

Unconstitutional Spending

The federal government, the 10th Amendment and why we should give more power to the states.

by *John Tamny*, 30 Nov 2009

The U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment is arguably the most important of all the amendments in the brilliant document that helped shape the United States. The 10th amendment made plain that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

What the 10th amendment tells us is that the powers of the federal government are quite limited, and that any powers not enumerated to Washington in the first nine amendments automatically revert to the states. This was the founders' way of keeping the federal government small so that individuals could choose the kind of government they wanted based on the state in which they chose to live.

Of course, with politicians on both sides of the aisle driven by incentives that have told them to ignore the 10th amendment, Americans suffer under laws and bureaucracies created in Washington that would not exist had politicians adhered to the Constitution's limiting ways. Simply put, nothing in the Constitution allows for the existence of the Departments of Education, Commerce and Energy (to name a few), government-sponsored entities such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, or ineffective bureaucracies such as the SEC and the FDA...

Continue: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/11/28/constitution-federal-government-states-opinions-columnists-john-tamny.html>

Climategate: Caught Green-Handed!

by *Christopher Monckton of Brenchley*, 30 Nov 2009

The whistleblower deep in the basement of one of the ugly, modern tower-blocks of the dismal, windswept University of East Anglia could scarcely have timed it better.

In less than three weeks, the world's governing class—its *classe politique*—would meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, to discuss a treaty to inflict an unelected and tyrannical global government on us, with vast and unprecedented powers to control all once-free world markets and to tax and regulate the world's wealthier nations for its own enrichment: in short, to bring freedom, democracy, and prosperity to an instant end worldwide, at the stroke of a pen, on the pretext of addressing what is now known to be the non-problem of manmade "global warming."...

Read the whole story: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/12/01/lord-moncktons-summary-of-climategate-and-its-issues/>
And/or Lord Monckton's handsome 40-page report, **here**.

Dr. Lindzen is the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT; consultant to the Global Modeling and Simulation Group at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center; a Distinguished Visiting Scientist at California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; recipient of the AMS's Meisinger and Charney Awards, and AGU's Macelwane Medal.

The Climate Science Isn't Settled

Confident predictions of catastrophe are unwarranted.

by *Richard S. Lindzen*, 30 Nov 2009

...The general support for warming is based not so much on the quality of the data, but rather on the fact that there was a little ice age from about the 15th to the 19th century. Thus it is not surprising that temperatures should increase as we emerged from this episode. At the same time that we were emerging from the little ice age, the industrial era began, and this was accompanied by increasing emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide. CO₂ is the most prominent of these, and it is again generally accepted that it has increased by about 30%...

...The main greenhouse substances in the earth's atmosphere are water vapor and high clouds. Let's refer to these as major greenhouse substances to distinguish them from the anthropogenic minor substances. Even a doubling of CO₂ would only upset the original balance between incoming and outgoing radiation by about 2%. This is essentially what is called "climate forcing."

There is general agreement on the above findings. At this point there is no basis for alarm regardless of whether any relation between the observed warming and the observed increase in minor greenhouse gases can be established...

...The main statement publicized after the last IPCC Scientific Assessment two years ago was that it was likely that

most of the warming since 1957 (a point of anomalous cold) was due to man. This claim was based on the weak argument that the current models used by the IPCC couldn't reproduce the warming from about 1978 to 1998 without some forcing, and that the only forcing that they could think of was man. Even this argument assumes that these models adequately deal with natural internal variability—that is, such naturally occurring cycles as El Nino, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation, etc.

Yet articles from major modeling centers acknowledged that the failure of these models to anticipate the absence of warming for the past dozen years was due to the failure of these models to account for this natural internal variability. Thus even the basis for the weak IPCC argument for anthropogenic climate change was shown to be false...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703939404574567423917025400.html>

Ms. Burlingame is the co-founder of 9/11 Never Forget U.S. Her brother, Charles "Chic" Burlingame, was captain of American Airlines Flight 77, which was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

We must rise up against the trial:

It's time for 9/11 families to fight Holder's dangerous move

by Debra Burlingame, 29 Nov 2009

...How dare this man, who didn't have the decency to notify victims' families of his decision to bring these monsters here, imply that **we** lack courage. Courage is carrying on after watching your loved ones die, in real time, knowing that they burned to death, were crushed to death, or jumped from 100 flights high. Courage is carrying on, even as we waited, in some cases years, for something of our loved ones to bury. More than 1,100 families still wait.

How dare the Attorney General suggest that the firefighters who oppose this trial need to "man up" and let this avowed enemy of America mock their brother firefighters in the country's most magisterial setting, a federal court.

Let me refresh the attorney general on the meaning of courage. Courage was going into those buildings that day, knowing they might not come out alive. Courage was digging for nine months on hands and knees, breathing in toxic smoke, to find the ravaged remains of brother firefighters, police officers, citizen responders and office workers. This courage was not summoned from false bravado; it sprang from an abiding love of their fellow human beings and a sense of obligation to them, their families and their beloved country.

The Attorney General has glibly, and most insensitively, called the perverse spectacle he wants to invite on this city and this nation, the "trial of the century." Well, Mr. Attorney General, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed has put you on notice. He's going to give it to you. His trial will be lawyer-assisted jihad in the courtroom...

More:

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/11/29/2009-11-29_we_must_rise_up_against_the_trial_its_time_for_911_families_to_fight_holders_dan.html

The Mathematics of Global Warming

by Peter Landesman, 30 Nov 2009

...Unfortunately, even assuming the model of the physics is correct, computers and mathematicians cannot solve more difficult problems, such as weather equations, for several reasons. First, the solution may require more computations than computers can make. Faster and faster computers push back the speed barrier every year. Second, it may be too difficult to collect enough data to accurately determine the initial conditions of the model. Third, the equations of the model may be non-linear. This means that no simplification of the equations can accurately predict the properties of the solutions of the differential equations. The solutions are often **unstable**. This means that a small variation in initial conditions will lead to large variations some time later. This property makes it impossible to compute solutions over long time periods.

As an **expert** in the solutions of non-linear differential equations, I can attest to the fact that the more than two-dozen non-linear differential equations in weather models are too difficult for humans to have any idea how to solve **accurately**. No approximation over long time periods has any chance of accurately predicting global warming. Yet approximation is exactly what the global warming advocates are **doing**. Each of the more than thirty **models** being used around the world to predict the weather is just a different inaccurate approximation of the weather equations. (Of course, this is an issue only if the model of the weather is correct. It is probably not, because the climatologists probably do not understand all of the physical processes determining the weather.)

Therefore, one cannot logically conclude that any of the global warming predictions are correct...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_mathematics_of_global_warm.html

ObamaCare: After Passage (part 1)

by Dana Loesch, 12 Nov 2009

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88Z61qDtPTQ>

The Ravages of Moonbattery

by Gregory of Yardale, 30 Nov 2009

Photo essay: http://www.moonbattery.com/archives/2009/11/the_ravages_of.html#more

Czech Muslims Ready to Welcome Geert Wilders

by Baron Bodissey, 30 Nov 2009

A Czech political party recently invited Geert Wilders to visit the Czech Republic, and then abruptly withdrew the invitation. Now a Czech Muslim organization is ready to welcome Mr. Wilders with open arms. According to **De Volkskrant**, as translated by our Flemish correspondent VH:

Czech Muslims want to talk with Wilders

The Czech Muslim organization "Libertas Independent Agency" is planning to invite Geert Wilders to screen his film *Fitna* and to debate about it. This is what the Czech media reported Tuesday.

Earlier this week a senator of the ruling Civic Democratic Party had suggested that they would invite Wilders, but that plan was blocked by other politicians. Now the Muslim organization takes the initiative.

Spokesman Luke Lhotan thinks that showing the film and conducting an open debate is the best way to approach anti-Islamic sentiments. "We have seen what happens when prejudices are ignored, as in the twentieth century when anti-Semitism was largely ignored. That did not prevent the Holocaust. We decided to learn from history."

Lhotan will send the invitation to Wilders by e-mail. It is unknown when he will do this. The organization's preference is to see Wilders in discussions with the only Muslim spiritual leader in the Czech Republic, imam Emir Omic.

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2009/11/czech-muslims-ready-to-welcome-geert.html#readfurther>

God (not Allah) bless those city fathers!

A Line in the Air

by David Pryce-Jones, 30 Nov 2009

The Swiss have just taken the significant step of banning the building of minarets. Right across the continent of Europe this ban is sure to have important repercussions...

...The ban follows quite a bit of contention which started when the king of Saudi Arabia bought a house on the shore of Lake Geneva. Launching a building program without first obtaining the requisite permits, he was obliged to stop and pull down extensions. Geneva already had a mosque, and when the Saudis wanted to build another one, the city fathers replied that permission would be granted only when the Saudis reciprocated by allowing the building of a church in Saudi Arabia...

