505/detail.html>

## **Obama's Fuzzy Math**

by Stephen Moore, 29 March 2009 (April 6 issue)

...Already in the first 45 days of his administration, the federal government has authorized more debt spending than Ronald Reagan did in eight years in office...

...I have never been a fearmonger when it comes to deficits and debt. If the economy grows faster than the debt, as occurred in the 1980s and 1990s then the nation's burden of financing government borrowing becomes smaller over time. Incurring debt is legitimate, moreover, if the borrowing is paying for future prosperity. **The 1980s deficits were probably one of the highest-return investments in American history.** We bought a victory over the Evil Empire in the Cold War and borrowed to finance reductions in tax rates that launched America's greatest ever period of wealth and prosperity: 1982-2007. The national debt grew by about \$6 trillion while U.S. net wealth grew by \$40 trillion. A pretty good trade.

**This debt we are now incurring is paying for windmills, unemployment benefits, new cars for federal employees, weatherizing homes, high-speed trains to nowhere, and the like.** It buys almost nothing of long-term economic benefit... Any unbiased assessment of the return on investment—to use an Obama term—for these programs would find dismally low payoffs for taxpayers. Government programs are the only things in the world that when they yield failing results, we reward them with more money...

**Read it all:** <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/332spljz.asp>

## Obama Town Hall Questioners Were Campaign Backers

by Garance Franke-Ruta, 27 March 2009

...Obama has said, "I think it's important to engage your critics ... because not only will you occasionally change their mind but, more importantly, sometimes they will change your mind," White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs recounted to The Post's Lois Romano in an interview Wednesday.

But while the online question portion of the White House town hall was open to any member of the public with an Internet connection, the five fully identified questioners called on randomly by the president in the East Room were anything but a diverse lot...

**Read on:** [http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/03/27/obama\\_town\\_hall\\_questioners\\_we.html?hpid=topnews](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/03/27/obama_town_hall_questioners_we.html?hpid=topnews)

## God Bless Angela Merkel!

### Brown snubbed over tax; Germans wreck 'global new deal'

29 March 2009

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/G20/article5993184.ece>

## Take the Limbaugh Challenge

Liberals who hate Rush Limbaugh—why don't you actually listen to his show before bashing him?

by Andrew Klavan, 29 March 2009

If you are reading this newspaper, the likelihood is that you agree with the Obama administration's recent attacks on conservative radio talker Rush Limbaugh. That's the likelihood; here's the certainty: You've never listened to Rush Limbaugh.

Oh no, you haven't. Whenever I interrupt a liberal's anti-Limbaugh rant to point out that the ranter has never actually listened to the man, he always says the same thing: "I've heard him!"

On further questioning, it always turns out that by "heard him," **he means he's heard the selected excerpts spoon-fed him by the distortion-mongers of the mainstream media.** These excerpts are specifically designed to accomplish one thing: to make sure you never actually listen to Limbaugh's show, never actually give him a fair chance to speak his piece to you directly...

**More:** <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-klavan29-2009mar29,0,5456892.story>

## Copenhagen: Environmental Munich

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 27 March 2009

...The first of three marathon negotiating sessions designed to hammer out the details of the Copenhagen Accord on climate change to be signed in December begins on Sunday, March 29, in Bonn, Germany. From what we know, it will be a surrender to tyranny as significant as another negotiated 71 years ago...

...We're not sure how effective it will be, but it's certainly ambitious as it seeks to reorder the world economy in a de facto repeal of the Industrial Revolution. Under the supervision of the U.N., free trade would die, industries that survived could be relocated across borders, and we would have mandatory carbon offsets and cap-and-trade imposed on a global scale...

...Under this global climate regime, tariffs would be allowed "as protective barriers to shelter producers of climate-friendly goods." The note endorses subsidies for producers of goods that are deemed "environmentally sound." Protection goes green. Who knew Mr. Smoot and Mr. Hawley were environmentalists?

The document speaks of a "climate change levy" on maritime shipping and aviation that is certain to devastate foreign trade and tourism. The American aviation industry had revenues of \$208 billion in 2008. Unless we can come up with a hybrid 747 real quick, there's trouble ahead. There is talk of signatories implementing cap-and-trade policies that the note admits "would involve negative consequences for the implementing country." Such policies "may induce some industrial relocation...to less-regulated host countries." Gee, ya think?...

**The rest:** <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=323046044706313>

**This lunatic moonbat column clarifies the agenda of the Global Warming Hysterics: to shut down the prosperity of Western culture because of lame, pseudo-scientific conjectures and apocalyptic myths.**

## **Economy vs. Environment**

by David Owen, 30 March 2009 issue

...the world's principal source of man-made greenhouse gases has always been prosperity. The recession makes that relationship easy to see: shuttered factories don't spew carbon dioxide; the unemployed drive fewer miles and turn down their furnaces, air-conditioners, and swimming-pool heaters; struggling corporations and families cut back on air travel...

...The environmental benefits of economic decline, though real, are fragile, because they are vulnerable to intervention by governments, which, understandably, want to put people back to work...

...Getting more miles to the gallon is of no benefit to the environment if it leads to an increase in driving—and the response of drivers to decreases in the cost of driving is to drive more...

...Electric cars are not the panacea they are sometimes claimed to be, not only because the electricity they run on has to be generated somewhere but also because making driving less expensive does nothing to discourage people from sprawling across the face of the planet, promoting forms of development that are inherently and catastrophically wasteful.

One beneficial consequence of the ongoing global economic crisis is that it has put a little time back on the carbon clock...

...commitments to economic recovery and carbon reduction...don't pull in the same direction...

**More insanity:** [http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2009/03/30/090330taco\\_talk\\_owen](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2009/03/30/090330taco_talk_owen)

## **Obama's False Choice**

by Mark Steyn, 28 March 2009

Writing in the *Chicago Tribune* last week, President Obama fell back on one of his favorite rhetorical tics: "But I also know," he wrote, "that we need not choose between a chaotic and unforgiving capitalism and an oppressive government-run economy. That is a false choice that will not serve our people or any people."

Really? For the moment, it's a "false choice" mainly in the sense that he's not offering it: "a chaotic and unforgiving capitalism" is not on the menu, which leaves "an oppressive government-run economy" as pretty much the only game in town... The 44th president is proposing to add more to the national debt than the first 43 presidents combined, doubling it in the next six years, and tripling it within the decade. But to talk about it in percentages of this and trillions of that misses the point. It's not about bookkeeping, it's about government annexation of the economy, and thus of life: government supervision, government regulation, government control. No matter how small your small business is — plumbing, hairdressing, maple sugaring — the state will be burdening you with more permits, more paperwork, more bureaucracy...

...In their first two months, Obama and Geithner have done nothing but vaporize your wealth, and your children's future. What began as an economic crisis is now principally a political usurpation. And, to return to the

president's "false choice," that "chaotic and unforgiving capitalism" is exactly what we need right now. It's the quickest, cheapest, fairest, most-efficient route to economic stabilization and renewal. A regimented and eternally forgiving global command economy with no moral hazard will destroy us all.

**Complete column:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YjBINjQyNzYzNzk2YjBhNjg4NDM2Y2I5MjJkMDYzNjQ=>

## **A Radical Takes the Stand**

*by Katherine Mangu-Ward, 26 March 2009*

DENVER—Old hippies with gray-streaked ponytails, sporting their best Indian radical-chic finery, arrived early and waited in a marble hallway of the District Court here, chowing down on breakfast burritos from the cafeteria. They came to support Ward Churchill—you could tell by their "I Am Ward Churchill" buttons—in his wrongful-termination lawsuit against his former employer, the University of Colorado at Boulder...

...Mr. Churchill, for his part, remains unrepentant. On the stand this week, he repeated his position that the attack on the World Trade Center was "perfectly predictable," saying: "When you bring your skills to bear for profit, you are the moral equivalent of Adolf Eichmann." And he refused to acknowledge that the objections to his scholarship had merit, explaining that history written by white men is full of lies...

**Read the whole story:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123811620345153723.html>

## **A Clear Danger to Free Speech**

*National Review editorial, 27 March 2009*

From its conception, the McCain-Feingold campaign-finance law was an assault on the First Amendment. Signing that unconstitutional bill into law, knowing it to be unconstitutional, was one of the worst moments of George W. Bush's presidency. Yet this malignancy lurks in the legal code, widely accepted, even celebrated. Now Deputy Solicitor General Malcolm Stewart has gone before the Supreme Court arguing that McCain-Feingold gives the government the right to ban books and films. He's right, it does. And for that reason, McCain-Feingold should be nullified...

**Keep reading:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MzRjZWQxMDAyNGRkNWl5MWMzM2NINGEzNjJiZjA4NjQ=>

## **Israel's hypocritical critics:**

### **They rip Netanyahu and Lieberman but give Arab leaders a pass**

*by James Kirchick, 27 March 2009*

With Benjamin Netanyahu set to become Israel's prime minister, critics around the world are proclaiming the death of the peace process. And the fact that Avigdor Lieberman—who has called for all Israeli citizens (not just Arabs) to swear a loyalty oath and supports population transfers with the Palestinians—may become Israel's foreign minister has only exacerbated the fervor of these predictions.

In this analysis, it is the incoming conservative government of Israel which poses a threat to regional stability, not Palestinian rejectionism or the machinations of Iran and Syria and their proxies Hamas and Hezbollah. The height of this thinking was apparent at Tuesday night's White House press conference, when Agence France-Presse reporter Stefan Collison asked President Obama, "How realistic do you think those hopes \[for Middle East peace\] are now, given the likelihood of a prime minister who is not fully signed up to a two-state solution and a foreign minister who has been accused of insulting Arabs?"

When was the last time a journalist asked the leader of a democratic country whether Muslim states' not being "fully signed up" to the existence of Israel and having ministers in its employ who "insult" Jews threatened Middle East peace?

Examples of such anti-Jewish hatred abound...

**More:** [http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/27/2009-03-27\\_israels\\_hypocritical\\_critics\\_they\\_rip\\_ne.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/27/2009-03-27_israels_hypocritical_critics_they_rip_ne.html)

## **The Anti-Industrial Coup**

*by Robert Tracinski, 26 March 2009*

...Yesterday, the EPA issued a "finding" that carbon dioxide is a pollutant that threatens human health and can thus be regulated under the 1990 Clean Air Act.

This is a scientific farce. How can a basic constituent of the atmosphere that all humans constantly exhale be designated a "pollutant"? Moreover, water vapor is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, yet the EPA has not yet declared **dihydrogen monoxide** gas to be a threat to mankind.

This is also an assault on the entire structure of representative government. Controls on emissions of carbon dioxide will reach into every nook and cranny of the economy, creating a fine network of restrictions on economic activity that will make the recent regime of bailouts, salary caps, and business seizures look like laissez-faire by comparison. **But it will all be done—in effect, it has just been done—by the decree of executive agency bureaucrats, without an opportunity for public debate or a legislative vote.** Sure, Congress will be invited to "participate" in drafting carbon dioxide controls, but it will do so under the threat that the EPA can simply create those controls on its own, without needing to consult the people's representatives...

**Brilliant, as usual:** <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0309/tracinski.php3>

## American Mob Rule

We need a Socrates in Washington right now.

*by Victor Davis Hanson, 26 March 2009*

...During the Clinton years, we got higher taxes but eventually balanced budgets. During the Bush administration, we got lower taxes but spiraling deficits. But now during the era of Obama, we apparently will get the worst of both worlds—higher taxes than under Clinton and higher deficits than under Bush.

In other words, we—through our government—are spending money that we don't have. We're told the rich will pick up the tab, even though there are not enough rich with enough money to squeeze out the necessary amounts. Our new demagogues, though, are arguing that this is the only fair course of action. Meanwhile, these leaders—who have taken so much Wall Street money in the past—are driving us into fury to punish the guilty on Wall Street. This is truly the age of mindless mob rule...

**Read it all:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NmNkNzNhZDA2ODMzNGVIZmM3YmI5NmNiNWUxNDUyZDI=>

## Candor, please

Obama not forthright on vast debt he seeks.

*San Diego Union-Tribune editorial, 26 March 2009*

President Barack Obama took many on-point questions at his press conference this week. But for our money, the most important came from Chip Reid of CBS News.

"At both of your town hall meetings in California last week, you said, quote, 'I didn't run for president to pass on our problems to the next generation.' But under your budget, the debt will increase \$7 trillion over the next 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office says \$9.3 trillion. And today on Capitol Hill, some Republicans called your budget, with all the spending on health care, education and environment, the most irresponsible budget in American history.

"Isn't that kind of debt exactly what you were talking about when you said 'passing on our problems to the next generation'?" Reid asked...

**Continue:** <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/26/lz1ed26bottom22623-candor-please/?uniontrib>

We need a member of Congress to address Dear Leader Obama the way Mr. Hannan spoke to Gordon Brown.

## video: "The devalued Prime Minister of a devalued Government"

European Parliament speech of 26 March 2009 by Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for the South East of England and author of *The Plan: Twelve Months to Renew Britain*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94IW6Y4tBXs>

*(Hat tip: Jim D.)*

## The Government's Influence On The Stock Market

*by Alan Reynolds, 25 March 2009*

...How Financial Stocks Reacted to Government Policies:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>S&amp;P Financials</b>	<b>One wk later</b>
<i>Fannie &amp; Freddie nationalized</i>	<i>7 Sept 08</i>	<i>303.4</i>	<i>208.9</i>
<i>TARP enacted</i>	<i>3 Oct 08</i>	<i>254.1</i>	<i>197.2</i>
<i>Capital Purchase Plan announced</i>	<i>14 Oct 08</i>	<i>231.3</i>	<i>210.7</i>
<i>FDIC loan modification plan</i>	<i>14 Nov 08</i>	<i>169.6</i>	<i>129.4</i>
<i>Obama requests TARP funds</i>	<i>13 Jan 09</i>	<i>144.9</i>	<i>108.3</i>
<i>Geithner "Plan A"</i>	<i>10 Feb 09</i>	<i>118.6</i>	<i>106.4</i>
<i>\$787 billion Stimulus bill passed</i>	<i>13 Feb 09</i>	<i>118.0</i>	<i>99.2</i>
<i>Bernanke CFR speech</i>	<i>10 March 09</i>	<i>83.8</i>	<i>126.0</i>
<i>Geithner "Plan B"</i>	<i>22 March 09</i>	<i>109.7</i>	<i>NA</i>

...Since last September, the federal government has justified numerous costly and heavy-handed programs by claiming each new intervention would help the banks and restore confidence to financial markets. The only objective measure of success or failure is the market value of financial stocks. By that standard, government solutions have been the biggest problems.

**Read it all:** [http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/25/government-influence-solutions-opinions-contributors-problems\\_print.html](http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/25/government-influence-solutions-opinions-contributors-problems_print.html)

## Once Again, Tim Geithner Gets It Exactly Wrong

by John Tamny, 26 March 2009

...Geithner's desire to foist collective guilt on all Americans in many ways strikes at the heart of our problems today. That's the case because in analyzing how we got here, we should make no mistake about the causes. This financial crisis we're experiencing is a failure of *collectivism* rather than a failure of **capitalism** as so many assume.

Within a **capitalist** system there would never have been the dollar debasement that drove the rush into property, but that was imposed on the American economy as a way of helping failing manufacturers. Similarly within a **capitalist** system, loans would have been issued solely based on the borrower's presumed ability to pay them back. And banks would have lent with the certain knowledge that a failure to lend with profit in mind would be an economic decision that could result in bankruptcy.

But thanks to the **collectivist** thinking that got us here, government subsidy of the Fannie/Freddie variety made mortgages accessible to those who could not pay them, while some banks chased risky returns based on a belief that any failure would be backstopped by a political class that irrespective of party thinks home ownership is a public good that should be subsidized. The Constitution be damned...

**Read it the rest:** [http://www.realeclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/03/once\\_again\\_tim\\_geithner\\_gets\\_i.html](http://www.realeclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/03/once_again_tim_geithner_gets_i.html)

This is **Liberal Fascism** on the march.

## Expanded Americorps has an authoritarian feel

Washington Examiner Editorial, 26 March 2009

With almost no public attention, both chambers of Congress in the past week advanced an alarming expansion of the Americorps national service plan...

... the legislation threatens the voluntary nature of Americorps by calling for consideration of "a workable, fair, and reasonable mandatory service requirement for all able young people." It anticipates the possibility of requiring "all individuals in the United States" to perform such service—including elementary school students. The bill also summons up unsettling memories of World War II-era paramilitary groups by saying the new program should "combine the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service," while establishing "campuses" that serve as "operational headquarters," complete with "superintendents" and "uniforms" for all participants. It allows for the elimination of all age restrictions in order to involve Americans at all stages of life. And it calls for creation of "a permanent cadre" in a "National Community Civilian Corps."

But that's not all. The bill also calls for "youth engagement zones" in which "service learning" is "a mandatory part of the curriculum in all of the secondary schools served by the local educational agency." This updated form of voluntary community service is also to be "integrated into the science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula" at all levels of schooling. Sounds like a government curriculum for government approved "service learning," which is nothing less than indoctrination. Now, ask yourself if congressmen who voted for this monstrosity had a clue what they were voting for. If not, they're guilty of dereliction of duty. If yes, the implications are truly frightening.

**More:** <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Expanded-Americorps-has-an-authoritarian-feel-41889742.html>

## O's Foreign Failures

by Ralph Peters, 25 March 2009

America's enemies smell blood and it's type "O."

All new administrations stumble a bit as they seek their footing. But President Obama's foreign-policy botches have set new records for instant incompetence.

Contrary to left-wing myths, I wasn't a fan of the Bush administration. (I called for Donald Rumsfeld to get the boot in mid-2001.) But fair's fair. Despite his many faults, Bush sought to do good. Obama just wants to *look* good. Vice President Dick Cheney was arrogant. Vice President Joe Biden is arrogant and stupid. Take your pick.

Don't worry about the new administration's ideology. Worry about its terrifying naïveté. Consider a sampling of the goofs O and his crew have made in just two months...

...Apart from Iraq—a success *Senator* Obama did all he could to prevent—his foreign policy's an instant wasteland. By comparison, the Carter administration is starting to look like a model of manly strength, courage and patriotism.

**Read it all:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03252009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/os\\_foreign\\_failures\\_161154.htm?&page=1](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03252009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/os_foreign_failures_161154.htm?&page=1)

## No, he can't

The wheels are already coming off Obama's Trojan horse revolution.

Will he, like Jimmy Carter, be seen as a one-term disaster?

by Bartle Bull, 26 March 2009 (April issue)

Barack Obama was always going to disappoint. When you promise almost everything to almost everybody—I'll stop the fighting in Iraq but I'll also keep going after al Qaeda there; I'll make the economy grow more but I'll spread the wealth around, and so on—you will inevitably let many people down. Human beings, even those who read fluently from teleprompters, simply cannot walk on water.

But few expected the wheels to come off the new administration so quickly...

**Lots more:** [http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article\\_details.php?id=10682](http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=10682)

## Death tax could mean end for fifth-generation rancher

by Clayton T. Leverett, 25 March 2009

I am the owner of a ranch that has been in my family for five generations. If current trends continue, I'll be the last in that line. My family's way of life is threatened by the death tax.

My great-great-grandfather was a rags-to-riches pioneer. In the late 1860s, James Clayton Stribling Sr., son of an immigrant from England, moved from his birthplace in Tennessee to Texas. Arriving with little more than the shirt on his back, he began leasing land to graze cattle...

**More:** [http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/stories/03/25/0325leverett\\_edit.html](http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/stories/03/25/0325leverett_edit.html)

## Bush's 'folly' is ending in victory

by Jeff Jacoby, 25 March 2009

...Those elections were yet another blow to the conviction that constitutional democracy and Arab culture are incompatible. For the 440 seats to be filled, more than 14,000 candidates and some 400 political parties contended—a level of democratic competition that leaves American elections in the dust. A Jeffersonian republic of yeoman smallholders Iraq will never be. But over the past six years it has been transformed from one of the most brutal tyrannies on earth to an example of democratic pluralism in the heart of the Arab world.

For a long time the foes of both the Iraq war and the president who launched it insisted that none of this was possible—that **the war was lost**, that there was **no military solution** to the sectarian slaughter, that the surge would only **make the violence worse**. **Victory was not an option**, the critics declared; the only option was to **partition Iraq and get out**. Time and again it was said that the war would forever be remembered as **Bush's folly**, if not indeed as the **worst foreign policy mistake in US history**.

Even now, with a stubbornness born of partisan hostility or political ideology, there are those who cannot bring

themselves to utter the words "victory" and "Iraq" in the same sentence. But six years after the war began, it is ending in victory. As in every war, the price of that victory was higher than we would have wished. The price of defeat would have been far higher.

All of it: [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2009/03/25/bushs\\_folly\\_is\\_ending\\_in\\_victory/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/03/25/bushs_folly_is_ending_in_victory/)

## Obama's Budget: It's Absolutely Insane!

by Peter Ferrara, 25 March 2009

At his press conference last night, President Obama insisted once again that he inherited the budget deficit, and "we're doing everything we can to reduce that deficit."

But the deficits over the next 10 years that Obama proposed in his budget are not George Bush's deficits. They are the deficits that **Obama** has proposed, resulting from the \$1 trillion in increased spending he adopted in the no-stimulus stimulus bill, and the \$400 billion supplemental spending bill he supported and also adopted the following week, and the \$275 billion housing bailout he proposed the next week, and the \$1 trillion bank bailout plan his Treasury Secretary just proposed this week, and the \$638 billion he has proposed as a "downpayment" on a new national health insurance entitlement. The health insurance plan will be the most expensive entitlement of all — serious estimates are that it will cost at least \$1.2 trillion or more. Does this sound like he is "doing everything we can to reduce that deficit?" ...

More: [http://foxforum.blogs.foxnews.com/2009/03/25/ferrara\\_budget\\_obama/](http://foxforum.blogs.foxnews.com/2009/03/25/ferrara_budget_obama/)

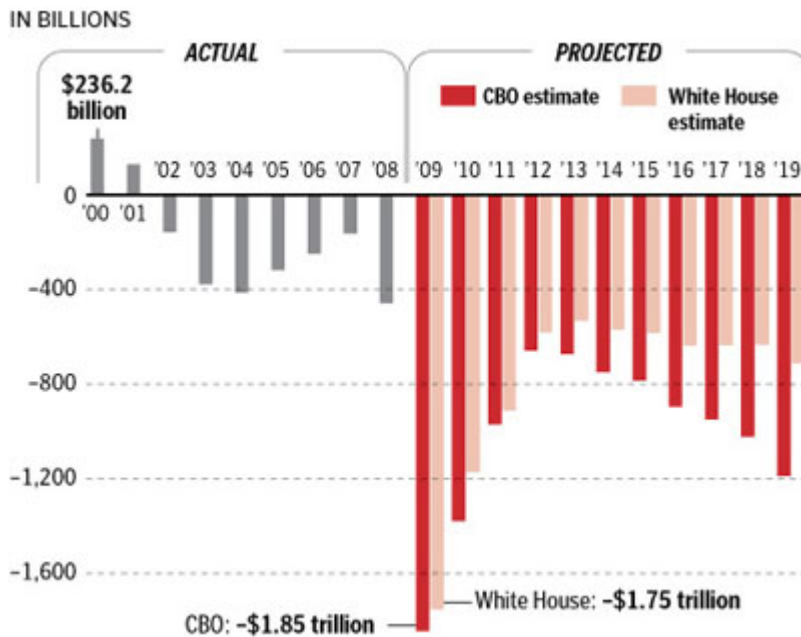
## video: President ZoBama does the Tonight Show with Jay Leno

by Alfonzo Rachel, 24 March 2009

[http://www.pjtv.com/video/ZoNation/President\\_ZoBama\\_does\\_the\\_Tonight\\_Show\\_with\\_Jay\\_Leno/1580/](http://www.pjtv.com/video/ZoNation/President_ZoBama_does_the_Tonight_Show_with_Jay_Leno/1580/)

## Bush Deficit vs. Obama Deficit in Pictures

by Conn Carroll, 24 March 2009



Read it (and weep): <http://blog.heritage.org/2009/03/24/bush-deficit-vs-obama-deficit-in-pictures/>

## Requiem For a Lightweight

by Iowahawk, 23 March 2009

(With apologies to Rod Serling)

## ACT 1

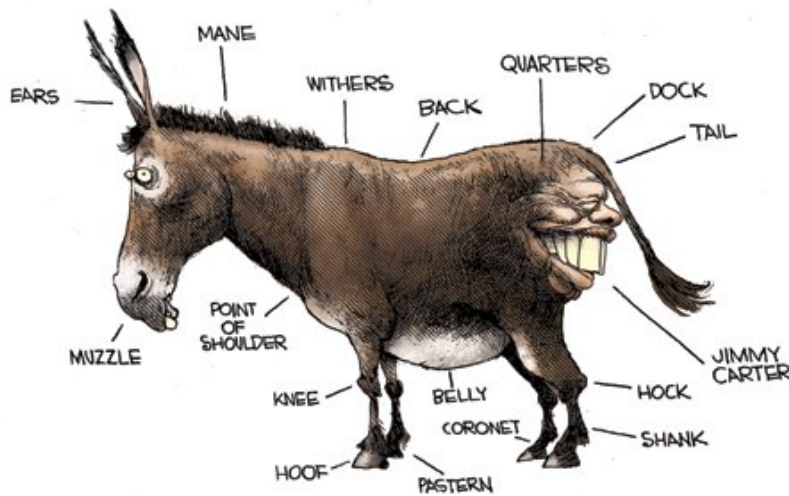
### SCENE 1

A stark dressing room in the underbelly of the White House, bathed in the dim yellow light of a 25-watt compact fluorescent bulb. The dingy walls are plastered with Shepard Fairey "HOPE" posters. Off stage is heard the cringing, muffled gasps of a stunned arena audience. Suddenly the door bursts open and enters BARACK "BAM BAM" OBAMA, former champion, unconscious on a stretcher carried by his handlers—cut man TWINKLETOES EMANUEL, manager PAPPY AXELROD, SPITBUCKET BEGALA and SPINDOC GREENBURG. His nose is bleeding profusely, his eyes nearly swollen shut, and his forehead is embossed with a reverse "BRUNSWICK" from an errant bowling ball. They are trailed into the room by a pack of concerned sportswriters as they place the stretcher on a stark table...

**Continue:** <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2009/03/requiem-for-a-lightweight.html>

(Thanks, LGF)

RAMIREZ



[www.speditentials.com/cartoons](http://www.speditentials.com/cartoons)

This clinches it: there is **NO** American war effort that Dhimmi Carter would ever support.

### **Jimmy Carter's crazy slavery theory: He thinks the Civil War was un-Christian**

by Ira Stoll, 21 March 2009

[http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/23/2009-03-23\\_jimmy\\_carters\\_crazy\\_slavery\\_theory\\_he\\_th.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/23/2009-03-23_jimmy_carters_crazy_slavery_theory_he_th.html)

(Thanks to LGF for the story, and Michael Ramirez for the cartoon)

### **Dreaming of President Petraeus and an American Surge**

by Andrew Breitbart, 23 March 2009

...Clearly, our national will is wilting away. Following the tragic lead of Europe, too many Americans no longer want to engage our external threats head-on. And on the domestic front, we are confronting the economic crisis of our lifetime with the same full-steam-ahead spending-spree mind-set that got us into the mess to begin with. We say: Let's create more government dependency, reward the incompetent and print more money. That's doubling down on stupidity.

We are a trust-fund nation (picture Tori Spelling in the Lifetime Channel role of her career) whose BMW has run out of gas in the middle of the Mojave Desert after a pointless 115-miles-per-hour joy ride. The credit cards are maxed out. We're out of cell phone range. And dad, who just got taken by Uncle Bernie Madoff, wouldn't take the call anyway.

The silent generation, which learned valuable lessons from the Depression and World War II, is not here to guide us through these difficult times. The narcissistic baby boomers, who probably think this song is about them, are now firmly in charge. And that's the rub.

What is scaring us—even though many of us won't admit it—is that we elected a president who wants more than anything to be liked. What else explains his headlong rush to persuade foreign governments—even enemy regimes—to

embrace us? And what else justifies his infatuation with Hollywood?...

...These aren't beginner's mistakes. These are his core incompetencies...

**Read it all:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/23/dreaming-of-president-petraeus-and-an-american-sur/>

Jonathon Porritt is a moonbat, enviro-wacko lunatic. His fevered brain has conjured an Doomsday scenario that's based on even worse science than the Gullible Warming hysteria. And its implications are even more dangerous to the human race, because they call for people in superior cultures to reduce their birthrates while members of primitive or dysfunctional cultures continue to breed apace. **What Mr. Porritt seems to want is a Mother Earth populated by benighted, misogynistic morons who live in mud huts, and who've never read Shakespeare or listened to Mozart.**

## **UK population must fall to 30m, says Porritt**

*by Jonathan Leake and Brendan Montague, 22 March 2009*

Jonathon Porritt, one of Gordon Brown's leading green advisers, is to warn that Britain must drastically reduce its population if it is to build a sustainable society. Porritt's call will come at this week's annual conference of the Optimum Population Trust (OPT), of which he is patron. The trust will release research suggesting UK population must be cut to 30m if the country wants to feed itself sustainably. Porritt said: "Population growth, plus economic growth, is putting the world under terrible pressure..."

**Read more (if you need to):** <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5950442.ece>

## **The Toxic Assets We Elected**

*by George F. Will, 24 March 2009*

...This latest plan to unfreeze the financial system came almost half a year after Congress shoveled \$700 billion into the Troubled Assets Relief Program, \$325 billion of which has been spent without purchasing any toxic assets. TARP funds have, however, semi-purchased, among many other things, two automobile companies (and, last week, some of their parts suppliers), which must amaze Sweden. That unlikely tutor of America regarding capitalist common sense has said, through a Cabinet minister, that the ailing Saab automobile company is on its own: "The Swedish state is not prepared to own car factories."

...Another embarrassing auditor of American misgovernment is China, whose premier has rightly noted the unsustainable trajectory of America's high-consumption, low-savings economy...

...A leading Democrat trying to abolish the right of workers to secret ballots in unionization elections ...Last year, Mexico's highest court unanimously affirmed for Mexicans the right that Democrats want to strip from Americans...

...Congress, with the approval of a president who has waxed censorious about his predecessor's imperious unilateralism in dealing with other nations, has shredded the North American Free Trade Agreement...

...voting to pretend that the District of Columbia is a state...What, then, prevents Congress from giving House and Senate seats to Yellowstone National Park?...

...Jefferson warned that "great innovations should not be forced on slender majorities." But Democrats, who trace their party's pedigree to Jefferson, are contemplating using "reconciliation" — a legislative maneuver abused by both parties to severely truncate debate and limit the minority's right to resist — to impose vast and controversial changes on the 17 percent of the economy that is health care...

...This is but a partial list of recent lawlessness, situational constitutionalism and institutional derangement. Such political malfeasance is pertinent to the financial meltdown as the administration, desperately seeking confidence, tries to stabilize the economy by vastly enlarging government's role in it.

**Full column:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032302140.html>

## **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

**They're still fighting for us.**

**Soldiers' Angels**

**Marine Defense Fund**

**Wounded Warrior Project**

**Fisher House: help military families**

**America Supports You**

## **Sorry, but Capitalism Did Not Fail**

*by Louis R. Woodhill, 23 March 2009*

The current world-wide economic and financial crisis does not represent a failure of capitalism or of markets. It is the result of mistakes made by the U.S. Federal Reserve, aided and abetted by Congress and the Administration. Here's an analogy that illustrates what happened...

**Read on:** <http://intermexfreemarket.blogspot.com/2009/03/sorry-but-capitalism-did-not-fail.html>

## **Iraq, Six Years On**

*New York Post, 22 March 2009*

You may have missed it amid the AIG-bonus furor, but last week marked six years since the start of the Iraq War. It's a noteworthy moment, because America's mission in Iraq finally seems headed toward completion.

Yes, it may be years more before historians can render a final verdict on that controversial endeavor. But it's not too soon to assess gains and losses....

**Continue:** [http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/03222009/postopinion/editorials/iraq\\_\\_six\\_years\\_on\\_160702.htm](http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/03222009/postopinion/editorials/iraq__six_years_on_160702.htm)

## **Taliban Threaten to Behead Pro-Taliban Canadian "Journalist"**

*My Pet Jawa, 23 March 2009*

We've been following the story of Beverly Giesbrecht (aka, Khadija Abdul Qahar) fairly closely for years now. As the owner and operator of the "Jihad Unspun" website, she wrote countless stories about how US and Canadian troops were the "real terrorists" and how the Taliban were simply anti-imperialist freedom fighters—the "resistance" as she liked to call them...

...Yes, I am skeptical. What would the Taliban have to gain from beheading a woman who is on the record as a supporter? Jihad Unspun used to deliver Taliban press releases unedited. The whole thing seems rather fishy.

Of course, there remains the possibility that this is exactly what this seems. That the Taliban really are holding Beverly hostage and that they really are going to behead her if a ransom isn't paid. If that is the case, then I really do feel sorry for "Khadija". Even fools deserve our pity sometimes...

**More (including video):** <http://mypetjawa.mu.nu/archives/196925.php>

*(Thanks, LGF)*

This Congressman is a first-class Moonbat. In 2007 he said that Soldiers and Marines got sent to Iraq "to get their heads blown off for the President's amusement." Now he joins disgraced fellow Democrats like Bill Richardson, Tom Daschle, Nancy Keller, Hilda Solis, Eliot Engel, Charlie Rangel, Tim Geithner, Rod Blagojevich, Roland Burris, Barney Frank ("The Banking Queen"), Christopher Dodd—and so many more—in the continuing Democrat Culture of Corruption.

## **So does Democrat Pete Stark represent California or Maryland?**

*by Andrew Malcolm, 23 March 2009*

Oh-oh, looks like more tax troubles for another Democrat in Washington.

California's Rep. Pete Stark, a senior House Democrat who helps write the nation's tax laws, has been claiming a \$1.7 million Maryland home as his principal residence in recent years, although he represents the Golden State's 13th District on the east side of San Francisco Bay.

The 77-year-old Stark has saved himself nearly \$3,900 in state and county taxes by claiming the six-acre waterfront estate as his principal residence, according to an investigation by Bloomberg News...

**More:** <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2009/03/pete-stark-hous.html>

*(Thanks, LGF)*

## Wife of Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn) is a Former Director of Bermuda-Based IPC Holdings, an AIG Controlled Company

by Kevin Rennie, 23 March 2009

No wonder Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Conn) went wobbly last week when asked about his February amendment ratifying hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses to executives at insurance giant AIG. Dodd has been one of the company's favorite recipients of campaign contributions. But it turns out that Senator Dodd's wife has also benefited from past connections to AIG as well...

**More:** [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/03/dodds\\_wife\\_a\\_former\\_director\\_o.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/03/dodds_wife_a_former_director_o.html)

(Thanks, LGF)

## Obama Sticker Shock

Wall Street Journal, 23 March 2009

...Mr. Obama keeps saying he has "inherited a trillion dollar deficit," which is true. But he's hardly an innocent bystander. CBO shows that the President is seeing that \$1 trillion and raising it again and again, as far as the eye can see...



**Read it (and WEEP):** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123776518094909023.html>

## Five Signs of a Flailing Presidency

by Fred Barnes, 22 March 2009 (March 30 issue)

...It's easy to keep your story straight when you're telling the truth. It gets harder when you're not. Geithner initially said he learned of the AIG bonuses on March 10. He tried to give himself wiggle room by saying this was when he was informed about the size and scope of the bonuses. **This isn't true. It turns out he was questioned on March 3 by Democratic congressman Joe Crowley of New York in very specific terms about the bonuses.** Crowley noted that AIG was "slated to pay an additional \$162 million in bonuses to 393 participants in the coming weeks." Geithner responded to Crowley that he "very much share[s] your concern" about the bonuses. But don't try to square Geithner's two statements. That would be a distraction.

Democrat Chris Dodd of Connecticut, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, tied himself in knots denying his role in crafting the provision in the stimulus that kept the bonuses alive. One day he indicated he'd had nothing to do with inserting that provision in the bill. He wasn't even on the Senate-House conference committee that put it in. **The next day, he told a different story.** Yes, he'd asked senators to include the provision, but he did so only because Treasury officials urged him to. No wonder Dodd is in reelection trouble...

**Read it all:** <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/302xiamh.asp?pg=1>

## **From anger to madness:**

### **A class-warfare crazed government mob is running amok**

*by Michael Goodwin, 22 March 2009*

...I was too kind. I should have said our representatives are gangsters in pinstripes and pearls. They are petty tyrants and the more power they grab, the more at risk we are. Homeland Security should flash Code Red any time this Congress is in session.

It is twilight in America now. The House vote to use the tax code to retroactively punish bonus babies was an act of sheer madness. What started as phony outrage at AIG has crossed the line into insane policy. It is stunning that the vote was lopsided and bipartisan.

The Senate is itchy to go along, and President Obama says he's ready to tighten the thumbscrews on the banks. Is there no adult who will bring a straitjacket?

We should all be very afraid. Class warfare is mere predicate for a witch hunt that, once unleashed, will not stop with misbegotten wealth. It will punish success and stifle innovation. Dissent will invite dishonor.

That Congress is a gang of cheap connivers is not news. Chris Dodd, Charlie Rangel, Charles Grassley, Barney Frank—they have been national embarrassments for years. But now they are dangerous, emboldened by public fear and anger. They know nothing, but have power and smell opportunity for more...

**More:** <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/columnists/goodwin/index.html>

Be sure to read the comments, too. Apparently, there are a great many non-moonbats in Chicago.

### **Chicago Way extension runs right through D.C.**

*by John Kass, 21 March 2009*

...But all this false congressional outrage and shrieking and fingerpointing should be understood for what it really is: Political buttocks-covering by Democrats who are worried about the 2010 elections, and afraid of losing their greatest symbolic weapon: The Evil Rich Guy.

That's another cartoon, like Mr. Burns on *The Simpsons*, who steps on the backs of the humble working man. Now, though, the Democrats aren't fighting Mr. Burns, they're giving him a boost so he can step on our necks with a pair of snazzy AIG loafers.

What they're trying to drown out with all their screaming is that the Democrats knew all about the \$165 million to the AIG suits. And the Obama White House knew all about it too...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-kass-bd-22-mar22,0,5436164.column>

Another embarrassing TV appearance for our Dear Leader.