More: <http://pryce-jones.nationalreview.com/post/?q=ZThkMzJhNTZmZjc2YzBhMDAzZWZhZmJmZTk4ZTZjZjU=>

Leaked emails won't harm UN climate body, says chairman

Rajendra Pachauri says there is 'virtually no possibility' of a few scientists biasing IPCC's advice, after UEA hacking breach.

by James Randerson, 29 Nov 2009

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/29/ipcc-climate-change-leaked-emails>

Pachauri, the IPCC chairman, is the guy who compared Danish eco-skeptic Bjorn Lomborg to Hitler for saying that near-term emissions reductions make no economic sense. On 20 Feb 2003, he disparaged global warming skeptics: "About 300 years ago, a Flat Earth Society was founded by those who did not believe the world was round. That society still exists; it probably has about a dozen members." Then in

2007, he implied that there were only "about half a dozen" skeptical scientists left in the world.

—Don John

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=f80a6386-802a-23ad-40c8-3c63dc2d02cb

Hodari forced abortion suit alleges woman's mouth covered to muffle her screams

Christian Newswire, 18 Nov 2009

A recently filed lawsuit against troubled abortionist Abraham Alberto Hodari alleging a horrific forced abortion may explain his recent efforts to **sell off his abortion clinics**.

On June 17, 2009, Caitlin Bruce filed a suit against Hodari and his assistant, "Victor", over an incident that took place at Hodari's Flint, MI, abortion clinic in April 2008. In that suit, Ms. Bruce alleges that she went to Hodari's clinic seeking an abortion, but before the procedure began, she changed her mind and decided against it. She notified Hodari that she no longer wanted the abortion.

However, Hodari and his assistant, Victor, forcibly restrained Ms. Bruce, holding her down. Ms. Bruce screamed "Stop, stop, I don't want this," but her mouth was covered to muffle her pleas while Hodari forced the abortion upon her...

More: http://www.prolifeblogs.com/mt/mt-search.cgi?blog_id=2&tag=caitlin%20bruce&limit=20



Winston Churchill (November 30, 1874—January 24, 1965)

The curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries (from *The River War*, 1899)

http://www.newenglishreview.org/blog_display.cfm/blog_id/24022

Mass Effects in Modern Life 1925

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?documentprint=1032>

Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat 13 May 1940

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/winstonchurchillbloodtoiltearssweat.htm>

We Shall Fight on the Beaches 4 June 1940

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/1940-finest-hour/128-we-shall-fight-on-the-beaches>

Their Finest Hour 18 June 1940

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/1940-finest-hour/122-their-finest-hour>

To V-E Day Crowds 8 May 1945

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/1941-1945-war-leader/124-to-v-e-crowds>

Sinews of Peace (the Iron Curtain speech) 5 March 1946

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/winstonchurchillsinewsofpeace.htm>

Declaration of Citizenship 9 April 1963 (JFK's remarks, Churchill's reply)

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/1946-1963-elder-statesman/125-united-states-citizen>

There is a rank due to the United States among nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.

—George Washington, *State of the Union address*, 3 Dec 1793

"Just who are these saintly nations whose favor we must curry, at the risk of American lives and the national security of the United States?"

—Thomas Sowell, 17 Nov 2009

U.S. Debt Clock See America go broke, in real time.

<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

(hat tip: Tony C.)

Reverse the Vote

Would you like to help defeat the Democrat congressmen who were foolish and arrogant enough to vote for Nancy Pelosi's ObamaCare, even though they represent districts won by John McCain in 2008?

"We have an app for that." <http://reversethevote.org/dems.html>

And a column by Hugh Hewitt:

http://townhall.com/columnists/HughHewitt/2009/11/19/obamacare_can_be_stopped_reversethevoteorg

The Arabs have stopped applauding Obama

A foreign policy of penance has won America no friends.

by Fouad Ajami, 29 Nov 2009

...It was the norm for American liberalism during the Bush years to brandish the Pew Global Attitudes survey that told of America's decline in the eyes of foreign nations. Foreigners were saying what the liberals wanted said.

Now those surveys of 2009 bring findings from the world of Islam that confirm that the animus toward America has not been radically changed by the ascendancy of Mr. Obama. In the Palestinian territories, 15% have a favorable view of the U.S. while 82% have an unfavorable view. The Obama speech in Ankara didn't seem to help in Turkey, where the favorables are 14% and those unreconciled, 69%. In Egypt, a country that's reaped nearly 40 years of American aid, things stayed roughly the same: 27% have a favorable view of the U.S. while 70% do not. In Pakistan, a place of great consequence for American power, our standing has deteriorated: The unfavorables rose from 63% in 2008 to 68% this year.

Mr. Obama's election has not drained the swamps of anti-Americanism. That anti-Americanism is endemic to this region, an alibi and a scapegoat for nations, and their rulers, unwilling to break out of the grip of political autocracy and economic failure. It predated the presidency of George W. Bush and rages on during the Obama presidency.

We had once taken to the foreign world that quintessential American difference—the belief in liberty, a needed innocence to play off against the settled and complacent ways of older nations. The Obama approach is different.

Steeped in an overarching idea of American guilt, Mr. Obama and his lieutenants offered nothing less than a doctrine, and a policy, of American penance. No one told Mr. Obama that the Islamic world, where American power is engaged and so dangerously exposed, it is considered bad form, nay a great moral lapse, to speak ill of one's own tribe when in the midst, and in the lands, of others...

Entire column: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703499404574558300500152682.html>

Climate change: this is the worst scientific scandal of our generation

Our hopelessly compromised scientific establishment cannot be allowed to get away with the Climategate whitewash.
by Christopher Booker, 28 Nov 2009

A week after my colleague James Delingpole, on his Telegraph blog, coined the term "Climategate" to describe the scandal revealed by the leaked emails from the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit, Google was showing that the word now appears across the internet more than nine million times. But in all these acres of electronic coverage, one hugely relevant point about these thousands of documents has largely been missed.

The reason why even the Guardian's George Monbiot has expressed total shock and dismay at the picture revealed by the documents is that their authors are not just any old bunch of academics. Their importance cannot be overestimated, What we are looking at here is the small group of scientists who have for years been more influential in driving the worldwide alarm over global warming than any others, not least through the role they play at the heart of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change...

Continue: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6679082/Climate-change-this-is-the-worst-scientific-scandal-of-our-generation.html>

Global Warming Hysterics circle the wagons

...Professor Sir John Houghton, chair of the IPCC's first science panel, said he would not support an inquiry as many of those demanding one were biased...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8383713.stm>

But of course, Philip Jones, Michael Mann, James Hansen et al. aren't biased!

CRU's Tree-Ring Circus

Who peer-reviews the peer-reviewers?

by Mark Steyn, 28 Nov 2009

..."*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*" wondered Juvenal: Who watches the watchmen? But the beauty of the climate-change tree-ring circus is that you never need to ask "Who peer-reviews the peer-reviewers?" Mann peer-reviewed Jones, and Jones peer-reviewed Mann, and anyone who questioned their theories got exiled to the unwarmed wastes of Siberia. The "consensus" warm-mongers could have declared it only counts as "peer-reviewed" if it's published in *Peer-Reviewed Studies* published by Mann & Jones Publishing Inc (Peermate of the Month: Al Gore, reclining naked, draped in dead polar-bear fur, on a melting ice floe), and Ed Begley Jr. and "Andy" Revkin would still have wandered out glassy-eyed into the streets droning "Peer-reviewed studies. Cannot question. Peer-reviewed studies. The science is settled.".....

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YjAxYzA3NmI0N2Y1MDVhYzdmM2JkZGlyMjE5ZWU2OTI=>

NB: The 5 votes for this hideous decision—which took people's land and gave it to Big Business—came from the liberal Justices Breyer, Stevens, Ginsberg, Souter, and the "swing vote" Anthony Kennedy.

After the homes are gone

San Francisco Chronicle editorial, 28 Nov 2009

In its infamous Kelo decision in 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that a New London, Conn., redevelopment agency could seize people's private homes by eminent domain not only for public works but also for corporate development.

The well-laid plans of redevelopers, however, did not pan out. The land where Suzette Kelo's little pink house once stood remains undeveloped. The proposed hotel-retail-condo "urban village" has not been built. And earlier this month, Pfizer Inc. announced that it is closing the \$350 million research center in New London that was the anchor for the New London redevelopment plan, and will be relocating some 1,500 jobs...

More: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/11/28/ED1D1ARCP5.DTL>

Iranian Momentum Still Going Strong

Protesters continue to take their fight for freedom to the streets.

by Lisa Daftari, 26 Nov 2009

Serious threats imposed by the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary guards did not stop thousands of protesters from marching in the streets of Tehran last Sunday. The protesters wanted to make it clear that the post-election momentum has not dissipated.

Security forces barricaded the city's main roads to prevent the opposition from gaining force as plain clothed and uniformed guards spread through streets using aggression and, in some reported incidents, violence to deter the demonstrators.

Sunday's protests commemorated the murders of political activists Dariush Forouhar and his wife, Parvaneh, who were viciously stabbed to death in 1998. The Forouhars were the founders and leaders of the *Hezb-e-Melat-e Iran*, or the Nation of Iran Party, that openly criticized the Islamic regime...

Rest of the story: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/26/iranian-momentum-still-going-strong-by-lisa-daftari/>

This is NOT the pompous loudmouth host of *The McLaughlin Group*.

Politics and Greenhouse Gases

by John McLaughlin, 27 Nov 2009

Advocates and sympathetic politicians claiming that man-made global warming from use of carbon-based energy sources mandates international controls on economically prosperous nations were already worried that their victory is slipping. Now another blow has been struck against the basic "science" used to support their case. Following an extensive theoretical analysis, two German physicists have determined that the term *greenhouse gas* is a misnomer and that the *greenhouse effect* appears to violate basic laws of physics...

Amazing: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/politics_and_greenhouse_gasses.html

Kill the bills. Do health reform right.

by Charles Krauthammer, 27 Nov 2009

The United States has the best health care in the world—but because of its inefficiencies, also the most expensive. The fundamental problem with the 2,074-page Senate health-care bill (as with its 2,014-page House counterpart) is that it wildly compounds the complexity by adding hundreds of new provisions, regulations, mandates, committees and other arbitrary bureaucratic inventions.

Worse, they are packed into a monstrous package without any regard to each other. The only thing linking these changes—such as the 118 new boards, commissions and programs—is political expediency. Each must be able to garner just enough votes to pass. There is not even a pretense of a unifying vision or conceptual harmony.

The result is an overregulated, overbureaucratized system of surpassing arbitrariness and inefficiency...

A better way: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/25/AR2009112503607.html>

If countries like Dubai begin to fail, who will save them?

Dubai's plea this week for debt deferment could just be the thin end of the wedge.

by Jeremy Warner, 27 Nov 2009

...Across the developed world, public debt is set on an explosive course. According to new estimates by Moody's, the credit ratings agency, the total stock of sovereign debt worldwide will have risen by more than 50 per cent between the start of the financial crisis in 2007 and the end of next year, to \$15.3 trillion. But this is just the beginning. On current projections, that total is set to rise by at least a further 50 per cent, before finally peaking in four to five years' time, and then only if governments have by then taken remedial action.

These are uncharted waters, quite without precedent in peacetime. In seeking to address the financial and economic crisis of the past few years, countries have come close to bankrupting themselves. It is as if, in treating the patient, a physician has infected himself with the same deadly disease...

...If Dubai is the sovereign debt equivalent of Northern Rock, then Greece might be its Bear Stearns and Japan its Lehman Brothers. But why stop there? For Citigroup, think the US, and for RBS and HBOS, think Britain. Only there would be no one to bail out their creditors if America or Britain showed signs of defaulting...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/jeremy-warner/6672699/If-countries-like-Dubai-begin-to-fail-who-will-save-them.html>

see also:

'The Sheikh's New Clothes?' Dubai's Desert Dream Ends

by Stanley Reed, 27 Nov 2009

http://www.businessweek.com/print/globalbiz/content/nov2009/gb20091127_265938.htm

A Year of Magical Thinking

The Democrats' health care dream is everyone else's nightmare.

by Matthew Continetti, 28 Nov 2009 (December 7 issue)

Next time you run into a group of Democrats, offer to splash water on their faces. They've spent 2009 in a dream state, and it's time they wake up. They're convinced that they can subsidize health insurance for millions of people while also "bending the cost curve" of health care spending. They want to sign us up for the political equivalent of one of those three-step "eat more to lose weight" diets. Step one: Pile on the expenditures, regulations, taxes, and fees. Step two: Close your eyes. Step three: Pray it all works out in the end.

Sorry, it won't. Entitlements cost money, and they almost invariably cost more than the government's initial predictions. When you increase demand for a product and the supply remains fixed, the price rises. Thanks to the individual mandate, the Democratic health care bills lasso Americans into a heavily regulated health insurance oligopoly. All these new consumers will wander through the government-run "exchanges," buying the plans they can afford with taxpayer subsidies. As demand for health care increases, so will the cost.

Continue: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/267aexag.asp>

The Five Obama Fails

by Adam Sparks, 28 Nov 2009

The Obama Administration burst onto the presidency with a historic wealth of good will, hope and change. It is now marked by one failure after another. Unfortunately, these failures are not without costs. The heavy burden is born by consumers, taxpayers and to generations yet to come. Nearly one year later we have an economy heading in the wrong direction, unemployment rising, a deficit that will double, banks failing, a war command which is virtually ignored, 911 terrorists given all the rights at a civil trial and an Administration hell bent on destroying rather than "reforming" the world's best health system. Not a bad day for an experienced community organizer...

Read the rest: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_five_obama_fails.html

A very important essay, by one of our great ex-leftist thinkers.

The Art of Political War for Tea Parties

by David Horowitz, 26 Nov 2009

...Conservatives can also turn the left's oppression myth around, and aim its guns at *them*. In fact, using the romance of the underdog against the left is the best way to neutralize their attack.

The way to do it is to recognize that the most powerful forces obstructing opportunity for poor and minority Americans, the most powerful forces oppressing them, are progressives, the Democratic Party, and their political creation—the welfare state.

There is really nothing new in this idea. Conservatives already oppose the programs of the left as obstacles to the production of wealth and barriers to opportunity for all Americans. What is new is the idea of connecting this analysis to a political strategy that will give conservatives a decisive edge in battle—that will neutralize the class, race and gender warfare attacks of the political left.

Here are the principles of political war that the left understands but conservatives do not:

1. Politics is war conducted by other means
2. Politics is a war of position
3. In political wars the aggressor usually prevails
4. Position is defined by fear and hope
5. The weapons of politics are symbols evoking fear and hope
6. Victory lies on the side of the people

Here are the principles explained...

Much more: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/26/the-art-of-political-war-for-tea-parties-by-david-horowitz/>

Hide the Decline

by Minnesotans for Global Warming, 24 Nov 2009

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

Climategate: Dr. Tim Ball on the hacked CRU emails

Corbett Report, 21 Nov 2009

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ydo2Mwnwpac>

Navy SEALs Charged Over Alleged Abuse of Terrorist Mastermind

by Stephen Brown, 26 Nov 2009

It makes one wonder how the West is ever going to win the war against radical Islam.

Fox News reported yesterday that three navy SEALs have been charged for allegedly abusing a terrorist leader they had captured in Iraq last September.

The SEALs' long-sought target, Ahmed Hashim Abed, is believed to have been the mastermind behind one of the most infamous incidents of the Iraq war: the murder and mutilation of four Blackwater security personnel in Fallujah in 2004. The four men were attacked when transporting supplies and had their bodies burned and dragged through the streets. Two of the corpses were then hung from a Euphrates River bridge.

Abed, the alleged planner of this barbarism, claims the navy's elite commandos had punched him after his capture and that "he had the bloody lip to prove it."...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/26/navy-seals-charged-over-alleged-abuse-of-terrorist-mastermind-by-stephen-brown/>

Shuman the Human: "How shocking! Ooooh! It makes me so ashamed to be an American, that they would treat this poor, aggrieved Arab man in such a fashion, without even convicting him of a crime. Ooooh! We have abandoned our principles! Ooooh! Whatever happened to the rule of law? Ooooh! What will people in Other Countries think of us now?"

Don John: "Fluck those people."

Climategate: five Aussie MPs lead the way by resigning in disgust over carbon tax

by James Delingpole, 26 Nov 2009

Australia is leading the revolt against Al Gore's great big AGW conspiracy—just as the Aussie geologist and AGW sceptic **Professor Ian Plimer** predicted it would.

ABC news reports that **five frontbenchers from Australia's opposition Liberal party** have resigned their portfolios rather than follow their leader Malcolm Turnbull in voting with Kevin Rudd's Government on a new Emissions Trading Scheme.

Rest of story: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100018003/climategate-five-aussie-mps-lead-the-way-by-resigning-in-disgust-over-carbon-tax/>

Climate Fraud and the Environmental Agenda

by J.R. Dunn, 25 Nov 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/climate_fraud_and_the_environment.html

Obama Shatters Spending Record for First-Year Presidents

Fox News, 24 Nov 2009

The federal government spent \$3.5 trillion during President Obama's first year in office. This far exceeds the spending for any other first-year president. President Obama has shattered the budget record for first-year presidents -- spending nearly double what his predecessor did when he came into office and far exceeding the first-year tabs for any other U.S. president in history...