### **Kroft to Obama: Are you punch-drunk?**

*22 March 2009*

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0309/20339.html>

### **Setting the mobs loose**

*by Ed Morrissey, 21 March 2009*

<http://hotair.com/archives/2009/03/21/setting-the-mobs-loose/>

### **Obama gets lost reading his teleprompter**

*18 March 2009*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt5dY3vVoZ0>

**The original link for this story was marred by a misprint. This one should work.**

### **It's Obama's Crisis Now**

*by Byron York, 20 March 2009*

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Its-President-Obamas-crisis-nowand-so-is-the-blame-41528712.html>

## Three Videos by Stuart Shepard

Global Lukewarming (20 March 2009): <http://www.citizenlink.org/Stoplight/A000009650.cfm>

Magic Trick (16 March 2009): <http://www.citizenlink.org/Stoplight/A000009623.cfm>

Change Is Good (16 Jan 2009): <http://www.citizenlink.org/Stoplight/A000009104.cfm>

**More about Stuart Shepard:** <http://www.citizenlink.org/CLFeatures/A000002505.cfm>

He has won awards as a meteorologist, but his highest honor to date is a "Worst Person in the World" from Keith Untermensch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTuRFz0ITTU>

(Hat tip: Marty M.)

## Hamas's Free Lunch

by Caroline Glick, 19 March 2009

...Dahlan went on to explain how the fiction worked. Arafat was the head of the PLO but also the head of Fatah. While as chairman of the PLO he recognized Israel and pledged to end terrorism and live at peace with the Jewish state, as head of Fatah he continued his war against Israel. Dahlan even bragged that to date, Fatah has killed 10 times more Palestinians suspected of cooperating with Israel's counterterror operations (the same operations the PLO committed to assisting) than Hamas has.

Dahlan explained that all Hamas needs to do is to follow in Fatah's footsteps. It should say that the PA government accepts the West's terms, but in the meantime, those terms will remain inapplicable to Hamas as a "resistance group." In that way, Dahlan explained, Hamas will be able to receive all the West's billions in financial assistance...

...If Damascus is the state equivalent of the PLO, then Teheran is the state equivalent of Hamas. Today, as the mullahs sprint toward the nuclear finish line, the Obama administration is pretending that the jury is still out on whether or not the Islamic republic wants a nuclear arsenal. As with Hamas, so with Teheran, the Americans have dropped even the pretense of requiring a change in Iran's rhetorical positions as a precondition for diplomatic recognition. The US now pursues its diplomatic reconciliation with Teheran with the sure knowledge that this peace process will lead to Iran's emergence as a nuclear power.

So the question is, if the American and European pursuits of peace with Fatah, Hamas, Syria and Iran have not caused them to change their behavior one iota, what are the Western powers talking about when they say that it is imperative to push the peace process or engage the Syrians and the Iranians? After all, Western leaders must know that these processes are complete farces. Sadly, the answer is clear. Western leaders are not pursuing peace in these processes. They are pursuing appeasement...

**Full story:** <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1237461629061&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

## AIG and Our Embarrassing Congress

by Steve Chapman, 22 March 2009

Congress is outraged. Really, really outraged. Unbelievably, incredibly outraged. And there are certainly grounds for anger.

Not at the insurance company AIG, which paid bonuses that are seen as intolerable, but at Congress, which blithely declined to prohibit them but is now shocked to find AIG doing what it was allowed to do. The Democrats who control Capitol Hill want revenge, as do many Republicans. So the House voted by a 328-93 margin to impose a 90 percent tax on the payments.

In doing so, members resolutely avoided a couple of inconvenient realities. The first is that the fault, if any, lies with the same people who are now angry. The second is that the tax conflicts with the clear intent of the Constitution.

**The pending fees were not exactly classified information.** "AIG's plans to pay hundreds of millions of dollars were publicized last fall, when Congress started asking questions about expensive junkets the company had sponsored," reports the Associated Press. "A November SEC filing by the company details \$469 million in 'retention payments' to keep prized employees."...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-oped0322chapmanmar22,0,2981627.column>

## Taxes as punishment: What else is new?

*New Hampshire Union Leader editorial, 21 March 2009*

...Thursday's reactionary bill to use the tax code to extract wealth from specific individuals is nothing new. Our entire "progressive" tax code was designed to do exactly that.

We use the U.S. tax code to systematically punish people who earn more money. The more you earn, the higher your rate. Those in the highest bracket pay more than double the tax rate of those in the lowest bracket.

Some call that fairness. It is not. What's fair is everyone paying the same rate. Under a flat tax, if you earn more, you pay more. Seventeen percent of \$1 million is a lot more than 17 percent of \$10,000. But the code treats everyone fairly.

But Washington finds punishing the rich is popular. Not use the tax code as a political weapon? Why, you might as well ask members of Congress to stop giving speeches...

**More:** <http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Taxes+as+punishment%3a+What+else+is+new%3f&articleId=07a07b87-dc60-466f-bdb6-8a35b049aa89>

## Dodd's Actions Speak Louder Than His Words

*by Aaron Kennon, 20 March 2009*

...Let's take our own U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd as a prime example. As a ranking member of the all-important U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs between 2003 and 2008, Dodd **accepted donations from the nearly defunct insurance giant American International Group totaling nearly \$225,000**. In 2008, while we looked to him to represent our best interests, he received \$157,194 from a now-quasi-nationalized Citigroup Inc., part of his total annual take of \$854,200 from all TARP recipients, according to the Center for Responsive Politics...

...His poor judgment does not stop there. The senator was **one of the most significant recipients of money from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac**, now nationalized due to poor oversight and years of legislative mismanagement. According to his office as reported just two weeks ago, Dodd has agreed to return campaign donations from TARP recipients since the government began infusing the companies. What an honorable decision considering that his hand was caught in the cookie jar!

Further, Dodd **received from Countrywide Financial**, an entity that was sold to Bank of America in order to avoid bankruptcy, **a special below-market mortgage rate** on his two personal residences. He called a "V.I.P." number at Countrywide and in so doing abused his position as a lead oversight legislator in the U.S. Senate.

The list goes on and on for Dodd...

**More:** [http://www.connpost.com/oped/ci\\_11959016](http://www.connpost.com/oped/ci_11959016)

## Human sacrifices to climate god

Some scientists are skeptical about the apocalypse prophesied by blithering alarmists.

*by Jay Ambrose, 20 March 2009*

Back in 1500, we learn from a Princeton professor, the Aztecs figured the climate debate was over, and that if you wanted rain and sunshine and other such blessings, it was simple enough what you had to do—sacrifice 20,000 lives a year to the right gods.

In the year 2009, it's an equally sure thing in the minds of some that carbon in the atmosphere is going to fry us unless we put the welfare of millions on the line, and here is the latest on President Obama's plan—it could cost industry almost \$2 trillion over an eight-year period.

That hefty sum to be paid out to a cap-and-trade carbon tax would snatch money from the pockets of consumers far more than rising oil prices did, hinder economic growth and instill other ways generate human misery, and all in the name of what? Computer models that can't get anything right, that's what...

**More:** <http://www.ocreger.com/articles/carbon-warming-dioxide-2340603-happer-atmosphere>

## The Pride of the Liberals

*by Ramesh Ponnuru, 19 March 2009 (23 March issue)*

Sometimes political movements, as they grow old, become arrogant, insular, and dismissive of criticism. Critics said that the conservative ascendancy of the last few decades succumbed to that disease, and there is more truth in it than conservatives would like to admit. What we are seeing in Washington, D.C., right now is different: President Obama and his supporters are showing early symptoms of this syndrome in the first flush of victory. The liberal ascendancy is already becoming a liberal complacency.

In part this tendency reflects the character of the new president, a preternaturally self-confident man. His ambition to remake American policy and politics is staggering. His agenda for just his first year in office includes a fiscal stimulus unprecedented in size, a push for a new energy economy, and the revamping of American health care. That ambition may wreck his presidency, or it may make him the world-historical figure he aspires to be. But what is more troubling is the unwarranted intellectual self-confidence that liberalism in the age of Obama increasingly exhibits...

**Continue:** <http://nrd.nationalreview.com/article/?q=MWNkNzVmYzVIZWEyZTQ2ZTViZWU1MWI3YmJhZWJkNDE=>

## **A Note on the "New Progressive America"**

*by Jay Cost, 18 March 2009*

...I draw this conclusion based on five observations about the last forty years:

- (1) The parties typically share control of the institutions of government.
- (2) The longest time any party has held the presidency and the Congress together was four years. In both instances, subsequent electoral defeats were decisive and humiliating.
- (3) Voters typically have low levels of political information, which makes it difficult to develop genuine ideology.
- (4) The electorate as a whole is known to vary its preference on non-ideological factors, like the performance of the economy and the President's management of the government.
- (5) The purpose of the political party is to acquire the majority. Historically, this has meant that the parties respond to setbacks, often by redrafting elements of their message...

**More:** [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2009/03/a\\_note\\_on\\_the\\_new\\_progressive.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2009/03/a_note_on_the_new_progressive.html)

## **Now Obama Tells Us?**

*by Victor Davis Hanson, 16 March 2009*

Imagine that last fall before being elected, Barack Obama had outlined the positions he has embraced since being inaugurated as president. An honest campaign speech could have gone something like this:

"As we approach Election Day, the American people should not waste the crisis we find ourselves in. Consequently, if elected, I promise to get us over the Bush financial meltdown with a stimulus program that will borrow \$787 billion — which, of course, will add to the already sizable budget deficit (nearly \$500 billion) projected in the Bush administration's last budget.

"By March of next year, my new \$3.6 trillion budget will include a spending bill with over 8,500 budget earmarks to target in-need constituents. In addition to the stimulus/borrowing plan, I intend to devote \$634 billion to fund a new supplementary national health care system. But that is not all. Unfortunately, the initial Bush bank bailout of some \$700 billion also may well have to be augmented by an additional \$750 billion.

"Although my new spending proposals may raise the federal deficit in my first year to \$1.75 trillion, I promise the American people that by the end of my first term, I will halve the federal deficit — albeit adding another \$3 to \$5 trillion to the national debt.

"Those savings can be accomplished by upping the federal income tax to about 40 percent on those rich 5 percent of Americans who currently pay only 60 percent of our aggregate income taxes — as well as lifting Social Security caps on their payroll taxes and cutting out many of their tax deductions. With state income taxes, federal income tax, Social Security and payroll taxes, along with new cutbacks in deductions, some of these rich will pay over 60 percent of their incomes in taxes. That is not an unreasonable rate in comparison with past levels — or the fact that well over 40 percent of Americans do not make enough to pay any federal income taxes.

"I expect that Wall Street may react negatively to these proposals. We may see the Dow fall an additional 2,000 to 3,000 points after I'm elected. It may descend to under 7,000 during my first weeks of office. And this may be the moment when the economy continues to cool and unemployment rises...

**Read the rest:** <http://victorhanson.com/articles/hanson031609.html>

## Obama's Afghan Struggle

by Fouad Ajami, 20 March 2009

...It should have taken no great literacy in the theories and the history of "state-building" to foresee the favorable endowments of Iraq and the built-in disadvantages of Afghanistan.

Man battled the elements in Mesopotamia, and the desert and its ways of plunder and raiding pushed against urban life, but the land gave rise to powerful kingdoms: the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Sumerians, the Abbasids. In more modern times, oil and the central treasury knit the place together, often in terror, but kept it together nonetheless.

Contrast this with Afghanistan's impassable mountains and anarchic ways, and with the poppy cultivation and its culture of warlords and bandits. A Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad can dispense of oil largess and draw the provinces toward the capital; a Hamid Karzai in Kabul is what foreign donors and benefactors make of him and enable him to do.

The flattering cliché that Afghanistan is the "graveyard of empires" is a hollow boast. Empires that wandered there did so by default, for there never was anything in Afghanistan—save for geography—that outsiders coveted. It was the primitiveness of the place—the landscape that evoked the imagined early centuries of Islam's beginnings—and its age-old way of extracting booty from outsiders that had drawn the Arab jihadists, and their financiers and handlers, to Afghanistan.

Now the Democrats own this Afghan struggle. They have to explain and defend it in the midst of a mood of introversion in our national life. It is hard to sound the trumpet at a time of economic distress. Plainly, our country has been living on its nerves since 9/11...

**Read the rest:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123750990996390643.html>

## Congress in a Lynching Mood

by Steve Chapman, 19 March 2009

The financial crisis has been widely interpreted as proof of the need for extensive government regulation of banks, insurance companies and other capitalist institutions. The antics of politicians now that they have a greater role, however, are a vivid reminder of why they can't be trusted with such power...

**Continue:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/congress-in-a-lynching-mood.html>

By the way: Chicago may or may not get the 2016 Olympic Games. But in the wake of the President's thoughtless and insensitive remark, his adopted hometown is unlikely to be awarded the Special Olympics.

## Top 10 gaffes by Barack Obama and Joe Biden

by Toby Harnden, 20 March 2009

**10 videos:** [http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/toby\\_harnden/blog/2009/03/20/top\\_10\\_gaffes\\_by\\_barack\\_obama\\_and\\_joe\\_biden\\_](http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/toby_harnden/blog/2009/03/20/top_10_gaffes_by_barack_obama_and_joe_biden_)

As the tenth anniversary approaches, this father's words remain vitally important.

## The Real Blame for Columbine

Congressional testimony by Darrell Scott, 27 May 1999

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/d/darrellscott.htm>

(Hat tip: Jim K.)

## David Frum has become a centrist, at best

Don John, 21 March 2009

The former speechwriter for George W. Bush, who coined the term "axis of evil" and helped Hernando de Soto write *The Mystery of Capital*, has been losing his conservative religion.

He is pro-abortion, and in 2008 adopted a form of "Obamanomics":

<http://www.usnews.com/blogs/capital-commerce/2008/10/15/david-frums-weird-attack-on-larry-kudlow.html>

His recent attack on Rush Limbaugh (and others on the Right) accelerated the evaporation of Frum's claims to be a conservative:

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/188279>

<http://spectator.org/archives/2009/03/12/dead-wrong>

And now, with his endorsement of a carbon tax (19 March 09) the well has gone bone-dry:

[http://www.theweek.com/article/index/94397/Does\\_Obama\\_want\\_a\\_deal\\_or\\_a\\_war](http://www.theweek.com/article/index/94397/Does_Obama_want_a_deal_or_a_war)

He may still be a good man whose opinions are worth listening to. But he no longer has any business calling himself a conservative.

## They Know Better?

by Jennifer Rubin, 19 March 2009

...The AIG bonus issue is child's play compared to devising a universal health care system that is simultaneously going to expand coverage, improve care, reduce cost, protect privacy, and digitize all our medical information. We're just supposed to have faith in the Employee Free Choice Act's phalanx of government arbitrators who will set wages, benefits, and working conditions in every newly organized factory and workplace in America.

**The lesson from AIG is that the entire premise of the Obama administration — *we know better* — is fundamentally flawed. The Obama team can't effectively manage a single troubled company without getting itself and the whole country tied up in knots. The notion that we should invest the federal government with authority to control vast swatches of the economy can now be seen for what it is: madness.** We should consider ourselves lucky that the public is getting a glimpse of its government in action on a (relatively speaking) low-dollar item of limited consequences.

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/59202>

## What was supposed to be legal lynching of AIG's Edward Liddy turns into huge defeat for Congress

by Michael Goodwin, 18 March 2009

We have met the enemy and it's the people who represent us. The blowhards and buffoons in Congress proved again Wednesday they are worse than useless.

Ronald Reagan's famous line that "government is the problem" kept going through my head as the AIG hearing demonstrated the dangers of Washington's role in the economy. The very people, Republicans and Democrats alike, who can't balance America's budget now claim the expertise to run banks, insurance companies and automakers. If we let them, we're dumber than they are...

...Most important, he revealed the dirty little secret that much of Washington knew and approved of AIG's promises to pay retention bonuses to members of its financial products unit. That revelation came early in Liddy's testimony and punctured the hot air balloon.

Liddy's matter-of-fact claim directly implicates the Federal Reserve, which he called the "gatekeeper" for the 80% of AIG owned by the taxpayers. He also said Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner knew of the bonus plan nearly two weeks before it became public. Over to you, President Obama...

**Read it all:** <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/columnists/goodwin/index.html>

## It's Obama's Crisis Now

by Byron York, 20 March 2009

...Before anyone gives the president an award for political courage, remember that provisions regarding the bonuses—and who knows what else—were buried deep inside the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill that Obama and his fellow Democrats rushed through Congress. Every single Republican in the House voted against it, and all but three GOP senators did the same. There's no way Obama can blame the stimulus, and its contents, on anyone other than himself.

"What's beginning to happen is his actions are starting to have consequences," a Republican pollster told me. "And this is one of those. He hurried everybody through that process, and it's now his actions that are causing things that people are unhappy about."...

**More:** <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Its-President-Obamas-crisis-nowand-so-is-the-blame-41528712.html>

## The Adventure of a Lifetime

by Roger Kimball, 16 March 2009

A friend writes with this prescription for the Adventure of a Lifetime. (Note: Results may vary. Use at your own risk. No warranties stated or implied. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. May lose principle.)

Ready? Here we go!

a. Go to Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Iraq illegally. Never mind immigration quotas, visas, international law, or any of that nonsense.

b. Once there, demand that the local government provide free medical care for you and your entire family.

c. Demand that all nurses and doctors be fluent in English, and that all food be cooked according to your special specifications in the hospital.

d. Demand free local government forms, bulletins, etc. be printed in English.

e. Procreate abundantly...

**It goes all the way to "n," and beyond:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerkimball/2009/03/16/the-adventure-of-a-lifetime/>

## Petition: Don't Honor John Murtha

To: Secretary of the Navy

On March 5, 2009 Congressman John Murtha was awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award by the Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter...

...We the undersigned are appalled that the Secretary of the Navy would bestow the Department's highest award for a non-employee to John Murtha after his vile and despicable attacks against U.S. servicemen. This petition is a vehicle to express our bitter disappointment at this betrayal of our combat veterans. Congressman John Murtha should apologize for slandering the Marines of 3/1, and for undermining the efforts of those servicemen and women who fought in Iraq. If he does not, the Secretary of the Navy should rescind this award as a sign of his unwavering support for those who served in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom...

**Read the rest**    **View Current Signatures**    **Sign the Petition**    (*Hat tip: LGF*)

## I am not Jewish but...

by Rupert Murdoch, 19 March 2009

...But I am curious: Why do we never hear calls for Hamas leaders to be charged with war crimes?

Why, for example, do we hear no calls for human rights investigations into Hamas gunmen using Palestinian children as human shields? Why so few stories on the reports of Hamas assassins going to hospitals to hunt down their fellow Palestinians? And where are the international human rights groups demanding that Hamas stop blurring the most fundamental line in warfare: the distinction between civilian and combatant?...

...In the West, we are used to thinking that Israel cannot survive without the help of Europe and the United States. Tonight I say to you: Maybe we should start wondering whether we in Europe and the United States can survive if we allow the terrorists to succeed in Israel.

In this new century, the "West" is no longer a matter of geography. The West is defined by societies committed to freedom and democracy. That at least is how the terrorists see it. And if we are serious about meeting this challenge, we would expand the only military alliance committed to the defense of the West to include those on the front lines of this war. That means bringing countries such as Israel into NATO...

**It's magnificent:** <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1237392665709&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

## Obama in Trouble

by Stephen Hayes, 19 March 2009

...Voters are looking for someone to blame. At the town hall last night, Obama seemed to accept responsibility. "I'll take responsibility," he said. "I'm the president." It was enough for some in the media to give him credit for stepping up. But it was phony. The very next sentence out of his mouth: "We didn't draft these contracts." And later he added: "My job is to make sure we fix these messes, even if I don't make them."

But the bonuses are almost entirely a mess of his own making...

**More:** [http://www.weeklystandard.com/weblogs/TWSFP/2009/03/obama\\_in\\_trouble.asp](http://www.weeklystandard.com/weblogs/TWSFP/2009/03/obama_in_trouble.asp)

## **How Jon Stewart Went Bad**

*by Tucker Carlson, 18 March 2009*

...Stewart summed up the significance of what Cramer had said on the tape: "You can draw a straight line from those shenanigans to the stuff that was being pulled at Bear and at AIG, and all this derivative-market stuff," he said sternly.

Except that you can't draw any such line. In the video, Cramer hadn't mentioned derivatives or securitized loans or credit-default swaps, or any of the other exotic financial instruments that caused the fall of AIG and the current recession. There's no evidence that Jim Cramer had anything to do with any of that, and Stewart didn't offer any.

Before Cramer could defend himself, Stewart moved on to a new charge: Cramer and his colleagues at CNBC had known that the financial sector was in imminent danger of collapse, but had pretended otherwise...

**The whole story:** <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-03-18/how-jon-stewart-went-bad>

## **Obama Should Denounce Durban II**

*by Anne Bayefsky, 17 March 2009*

Under the growing threat of a boycott by the United States and European countries, negotiators planning the U.N.'s Durban II "anti-racism" conference made a new move in Geneva today. They released a modified version of a draft declaration that is expected to be adopted at the April *melée*. The draft jettisons much of the extra baggage Islamic states had piled on throughout the 10-month drafting process (for the sole purpose of "compromising" at the end). The improvements, however, do not meet the minimal conditions that the Obama administration delineated for U.S. participation. It is time to end the equivocation and get out.

Durban II represents a global showdown on the ideological battlefield between democrats and anti-democrats, between tolerance and intolerance. For years, the worst abusers of human rights have commandeered U.N. vehicles to trample rights and freedoms. Given the close relationship between spewing hatred and reaping violence—which the first Durban Declaration adopted on Sept. 8, 2001, made abundantly clear—the stakes are high.

**Continue:** <http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/17/united-nations-durban-opinions-bayefsky.html>

Thank goodness. This was one piece of anti-Obama ammo we *didn't* want.

## **Obama backtracks on veterans' insurance**

*by Jen DiMascio, 19 March 2009*

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0309/20190.html>

## **The GOP Is Getting Past 'No'**

*by Jennifer Rubin, 19 March 2009*

Ever since his Inaugural Address, President Obama has accused the Republicans of being the "Party of 'No'." First he accused unnamed critics of peddling "stale arguments" but soon he started pointing the finger directly at the GOP, contending that they lacked anything constructive to offer...

...But the reality is quite different. **ABC's Jake Tapper** tied up White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs in verbal knots recently by pointing out that Minority Whip Eric Cantor handed the president a list of suggestions while the stimulus was being drafted, but the president didn't seem to adopt many (any?) of these...

...Minority Leader John Boehner has a **new video** out listing a number of Republican themes and promising a Republican alternative budget from reformer Rep. Paul Ryan. The themes are simple: lower taxes, restrain the growth of government, a market-based health care plan, domestic energy development, and ending bailout mania. Boehner's video does not have many details, but its core message is clear: Republicans are tired of being the punching bag for an administration that wishes to paint itself as the only source of ideas capable of solving the country's problems.

Truth be told, for months, Republicans inside and outside of government have been throwing out ideas on how to revive the economy. **Americans for Tax Reform** has ten ideas to help small business. **Newt Gingrich** has twelve ideas to

promote job growth and recovery. And budget draftsman Paul Ryan has had " [A Road Map for America's Future](#)" for some time. But the mainstream media is uninterested in reading through all of this, much of the conservative blogosphere is too invested in carping about the shortcomings of elected leaders and in fighting among themselves, and the president, of course, has made a habit of disparaging his opposition's lack of creative ideas...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/gop-gets-past-no/>

## **Outrider of the Enlightenment**

A look at the legacy of Conor Cruise O'Brien.

by *Joseph Morrison Skelly, 17 March 2009*

...In his writings O'Brien was always careful to distinguish which Enlightenment he was protecting, namely the moderate Anglo-Scottish-American Enlightenment of John Locke, David Hume, Edmund Burke, John Adams, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton; not the radical French version spearheaded by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whom Burke called "the great professor and founder of the philosophy of *vanity*," and about whom O'Brien asserted, in a letter to Sir Isaiah Berlin, "I find that if a person is pro-Rousseau I class that person as basically an enemy, however agreeable they may appear in other respects." (Berlin escaped this classification.) This intellectual lineage means that O'Brien, in political terms, was more a classical liberal than the *enfant terrible* of the Left or the heavy-handed authoritarian of the Right his critics invariably painted him as over the years...

...he angered them further that year with the publication of *The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism*, a robust defense of the state of Israel, a vibrant outpost of the Enlightenment in the Middle East. To his close readers, this volume came as no surprise: He had always been a relentless opponent of anti-Semitism in Europe. His book is of a piece with his classic essay from 1970, "The Gentle Nietzscheans," which dissected the propensity of scholars to promote a benign interpretation of the German philosopher. "When Nietzsche praises, as he often does, war and cruelty, we are told we must understand him as calling for spiritual struggle and a stern mastery over the self," O'Brien sardonically observed about Nietzsche's apologists in academia, whose intellectual acolytes today make the same erroneous claims about jihad...

...As he observed in 1994, "The American Constitution is the greatest institutional repository and transmitter of Enlightenment values, not merely in America, but in the Western world."...

**Read the rest:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ZmU2ZmQ0MjE3NjY5NDcyZDQxYWE0YzgzZjRiNTAzN2U=>

## **Three views on Afghanistan.:**

### **The Mendacity of Hope**

by *Ralph Peters, 24 Feb 2009*

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2009/02/the-mendacity-o.html>

### **How to Surge the Taliban**

by *Max Boot, Frederick Kagan and Kimberly Kagan, 13 March 2009*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/13/opinion/13boot.html?ref=opinion>

### **Afghanistan and the Left**

by *Bret Stephens, 17 March 2009*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123725331061050371.html>

## **The AIG Outrage**

by *Lawrence Kudlow, 18 March 2009*

...It also shows, once again, why the government shouldn't run anything, because it cannot run anything.

AIG should have been placed in bankruptcy last fall under some sort of government sponsorship. While in bankruptcy, all the salary contracts (and every other AIG contract) would have been nullified and voided. At the same

time, there would have been an orderly liquidation and sale of AIG's assets and separate divisions. But as things stand now, there still is no clear roadmap for the dissolution of AIG. There are ideas, but nothing is set in concrete.

And as for the \$165 million or so in AIG bonus payments, the Obama administration—including the president, Treasury man Tim Geithner, and economic adviser Larry Summers—knew all about them many months ago. They were undoubtedly informed of this during the White House transition.

So there's no big surprise. Nobody should be shocked. But President Obama is doing his best play-acting ever. He knows full well that the nationwide outcry against federal bailouts and takeovers is only going to get worse on his watch. His poll numbers are already falling, and this AIG episode is going to pull them down more.

Incidentally, has anybody asked Team Obama why it is more than willing to break mortgage contracts with a bankruptcy-judge cram-down, but won't cram-down compensation agreements for AIG, despite the fact that the U.S. government owns the company? Kind of odd, don't you think?...

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjA0ODRIOWIyMjU5ZjUxMTBkMTEwYjhkNjQ4OGYwNGU=>

## Will Obama Go AWOL on VA Health Benefits?

by David K. Rehbein, 18 March 2009

"If you were injured in Iraq or Afghanistan and you have not paid your co-pay, please press 1. If you were injured during military training and you have not yet reached your deductible, please press 2. If your family has reached its maximum insurance benefit, please call back after you have purchased additional coverage. Thank you for your service."

Before the leaders of other veteran's groups and I met with President Barack Obama at the White House on Monday, I believed a phone call like the one described above unimaginable. Now it seems all too possible.

President Obama made clear during our discussion that he intends to force private insurance companies to pay for the treatment of military veterans with service-connected disabilities. **He is trying to unfairly generate \$540 million on the backs of veterans...**

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123734281713065367.html>

John Stossel refutes Barbara Ehrenreich, Lou Dobbs, et al.—with help from Adam Shepard and Arthur Brooks.

## Making It

by John Stossel, 18 March 2008

I'm sick of hearing that America is no longer a land of opportunity. Even before the current recession, politicians and pundits were constantly wringing their hands about the "demise of the middle class."...

<http://jewishworldreview.com/0309/stossel031809.php3>

## Palinphobes and the audacity of type

by Noemie Emery, 17 March 2009

Now that the Obama presidency is nearing the 60-day mark, it's time to thank those fastidious scribes on the left *and* the right who worked so hard to warn us against Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska, and the dire things that would surely occur if she ever got close to executive power.

How right they were to insist that she was unfit for high office. Let's just imagine what she might have done:

As president, she might have caused the stock market to plunge over 2,000 points in the six weeks after she assumed office, left important posts in the Treasury unfilled for two months, been described by insiders as 'overwhelmed' by the office, and then gone on to diss the British Prime Minister on his first state visit, giving him, as one head of state to another, a set of DVDs plucked from the aisles of Wal Mart, a tasteful gift, even if they can't be played on a TV in Britain. (Note, the Prime Minister, who is losing his eyesight, may even be blind in one eye).

As vice president, she might have told Katie Couric that when the stock market crashed in 1929, President Franklin D. Roosevelt went on TV to reassure a terrified nation. Or on her first trip abroad as Secretary of State, she might have, as the AP reported, "raised eyebrows on her first visit to Europe...when she mispronounced her "EU counterparts names and claimed U.S. democracy was older than Europe's," then gave the Russian minister a gag "reset" button, on which the word "reset" was translated incorrectly.

What a good thing that Palin, whom Christopher Buckley called "an embarrassment, and a dangerous one," wasn't in office to cause such debacles, and that we have Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and Hillary Clinton instead...

**Read on:** <http://www.dcxaminer.com/opinion/columns/NoemieEmery/Palinphobes-and-the-audacity-of-type-41410317.html>

More on the topic we highlighted yesterday (see "Teleprompter Boy Loves Gays, Hates Our Military," below).

## **Obama mulls making vets foot bill for service injuries**

by *David Goldstein, 17 March 2009*

..."It's a betrayal," said Joe Violante, legislative director of Disabled American Veterans, which signed the letter to Obama. "**My insurance company didn't send me to Vietnam, my government did.** The same holds true for men and women now fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's the government's responsibility."...

**More:** <http://www.buffalonews.com/180/story/610029.html>

The unintended consequences of liberal policies are bad enough. Imagine the damage liberals can do when they try to hurt people on purpose, because those people somehow pose a threat to Mother Earth (in the liberals' fevered imaginations). That's happening right now in California. Read all about it...

## **How Elite Environmentalists Impoverish Blue-Collar Americans**

by *Joel Kotkin, 17 March 2009*

[http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/16/california-environmentalists-water-agriculture-opinions-columnists-scarcity\\_print.html](http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/16/california-environmentalists-water-agriculture-opinions-columnists-scarcity_print.html)

A true account. It might also be called "The Seventies: their Cause (LBJ-Nixon-Ford-Carter) and Cure (Reagan)."

## **That '70s Horror Show**

by *Stephen Moore, March 2009 American Spectator*

<http://spectator.org/archives/2009/03/16/that-70s-horror-show>

## **Terrorists, Dissidents, and Copy Editors**

Why it matters how the media describe killers in Iraq and Ireland.

by *Christopher Hitchens, 16 March 2009*

...If you want a quick definition of euphemism, this would do: It consists of inventing nice terms for nasty things (perhaps to make them seem less nasty) and soft words for frightening things (perhaps to make them seem less scary). We should have learned by now that this form of dishonesty is also a form of cowardice, by which some of the enemy's work is done for him. We have seen through propaganda terms like *collateral damage* and *ethnic cleansing*. Let us not put up with *homegrown* for something vile and alien, or the abuse of the moral term *dissident* for something that is both cruel and coercive.

**The rest :** <http://www.slate.com/id/2213867/>

Goodness gracious, what a surprise!

## **JournoList: Inside the echo chamber**

by *Michael Calderone, 17 March 2009*

For the past two years, several hundred left-leaning bloggers, political reporters, magazine writers, policy wonks and academics have talked stories and compared notes in an off-the-record online meeting space called JournoList.

Proof of a vast liberal media conspiracy?...

**Continue:** <http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=11B8A213-18FE-70B2-A8208267EE03A416>

## **Teleprompter Boy Loves Gays, Hates Our Military**

The Obamesiah has now revealed just how much he supports homosexuals (who gave him lots of money and votes), and

hates our military (who didn't give him nearly as much). He's backing government-paid health insurance for same-sex partners of Federal employees, but wants to force our most important Federal employees—wounded servicemen—to use their own private insurance. But he hasn't yet called for them to pay their own air fare back to the States.

### **Obama Backs Health Benefits for Same-Sex Partners of Federal Employees**

<http://www.cnsnews.com/public/content/article.aspx?RsrcID=45068>

### **Obama's Plan to Charge Wounded Heroes for Treatment**

<http://ourvoice.legion.org/story/1448/legion-white-house-dont-bill-our-heroes>

## **Why the GOP Can't Win with Minorities**

*by Shelby Steele, 16 March 2009*

...Added to this, American minorities of color—especially blacks—are often born into grievance-focused identities. The idea of grievance will seem to define them in some eternal way, and it will link them atavistically to a community of loved ones. To separate from grievance—to say simply that one is no longer racially aggrieved—will surely feel like an act of betrayal that threatens to cut one off from community, family and history. So, paradoxically, a certain chauvinism develops around one's sense of grievance. Today the feeling of being aggrieved by American bigotry is far more a matter of identity than of actual aggrievement. And this identity calls minorities to an anticonservative orientation to American politics. It makes for an almost ancestral resistance to conservatism....

...What drew me to conservatism years ago was the fact that it gave discipline a slightly higher status than virtue. This meant it could not be subverted by passing notions of the good. It could be above moral vanity. And so it made no special promises to me as a minority. It neglected me in every way except as a human being who wanted freedom. Until my encounter with conservatism I had only known the racial determinism of segregation on the one hand and of white liberalism on the other—two varieties of white supremacy in which I could only be dependent and inferior.

The appeal of conservatism is the mutuality it asserts between individual and political freedom, its beautiful idea of a free man in a free society. And it offers minorities the one thing they can never get from liberalism: human rather than racial dignity. I always secretly loved Malcolm X more than Martin Luther King Jr. because Malcolm wanted a fuller human dignity for blacks—one independent of white moral wrestling. In a liberalism that wants to redeem the nation of its past, minorities can only be ciphers in white struggles of conscience...

**Read the whole thing:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123716282469235861.html>

## **Welcome, Kids, to the Brokest Generation**

The young aren't to blame for this mess, but they'll be paying for it.

*by Mark Steyn, 14 March 2009*

...Are you sure you young folks will be able to pay off this massive Mount Spendmore of multitrillion-dollar debts we've piled up on you?

"Yes, we can!"

We thought you'd say that! God bless the youth of America! We of the Greatest Generation, the Boomers and Generation X salute you, the plucky members of the Brokest Generation, the Gloomers and Generation Y, as in "Why the hell did you old coots do this to us?"

Because, as politicians like to say, it's about "the future of all our children." And the future of all our children is that they'll be paying off the past of all their grandparents. At 12 percent of GDP, this year's deficit is the highest since the Second World War, and prioritizes not economic vitality but massive expansion of government. But hey, it's not our problem. As Lord Keynes observed, "In the long run we're all dead." Well, most of us will be. But not you youngsters, not for a while. So we've figured it out: You're the ultimate credit market, and the rest of us are all pre-approved!...

**Continue:** <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/old-percent-young-2334863-generation-year>

## **Cramer v. Stewart**

*by Mark Hemingway, 13 March 2009*

...We're about six weeks into Obama's presidency, with a car-crash pile-up of scandals, broken promises, and embarrassing encounters with foreign heads of state. So, Mr. Stewart, do we have enough comedy carrion yet? Is the

president weak enough to make fun of? Obviously, regular watchers of *The Daily Show* would note that Obama's problems haven't been ignored and the show is still capable of being funny — but its political priorities have been made abundantly clear.

Indeed, what we're seeing is not the predicted crisis of comedy but rather the show's lack of integrity and honesty. If Bush had racked up these kinds of mistakes like so many dominoes, we'd be looking at a comedy crucifixion every night on *The Daily Show*.

Instead, Jon Stewart has most recently been snatching headlines by engaging in a petty feud with CNBC host Jim Cramer, in a lame attempt to defend the Obama administration's economic policies... The problem is that when it comes to the substance of their debate, Cramer, arguably the most lampoon-able guy in cable news, has been attacking Stewart on NBC's *Today Show*, MSNBC, and other network properties — and he had been kicking Jon Stewart's behind...

...Cramer was ably defending himself against Stewart's broadsides — but then he agreed to appear on *The Daily Show*, where Stewart enjoys a decided home-court advantage. Should an interview subject make Stewart look bad, the interview tends to go through an embarrassing and obvious Cuisinart editing process, as was the case when Jonah Goldberg made his appearance last year. (The same thing happened to Cramer, though to their credit, the show put the unedited interview online this time.) Sure enough, Cramer's appearance on the show last night was nothing short of a predictable sandbagging, with Stewart hopped up on faux-indignation...

...The problem is that Stewart's critique of Jim Cramer, or of the financial press in general, is not new or particularly relevant — banks have been collapsing for a year. It only became an issue when Stewart wanted to delegitimize Santelli's and Cramer's comments on the Obama administration...

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ODgwOGM1MGNhNzA5NjFiODhIMDg4NGEyYzhkODFIYjQ=>

## More on Ron Silver

**Ron Silver and the Courage of Conviction**, by Frank Luntz

**In Memoriam—Ron Silver**, by Roger L. Simon

**Ron Silver's 2004 RNC speech**



He was a linguist, a teacher, a social worker, an actor, a director, a producer—and a great American.

**Ron Silver** (July 2, 1946 —March 15, 2009)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron\\_Silver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Silver) Photo: at Liberty Film Festival, 2005

## Nobody listens to the real climate change experts

The minds of world leaders are firmly shut to anything but the fantasies of the scaremongers.

by Christopher Booker, 14 March 2009

...Nothing has more acutely demonstrated this than the reliance of the IPCC on computer models to predict what is going to happen to global temperatures over the next 100 years. On these predictions, that temperatures are likely to rise by up to 5.3C, all their other predictions and recommendations depend, yet nearly 10 years into the 21st century it is already painfully clear that the computer forecasts are going hopelessly astray.

Far from rising with CO<sub>2</sub>, as the models are programmed to predict they should, the satellite-measured temperature curve has flattened out and then dropped. If the present trend were to continue, the world in 2100 would not in fact be hotter but 1.1C cooler than the 1979-1998 average. Yet it is on this fundamental inability of the computer models to predict what has already happened that all else hangs...