Click [here](#) to read FOXBusiness.com's Elizabeth MacDonald describe what the interest on the debt can buy...

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/11/24/obama-shatters-spending-record-year-presidents/>

A Progressive Constitution

by Larrey Anderson, 25 Nov 2009

I don't begrudge the progressive left its political power. They won. They are [far from](#) ashamed to say it, and I am not afraid to admit it. What I do mind is the left's obvious neglect and disregard for the Constitution *as it is written*.

If the left is going to change America, first they should change the [basic rules](#) set down to guide (and limit, and in some cases prevent) their proposed changes to our country's laws and legal procedures. With that in mind, I have decided to put together a progressive guide for rewriting the Constitution.

Most of the problems the left has with the Constitution are in the Bill of Rights. But let's start with the body of the Constitution. The progressives need only make a couple of changes there. (My second recommended revision for the articles of the Constitution will come later.)...

Keep reading: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/a_progressive_constitution.html

Our Heritage

by Nancy Matthis, 24 Nov 2009

Have we forgotten the words? As we celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday, please take time to enjoy the verses of two traditional American songs, the *Thanksgiving Hymn* and the *Thanksgiving Prayer*. They affirm the gratitude of a people for their God...

More: <http://www.american-daughter.org/frontpage/?p=2669>

Thanksgiving Hymn: http://www.americandaughter.com/thanksgiving_one.html

Thanksgiving Prayer: http://www.americandaughter.com/thanksgiving_two.html

The New War against Reason

Medieval heretic-hunters had nothing on Obama when it comes to closed-mindedness.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 25 Nov 2009

Barack Obama promised us not only transparency, but also a new respect for science. In soothing tones, he asserted that his administration was "restoring scientific integrity to government decision-making."

In our new Enlightenment of Ivy League Guardians, we were to return to the rule of reason and logic. Obama would lead us away from the superstitious world of Bush's evangelical Christianity, "intelligent design," and Neanderthal moral opposition to human-embryo stem-cell research.

Instead, we are seeing an unprecedented distortion of science — indeed, an attack on the inductive method itself. Facts and reason are trumped by Chicago-style politics, politically correct dogma, and postmodern relativism...

Read the rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NmY1MThiMWYzMjBkOTJmZWYwZWQyYWFjOGFiZWZhYjE=>

A Troubled Thanksgiving in 2009

by Dennis Prager, 24 Nov 2009

I have always loved Thanksgiving. It is my favorite national holiday. It reminds Americans how fortunate we are to be Americans. And it unites Americans around gratitude, the greatest human trait. Gratitude is the mother of both goodness and happiness. The ungrateful cannot be either happy or good.

So it is with a heavy heart that I write that my mood on this Thanksgiving will not be the same as on any other I have ever experienced. My gratitude will be marred by a dark cloud.

Not the cloud of economic crisis; Americans have lived through worse economic crises. Not the cloud of war. America is at war in Afghanistan, and troops remain in Iraq in the war against Islamic terror; but Americans have fought

far more bloody wars. Not the cloud of politics; whatever an American's political persuasion, every American has lived through political battles and political losses.

No, this is a new cloud. This is the cloud of "transformation." This is what candidate Barack Obama promised; this is what President Barack Obama seeks to achieve — nothing less than the transformation of America...

Read the rest: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/24/a-trouble-thanksgiving-in-2009-by-dennis-prager/>

But Dennis, we can at least be grateful for **this**.

Burdensome, intrusive, oppressive Government.

The EPA and Me

by Nancy Brown, 21 Nov 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_epa_and_me.html

More serious charges should have been filed against the SEIU scumbags who attacked Mr. Gladney. But at least, according to KMOX radio, "the six people face up to a year in jail and a thousand dollars fine on each count."

Charges filed in Kenneth Gladney Case

by Jim Hoft, 25 Nov 2009

<http://biggovernment.com/2009/11/25/breaking-charges-filed-in-kenneth-gladney-case/>

The UN Kicks Out a Leading Critic

And then lies about it.

by Joseph Klein, 25 Nov 2009

The United Nations security department briefly detained a leading UN critic, Anne Bayefsky, earlier this month and then escorted her out of the building after stripping her of her accreditation pass. Ms. Bayefsky, who is affiliated with a UN-recognized non-governmental organization and is an accredited United Nations observer, also happens to be a human rights watchdog who for years has publicized the rank hypocrisy at the UN when it comes to dealing with Israel and its terrorist enemies....

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/25/the-un-kicks-out-a-leading-critic-by-joseph-klein/>

Just as we suspected, Obama had Inspector General Walpin fired—and smeared—to protect his crony.

Rhee did 'damage control' after sex charges against fiance Kevin Johnson

by Byron York, 20 Nov 2009

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Exclusive-Congressional-Report-Rhee-did-damage-control-after-sex-charges-against-fiancee-Kevin-Johnson.html>

ACORNING the Climate Change Movement

by Mark J. Fitzgibbons, 25 Nov 2009

The [climate change](#) movement may have been caught in its *first* ACORN moment, with the publication of [emails](#) suggesting global warming data has been manipulated or suppressed.... Besides their apparent shared willingness to tamper with evidence, the climate change movement and ACORN have another common link: their foundations in Marxism.

ACORN, from founder Wade Rathke to others, employed the techniques and visions of Marxist Saul Alinsky.

The green movement, which found its ultimate vessel in climate change, is also steeped in Marxist foundations.

The [Green Horizon Foundation's reading list](#), for example, is filled with Marxist authors, including Marx himself.

French author Andre Gorz, who's featured on that list, published *Ecology as Politics* in 1975. In it, Gorz does not mask the anti-capitalist, Marxist agenda of the green movement. He writes, "This is why the ecological struggle is, in its present form, an indispensable dimension of the struggle against capitalism."

It's very important to understand this: for the greens, there is no distinction between their movement and the anti-

free market movement...

...The Marxists in the green movement seem to justify their corruption based on a belief of the moral superiority of their agendas. Quoting Rene Dumont's *L'Utopie ou la Mort (Utopia or Else)*, Gorz writes about "murderers who take protein from the mouths of poor children," lambastes "neoliberal economists" who don't go as far as his Marxism, and praises the "Chinese socialist civilization."...

...Just as we're learning about the infiltration of ACORN's brand of corruption in the world of elected officials, and even those who, like attorneys general, are law enforcement officials, the financial and political stakes in the climate change movement almost assure us of scandals yet to be discovered...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/acorning_the_climate_change_mo.html

A good short history of the denomination's long internal struggle between pacifism and sanity.

Methodist Bishops Urge Surrender in Afghanistan

by Mark D. Tooley, 25 Nov 2009

Nearly half of the bishops of the United Methodist Church, America's third largest (though declining) denomination, are demanding that the U.S. withdraw from Afghanistan by next year.

"We believe there is no path to military victory in Afghanistan," harrumphed the bishops in their November letter to President Obama. But it's not clear that these bishops ever wanted a "victory" in Afghanistan. After 9-11, the Council of Bishops declined to condemn al Qaeda or the Taliban, preferring only to seek "solidarity with victimized peoples throughout the world" and to intone that that "violence in all of its forms and expressions is contrary to God's purpose for the world." In other words, there were no necessarily great moral distinction between Osama bin Laden and those U.S.-led military forces that sought his capture.

The bishops also have 4 times denounced U.S. military actions in Iraq while never expressing any special concern about Saddam Hussein's mass murders or epic torture prisons, much less what even greater horrors might have prevailed to Iraqis had the U.S. withdrawn precipitously. With Iraq now relatively subdued, the bishops are now aiming their outrage at any U.S. military presence in Afghanistan...

Read on: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/25/methodist-bishops-urge-surrender-in-afghanistan-by-mark-d-tooley/>

The Skeptics Are Vindicated

David Warren, 25 Nov 2009

...There is little doubt that the e-mails were real. Even so warmist a true-believer as George Monbiot led his column in the Guardian yesterday with: "It's no use pretending this isn't a major blow. The e-mails extracted ... could scarcely be more damaging. I am now convinced that they are genuine, and I'm dismayed and deeply shaken by them."

He went on to rekindle his own faith in the "settled science," however, by revealing that he will not give up on the global-warming hypothesis until he sees an e-mail that reveals a specific conspiracy over the centuries by a secret fraternity of "knights carbonic" to seize planetary power and install a Communist World Government.

Behind this sarcastic little face-saving joke is a disheartening reality. For, as we glean from the hacked documents, supporters of the hypothesis have been able to reverse the onus of proof. In the last resort, their argument comes down to: We say the planet is warming. And anyone who says the contrary must "prove the negative" beyond the faintest shadow of a doubt. And we will be their judges...