...Sea levels are not shooting up but only continuing their modest 3mm a year rise over the past 200 years. The vast Antarctic ice-sheet is not melting, except in one tiny corner, the Antarctic Peninsula. Tropical hurricane activity, far from increasing, is at its lowest level for 30 years. The best correlation for temperature fluctuations is not CO<sub>2</sub> but the magnetic activity of the sun. (For an admirable summary of proceedings by the Australian paleoclimatologist Professor Bob Carter, Google "Heartland" and "Quadrant")...

...The real disaster hanging over us lies in all those astronomically costly measures proposed by politicians, to meet a crisis which in reality never existed...

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/4990704/Nobody-listens-to-the-real-climate-change-experts.html>

**Heartland-2: Background Session One Session Two Session Three**

## Climate Alarm: What We Are Up Against, and What to Do

remarks by MIT Prof. Richard Lindzen, 8 March 2009, at the Heartland Institute's second International Conference on Climate Change (New York, March 8-10, 2009)

...In your car, the gas and brake pedals act as negative feedbacks to reduce speed when you are going too fast and increase it when you are going too slow. If someone were to reverse the position of the pedals without informing you, then they would act as positive feedbacks: increasing your speed when you are going too fast, and slowing you down when you are going too slow.

Alarming predictions depend critically on the fact that models have large positive feedbacks. The crucial question is whether nature actually behaves this way? The answer is unambiguously no.

In the common (though admittedly somewhat inaccurate) picture of the greenhouse effect, greenhouse substances (mainly thin high clouds and water vapor, but also CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, freons, etc.) act as a blanket, inhibiting the emission of infrared (heat) radiation. We know that in the absence of feedbacks (in which water vapor and clouds allegedly act to amplify the effect of added CO<sub>2</sub>), an increase in temperature will lead to a certain increase in this heat radiation (also known as outgoing longwave radiation, OLR). With positive feedbacks, this amount of radiation will be reduced (in terms of the 'blanket' imagery, the blanket has gotten thicker). Current models do, indeed, predict this. We also know that the 1990s temperature was warmer than in the 1980s.

During this period, satellites were measuring the emitted heat radiation. What at least four groups all confirmed was that **emitted heat radiation during the '90s was not only much greater than what models predicted, but also greater than what would have been expected if there were no feedback at all.**

This implies that nature is, as any reasonable person might suppose, dominated by stabilizing negative feedbacks rather than destabilizing positive feedbacks. It has been noted that **the climate in models is an example of unintelligent design—something modelers are far more capable of than is nature.**

Getting people (including many scientists) to understand this is crucial. Once it is understood, the silliness of the whole issue becomes evident—though those who are committed to warming alarm as the vehicle for a postmodern coup d'etat will obviously try to obfuscate matters...

**Full speech:** [http://www.heartland.org/full/24841/Climate\\_Alarm\\_What\\_We\\_Are\\_Up\\_Against\\_and\\_What\\_to\\_Do.html](http://www.heartland.org/full/24841/Climate_Alarm_What_We_Are_Up_Against_and_What_to_Do.html)

## The Obama 3-Step

by Rich Lowry, 14 March 2009

Barack Obama has perfected a three-step maneuver that could never even be attempted by a politician lacking his

rhetorical skill or cool cynicism. First: Denounce your presidential predecessor for a given policy, energizing your party's base and capitalizing on his abiding unpopularity. Second: Pretend to have reversed that policy upon taking office with a symbolic act or high-profile statement. Third: Adopt a version of that same policy, knowing that it's the only way to govern responsibly or believing doing otherwise is too difficult. Repeat as necessary...

...Obama has executed versions of his three-step on terrorist surveillance and the Iraq War, and perhaps on Gitmo and interrogation (although the final disposition of those two is not clear). On congressional earmarks, Obama's three-step was so obvious and clumsy he had to repeat Step 2—making another promise to fight earmarks even as he accepted 8,500 of them in the omnibus spending bill.

Usually, Obama puts the emphasis on the second of his steps, to augment the difference with Bush. But in defending his economic policy recently after a reporter asked if it constituted socialism, Obama inadvertently highlighted the third step. He sought cover for his approach by pointing out that Bush had bailed out the banks and spent irresponsibly.

Of course, that sounds awfully familiar. On the economy, Obama is arguably giving us a massive dose of even more of the same—more money to banks and industry, more unsustainable entitlement spending, more deficit spending, more uncertainty about how to handle the toxic assets in the banks—with promises of higher taxes layered on top. If the economy falters over the long term, this is continuity that people aren't going to believe in.

**Whole column:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03142009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/the\\_obama\\_3\\_step\\_159444.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03142009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/the_obama_3_step_159444.htm)

## Criticism Shows Obama Is Losing Focus

by Michael Barone, 13 March 2009

...None of the issues addressed in the Obama budget was in any way a cause of the financial crisis. We did not have a housing bubble collapse because we don't have a national health insurance program. We don't have toxic waste clogging the balance sheets of the banks and other financial institutions because of carbon emissions. The Bush tax cuts were not a proximate cause of the giant public debt being run up under the Toxic Assets Relief Program or the 2009 stimulus package...

...There's another reason to put aside the Obama budget plans. We're in a severe recession, and each of his major proposals is going to stunt the growth of the private sector economy. But most of them—national health insurance, forced unionization, higher taxes on high earners—have the offsetting advantage, from Obama's point of view. They would "spread the wealth around," as he told Joe the Plumber, even if there is less wealth to spread around.

The same cannot be said of cap-and-trade. It would take some \$600 billion out of the private sector economy in order to avoid an environmental crisis that is supposed to arrive in—oh, some time around 2055. In other words, we are not dealing with here-and-now facts, as we are in the financial crisis, but with predictions based on theories ... theories that have not done a very good job of predicting the climate over the last decade (they said it would get warmer; it's gotten a little colder). Theories that do not retrospectively explain climactic variations in the past.

We are dealing here with something more like religion and less like science...

**Read it all:** <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=321836253252674>

## 'Blaming the Jews' doesn't always work

by Wesley Pruden, 13 March 2009

...Mr. Freeman has had a long if not distinguished career in berating the Israelis for struggling for survival and apologizing for Chinese repression of dissidents struggling only to breathe free. In a speech in 2005 he described Israel as the aggressor in the Middle East, and two years later accused the United States of "embracing Israel's enemies as our own." He apparently "forgot" that Israel's enemies had on terrible occasion made themselves enemies of the United States, with their suicide-bomber attacks on targets in the Middle East and finally on the Twin Towers on September 11. But blame the Jews, anyway.

When Mr. Freeman surrendered to the inevitable and withdrew his name from consideration he distributed a two-page rant casting himself as a martyr to Jewish perfidy and treachery, done in by a Jewish lobby whose "tactics plumb the depths of dishonor and decency." These Jews are "intent on enforcing adherence to the policies of a foreign government."

Blaming "lobbyists," whether Jewish, Catholic or Presbyterian, is an odd excuse for Mr. Freeman, who is himself a lobbyist. He runs a think tank, the Middle East Policy Council, with money supplied by Saudi Arabia, which he lovingly describes as a kingdom ruled by the beneficent "Abdullah the Great," and serves on the board of a Chinese government-owned oil company. He may regard his description of Chinese repression of Tibetan demonstrators as a "race riot" as

noble advocacy, but anyone else can recognize it as lobbying...

**More:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/13/blaming-the-jews-doesnt-always-work/>

## **An Agent of Cynicism**

*by Peter Wehner, 12 March 2009*

In the matter of just 50 days, a fissure has widened into a split; the split has become a gap; and the gap is becoming a gulf. I have in mind the extraordinary contradiction between what President Obama says and what he does...

...Obama signed rather than veto a massive, \$410 billion omnibus spending bill—which contained more than 8,500 earmarks... This is the fiscal version of St. Augustine's prayer, "Lord, make me chaste—but not yet."...

... Obama has so far demonstrated no interest in authentic bi-partisanship; he is allowing Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid to muscle through their agenda, even at the cost of losing almost every elected Republican in the United States Congress... Yet Obama immediately allowed waivers for lobbyists working on issues that fell under their lobbying bailiwick... it turns out that \$1.6 trillion of the "savings" Obama is claiming are based on the surge in Iraq continuing for 10 more years...

... Unlike Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, who demonstrated policy creativity and attempted to advance "third way" solutions, President Obama is turning out to be utterly and conventionally liberal, embracing record-breaking spending programs and record-breaking tax increases and giving us a record-breaking deficit and record-breaking debt. Rather than pare down his liberal aims in the light of the economic crisis we face, he is enlarging them...

... He says our responsibility to our children is "to ensure that we do not pass on to them a debt they cannot pay"—yet based on his own budget figures, Obama will add \$7 trillion to our debt from 2009 to 2019... He still insists on presenting himself as the man who will cleanse the Augean stables, even as he adds to the mess...

... "Where we are met with cynicism and doubt and those who tell us that we can't," Obama said on the night he was elected, "we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes we can."

And when we are met with politicians who pretend that the politics of cynicism is the politics of hope and ask us to go along for the ride, who vulgarize and invert the meaning of words in order to advance their own narrow aims, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the wisdom of an awakened people: No we won't.

**Read the whole thing:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/an-agent-of-cynicism-15097>

Maxine Waters. D-CA. Moonbat. Corrupt.

### **Rep. Waters' troubling ties**

The possible conflict involving OneUnited Bank is just the latest example of her seeming inability to distinguish her family interests from her public obligations.

*by Tim Rutten, 14 March 2009*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-rutten14-2009mar14,0,518712.column>

### **Waters Helped Bank Whose Stock She Once Owned**

California Democrat Has Championed Minority-Owned OneUnited on Capitol Hill and Criticized Its Government Regulators.

*by Susan Schmidt, 12 March 2009*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123682571772404053.html>

## **The Fatal Conceit**

*by John Stossel, 11 March 2009*

We've been rolled again.

Sure, the economy is in bad shape — though the late '70s and early '80s were worse **in many ways**, but is it true that every economist agrees that massive "stimulus" is the solution?...

... There was no consensus. (Anyway, a consensus doesn't mean something is true.) Finding an economist who opposed government spending as a way to fix the economy was easy. More than 350 **signed a petition** opposing the bill...

**Read on:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/the-fatal-conceit.html>

## **Alan Keyes on Obama (3:52 video)**

Mr. Keyes ran against Barack Obama for the U.S. Senate in 2004.

He won their only debate, but, sadly, not the election.

He calmly speaks the truth.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6p3l8BXmhs>

## **U.S. Retires 'Enemy Combatant,' Keeps Broad Right to Detain**

14 March 2009

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/13/AR2009031302371.html?hpid=topnews>

**Rumor has it that the new term will be "Righteous Brothers Who Are Down For The Struggle."**

## **Biased Book:**

### ***Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times***

A newly revised edition of David Rubel's *Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times* has been published. This hideous leftist tome, which drips bias from every page, is intended to indoctrinate children. Don't let it happen to kids you care about! Check out these comments from parents:

[http://www.amazon.com/review/R3L8FF1Z7S0LC8/ref=cm\\_cr\\_rdp\\_perm](http://www.amazon.com/review/R3L8FF1Z7S0LC8/ref=cm_cr_rdp_perm)

[http://www.amazon.com/review/R2P3TAO6HAO373/ref=cm\\_cr\\_rdp\\_perm](http://www.amazon.com/review/R2P3TAO6HAO373/ref=cm_cr_rdp_perm)

[http://www.amazon.com/review/R2HMFS6L2MJ0M/ref=cm\\_cr\\_rdp\\_perm](http://www.amazon.com/review/R2HMFS6L2MJ0M/ref=cm_cr_rdp_perm)

[http://www.amazon.com/review/R2H7JH7K1Q4622/ref=cm\\_cr\\_rdp\\_perm](http://www.amazon.com/review/R2H7JH7K1Q4622/ref=cm_cr_rdp_perm)

—Don John, 14 March 2009

(Hat tip: Michael Reagan)

## **Mortgage 'Cramdown' Plan Hits Turbulence**

13 March 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123698730201425761.html>

And a good thing, too.

## **Nixing Nuke Power**

by Josh Gilder, 13 March 2009

When it comes to nuclear energy, settled science appears to count for little with the new Obama administration. This week, ostensibly "pro-nuclear" Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced the administration's decision to kill the nuclear-waste-storage site at Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert.

Chu said we need to take a "fresh look" and that "we can do a better job." Good luck. The Yucca site had been studied for more than 20 years, undergoing \$9.5 billion of tests by some 2,500 of the nation's leading scientists.

They gave the Yucca project a green light, for obvious reasons. Yucca Mountain is in an isolated desert region with ideal meteorological conditions for a nuclear-storage project. If we can't dispose of our nuclear waste *there*, we can't dispose of it anywhere, and we will never be able to build a new nuclear-power plant in America again.

So much hysteria has been generated on the subject of nuclear waste and radiation in general that it's worth taking a moment to put Yucca's supposed risks into perspective...

**Continue:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03132009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/nixing\\_nuke\\_power\\_159278.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03132009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/nixing_nuke_power_159278.htm)

These Democrats are the same people who think terrorists are entitled to the full rights of American citizens. So why, in their warped worldview, should illegal wetback scum be denied those same rights?

## **Justice Dept. Investigates Arizona Sheriff for Enforcing Immigration Law**

by Penny Starr, 12 March 2009

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched an investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona following requests by congressional Democrats and allegations by liberal activists that the department has violated the civil rights of illegal aliens.

Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), and Robert Scott (D-Va.) requested the investigation, and activists groups such as National Day Laborer Organizer Network and ACORN launched petition drives and rallies in support of the probe...

**Read the rest:** <http://cnsnews.com/public/content/article.aspx?RsrcID=44899>

## **Obama's Poll Numbers Are Falling to Earth**

by Douglas E. Schoen and Scott Rasmussen, 12 March 2009

It is simply wrong for commentators to continue to focus on President Barack Obama's high levels of popularity, and to conclude that these are indicative of high levels of public confidence in the work of his administration. Indeed, a detailed look at recent survey data shows that the opposite is most likely true. The American people are coming to express increasingly significant doubts about his initiatives, and most likely support a different agenda and different policies from those that the Obama administration has advanced.

Polling data show that Mr. Obama's approval rating is dropping and is below where George W. Bush was in an analogous period in 2001. Rasmussen Reports data shows that Mr. Obama's net presidential approval rating—which is calculated by subtracting the number who strongly disapprove from the number who strongly approve—is just six, his lowest rating to date.

Overall, Rasmussen Reports shows a 56%-43% approval, with a third strongly disapproving of the president's performance. This is a substantial degree of polarization so early in the administration. Mr. Obama has lost virtually all of his Republican support and a good part of his Independent support, and the trend is decidedly negative...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123690358175013837.html>

## **Listen to the Gitmo Five**

by Ralph Peters, 12 March 2009

...Framed in florid quotations from the Koran, the Gitmo Five—hard-core terrorists, including Khalid Sheik Mohammed—proclaimed in a filing released by a brave military judge that "We are terrorists to the bone" who regard the charges resulting from "the blessed 11 September operations" as "badges of honor."

Desperate to placate its blame-America supporters, the Obama administration has clamped down on news from Guantanamo. Why? After their lurid criticisms of Gitmo, the Dems now have the world's worst killers on *their* hands. And they don't know what to do. Responsibility sucks.

At the core of our inability to cope with Islamist terrorists lies Washington's denial that fanatical Islam is even a factor. Yet refusing to accept that Islam Gone Wild is behind the actions of al Qaeda or the Taliban is akin to insisting that sex has nothing to do with making babies...

**More:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03122009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/listen\\_to\\_the\\_gitmo\\_five\\_159152.htm?page=0](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03122009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/listen_to_the_gitmo_five_159152.htm?page=0)

## **The Obama Rosetta Stone**

by Daniel Henninger, 12 March 2009

Barack Obama has written two famous, widely read books of autobiography—*Dreams from My Father* and *The Audacity of Hope*. Let me introduce his third, a book that will touch everyone's life: *A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America's Promise. The President's Budget and Fiscal Preview* (Government Printing Office, 141 pages, \$26; free on the Web). This is the U.S. budget for laymen, and it's a must read.

Turn immediately to page 11. There sits a chart called Figure 9. This is the Rosetta Stone to the presidential mind of Barack Obama. Memorize Figure 9, and you will never be confused. Not happy, perhaps, but not confused...

...New York's Mike Bloomberg, mayor of an economically damaged city, has noted the pointlessness of raising taxes on the rich when their wealth is plummeting, or of eliminating the charitable deduction for people who have less to give anyway.

True but irrelevant. Mayor Bloomberg should read the Obama budget chapter, "Inheriting a Legacy of Misplaced Priorities." The economy as most people understand it was a second-order concern of the stimulus strategy. The primary goal is a massive re-flowing of "wealth" from the top toward the bottom, to stop the moral failure they see in the budget's "Top One Percent of Earners" chart.

**The White House says its goal is simple "fairness." That may be, as they understand fairness. But Figure 9 makes it clear that for the top earners, there will be blood. This presidency is going to be an act of retribution...**  
All of it: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123681860305802821.html>

Apparently there's no end to the corruption of this Democrat senator.

### **Chris Dodd's Irish 'Cottage'**

*Wall Street Journal, 12 March 2009*

The Senate Ethics Committee has been looking into possible conflicts of interest in Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd's 2003 mortgages. Now questions about another Dodd real-estate adventure, this one in Ireland, should keep the Ethicists even busier. All the more because Mr. Dodd's "cottage" purchase involves a crooked stock trader for whom the Senator once did a very big political favor.

Mr. Dodd is already under a cloud for receiving what a former loan officer claims was preferential treatment from Countrywide Financial on two mortgage refinancings—in Connecticut and Washington—in 2003. Countrywide was an aggressive lender to shaky borrowers and relied heavily on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to buy those mortgages in bulk. As a senior Member of the Senate Banking Committee, Mr. Dodd was one of Fannie's greatest promoters. Mr. Dodd promised last year to disclose mortgage documents to prove he got no special treatment, but so far all he's done is let a few hand-picked journalists take a quick peek before he put the papers back in storage...

**Continue:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123681364667801647.html>

Two very good pieces by the president of the Czech Republic

### **No Progress in the Climate Change Debate**

*by Vaclav Klaus, 9 March 2009*

[http://www.hrad.cz/cms/en/prezident\\_cr/klaus\\_projevy/5962.shtml](http://www.hrad.cz/cms/en/prezident_cr/klaus_projevy/5962.shtml)

### **Is Capitalism in Crisis?**

*by Vaclav Klaus, 9 March 2009*

[http://www.hrad.cz/cms/en/prezident\\_cr/klaus\\_projevy/5961.shtml](http://www.hrad.cz/cms/en/prezident_cr/klaus_projevy/5961.shtml)

### **Smells Like a Pig**

Democrats push pork-laden spending through Congress.

*Las Vegas Review-Journal editorial, 12 March 2009*

...Federal spending could be trimmed by more than half, overnight, if our delegates to Washington merely began asking, of each proposed allocation, "Where, in those 390 words of Article I, Section 8, which list all the things on which we're authorized to spend money, does this one appear?"

And let's have none of the old "general welfare" chestnut. As George Mason University economics professor and syndicated columnist Walter Williams again laboriously pointed out this week: "In a letter to Edmund Pendleton, James Madison, the father of the Constitution, said, 'If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one.' "

Pig stink research? It's perfectly legal. It may even be worthwhile. But as it has nothing to do with coining money, establishing post offices, granting patents, punishing piracy or floating a navy, Congress has no authority to fund it. Period.

In cheerful, blatant, and fiscally disastrous defiance of which, the Senate on Tuesday evening voted 62-35 to end

debate and send their latest, humongous, \$410 billion pork-filled spending bill (with its 8,570 separate earmarks) to the White House, where President Obama—the sworn enemy of all earmarks, it should be recalled—happily signed it, but vowed to put an end to this insidious practice—next time.

**Read the rest:** <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/41139527.html>

## **Gay Lobby's Attempted Murder of Catholicism is Foiled...for Now**

**The 'Sleeping Giant' Awakes: Connecticut Church Rallies Against 1098**

*12 March 2009*

<http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/news/legislative/detail/548363.html>

**Catholics across the State of Connecticut mobilize and defeat #1098**

*12 March 2009*

[http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/Fight\\_1098.shtml](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/Fight_1098.shtml)

Just read the whole thing. It's not only "real clear"; it's stunningly brilliant.

## **Down Markets and Dumb Economic Myths**

*by John Tamny, 12 March 2009*

[http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/03/down\\_markets\\_and\\_dumb\\_market\\_m.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/03/down_markets_and_dumb_market_m.html)

## **Stem Cells Are Not Just About Science**

Obama's policy ignores ethics and morality.

*by Steve Chapman, 12 March 2009*

... "This order," said the president, "is an important step in advancing the cause of science in America" and "protecting free and open inquiry." Harold Varmus, co-chairman of the president's scientific advisory council, said it showed the president would rely on "sound scientific practice ... instead of dogma in developing federal policy."

But one person's dogma is another one's ethical imperative or moral principle. Science can tell us how to build a nuclear weapon. But science can't tell us whether we should use it. Just because research may be useful in combating disease doesn't mean it's ethically acceptable. The infamous Tuskegee syphilis experiment—in which the federal Public Health Service secretly withheld treatment from infected black men to learn more about the disease—might have yielded valuable data. But no scientific discovery could possibly have justified it.

Research on embryonic stem cells is controversial because it requires the destruction of live human embryos. Supporters find it easy to minimize the significance of this fact because the embryos are only a few days old—nothing more than "blastocysts." But if it's OK to destroy 5-day-old embryos to further scientific inquiry, is it OK to destroy embryos that are five weeks old? Five months? Eight months? Science can't answer that question.

You don't have to be part of the pro-life movement to have qualms about this kind of scientific inquiry. James Thomson, the University of Wisconsin biologist who pioneered the field, has said, "If human embryonic stem cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough." The president's new order suggests we shouldn't think too much.

**More:** <http://www.reason.com/news/show/132202.html>

## **A Presidential Crisis of Competence**

*by Tom Blumer, 11 March 2009*

Less than two months into this administration, three things are clear.

First, its agenda is every bit as radical as many of us expected and feared. Based on President Barack Obama's supposedly unimportant past, there was every reason to believe that this would happen. That some Obama supporters are surprised is a "tribute" to a media elite that treated decade-plus relationships with radicals Jeremiah Wright, Bill Ayers, and others as "distractions from the real issues," and to a McCain campaign that refused to treat Obama's candidacy as the threat that it was, and now is.

Second, despite strong signals that he is guiding the ship of state in the wrong direction, Obama and his

administration have largely refused to bow to reality. Having triumphed in the presidential campaign with [1] **marketing** and misdirection, they actually believe that voters gave them a mandate to spend hundreds of billions of dollars we don't have, and to bail out banks, companies, and homeowners without apparent limit. While the markets continue to beg to differ, Obama has been [2] **essentially indifferent**.

The third clear thing is the one that has apparently blindsided Obama fans the most, but should have been the least unexpected: He and his administration seem not to know what they're doing. Pick almost any area and you'll find a trail of incompetence that goes well beyond benign rookie mistakes...

**This continues to devastate:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/a-presidential-crisis-of-competence/>

## **Now You Own It, Mr. President**

Obama's policies have made the recession worse.

*by David Harsanyi, 11 March 2009*

...Isn't it too early to judge? It would be if Obama had not accelerated the timeline with his "ambitious" agenda, including the partisan trillion-dollar project masquerading as a stimulus bill and the deficit-busting budget. It would be if Obama had not worked early to support agenda-driven omnibus pork bills, job-killing cap and trade schemes, and union assaults on workers' rights, to name just a few of his priorities. Obama can do anything, apparently, except properly staff the Treasury Department. Aren't those guys supposed to be "fixing" the economy or something?...

... Obama, who promised not to raise taxes during a recession, now plans to raise nearly \$1 trillion in new taxes directly from the investor class. He plans to raise capital gains taxes (a disincentive to investment), corporate taxes (for you, the consumer, ultimately to pay) and on the "rich" (which the nonpartisan Tax Foundation estimates will affect 1.3 million small-business owners).

This recession already has passed the 15-month threshold, the historical average for downturns. Most presidents helped ease us out of those tough spots by easing the burden on Americans. Obama has engaged in the opposite. That's his gamble. And most polls show the president's approval rating at about 60 percent, which is similar to other modern presidents' ratings at this point in their presidencies. But now that Obama has used his political capital to further ideology rather than economic growth, one thing is clear: He owns this mess.

**Full column:** <http://reason.com/news/show/132178.html>

## **Hillary Rolls Out the Carpet**



*Gerald Scarfe, The Times, 11 March 2009*

## **Obama's Gamble**

*by Tony Blankley, 10 March 2009*

...The great whispered-about possible crisis that financiers and governments around the world shudder over is what to do about the more than quadrillion (thousand trillion)-dollar notional value of the world's derivatives (what Warren Buffett called the financial WMD)—should that notional number become crystallized and, thus, real.

By comparison, the U.S. gross domestic product is \$14 trillion; the U.S. money supply is \$15 trillion. The GDP of the entire world is \$50 trillion; the real estate of the entire world is \$75 trillion; the world's stock and bond markets are worth about \$100 trillion...

...By trying to fix the financial system and the economy inattentively and with one hand tied behind his back (as he fritters away both attention and trillions on new health care and education entitlements and carbon use), Obama is betting so much more than his presidency. His willingness to take that risk is the chilling lesson of the first 50 days. Taking that risk itself is the political equivalent of a dangerously leveraged derivative.

**Read the whole thing:** <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/10/obamas-gamble/>

## **Enoch Powell Was Right, Chapter LXXXVII**

**Muslim anti-war protesters abuse British soldiers as 'baby killers' during homecoming parade**

*by Michael Seamark, Andrew Levy and Matt Sandy, 10 March 2009*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1160958/Muslim-anti-war-protesters-abuse-British-soldiers-baby-killers-homecoming->

## **Corrupt anti-American Jew-hater withdraws from National Intelligence Council nomination**

*10 March 2009*

Obama must be setting some kind of all-time record for embarrassing, inadequately-vetted nominees.

Chas Freeman is the latest to leave Washington in disgrace.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0309/19856.html>

Conservatives are very tolerant people. We just get annoyed when Democrats try to impose their religious beliefs on us. Beliefs in things like abortion, socialism, global warming, and the normalization of homosexuality are nothing if not religious. They are *at least* as religious as the opposite beliefs—conservative ones that have stood the test of millennia, and have served humanity well. The oldest and most-tested of the Democrats' *nouveaux* creeds is socialism. It's only been around for a couple of centuries, and has failed everywhere it's been tried.

—Don John, 10 March 2009

## **The President Politicizes Stem-Cell Research**

Taxpayers have a right to be left out of it.

*by Robert P. George and Eric Cohen, 10 March 2009*

Yesterday President Barack Obama issued an executive order that authorizes expanded federal funding for research using stem cells produced by destroying human embryos. The announcement was classic Obama: advancing radical policies while seeming calm and moderate, and preaching the gospel of civility while accusing those who disagree with the policies of being "divisive" and even "politicizing science."...

...First, the Obama policy is itself blatantly political. It is red meat to his Bush-hating base, yet pays no more than lip service to recent scientific breakthroughs that make possible the production of cells that are biologically equivalent to embryonic stem cells without the need to create or kill human embryos. Inexplicably—apart from political motivations—Mr. Obama revoked not only the Bush restrictions on embryo destructive research funding, but also the 2007 executive order that encourages the National Institutes of Health to explore non-embryo-destructive sources of stem cells.

Second and more fundamentally, the claim about taking politics out of science is in the deepest sense antidemocratic. The question of whether to destroy human embryos for research purposes is not fundamentally a scientific question; it is a moral and civic question about the proper uses, ambitions and limits of science. It is a question about how we will treat members of the human family at the very dawn of life; about our willingness to seek alternative paths to medical progress that respect human dignity.

For those who believe in the highest ideals of deliberative democracy, and those who believe we mistreat the most vulnerable human lives at our own moral peril, Mr. Obama's claim of "taking politics out of science" should be lamented, not celebrated...

**Read the rest:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123664280083277765.html>

## **Subsidizing Bad Decisions**

The only person toward whom there is no compassion is the taxpayer.

*by Thomas Sowell, 10 March 2009*

...The same politicians who have been talking about a need for "affordable housing" for years are now suddenly alarmed that home prices are falling. How can housing become more affordable unless prices fall?

The political meaning of "affordable housing" is housing that is made more affordable by politicians intervening to create government subsidies, rent control or other gimmicks for which politicians can take credit. Affordable housing produced by market forces provides no benefit to politicians and has no attraction for them.

Study after study, not only here but in other countries, show that the most affordable housing is where there has been the least government interference with the market—contrary to rhetoric.

When new occupants of foreclosed housing find it more affordable, will the previous occupants all become

homeless? Or are they more likely to move into homes or apartments that they can afford? They will of course be sadder—but perhaps wiser as well...

...Even in an era of much-ballyhooed "change," the government cannot eliminate sadness. What it can do is transfer that sadness from those who made risky and unwise decisions to the taxpayers who had nothing to do with their decisions. Worse, the subsidizing of bad decisions destroys one of the most effective sources of better decisions—namely, paying the consequences of bad decisions.

**All of it:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NzFiZDU0NDdjNmY3MzkwMGViYW4MDhmMTImNGY2YTQ=>

## Who's Obama Kidding?

A big spender's 'rosy' delusions on GDP growth.

*Brian S. Wesbury and Robert Stein, 10 March 2009*

...The forecast is rosy from the get-go. The budget forecasters assumed that the economy would grow at a 3% annual rate starting in April and that real GDP would fall just 1.2% in 2009 from 2008. Then, from 2010 through 2013, the administration assumes that real GDP will grow at a 4% annual rate. To put this in perspective, that is twice as fast as the economy's 2% annual rate of growth between 2004 and 2008.

This is not impossible, but the only other periods that came close to this 4% growth rate for such a prolonged period of time were in the late-1990s and mid-1980s. Forgive us for pointing this out, but both of these periods followed major shifts toward freer markets and tax cuts, not bigger government and tax hikes.

There is no period in U.S. history where tax rates and the size of government both increased, and yet real GDP growth accelerated as sharply as the Obama team forecasts...

...It is the Obama team's shift to an expanded government role in the economy and society that is boosting spending, not just spending to stimulate the economy. Deficits will remain extremely large because spending is so much above any historical ability of the economy to pay for it. And the more taxes are lifted to pay for it, the slower the economy will grow...

**More:** <http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/09/budget-deficit-obama-opinions-columnists-spending.html>

The "Consumer Products Safety Improvement Act," which took effect on February 10, is a classic busybody, do-gooder government intrusion which "protects" people from nonexistent threats while bankrupting American businesses and the *people* who own and work for them. But the Democrats love this law, because it will help one of their key constituencies: the lawyers who make billions of dollars from ridiculous lawsuits.

## Makers Are Pushing Back on Toxic-Toy Law

*by Joseph Pereira, 5 March 2009*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123621357629835121.html>

## More CPSIA Insanity

*by Hugh Hewitt, 9 March 2009*

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/469b4228-aac3-4cb8-94c0-ca402656ece9>

## Stem cell go-ahead puts Obama at odds with pope

*by Philip Pulella, 10 March 2009*

VATICAN CITY (Reuters)—President Barack Obama's lifting of restrictions on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research puts him at odds with Pope Benedict and the American Roman Catholic Church.

After Obama signed the order on Monday, the Vatican and U.S. Church leaders condemned the move. One commentator said the test of "a real democracy" was its defense of the most defenseless. Obama's executive order reversed and repudiated restrictions placed on the research by his predecessor, George W. Bush, freeing labs across the country to start working with the cells, which can give rise to any kind of cell in the body.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on pro-life activities, called Obama's decision "a sad victory of politics over science and ethics... This action is morally wrong

because it encourages the destruction of innocent human life, treating vulnerable human beings as mere products to be harvested."

The Catholic Church, other religious groups and pro-life advocates oppose such research—which scientists hope can lead to cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's—because it involves the destruction of embryos.

The Catholic Church supports adult stem cell research, which has made advances in recent years, because it does not involve the destruction of embryos...

**More:** <http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSTRE52933620090310?sp=true>

## **What's Behind Barack's Brit Snit**

*by Arthur Herman, 9 March 2009*

President Obama's first hosting of a foreign leader, the UK's Gordon Brown, was a diplomatic disaster...

...Nor is Brown the only British ally Obama has treated with disrespect. In one of the most arresting acts of his first days as president, Obama ordered a bronze bust of Winston Churchill (which Tony Blair had given George W Bush after 9/11) returned to the British embassy.

This was a stunning posthumous attack on the memory of a man who was not only the living embodiment of the Anglo-American special relationship (Churchill was half American), but of its ideological foundations. The alliance that Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt crafted to win World War Two was more than just good strategy. They forged it in order to assert and defend an ideal which had fallen on hard times in the dark days of 1941, that of individual human liberty...

...At times, of course, both the United States and the United Kingdom have fallen short of their shared ideals. But taken together their shows how the idea of liberty empowers human beings to resist and overthrow tyranny with a force unequalled in history. Churchill's life is an eloquent summing up of that story. That's why it's a shame that Obama will never read Sir Martin's work. If he did, he'd discover how one man can inspire a people with the notion that liberty is worth defending, not just in prosperity but in a nation's darkest days.

He might also learn why, not so long ago, Americans and Britons felt compelled to join forces to oppose a generation of would-be political messiahs who imagined they could make a better world by stifling that legacy of liberty.

**Read it all:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03092009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/whats\\_behind\\_baracks\\_brit\\_snit\\_158653.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03092009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/whats_behind_baracks_brit_snit_158653.htm)

## **Islam Should Prove It's a Religion of Peace**

Muslims can start with better Quranic scholarship.

*by Tawfiq Hamid, 9 March 2009*

...While many religious texts preach violence, the interpretation, modern usage and implementation of these teachings make all the difference. For example, the stoning of women exists in both the Old Testament and in the Islamic tradition, or "Sunna"—the recorded deeds and manners of the prophet Muhammad. The difference, though, is that leading Jewish scholars agreed to discontinue these practices centuries ago, while Muslim scholars have yet to do so. Hence we do not see the stoning of women practiced or promoted in Israel, the "Jewish" state, but we see it practiced and promoted in Iran and Saudi Arabia, the "Islamic" states.

When the British government banned Geert Wilders from entering the country to present his film in the House of Lords, it made two egregious errors. The first was to suppress free speech, a canon of the civilized Western world. The second mistake was to blame the messenger—punishing, so to speak, the witness who exposed the crime instead of punishing the criminal. Mr. Wilders did not produce the content of the violent Islamic message he showed in his film—the Islamic world did that...

**Read it all:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123655519762565889.html>

## **"Manchurian Candidate" Starts a War on Business**

*by Kevin Hassett, 9 March 2009*

Back in the 1960s, Lyndon Johnson gave us the War on Poverty. In the 1970s, Richard Nixon launched the War on Drugs. Now that we have seen President Barack Obama's first-year legislative agenda, we know what kind of a war he intends to wage. It is no wonder that markets are imploding around us. Obama is giving us the War on Business.

Imagine that some hypothetical enemy state spent years preparing a "Manchurian Candidate" to destroy the U.S.

economy once elected. What policies might that leader pursue?

He might discourage private capital from entering the financial sector by instructing his Treasury secretary to repeatedly promise a brilliant rescue plan, but never actually have one. Private firms, spooked by the thought of what government might do, would shy away from transactions altogether. If the secretary were smooth and played rope-a-dope long enough, the whole financial sector would be gone before voters could demand action.

Another diabolical idea would be to significantly increase taxes on whatever firms are still standing. That would require subterfuge, since increasing tax rates would be too obvious. Our Manchurian Candidate would have plenty of sophisticated ideas on changing the rules to get more revenue without increasing rates, such as auctioning off "permits."...

**More:** [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&refer=columnist\\_hassett&sid=amhpOT5rIR1Y](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&refer=columnist_hassett&sid=amhpOT5rIR1Y)

## **When Barack Obama and Gordon Brown see 'opportunity,' we really do have a crisis**

The Left is threatening our freedom by using the downturn to bolster the power of the state.

by *Janet Daley*, 8 March 2009

...Well, I grew up with the Left and what this looks like to me is a power grab: a seizing of the moment by the forces which always believed in state domination. The Left sees an opening here, first for telling a critical lie about the historical origins of this crisis, which was propelled as much by the Left-liberal determination to spread prosperity through easy credit to the poor, as by the greed of bankers. And then, out of the wreckage, to restructure the economy along the lines that it always wanted, complete with central controls over the pay levels in private financial institutions.

We are being led to believe that public debate should be all about economic mechanics when it should really be about political principle: just how many freedoms do we want to lose while governments pretend that they are the solution?

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/janetdaley/4958718/When-Barack-Obama-and-Gordon-Brown-see-opportunity-we-really-do-have-a-crisis.html>

Ms. Shannon, mother of two children who attend Harlem Success Academy Charter School, is a founding member of Harlem Parents United.

## **Forget seats on political panels, give families more school choice**

by *Natasha Shannon*, 7 March 2009

[http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/08/2009-03-08\\_forget\\_seats\\_on\\_political\\_panels\\_give\\_fa.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/03/08/2009-03-08_forget_seats_on_political_panels_give_fa.html)

This is great. Now we just have to figure out what Dear Leader Obama means. He *never* means what he says.

## **Obama calls cloning 'dangerous, profoundly wrong'**

9 March 2009

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D96QJLPO0&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D96QJLPO0&show_article=1)

Obama's minions will probably "sit down" and apologize to their fellow Communists.

## **Pentagon: Chinese vessels harassed unarmed ship**

9 March 2009

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D96QJ2S00&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D96QJ2S00&show_article=1)

## **Wasting Away in Hooverville**

by *Jonathan Chait*, 9 March 2009 (March 18 issue)

Like so much of what has appeared in *The New Republic* over the years, the **essay** is chock full of lies and misconceptions. But many of the first 32 comments are great (#5 is a little intemperate, but the anger is understandable).