...It is amusing to see mainstream media sources such as the New York Times, which thinks nothing of publishing purloined government documents that will endanger the lives of U.S. soldiers in the field, and compromise vital intelligence operations, suddenly become all jowly and uptight about publishing the e-mails in question because they were "illegally obtained."

Other media—which have played a leading part for years in giving credibility to "global warming" claims—are now maintaining the silence of Iago on the revelations. We will see how long this can be sustained.

Full column: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/skeptics+vindicated/2262685/story.html>

2,000 words long, and well worth perusing. Mr. Sheppard explains the technical points in a clear and entertaining way.

CRU's Source Code: Climategate Uncovered

by Marc Sheppard, 25 Nov 2009

As the evidence of climate fraud at the University of East Anglia's prestigious Climactic Research Unit (CRU)

continues to mount, those who've been caught green-handed continue to parry their due opprobrium and comeuppance, thanks primarily to a dead-silent mainstream media. But should the hubris and duplicity evident in the emails of those whose millennial temperature charts literally fuel the warming alarmism movement somehow fail to convince the world of the scam that's been perpetrated upon it, certainly these revelations of the fraud cooked into the [computer programs](#) that create such charts will.

First—Let's briefly review a few pertinent details...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/crus_source_code_climategate_r.html

We Pay Them to Lie to Us

by John Stossel, 25 Nov 2009

...I happily suspend disbelief when a magician says he'll saw a woman in half. That's entertainment. But when Harry Reid says he'll give 30 million additional people health coverage while cutting the deficit, improving health care and reducing its cost, it's not entertaining. It's incredible...

...To be deficit-reducers, the health care bills depend on a \$200 billion cut in Medicare. Current law requires cuts in payments to doctors, but let's get real: Those cuts will never happen. The idea that Congress will "save \$200 billion" by reducing payments for groups as influential as doctors and retirees is laughable. Since 2003, Congress has suspended those "required" cuts each year.

Our pandering congressmen rarely cut. They just spend. Even as the deficit grows, they vomit up our money onto new pet "green" projects, bailouts for irresponsible industries, gifts for special interests and guarantees to everyone.

Originally, this year's suspension, "the doc fix," was included in the health care bills, but when it clearly pushed the cost of "reform" over Obama's limit and threatened to hike the deficit, the politicians moved the "doc fix" to a separate bill and pretended it was unrelated to their health care work...

...I will chew on razor blades when Congress cuts Medicare to keep the deficit from growing...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/we-pay-them-to-lie-to-us.html>

Afraid to kill

by Ralph Peters, 24 Nov 2009

It's not true that the only good terrorist is a dead terrorist. Even dead terrorists aren't good. But at least they're dead. And that helps.

But political correctness has possessed Washington. It's so bad that even Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who's done a great job in many other respects, parrots the cliché that "we can't kill our way out of this."

Well, folks, there's no *other* way out of this all-or-nothing struggle with fanatics. Three thousand years of history teach that there's no alternative—none—to killing fanatics in large numbers when your enemies are ablaze with religious zeal. What Gates and countless others really mean is that we're *unwilling* to kill our way out of this assault on our civilization. So the terrorists keep on killing us.

We tell ourselves that one more charm offensive, one more inept aid program, one more surge of troops who aren't allowed to fight will persuade terrorists on a murderous mission from their god to lay down their arms and run for alderman. We refuse to see the world through terrorist eyes. Instead, we superimpose liberal-arts-faculty values on bloodthirsty zealots, asking what *we've* done to make them so angry.

The result? We grant captured terrorists more rights and better treatment than nonviolent offenders in a US county jail. We cater to them at the gentrified prison at Guantanamo (yet the global media insist that Gitmo's just a big torture chamber)...

It keeps getting better. The ending is perfect:

http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/afraid_to_kill_CzGsPbHtyjNSdib4rBnt5H

Cloward-Piven Government

by Jim Simpson, 22 Nov 2009

...This president and this Congress do not have our interests at heart. They are implementing this strategy on an unprecedented scale by flooding America with **a tidal wave of poisonous initiatives, orders, regulations and laws...**

...The real goal of "healthcare" legislation, the real goal of "cap and trade," the real goal of "stimulus" is to rip the guts out of our private economy and transfer wide swaths of it over to government control. Do not be deluded by the

propaganda...

This time, in addition to overwhelming the government with demands for services, Obama and the Democrats are overwhelming political opposition to their plans with a flood of apocalyptic legislation. Their ultimate goal is to leave us so discouraged, demoralized and exhausted that we throw our hands up in defeat. As Barney Frank said "the middle class will be too distracted to fight."

These people are our enemies. They don't use guns, yet, but they are just as dangerous, determined and duplicitous as the communists we faced in the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam and bush wars across the globe, and the Nazis we faced in World War II.

It is high time we overcome the denial, and fully digest and internalize this fact, with all its ugly ramifications.

These people are stealing this country while we stand and watch. They have violated countless laws, and could be prosecuted, had we the political power. Not only are their policies unconstitutional, but deliberately so—the goal being to make the Constitution irrelevant, we could make them live up to their oath of office, had we the political power. Their spending is off the charts and will drive us into hyperinflation, but could be rescinded, had we the political power. These policies are toxic, but could be stopped and reversed, had we the political power. Their ideologies are poisonous, but could be exposed for what they are, with long jail sentences as an object lesson, had we the political power.

Every single citizen who cares about this country should be spending every minute of his/her spare time lobbying, organizing, writing and planning. **Fight every initiative they launch.** It is all destructive. If we are **to root out this evil**, it is critical that in 2010 we win competent, principled leaders willing to defend our constitution and our country. Otherwise the malevolent cabal that occupies the seat of government today will become too entrenched.

After that all bets are off.

Read all 1,751 words: <http://truthandcons.blogspot.com/2009/11/cloward-piven-government.html>

Immigration Looms as the Next Test for Congress

by Michael Barone, 23 Nov 2009

...An approach more in line with current realities comes from a bipartisan panel assembled by the Brookings Institution and Duke University's Kenan Institute.

The Brookings/Kenan panel would provide for legalization of less than half of current illegals, with stringent requirements and only after stepped-up workplace enforcement provisions reach stated levels of use and effectiveness. Technology should allow programs like e-Verify to screen job applicants for legal status in a way that was promised but never delivered by previous immigration laws.

In addition, the Brookings/Kenan panel urges a sharp reduction in the number of green cards for relatives beyond the nuclear family of current legal residents and a sizable increase in admissions of high-skill immigrants. This is the approach taken, with good results, by Canada and Australia, which liberalized their immigration laws after our 1965 law opened the floodgates.

These proposals address the political reality that any new immigration bill must have bipartisan support, because the issue poses dangers for both Democrats and Republicans....

...The 1965 and 1986 laws resulted in a large illegal immigrant population because they promised things that proved beyond the capacity of government to deliver. Now that a combination of public indignation and high-tech ingenuity have increased government's enforcement capacity, and while the inflow of immigrants is slowing and an outflow of illegals may be accelerating, we may have reached a point when we can put in place immigration laws with enforceable limits and that encourage an influx of the kind of immigrants we need most...

More:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_michael_barone/immigration_looms_as_the_next_test_for_congress

As it happens, most of these 12 women were strikingly beautiful before they were attacked—a majority of the attackers, after all, were rejected suitors. Now look at the women's photographs, and tell me that Islam is a religion of peace, or that its "culture" deserves to thrive *anywhere*.

Under the Islamic Veil: Faces Disfigured By Acid

by Phyllis Chesler, 23 Nov 2009

<http://pajamasmedia.com/phyllischesler/2009/11/23/under-the-islamic-veil-faces-disfigured-by-acid/>

Hiding evidence of global cooling

Junk science exposed among climate-change believers.

Washington Times editorial, 24 Nov 2009

Scientific progress depends on accurate and complete data. It also relies on replication. The past couple of days have uncovered some shocking revelations about the baloney practices that pass as sound science about climate change.

It was announced Thursday afternoon that computer hackers had obtained 160 megabytes of e-mails from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in England. Those e-mails involved communication among many scientific researchers and policy advocates with similar ideological positions all across the world. Those purported authorities were brazenly discussing the destruction and hiding of data that did not support global-warming claims.

Professor Phil Jones, the head of the Climate Research Unit, and professor Michael E. Mann at Pennsylvania State University, who has been an important scientist in the climate debate, have come under particular scrutiny. Among his e-mails, Mr. Jones talked to Mr. Mann about the "trick of adding in the real temps to each series...to hide the decline [in temperature]."...