—Don John

See numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, and 32:

<http://www.tnr.com/talkback.html?id=82c53220-7594-4ece-a136-a3b2f54243ec>

## Wikipedia scrubs Obama eligibility

Mention of citizenship issues deleted in minutes, 'offending' users banned.

by Aaron Klein, 8 March 2009

<http://wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=91114>

Much more is being whitewashed than just the citizenship mystery. It's true that **Tony Rezko** is covered briefly. But **Jeremiah Wright** is mentioned only once—in a footnote. Ditto for **Saul Alinsky**. There is NO mention of **William Ayers**, **Bernadine Dohrn**, **Rashid Khalidi**, **ACORN**, or the **New Party**. And Mr. Klein documents an attempt to insert factual, verified material on Obama's connection to William Ayers—which Wikipedia removed with lightning speed.

—Don John

## Where's Global Warming?

by Jeff Jacoby, 8 March 2009

...The United States has shivered through an unusually severe winter, with snow falling in such unlikely destinations as **New Orleans**, **Las Vegas**, **Alabama**, and **Georgia**. On Dec. 25, every Canadian province **woke up to a white Christmas**, something that hadn't happened in 37 years. Earlier this year, Europe was gripped by such a killing cold wave that trains were shut down in the French Riviera and chimpanzees in the Rome Zoo had to be **plied with hot tea**. Last week, satellite data showed three of the Great Lakes—Erie, Superior, and Huron—**almost completely frozen over**. In Washington, D.C., what was supposed to be a massive rally against global warming was upstaged by the **heaviest snowfall of the season**, which paralyzed the capital.

Meanwhile, the National Snow and Ice Data Center has acknowledged that due to a satellite sensor malfunction, it had been **underestimating the extent of Arctic sea ice** by 193,000 square miles—an area the size of Spain. In a **new study**, University of Wisconsin researchers Kyle Swanson and Anastasios Tsonis conclude that global warming could be going into a decades-long remission. The current global cooling "is nothing like anything we've seen since 1950," **Swanson told Discovery News**. Yes, global *cooling*: 2008 was the **coolest year of the past decade**—global temperatures have not exceeded the record high measured in 1998, notwithstanding the carbon-dioxide that human beings continue to pump into the atmosphere...

...Considering how much attention would have been lavished on a comparable run of hot weather or on a warming trend that was plainly accelerating, shouldn't the recent cold phenomena and the absence of any global warming during the past 10 years be getting a little more notice? Isn't it possible that the most apocalyptic voices of global-warming alarmism might not be the only ones worth listening to?...

**Entire column:** [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2009/03/08/wheres\\_global\\_warming/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/03/08/wheres_global_warming/)

## Victimology 101 at Yale

While the rest of the university tightens its belt, guess who's exempted from the austerity campaign?

by Heather MacDonald, 7 March 2009 (March 16 issue)

...In light of this history, one might think it impossible to maintain that Yale needs a new LGBTQ office in order to "feel like a friendly place as opposed to an alien, hostile place" to gays. Especially since the director of that new office, Maria Trumpler, has already been serving as "special assistant to the deans for LGBTQ issues." But Trumpler herself charges that Yale has heretofore failed to confer on gays the power to form a community, reported the *Yale Daily News*.

If you're tempted to ask why students require administration backing in order to form a "community," you don't understand the codependent relationship between self-engrossed students and the adults whose career consists of catering to that self-involvement. Students in today's university regularly act out little psychodramas of oppression before an appreciative audience of deans and provosts. The essence of those psychodramas is to force the university to recognize a student's narrowly defined "identity" through ever more elaborate bureaucratic mechanisms. Rather than laugh the

student players off the stage, the deans, provosts, and sundry other administrators willingly participate in their drama, intently negotiating with them and conferring additional benefits wherever possible...

...By perpetuating the premise that Yale not only should officially recognize students' balkanized identities but has still not satisfactorily done so, LGBTQ Resources guarantees ongoing student demands and continues distorting the idea of a liberal arts education. Yale could take that \$20,000 and purchase every low-income student a complete Shakespeare, the Federalist Papers, and all the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. It could fund a Ph.D. candidate to conduct an evening reading group on the Enlightenment philosophers. Surely such endeavors would contribute more to the expansion of students' minds than making another offering to their self-regard...

...Teaching students to identify phantom insults to their egos doesn't train them for leadership and service but merely for future whining...

**Read it all:** <http://weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/257grkhi.asp>

## **Anti-CO2 Campaign Like An Atom Bomb On U.S. Economy**

*by S. Fred Singer, 6 March 2009*

The CO2 wars have begun. Presumably following White House directions, the EPA is ready to issue an "Endangerment Finding" on carbon dioxide, paving the way for regulations to control CO2 emissions. But with over one million "major stationary sources," a full-blown application of the Clean Air Act would be the equivalent of an atomic bomb directed at the US economy — all without any scientific justification. Hence there is speculation that the White House strategy is to use the threat of EPA regulation to force Congress to take action.

Is this just a bluff — and how will Congress respond, in view of the financial meltdown, failure of emission-trading in Europe, and Chinese refusal to cut CO2 emissions? The answer seems to be: "Not this year!"

An endangerment finding that CO2 is detrimental to "health and human welfare" must be based on scientific facts — and they will certainly be disputed. Furthermore, in July 2008 the EPA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and there have been many negative comments to which the EPA must respond — under threat of litigation.

So, proposed action by EPA is not a "done deal" and may only be an empty threat...

**More:** <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=321228358224458>

For once, a really good column on this topic.

## **Can the GOP Come Back?**

Yes, it can.

*by Jay Cost, 7 March 2009 (March 16 issue)*

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/016/250efuzm.asp>

The latest disgraceful Democrat nominee is a corrupt Jew-hater who blames America and Israel for 9/11. The Lord God Obama is certain that such a man will do a wonderful job on the National Intelligence Council.

## **Chas Freeman and 9/11**

*by Martin Kramer, 7 March 2009*

[http://sandbox.blog-city.com/chas\\_freeman\\_911\\_september\\_11.htm](http://sandbox.blog-city.com/chas_freeman_911_september_11.htm)

(Hat tip: LGF)

## **Let The Inquisition Start With Frank**

*Investor's Business Daily editorial, 6 March 2009*

Congressman Barney Frank says he wants some of those responsible for our current financial meltdown to be prosecuted. And we couldn't agree more. First up in the court dock: Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

Even by the extraordinarily loose standards of Congress, it takes some chutzpah for someone such as Frank to suggest that he'll seek prosecutions for those behind the housing and financial crunch and for what he called "a strongly empowered systemic risk regulator."

For Frank, perhaps more than any single individual in private or public life, is responsible for both the housing market mess and subsequent bank disaster...

**Read on:** <http://www.ibdeditorial.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=321237362312361>

## Obama's Radicalism Is Killing the Dow

A financial crisis is the worst time to change the foundations of American capitalism.

by Michael J. Boskin, 6 March 2009

...Mr. Obama's \$3.6 trillion budget blueprint, by his own admission, redefines the role of government in our economy and society. The budget more than doubles the national debt held by the public, **adding more to the debt than all previous presidents—from George Washington to George W. Bush—combined. It reduces defense spending to a level not sustained since the dangerous days before World War II, while increasing nondefense spending (relative to GDP) to the highest level in U.S. history.** And it would raise taxes to historically high levels (again, relative to GDP). And all of this *before* addressing the impending explosion in Social Security and Medicare costs...

...Increasing the top tax rates on earnings to 39.6% and on capital gains and dividends to 20% will reduce incentives for our most productive citizens and small businesses to work, save and invest—with effective rates higher still because of restrictions on itemized deductions and raising the Social Security cap... The president claims he is only hitting 2% of the population, but many more will at some point be in these brackets...

...The president's cap-and-trade plan for CO2 would ensnare a vast network of covered sources, opening up countless opportunities for political manipulation, bureaucracy, or worse... The European emissions trading system has been a dismal failure...

...Expanding the scale and scope of government largess means that more and more of our best entrepreneurs, managers and workers will spend their time and talent chasing handouts subject to bureaucratic diktats, not the marketplace needs and wants of consumers...

...New and expanded refundable tax credits would raise the fraction of taxpayers paying no income taxes to almost 50% from 38%. This is potentially the most pernicious feature of the president's budget, because it would cement a permanent voting majority with no stake in controlling the cost of general government...

...The assumptions underlying the president's economic program seem bereft of rigorous analysis and a careful reading of history. **Unfortunately, our history suggests new government programs, however noble the intent, more often wind up delivering less, more slowly, at far higher cost than projected, with potentially damaging unintended consequences. The most recent case, of course, was the government's meddling in the housing market to bring home ownership to low-income families, which became a prime cause of the current economic and financial disaster.**

...the European social welfare states present a window on our potential future: standards of living permanently 30% lower than ours...

**Read the whole piece:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123629969453946717.html>

## Health 'Reformers' Ignore Facts

Debunking the Democratic argument for government-run health care.

by Sally Pipes, 6 March 2009

The Democrats' case to expand government health care is so full of holes that passing it quickly is their only hope. If Americans slow down and ask questions, they will be hard-put to come up with answers.

In fact, if members of Congress slow down long enough to read the detailed reports of their own Congressional Budget Office (CBO)—or even its director's recent Senate testimony—they will understand that many of the slogans they use to justify government intervention are false...

...a recent Congressional Budget Office report ("Key Issues in Analyzing Major Health Insurance Proposals," December 2008) is clear on one issue: Working to achieve universal coverage through expanding government's role in health care will increase total costs and therefore either increase premiums or taxes, not reduce them...

...Americans like their current health care, its plethora of choice and its intensive, high tech approach to fixing our ailments. A Gallup survey in December reported that "on balance, Americans still favor maintaining the current system, 49% to 41%." But the CBO is very clear that saving money on health care involves doing less of the very things Americans like the most.

"Studies attribute the bulk of the cost of growth to the development of new treatments and other medical

technologies," the CBO notes in a report issued last December, later adding, **"Given the central role of medical technology in cost growth, reducing or slowing spending over the long term would probably require decreasing the pace of adopting new treatments and procedures or limiting the breadth of their application."** In other words, **reducing costs means rationing the care of those who currently have private insurance and Medicare.** The entire column: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123629779856246193.html>

## Democrats' Diversionary Tactics

by John Boehner, 5 March 2009

...the change-the-subject campaign they are employing is the oldest trick in Washington's book...

...Consider what Washington Democrats have "accomplished" since the beginning of the year: The administration requested \$350 billion from the Troubled Assets Relief Program even though neither the Bush administration nor the Obama administration has adequately answered questions about where the first \$350 billion went and what strategy Treasury officials have developed to get the government out of the private sector. President Obama signed "stimulus" legislation that costs twice as much as the House GOP's alternative bill but that will create only half as many jobs.

The president apparently plans to sign the \$410 billion "omnibus" spending bill, even though it is loaded with some 9,000 unscrutinized earmarks and the largest increase in discretionary spending—save for a brief increase after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks—since the Carter administration. **And the Obama administration has proposed a budget blueprint that increases taxes on every American, to the total tune of \$1.4 trillion. Each of these policy proposals is meant to lay the groundwork for a new era of big government—and neither Main Street nor Wall Street likes what it is seeing.**

Markets are plunging, businesses are cutting jobs and families are growing more anxious every day. Moments like this demand the kind of cooperation and new way of doing business that Obama has promised. Instead, those around him are taking to the airwaves and the pages of our nation's newspapers to carry out a campaign intended to change the subject and divert attention from what matters most: finding a way to work together to get our economy moving again...

**Read it all:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/04/AR2009030402895.html?sub=AR>

Some moonbat professors who can't even see their own bias have cooked up a "study" that purports to show that major network TV coverage of presidential campaigns from 1992 through 2004 actually favored **Republicans!** The piece linked below is marred by a few typos, but is still an admirable debunking of that ridiculous propaganda.

## Analysis of the Indiana University Study on Republican Media Bias

by Devil's Advocate, 4 March 2009

<http://copiousdissent.blogspot.com/2009/03/analysis-of-indiana-university-study-on.html>

## Wrong Turn on Housing

by Robert Samuelson, 2 March 2009

...Housing's distress is too much supply chasing too little demand. Huge inventories of unsold homes have depressed prices and construction. Given that prices rose too high in the "bubble"—homes were affordable only because credit was dispensed so recklessly—much of this painful adjustment was unavoidable. But that process should be mostly complete.

Here's a little-known fact: Housing may be more affordable now than at any recent time, thanks to lower prices and falling mortgage rates (now about 5 percent). The National Association of Realtors has an "affordability index" that estimates the family income needed to buy a median-priced house, assuming a 20 percent down payment and monthly mortgage payments equal to 25 percent of income. Affordability is now the highest since the index's start in 1970.

Unfortunately, demand hasn't followed affordability. In January, sales of new and existing homes continued prolonged declines, dropping 10.2 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, from December. There's a buyers' strike. Why? Shouldn't lower prices spur demand?

Well, yes. There are many theories as to why they haven't. Perhaps prospective buyers can't get loans. Or people are so gloomy that they're afraid to buy. But the most important explanation is probably deflationary psychology. If yesterday's \$250,000 house is now \$200,000, it may be \$175,000 by June. Waiting is better.

**Unless this deflationary psychology is broken, it becomes self-fulfilling. The more buyers wait, the more prices fall; and the more prices fall, the more buyers wait. The Obama administration essentially ignores this**

**problem, though it can be addressed...**

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/01/AR2009030101581\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/01/AR2009030101581_pf.html)

## **The Grand Non Sequitur**

The sleight of hand behind Obama's agenda.

*by Charles Krauthammer, 6 March 2009*

Forget the pork. Forget the waste. Forget the 8,570 earmarks in a bill supported by a president who poses as the scourge of earmarks. Forget the "\$2 trillion dollars in savings" that "we have already identified," \$1.6 trillion of which President Obama's budget director later admits is the "savings" of *not* continuing the surge in Iraq *until 2019*—11 years after George Bush ended it, and eight years after even Bush would have had us out of Iraq completely.

Forget all of this. This is run-of-the-mill budget trickery. True, Obama's tricks come festooned with strings of zeros tacked onto the end. But that's a matter of scale, not principle.

All presidents do that. But few undertake the kind of brazen deception at the heart of Obama's radically transformative economic plan, a rhetorical sleight of hand so smoothly offered that few noticed...

**Read on:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/05/AR2009030502951.html>

## **Two-Front War Against Obamanomics**

*by Rich Karlgaard, 6 March 2009*

The war against Obamanomics has split into two fronts. We know this to be true because White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is consumed by both armies and their field generals...

**Continue:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/digitalrules/2009/03/twofront-war-against-obamanomics.html>

## **Popularity Contests**

*by Peter Wehner, 5 March 2009*

Here's an interesting data point comparison: Barack Obama's approval rating in the Gallup Poll today is 61 percent, with 28 percent disapproving (the Real Clear Politics aggregate of polls has his overall job approval rating at **59.8 percent**). A March 5-7, 2001 Gallup poll found President Bush's job approval at 63 percent as well, with only 22 percent disapproving. So George W. Bush, at a comparable time in his presidency, was in marginally better shape than Barack Obama is right now, at least based on the Gallup Poll survey.

This runs counter to conventional wisdom that Obama is tremendously popular, and that Bush (based on the divisive nature of the 2000 election) was not. In fact, according to the Gallup Poll data, what President Bush did was rise in the esteem of the public during the first five weeks of his presidency, while Obama has lost a bit of altitude...

**More:** <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=OGJmYmJlNjc0NzI1ZDkzMjgzZjQ2Y2Y1M2NiODU2ZTI=>

## **Obama cooks the books on Health Care**

### **Medical Bankruptcies: A Data-Check**

*by Gary Langer, 5 March 2009*

President Obama's kicking off his health care reform today in the worst possible way: with a mischaracterization of data.

"The cost of health care now causes a bankruptcy in America every thirty seconds," Obama said at the opening of his White House forum on health care reform. The problem: That claim, based on a 2001 survey, is simply unsupported.

The figure comes from a 2005 Harvard University **study** saying that 54 percent of bankruptcies in 2001 were caused by health expenses. We reviewed it internally and knocked it down at the time; an academic reviewer did the same in 2006. Recalculating Harvard's own data, he came up with a far lower figure—17 percent.

A more recent **study** by another group, approaching it another way, indicates that in 2007 about eight-tenths of one percent of Americans lived in families that filed for bankruptcy as a result of medical costs. That rings a little less loudly

than "one every 30 seconds."...

**More:** <http://blogs.abcnews.com/thenumbers/2009/03/medical-bankrup.html>

## **Global Warming Is Not Man-Made** (audio 40:46)

5 March 2009

Climate scientist Dr. Roy Spencer presents data to students that global warming is primarily a natural occurrence. This speech took place at Young America's Foundation's National Conservative Student Conference.

**Listen:** <http://townhall.com/TalkRadio/Show.aspx?RadioShowID=22&ContentGuid=6be0c752-aab5-4d13-a80e-b7af5a7c5f96>

And people thought Bush was stupid and out of touch? The new guys are *real* morons!

## **Obama's economically illiterate "profit and earnings ratio" gaffe**

*mcauleysworld*, 4 March 2009

<http://mcauleysworld.wordpress.com/2009/03/04/obama-tells-america-to-buy-stock-why-he-needs-to-do-his-homework-and-how-wrong-he-is/>

## **Biden's clueless "website number" gaffe**

by *Rich Tehrani*, 26 Feb 2009

<http://blog.tmcnet.com/blog/rich-tehrani/technology/bidens-website-number.html>

## **Pakistan Wrestles With Terror**

by *Tunku Varadarajan*, 3 March 2009

The city of Lahore was once the seat of an enviable Muslim civilization. Ravaged now by the twin poxes of Pakistan's civic meltdown and a virulent, seemingly ineradicable Islamism, it was witness Tuesday to the first terrorist attack on sportsmen—athletes—since the Munich Olympics in 1972...

What are we to make of this latest terrorist atrocity? First, that Pakistan has operating within its borders terrorist groups that are beyond the control of the Pakistani state and its instruments of law and order. As the invasion of Mumbai demonstrated only too well, these groups use Pakistan as a base for attacks on India. But as the attacks on the Sri Lankan sportsmen have just shown, these groups have no love, no respect for Pakistan—or, put another way, no love for the idea of Pakistan as a Muslim democracy capable of cohabiting with a wider world.

These groups seek not merely the destruction of India, the death of infidels (be they Hindus, Jews or Christians) and the forcible departure from Afghanistan of Western troops. They seek, effectively, the destruction of Pakistan, and its reconstitution as an Islamist state in which the steel of shariah comes down hard on the necks of unbelievers, in which secular practice is anathematized, in which women are subjugated to an extent even greater than their present unhappy state, and in which nuclear weapons are—finally, by the grace of god—in the hands of true believers...

...Pakistan still has a decent, humane core. Its civilization, as originally conceived by the country's founder—Jinnah—still survives in the minds of enough men and women to give us some brittle, nerve-wracked heart. Pakistan, make no mistake, is at a tipping point. It stands, precarious, on the edge of infinite darkness...

**Read it all:** [http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/03/pakistan-mumbai-terrorist-lahore-cricket-opinions-columnists\\_sri\\_lanka.html](http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/03/pakistan-mumbai-terrorist-lahore-cricket-opinions-columnists_sri_lanka.html)

## **Wolfe in sheep's clothing**

Alan Wolfe's *The Future of Liberalism* (Knopf, 335 pages, \$25.95)

reviewed by *William D. Gairdner*, March 2009

...I have always told my children that liberty and equality (in the substantive sense of the latter that Wolfe says distinguishes liberals from conservatives today) are joined like a teeter-totter. As one goes up, the other must go down. This doesn't seem to bother Wolfe, who in discussing the rights conceived by the French and American Revolutions claims that "there is a direct line from the ideals of those revolutions to the welfare states of the contemporary world."