Continue: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/nov/24/hiding-evidence-of-global-cooling/>

Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and Federal Trust Funds

by Jon N. Hall, 24 Nov 2009

...The national debt went up by a factor of 25+ in the 19th century and by a factor of 2,666+ in the 20th century. That means the national debt rose 106+ times faster in the 20th century than in the 19th century. I'm beginning to see a pattern here: When we go forward in time, the debt curve gets steeper...

...The federal government cannot continue on its course of insane spending much longer. Soon, Congress will be forced to consider spending cuts. But *what* will Congress cut? We've already seen what the current regime thinks of corporate bonds (a form of debt) in its treatment of Chrysler bondholders. Contracts no longer mean what they used to. Nor does private property. Nor does the Constitution. So will Congress discriminate between foreign and domestic owners of U.S. treasuries? When commercial banks fail, will Congress allow the FDIC to renege on insured bank accounts? Or will Congress at long last make adjustments to entitlements?

Or will Congress tax the bejesus out of you? That's where that business about you being a slave comes in..."The Atlantic crunched the numbers further and reckoned that, to pay off the federal/personal debt over half a century at three per cent, the average household would have to write an annual cheque for \$25,971."

Rather than putting the breaks on spending, Congress is hitting the accelerator with the "mother of all entitlements": government-run health care. Instead of backing away from the abyss, Congress is joining hands and jumping in. And Congress expects us to join hands and follow them.

All of it: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/santa_claus_the_easter_bunny_a.html

The KSM Show Trial

by J.R. Dunn, 24 Nov 2009

...The KSM show trial is not aimed at terrorists or an international audience. It's aimed, in the classic sense, at domestic enemies. Holder has been transparently eager to prosecute Bush officials involved in "torture" but was evidently told to low-key the effort—little has been heard of it since the first announcement last spring. But here he has a workable substitute. There's no question that torture will come up—really, it's the only thing the defense has. Endless discovery requests will be made for classified material concerning KSM's interrogations. These requests will be subject to interminable public debate. The material that is provided will be leaked to appear in the media and provide Democrats with opportunities to attack the GOP. The entire exercise will be turned into an indictment of the Bush administration, with the actual facts of the case—the terrorist murder of thousands of Americans—relegated to the background. And if the prosecution collapses (a distinct possibility), why, it's all Bush's fault.

What does Obama get out of all this? Take a look at the timeframe. Considering the glacial nature of current legal proceedings, it will be a year and a half to two years before the trial even starts, and it's likely to continue for at least a year...which puts it right in the middle of the 2012 election campaign. Put simply, Obama thinks he can run against Bush in 2012...

...But there exist several flaws in this scheme. Considering the public attention span as regards politics, running

against Bush in 2012 will be like running against Franklin Pierce. And there's always the possibility of "events" intervening... And in that, it's probably far too complex and tricky an operation for Obama to manage. In virtually everything it tackles—the recession, health care, foreign policy—the Obama White House has developed a reputation for thinking large and accomplishing little. Odds are that the KSM show trial will be yet another example.

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_ksm_show_trial.html

Also, they may find that while many Americans oppose 'torture' in the abstract, relatively few will give a goddamn what was done to these particular bastards.

—Don John

Liberals and Mammography

Rationing? What rationing?

Wall Street Journal, 24 Nov 2009

... What's really going on here is that the left knows its designs will require political rationing of care, but it doesn't want the public to figure this out until ObamaCare passes. Then it will begin the campaign to instruct the rest of us that we must follow the guidance of Princeton professors about what medical care we can receive. Americans will simply have to accept that the price of government-run health care in the name of redistributive justice is that patients and their doctors must bow to the superior wisdom of HHS task forces...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704779704574552320222125990.html>

So the vast majority of Americans—the responsible, productive citizens—are supposed to give up their health and their freedom for the supposed benefit of ne'er-do-wells, layabouts, and losers. **Fluck those people.**

Awash in Fossil Fuels

by George F. Will, 22 Nov 2009

... As part of "a worldwide building boom in coal-fired power plants," about 30 under construction in America "will burn about 70 million tons of coal a year."...

... The world's deep-water oil and gas reserves are significantly larger than was thought just a decade ago, and high prices have spurred development of technologies—a drilling vessel can cost \$1 billion—for extracting them. The costs of developing oil sands—**Canada may contain more oil than Saudi Arabia has**—are declining, so projects that last year were not economic with the price of oil under \$90 a barrel are now viable with oil at \$79 a barrel...

... New technologies are also speeding development of natural gas trapped in U.S. shale rock. The Marcellus Shale, which stretches from West Virginia through Pennsylvania and into New York, **"may contain as much natural gas as the North Field in Qatar, the largest field ever discovered."**...

... U.S. known reserves of natural gas, which are sure to become larger, **exceed 100 years of supply at the current rate of consumption.** BP recently announced a **"giant" oil discovery beneath the Gulf of Mexico...**

Such good news horrifies people who relish scarcity because it requires—or so they say—government to ration what is scarce and to generally boss people to mend their behavior: "This is the police!" Put down that incandescent bulb and step away from the lamp!"

Today, there is a name for the political doctrine that rejoices in scarcity of everything except government. The name is environmentalism.

Read the rest: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/will112209.php3>

Criminalizing health-care freedom: Obamacare supporters would use the brute force of criminal law for social engineering

by Brian W. Walsh and Hans A. von Spakovsky, 20 Nov 2009

The "reformers" in the White House and the House of Representatives have made all too plain their vision of the federal government's power to coerce individual Americans to make the "right" health-care choices. The highly partisan bill the House just passed includes severe penalties for individuals who do not purchase insurance approved by the federal government. By neatly tucking these penalties into the IRS code, the so-called reformers have brought them under the tax-enforcement power of the federal government...

... Who will be included among those subject to civil *and criminal* penalties if this provision becomes law? For

starters, any family of four whose combined income in 2016 is above \$102,100 (\$88,200 in today's dollars) and that chooses to pay all its medical expenses out of pocket rather than pay the \$15,000 a year that the CBO says will be the lowest-priced insurance option for families. Also any healthy twentysomething in a city with high costs of living who chooses to take the risk of going uninsured. And by outlawing the popular high-deductible plans that are currently among the lowest-cost health-insurance solutions, the new law would only increase the number of Americans on the rolls of those who cannot afford insurance...

...The fact that the penalties for noncompliance are enforceable by criminal prosecution is a chilling abuse of the prosecutorial power, which Columbia law professor Herbert Wechsler pointed out 50 years ago is the greatest power that any government uses against its citizens. Using it to enforce one particular notion of appropriate insurance coverage is nothing less than a tyrannical assertion of raw government power over the private lives and economic rights of individual Americans...

More: <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed112009c.cfm>

The Bullies of Big Labor

by Michelle Malkin, 23 Nov 2009

The Boy Scouts' motto is: Be prepared. Who knew it meant preparing to defend themselves against purple-shirted union thuggery over community service? Kids, pay attention. This is a teachable moment for all of you on power, politics and Big Labor's culture of corruption.

Last week at a city council meeting in Allentown, Pa., a top official of the local Service Employees International Union chapter ranted about 17-year-old Scout Kevin Anderson's park cleanup work. Anderson devoted some 200 hours to the job in order to earn an Eagle Scout badge. He picked up trash and helped clear a 1,000-foot walking path with fellow members of Boy Scouts Troop 301 of Center Valley.

But SEIU's Nick Balzano gave them hell instead of thanks. Balzano disparaged altruistic efforts in city parks and asserted that "there is (sic) to be no volunteers" since his union members were laid off. He then issued a witch hunt threat: "We'll also be looking into the Cub Scout or Boy Scout who did the trails. We may file another grievance on that." Citing union rules, he gave the Allentown city council, the Boy Scouts and all potential volunteers an iron-fisted ultimatum: "None of them can pick up a hoe. They can't pick up a shovel. They can't plant a flower. They can't clear a bicycle path. They can't do anything. Our people do that."

That's right. Balzano was ready to bludgeon the Boy Scout because his gung-ho volunteerism posed a threat to the SEIU labor monopoly...

It gets even more outrageous:

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/23/the-bullies-of-big-labor-%e2%80%93-by-michelle-malkin/>

Marching off a Cliff

by Rich Lowry, 23 Nov 2009

But there was real drama Saturday—the same drama playing out every day the Democrats persist in the political and fiscal heedlessness that characterizes their push for ObamaCare. It's as if they don't realize that they're led by a marginally popular president (dipping below 50 percent public approval in the Gallup poll last week for the first time), are deeply unpopular themselves and are pushing for legislation that is opposed by more people than support it in almost every single opinion poll.

But they do realize it—they just don't care. They've talked themselves into the ludicrously self-delusional notion that what ails them and the president is that they haven't yet passed the hundreds of billions of dollars of tax hikes and Medicare cuts that finance (albeit incompletely) ObamaCare. This will long be a case study in the annals of abnormal political psychology...