There is insufficient space here to demonstrate adequately the profoundly erroneous nature of this assertion. Suffice it to say that the American founding principle of equality had nothing to do with equalizing outcomes, and the French meaning of equality (spelled out in Article VI of the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*) specifically stated

that equality meant *before the law* only, and that all citizens are admissible to "dignities, positions, and employments, according to their ability, and on the basis of no other distinctions than that of their virtues and talents." Not a scrap of affirmative action there (which did not, however, prevent the French from trying it)...

...At this point, some understanding of how the original heroic anti-statist liberalism became Wolfe's groveling statist type is essential, for he seems unbothered by sacrificing the freedom of some, who ought to have "as much say as is feasible over the direction their lives will take" for the "equality" of others. The answer is that the modern liberal Director General will always decide what is "feasible," and Wolfe is unfazed by the fact that this is largely a zero-sum game in which governments that have no money of their own must first take it from taxpayers (or print it or borrow it to create deficits, which are just deferred taxes) and then distribute it to those they deem worthy. In other words, to get modern liberalism you always have first to rob a Peter to pay a Paul. A true classical liberal was someone who began by protesting just this sort of legal plunder and would have despised Wolfe's program. So what happened? How did classical liberalism mutate into its triumphalist modern form?

Partly it was because there was afloat at the time a corollary anti-Christian idea, a belief that all humans are born pure and without sin. Rousseau had famously argued in his *Social Contract* that we are born free and naturally good but soon a rotten society corrupts and enchains us, such that we must create a better world by bonding together in a unanimous General Will...

**Read the whole review:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Wolfe-in-sheep-s-clothing—4027>

## The unfairness of a Fairness Doctrine

Proposals by some Democrats are really just aimed at cracking down on conservative talk radio.

by *Brian C. Anderson*, 3 March 2009

...Now imagine all the lawyers that stations would have to hire to meet the new requirements, not to mention the burden involved in measuring and reporting just how much time was devoted to this topic or that. Many radio executives, already fighting for profits in a world of intense competition, would find the expense unsupportable and switch formats to sports or entertainment. Some might get out of the business entirely.

To get a sense of what a new Fairness Doctrine would do to talk radio, remember what the AM dial was like when the doctrine was in place. In 1980, there were at most a few hundred stations that broadcast any kind of talk radio nationwide. Today, more than 1,500 stations do.

The Obama administration may say that it doesn't back a new Fairness Doctrine, but it has suggested it might support another reform, called "localism," which should also worry defenders of media freedom.

Localism would impose greater "local accountability" on broadcasters—that is, it would force stations to carry more local programming. Localism, as sketched out in a recent FCC report, also could require stations to set up permanent community advisory boards (including "underserved community segments") that would have to be regularly consulted on "community needs and issues."...

...Localism is wildly impractical. How would board membership be decided? Would liberals sit on the board of a conservative station broadcasting in an urban area? Or would, say, an Islamic community leader sit on the board of a Christian station that broadcast in an area with a large Muslim population? And what kind of power would these FCC-mandated boards wield? Would stations be able to reject their advice without jeopardizing their licenses? What seems all too likely is that groups of professional activists would colonize these community panels and demand that their preferred issues be covered...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-anderson3-2009mar03,0,3448325.story>

## Cap-and-trade plan will sink Michigan

*Detroit News editorial*, 4 March 2009

President Barack Obama's proposed cap-and-trade system on greenhouse gas emissions is a giant economic dagger aimed at the nation's heartland—particularly Michigan. It is a multibillion-dollar tax hike on everything that Michigan does, including making things, driving cars and burning coal.

The president is asking for a system of government limits on carbon emissions. The right to emit carbon would be auctioned off to generate revenue for more government spending programs. The president's budget projects receipts totaling \$646 billion through 2019 from the sale of these greenhouse gas permits. The goal, according to the president's budget outline, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide to 14 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

Doing so will drive up the cost of nearly everything and will amount to a major tax increase for American

consumers.

Such a tax will hit the Midwest particularly hard, which is why House Minority Leader John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, told the New York Times, "let's just be honest and call it a carbon tax that will increase taxes on all Americans who drive a car, who have a job, who turn on a light switch, pure and simple."...

**Continue:** <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090304/OPINION01/903040314/1008>

## **The Audacity of Cynicism**

by Tony Marsh, 3 March 2009

In Barack Obama, the Democrats have a communicator to nearly match the Great Communicator himself. Like Ronald Reagan, Obama's body language is non-threatening. His rhetoric reassures with its reasonableness and comforting cadence. The difference is that with Reagan, America got policies and initiatives that accurately matched his words. With Obama, his words in no way match his actions. His lips say moderation, his actions say spend, tax and expand government.

It's understandable that most pundits marvel at his mastery of delivery, but few seem to note how remarkably comfortable Obama is with his own hypocrisy. Consider his convincing calls for fiscal restraint coupled with his authorship of massive new spending? While it makes for great rhetoric, Obama's duplicity on the economy will have major negative consequences for Democrats in the 2010 mid-term elections...

**More:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/03/03/the-audacity-of-cynicism>

## **Market to Obama: I'm Just Not That Into You**

by James Pethokoukis, 3 March 2009

"I think he overestimates his ability to take people...and, sort of, charm them into being nice," Barney Frank has famously said of Barack Obama. And while America's Charmer-in-Chief has worked his magic with the Women from Maine and some of the Blue Dog Democrats, not so much with the Rump Republicans in the House.

And not so much, it would appear, with the Investor Class, both here and overseas. The Dow Jones industrials fell 4 percent yesterday, dropping below 7,000. The market barometer is now down a whopping 30 percent since Election Day, including an 18 percent drop over the past three weeks. That, even as President Obama's plans to stimulate the economy, fix the banking system and bailout struggling homeowners have come into sharper focus.

One could view the slow-motion crash as a financial vote of no-confidence in the White House's ability to effectively fix America's economic mess and lead the rest of the world out of its tangle...

...[quoting UCLA professor Roger Farmer] "If confidence is low—the private sector places a low value on existing buildings and machines. Low confidence induces low wealth. Low wealth causes low aggregate demand, and low aggregate demand induces a high-unemployment equilibrium in which the lack of confidence becomes self-fulfilling."

A simpler way, I think, would be to eliminate the capital gains tax—or, at the very least, suspending it for a year or two followed by its reinstatement at a lower rate. Also extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts while coming up with a plan to fix entitlements. Now those would be confidence building moves that could help reignite the Long Boom.

**Read it all:** <http://www.usnews.com/blogs/capital-commerce/2009/3/3/market-to-obama-im-just-not-that-into-you.html>

## **Democrats Pull D.C. Voting Rights Act**

by Jed Babbin, 3 March 2009

The patently unconstitutional bill to give the District of Columbia a voting representative in the House of Representatives was pulled off the House calendar because—according to one House Republican leadership source—they feared that the so-called Blue Dog Democrats would not support it...

...The Blue Dogs, a group of supposedly conservative Dems who have usually marched to Speaker Pelosi's drum, were fearful that the National Rifle Association would "score"—i.e., use the vote to determine its annual rating of gun-friendly (and unfriendly) members the vote on the rule to bring the matter to the House floor.

That same source told *Human Events* that the rule would have precluded consideration of an amendment—similar to that approved in the Senate last week—to preserve D.C. residents' gun rights...

...Congratulations to the NRA for holding the Blue Dogs' paws to the fire.

**More:** <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?print=yes&id=30931>

A great 11-minute rant from her radio show.

### **Audio: Obama Declares War on Conservatism**

by *Laura Ingraham*, 2 March 2009

To listen, click [here](#).

### **Is the Worst Yet to Come?**

by *Charles Gasparino*, 2 March 2009

If you want to understand why, despite his popularity with the general public, Barack Obama is losing the confidence of Wall Street, all you really have to do is speak to his supporters on the Street. There are many, contradicting the long-held myth that the bankers, investors, and hedge-fund traders who inordinately profited during the past two-plus decades of unfettered capitalism don't always vote as unfettered capitalists. They were a vital part of Bill Clinton's coalition, were cozying up to Hillary, but bolted for Obama the minute they heard him speak about social justice, the need to reform the nation's energy policy, the necessity to end the war in Iraq, and most of all, how the past eight years of George W. Bush elevated mediocrity to new heights.

Obama was anything but mediocre, they told me time and again, as the financial crisis devastated the markets and ushered in one nasty recession. And these days they are a sorry lot because they now admit they really didn't listen to Obama. Yes, their man was elected, and they still defend their choice for president based on his obvious intelligence, grace under pressure, and for the simple fact that they couldn't bring themselves to vote for the erratic John McCain, and the novice Sarah Palin.

But for all of that they can't believe what they are witnessing: an economic agenda that is contradictory at best, and possibly reckless in its extreme. Policies that will certainly make a very bad situation even worse, and when things do get better, they will certainly not be better enough to compensate for the pain we are experiencing...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-03-02/is-the-worst-yet-to-come/>

### **The Obama Economy**

**As the Dow keeps dropping, the President is running out of people to blame.**

*Wall Street Journal*, 3 March 2009

As 2009 opened, three weeks before Barack Obama took office, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 9034 on January 2, its highest level since the autumn panic. Yesterday the Dow fell another 4.24% to 6763, for an overall decline of 25% in two months and to its lowest level since 1997. The dismaying message here is that President Obama's policies have become part of the economy's problem.

Americans have welcomed the Obama era in the same spirit of hope the President campaigned on. But after five weeks in office, it's become clear that Mr. Obama's policies are slowing, if not stopping, what would otherwise be the normal process of economic recovery. From punishing business to squandering scarce national public resources, Team Obama is creating more uncertainty and less confidence—and thus a longer period of recession or subpar growth....

**Keep reading:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123604419092515347.html>

**Turban Durbin hates poor school children almost as much as he hates conservative radio talkers.**

### **Will Obama Stand Up for These Kids?**

by *William McGurn*, 3 March 2009

Dick Durbin has a nasty surprise for two of Sasha and Malia Obama's new schoolmates. And it puts the president in an awkward position.

The children are Sarah and James Parker. Like the Obama girls, Sarah and James attend the Sidwell Friends School in our nation's capital. Unlike the Obama girls, they could not afford the school without the \$7,500 voucher they receive from the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program. Unfortunately, a spending bill the Senate takes up this week includes a poison pill that would kill this program—and with it perhaps the Parker children's hopes for a Sidwell diploma.

Known as the "Durbin language" after the Illinois Democrat who came up with it last year, the provision mandates

that the scholarship program ends after the next school year unless Congress reauthorizes it and the District of Columbia approves. The beauty of this language is that it allows opponents to kill the program simply by doing nothing. Just the sort of sneaky maneuver that's so handy when you don't want inner-city moms and dads to catch on that you are cutting one of their lifelines...

**Rest of the story:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123604286020215187.html>

## **Waging War On Prosperity**

*by Dick Morris & Eileen McGann, 3 March 2009*

President Lyndon Johnson's administration was known for his War on Poverty. President Obama's will become notable for his War on Prosperity...

...Obama must realize that his tax hikes will dampen investment and consumer spending and prolong and deepen the economy's woes—this is presumably why he's postponing most tax hikes until 2011. But taxpayers, particularly wealthy taxpayers, are not dumb: They'll know what's coming, and look to secure the hatches in advance by sitting on their money.

But then, Obama must also realize that his stimulus package, with its massive growth of government, is going to kindle huge inflation in coming years. And he surely realizes that he can't expand government health insurance as massively as he intends introducing rationing of medical services. He must know, but not care.

Here is a president who would rather redistribute income than create wealth. He thinks it more important to grow government than to fight inflation. He believes that it is crucial to expand health care to the young and middle aged, even if it means cutting it back for the elderly. He's more committed to effecting "broad change" in his first term than he is to winning a second one. We have a president, in short, who will stand on his principles. Unfortunately, they're bad ones.

**More:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03032009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/waging\\_war\\_on\\_prosperity\\_157758.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03032009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/waging_war_on_prosperity_157758.htm)

## **Obama 'ready to drop shield plans for Russian help on Iran'**

MOSCOW, March 2 (RIA Novosti)—Washington has told Moscow that Russian help in resolving Iran's nuclear program would make its missile shield plans for Europe unnecessary, a Russian daily said on Monday, citing White House sources.

U.S. President Barack Obama made the proposal on Iran in a letter to his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, Kommersant said, referring to unidentified U.S. officials.

Iran's controversial nuclear program was cited by the U.S. as one of the reasons behind its plans to deploy a missile base in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic...

**AMERICA IN RETREAT, Carter-style:** <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090302/120375219.html>



[www.thoseshirts.com/images/square-large-wbc.jpg](http://www.thoseshirts.com/images/square-large-wbc.jpg)

## **This is the Plan?**

Give up capitalism for Lent?

by *Sherman Frederick, 1 March 2009*

...you'll excuse me if I don't obediently take my place at this kooky séance table.

First, I don't think the spirit of FDR is worth conjuring, other than to learn how to prolong a recession. Second, President Bam's guiding assertion is absurd. To fix the woes "inherited" from President Bush, we must now engage in a wilder form of federal deficit spending? It's a rationalization akin to an alcoholic celebrating the first day of a sober life at the Glenfiddich distillery. And third, how is a plan for stealing from the more productive in society to "help" the less productive good for anybody in the American hive? And why isn't it called by its correct name if it's to be part of the public discourse? I guess the same way we allow a \$787 billion spending bill to be called a "stimulus and recovery" bill.

Democrats, of course, will say socialism is not at all what they intend. They will say they strive only to provide "equal opportunity" for all. **Yet, if recent American history has taught us anything, it is that Democratic handout programs turn into spirit-crushing disasters in which the participants, instead of quickly finding self-reliance, find permanent hopelessness.**

Look, all good Americans believe in giving everyone a fair shot. Social conservatives, however, really believe in creating fair opportunities, not outcomes. It's not about giving people somebody else's fish. It's about teaching, sharing and celebrating the joy of fishing, not to mention equal access to the good fishing holes.

No one will starve. But some will do it better. That's American. What's now happening in Washington, if I may borrow a phrase from Monty Python, is something completely different...

**More:** <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/40499307.html>

## **A Republican Road to Economic Recovery**

Obama's proposals—the good, the bad, and some better alternatives.

by *Paul Ryan, 2 March 2009*

Inheriting countless challenges, Congress and the Obama administration have moved quickly on many fronts to implement their economic agenda. After two months of drastic interventions, has hope replaced fear, and confidence pushed aside uncertainty? Hardly.

The budget the president released last week, however, does provide some certainty about where we are headed: higher taxes on small businesses, work and capital investment.

Add to this the costly burdens of a cap-and-trade carbon emissions scheme and an effective nationalization of health care, and it is clear that the government is going to grow while the economy will shrink. In a nutshell, the president's budget seemingly seeks to replace the American political idea of equalizing opportunity with the European notion of equalizing results.

A constructive opposition party should be willing to call out the majority when it falls short. More important, Republicans must offer alternatives. In this spirit, here is what I would do differently...

**A pro-growth tax policy...Guarantee sound money...Fix the financial sector...Get a grip on entitlements...**

**Read Rep. Ryan's plan:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123595257066605147.html#>

CAUGHT AGAIN: telling each side what it wants to hear.

## **The Obama Administration Double-Deals On Israel**

by *Anne Bayefsky, 1 March 2009*

[http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/01/obama-israel-anti-semitism-opinions-contributors\\_durban\\_islam.html?feed=rss\\_opinions](http://www.forbes.com/2009/03/01/obama-israel-anti-semitism-opinions-contributors_durban_islam.html?feed=rss_opinions)

## **Why is failed Keynesianism back in vogue?**

by *Vin Suprynowicz, 1 March 2009*

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/40499302.html>

Don John had the privilege of working with Mr. Harvey once a week, for several years. He was a kind, thoughtful, considerate man, and a quintessentially professional broadcaster.

## **Paul Harvey, Good Night**

by Christopher Orlet, 2 March 2009

<http://spectator.org/archives/2009/03/02/paul-harvey-good-night>

## **Bam's Bad Medicine**

by Sally Pipes, 2 March 2009

President Obama's new budget dedicates \$634 billion over the next 10 years to what he calls health reform. He promises—or perhaps threatens—that this vast sum will be a down payment for universal coverage, which could require more than \$1 trillion. Unfortunately, the president intends to spend all this money on the basis of several pernicious myths common in the health-care debate. As a result, his reforms would ultimately hand the health-care system over to the government and lead to rationing...

...The situation is even worse in countries like Canada and Great Britain—whose government-run systems Obama's health braintrust has cited approvingly.

More than 725,000 Canadians languish on months-long waiting lists for surgery and other necessary treatments. Doctors are in short supply—thanks largely to the government takeover of the health sector. In the early 1970s, when Canada launched its "universal coverage" system, the country ranked second among 28 developed countries in doctors per thousand people. Today, it's 24th. Further, Canadians often lack access to the advanced medical technology that Americans take for granted. Canada ranks 19th among 26 reporting OECD nations in access to CT scanners and 14th out of 25 reporting OECD countries in access to MRI machines.

In the UK, the government-run health system explicitly rations medical treatments through the publicly chartered National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence... Last summer, British patients with kidney cancer were denied access to four lifesaving drugs. NICE's clinical and public health director said of the drugs at the time, "Although these treatments are clinically effective, regrettably the cost to the NHS is such that they are not a cost-effective use of NHS resources." In other words, the British government *admitted* that patients would likely die without these treatments—but refused to pay for them anyway.

This could happen here. Obama's stimulus package includes \$1.1 billion for NICE-style comparative-effectiveness studies...

**Read the rest:** [http://www.nypost.com/seven/03022009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/bams\\_bad\\_medicine\\_157651.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/03022009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/bams_bad_medicine_157651.htm)

## **The Coming War on Sovereignty**

by John Bolton, 1 March 2009

Barack Obama's nascent presidency has brought forth the customary flood of policy proposals from the great and good, all hoping to influence his administration. One noteworthy offering is a short report with a distinguished provenance entitled *A Plan for Action*,<sup>1</sup> which features a revealingly immodest subtitle: *A New Era of International Cooperation for a Changed World: 2009, 2010, and Beyond...*

...If it is what it appears to be—a blueprint for the Obama administration's effort to construct a foreign policy different from George W. Bush's—then the nation's governing elite is in the process of taking a sharp, indeed radical, turn away from the principles and practices of representative self-government that have been at the core of the American experiment since the nation's founding. The pivot point is a shifting understanding of American sovereignty.

...The EU is the model *A Plan for Action* proffers for the "responsible sovereignty" regime its authors wish to import to the United States. EU bureaucrats based in Brussels have been reshaping the priorities and needs of EU member states for a decade now, and proposing a system based on the design of the EU suggests a desire to subject the United States to a kind of international oversight not only when it comes to foreign policy but also on matters properly understood as U.S. domestic policy.

That very approach has been on display at the United Nations for years in an effort to standardize international conduct that has come to be known as "norming."...

**Read the whole thing:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-coming-war-on-sovereignty-15080>

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