...They believe that Obama can't afford failure, that's it's the defeat of ClintonCare that killed the Democrats in 1994. But such are the grave political and substantive flaws of ObamaCare that Democrats can't afford success or failure. If they pass it, they have tax hikes and Medicare cuts around their necks, as well as the increased insurance premiums the bill is sure to cause. If they fail, they've demonstrated their own ineffectual ideological fervor, while still putting themselves on record in favor of tax increases and Medicare cuts...

...This is the other element of the drama that inheres in the health-care debate: If it passes, people years and even decades from now will look back and ask, "What were they thinking?" It's a rare opportunity to see a train wreck at its inception...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/marching_off_cliff_axakNxnMSCOgF8CPcyo74O

Word fun in the Senate health care bill

by Lee DeCovnick, 23 Nov 2009

...There are some words and phrases that are missing from this bill. These include "cardiologists", "infectious disease", "neurosurgeon", "research physician", "research hospitals", "orthopedic surgeon", and "ophthalmology." These folks obviously had ineffective lobbyists. There was no mention of the word "liberty", "Constitution", and "individual rights." "Freedom" has exactly two occurrences, both times followed by the phrase "not to participate."

"Ethics in government", a funny oxymoron, shows up twice. My favorite phrase, which also appears twice, "... conflict of interest standards protecting against insurance industry involvement and interference" We have to make sure those evil insurance companies are kept at bay.

"Community" occurs an eye popping 341 times, "community-based" 103 times, "community based" 98 times, (thought no one would notice, Senator Reid?), "community health" 73 times and "community based care setting" 7 times. Congress does not attempt to hide the fact that it really wants ACORN to intervene and significantly aid in controlling your healthcare.

Clearly this bill allows Obama's socialist administration to claim physical ownership over every American's body; their bones, cells, nerves, organs, out to their skin...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/11/word_fun_in_the_senate_health.html

Health 'reform' that burdens our young

by Robert Samuelson, 23 Nov 2009

One of our long-running political stories is the economic assault on the young by the old. We have become a society that invests in its past and disfavors the future. This makes no sense for the nation, but as politics, it makes complete sense. The elderly and near elderly are better organized, focus obsessively on their government benefits, and seem deserving. Grandmas and Grandpas command sympathy.

Everyone knows that the resulting "entitlements" dominate government spending and squeeze education, research, defense and almost everything else. In fiscal 2008—the last "normal" year before the economic crisis—Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid (programs wholly or primarily dedicated to the elderly) totaled \$1.3 trillion, 43 percent of federal spending and more than twice military spending. Because workers, not retirees, are the primary taxpayers, this spending involves huge transfers to the old.

Comes now the House-passed health care "reform" bill that, amazingly, would extract more subsidies from the young. It mandates that health insurance premiums for older Americans be no more than twice the level of younger Americans. That's much less than the actual health spending gap between young and old. Spending for those aged 60-64 is four to five times greater than those 18-24. So, the young would overpay for insurance which—under the House bill—people must buy: 20- and 30-somethings would subsidize premiums for 50- and 60-somethings...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/22/AR2009112201237.html>

On terrorists, Justice recused

Washington Times editorial, 22 Nov 2009

The Obama Justice Department is having problems prosecuting terrorist cases because top department attorneys have conflicts of interest. According to documents obtained exclusively by The Washington Times, Associate Attorney General Thomas J. Perrelli, No. 3 official in the Justice Department, had to recuse himself on at least 13 active detainee cases and at least 26 cases listed as either closed or mooted...

...And Mr. Perrelli is just one official; a number of other Justice Department officials apparently did private-sector work on detainee cases.

This is an important topic. Even if each official who did prior work on detainee cases has indeed properly recused himself from those cases while at the Justice Department, there could be such a large number of affected officials that the department's prevailing ethos could be tilted strongly in the detainees' favor. Mr. Grassley's inquiry is pressing because it could ferret out any instance in which a department official should have been recused but wasn't...

...None of this is to say that Mr. Perrelli did anything wrong. His recusals are proper, but the extent of the recusals raises questions about whether the attorney general has enough unbiased advisers around him to have made good judgments about how to try Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and other detainees.

He certainly did seem terribly ill-informed when asked basic questions at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Wednesday about how Miranda rights for detainees would be treated in civil courts and if any enemy combatant from a foreign battlefield had ever been tried in American civil courts. Columnist Charles Krauthammer justly called Mr. Holder's responses "utterly incoherent." If the incoherence stems from an inherent bias among President Obama's appointees at the Justice Department, senators and the American public have the right to know it.

More: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/nov/22/on-terrorists-justice-recused/>

Just to recap a salient point:

The #3 man in Obama's "Justice" Department was previously involved in defending 39 terrorists. Sorry. That's 39 *alleged* terrorists. We wouldn't want to taint the jury pool in the way that the Lord High Obama already has.

Major Hasan and Holy War

A domestic Islamic threat is real, and the FBI is unprepared to fight it.

by Reuel Marc Gerecht, 23 Nov 2009

...For the FBI, religion remains a much too sensitive subject, much more so than the threatening ideologies of yesteryear. Imagine if Maj. Hasan had been an officer during the Cold War, regularly expressing his sympathy for the Soviet Union and American criminality against the working man. Imagine him writing to a KGB front organization espousing socialist solidarity. The major would have been surrounded by counterintelligence officers.

A law-enforcement agency par excellence, the FBI reflects American legal ethics. Because the FBI is always thinking about criminal prosecutions and admissible evidence, its intelligence-collecting inevitably gets defined by its judicial procedures. Good counterintelligence curiosity—that must come into play before any crime is committed—is at odds with a G-man's *raison d'être*. And much more so than local police departments—which are grounded to the unpleasantness of daily life—it is highly susceptible to politically correct behavior.

Powerfully intertwined in all of this is liberal America's reluctance to discuss Islam, Islamic militancy, jihadism, or anything that might be construed as invidious to Muslims... Thoughtful men should certainly not want to see a U.S. president propel a "clash of civilizations" with devout Muslims. However, clash-avoidance shouldn't lead us into a philosophical cul-de-sac...

...Iranian youth who once so eagerly welcomed Mr. Obama's election by shouting his name in Persian—U ba ma! ("He is with us!")—are now writing the president's likely legacy among Muslims who yearn for a better modernity. Disappointed to see how determined Mr. Obama has remained to engage the regime they despise, they now forlornly chant U ba unhast ("He is with them."). For Muslims who are on the front lines of Islam's bloody reformation, as well as for American counterterrorist officers who must find holy warriors in our midst, Mr. Obama has come down on the wrong side of history.

Entire column: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704888404574547571230575110.html>

Thanks for Paying Attention, Big Journalism

by Andrew Breitbart, 21 Nov 2009

...And now to address the fever-swamp's notion that what I said on *Hannity* last night was "blackmail." Blackmail occurs when one party threatens to reveal an unsavory piece of information about another party, and demands money in exchange for silence. For obvious reasons, it is most often conducted in private. I, on the other hand, went on national television with a challenge to the Attorney General to do his job; unlike this administration and its justice department, what I did was fully open and transparent.

There will be consequences if there isn't an investigation into ACORN. The videos will be shown and at a particular moment. There is nothing illegal about my proposed response to the continued inaction from this justice department, and there's nothing I'd like more than to have my day in court and let a jury hear why I have gone to such extraordinary measures to tell a major story that the dying, partisan, leftist media has worked so hard to suppress...

More: <http://biggovernment.com/2009/11/21/thanks-for-paying-attention/>

Best speech ever given by a U.S. president in China [link](#)

And unlike some others we could name, *his* audience even *responded*.

Mr. Beamer is the father of Todd Beamer, who died fighting the Muslim terrorists on Flight 93. And where is Maureen Dowd, who used to bleat endlessly about the "absolute moral authority" of the likes of Cindy Sheehan?

Eric Holder's Baffling KSM Decision

The attorney general's Senate testimony this week did nothing to reassure the families of 9/11's victims.

by *David Beamer*, 20 Nov 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704888404574547681569546414.html>

Global WarmingGate: What Does It Mean?

by *Charles Martin*, 22 Nov 2009

Late on the night of November 19, [news broke on PJM](#) ^[1] and elsewhere that a large amount of data had been stolen from one of the major climate research institutions by an unknown hacker and made available on the Internet. The institution is the University of East Anglia Climate Research Unit, home institution for Dr Phil Jones and one of the world's centers of research into anthropogenic global warming (AGW), or "climate change."...

...It appears that the three scandals are:

First, a real attempt by a small group of scientists to subvert the peer-review process and suppress dissenting voices. (For another look at this, by a respected climate scientist who was one of the targets, see [these](#) [24] [posts](#) [25] on [Roger Pielke Sr.](#) [26]'s blog.) This is at best massively unethical.

Second, a willingness to manipulate the data to make a political case. This is certainly misconduct and possibly scientific fraud. This, if it proves true, should make these scientists subject to strong disciplinary action, even termination of their tenured positions.

Third, what gives every appearance of an actual conspiracy to prevent data from being released as required by the Freedom of Information Acts in the US and UK. If this is proven true, that is a federal crime.

These emails and the data associated, taken together, raise really important questions about the whole scientific structure of AGW...

More: including links to about 20 of the hacked e-mails:

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/global-warminggate-what-does-it-mean/comment-page-1/#comment-450199>

The CRU hack—What a difference an internet makes

by *Brian Micklethwait* (London), 21 Nov 2009

...Now, it is looking ever more likely that it is true, all of it. Not least because the first big response from the hackees has been to cry, not: load of made-up bollocks, but rather: stop thief! Yes, we have been hacked, and *that's outrageous*. The story is that *we have been hacked*. (Lots of people are suddenly discovering the case for intellectual property rights.) The [BBC's first version](#) of this story goes with this angle, and with pretty much nothing else. AGW scientists (good) robbed by anti-AGW fanatics (bad). But this response has not killed the story. It has only given it legs. If there's nothing to it, why be so fussed about the hacking?...

The rest: http://www.samizdata.net/blog/archives/2009/11/the_cru_hack_wh.html

Barack Obama: the politics of hypocrisy and cynicism

by *Toby Harnden*, 21 Nov 2009

It was supposed to be all about the end of politics as usual. But while President Barack Obama has been happy to bring about change while abroad by doing all he can to diminish the superpower status of the United States, at home it's been the same old.

Take the case of Greg Craig, the first big figure to depart the Obama White House and the victim of the Washington equivalent of a back-alley stabbing...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/6622103/Barack-Obama-the-politics-of-hypocrisy-and-cynicism.html>

Haven't done this in months, but a November "Moonbat of the Month" award goes to the Gophers' "Race, Culture, Class and Gender Task Group." Hats off to thee!

At U, future teachers may be reeducated

They must denounce exclusionary biases and embrace the vision. (Or else.)

by Katherine Kersten, 22 Nov 2009

Do you believe in the American dream—the idea that in this country, hardworking people of every race, color and creed can get ahead on their own merits? If so, that belief may soon bar you from getting a license to teach in Minnesota public schools—at least if you plan to get your teaching degree at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus.

In a report compiled last summer, the Race, Culture, Class and Gender Task Group at the U's College of Education and Human Development recommended that aspiring teachers there must repudiate the notion of "the American Dream" in order to obtain the recommendation for licensure required by the Minnesota Board of Teaching. Instead, teacher candidates must embrace—and be prepared to teach our state's kids—the task force's own vision of America as an oppressive hellhole: racist, sexist and homophobic.

The task group is part of the Teacher Education Redesign Initiative, a multiyear project to change the way future teachers are trained at the U's flagship campus. The initiative is premised, in part, on the conviction that Minnesota teachers' lack of "cultural competence" contributes to the poor academic performance of the state's minority students...

It gets worse: [http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/70662162.html?](http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/70662162.html?elr=KArksc8P:Pc:Ug8P:Pc:UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr)

[elr=KArksc8P:Pc:Ug8P:Pc:UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr](http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/70662162.html?elr=KArksc8P:Pc:Ug8P:Pc:UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr)

"F.T.P."—Don John

It's the first anniversary of the first VI Day! And we've still won. Barack Obama and Christopher Hill haven't managed to lose it...yet.



Victory in Iraq Day: November 22, 2008

by Zombie, 18 Nov 2008

We won. The Iraq War is over.

I declare November 22, 2008 to be "Victory in Iraq Day." (Hereafter known as "VI Day.")

By every measure, The United States and coalition forces have conclusively defeated all enemies in Iraq, pacified the country, deposed the previous regime, successfully helped to establish a new functioning democratic government, and suppressed any lingering insurgencies. The war has come to an end. **And we won.**

What more indication do you need? An announcement from the outgoing Bush administration? It's not gonna happen. An announcement from the incoming Obama administration? That's *really* not gonna happen. A declaration of victory by the media? *Please*. Don't make me laugh. A concession of surrender by what few remaining insurgents remain in hiding? Forget about it...

Read the whole wonderful thing. Lots of photos, too: http://www.zombietime.com/vi_day/

This hoax is over!

The Evidence of Climate Fraud

by Marc Sheppard, 21 Nov 2009

A folder containing documents, data and, e-mails purportedly "hacked" from Britain's Climate Research Unit (CRU) may be smoking-gun proof of a worldwide conspiracy to exaggerate the existence, causation, and threat of global warming. And the list of apparent conspirators includes many of the world's leading climate alarmists—the very scientists on whose work the entire anthropogenic global warming theory is based.

In a Friday interview with *Investigative Magazine's TGIF Edition*, CRU director Phillip Jones confirmed [PDF] that the incriminating documents, which have been widely disseminated online, are in fact genuine. Accordingly, whether indeed the labor of hackers, or instead that of a CRU whistleblower, the contents of the *FOI2009* folder are now public record—and that's nothing short of dynamite...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_evidence_of_climate_fraud.html

Obamanomics 101

No cheers for capitalism.

by *Fred Barnes, 21 Nov 2009 (November 30 issue)*

...I bring up Obama's Peoria adventure because it bears on the Jobs Summit for which he has summoned business leaders to the White House on December 3. In February, the president and Owens were not on the same wavelength. That's likely to be the case with Obama and the business community at the summit as well—unless Obama has changed his economic tune significantly. There's no reason to believe he has. Nor have congressional Democrats.

Obama has his own theory of our current economic situation. His "first job," he told Chuck Todd of NBC News, was to stave off another "Great Depression," save government jobs (police, firefighters, teachers), and "make sure certain sectors of the economy were supported," such as "construction and infrastructure." "We've gotten that job done," he said. "Our next job is to make sure we can accelerate the job growth. So what we're seeing now is businesses are starting to invest again, they are starting to be profitable again, but they haven't started hiring again."

What's the matter with these business guys? The suggestion here is they ought to be hiring. But they're "sitting on the sidelines," the president told Major Garrett of Fox News. He regards them as not-very-conscientious objectors, avoiding the struggle to revive the economy and put people back to work. They're not doing their part, their duty...

...Obama has made clear in his 10-month presidency that he has minimal respect for business or the profit motive. Ambitious, talented young people should work for nonprofits. Last summer, he criticized doctors who gouged by insisting on expensive tonsillectomies to cure simple sore throats. They reflected a "business mentality," he said.

And what the president doesn't understand—or, to be more charitable, refuses to acknowledge—about free markets, the economy, and competition could fill a book, or at least an Obama speech...

Read it all: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/248oumdt.asp>

The Killers Within

by *Bernie Reeves, 21 Nov 2009*

A time bomb began ticking in the mid-1970s, when the psychiatric and mental health professions went politically correct and identified the mentally ill as "victims" who required advocates. While patients in general do need assistance, the activists turned caring into political action that changed the American cityscape and endangered our well-being.

Announcing in the mid-1970s that confining mental patients violated their civil rights, a cadre set to work to release as many patients as they could, resulting in the huge homeless phenomenon of the 1980s that remains with us now. Suddenly the streets of major cities and small towns hosted a permanent population of vagrants who harassed passersby and businesses. The media spin maintained that these abandoned citizens were the victims of the cruel American capitalist society. In other words, it was our fault that people marginalized by society existed, dramatizing that the public deserved this inconvenience for living selfish lives.

Upon examination, it was discovered—but not reported by a compliant mass media—that over 80% of the homeless were actually newly released mental patients, not dispossessed victims of the economic system. If members of a community complained, they were told the street people were fine—as long as they took their meds. With no one in charge to enforce and administer dosages, the problem grew into a national scandal. Other nations saw the phenomenon as the underside of America's economic system, when actually the homeless were purposefully inflicted on U.S. society by political radicals...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_killers_within.html

Barack Obama's Chump Diplomacy

by *Rich Lowry, 20 Nov 2009*

...If George W. Bush put too much faith in oppressed people—their ability and willingness to rise up for freedom

—Barack Obama puts too much faith in their oppressors.

The Iranians have all but announced that they are reneging on the October deal. U.S. officials, according to the Wall Street Journal, "acknowledge Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad appears to be using negotiations to limit U.N. pressure while also working to legitimize his government domestically." Maybe they should get word to the president?

In response to Iranian intransigence, Obama is supposed to be poised to crack down with harsh sanctions supported by the Russians and Chinese, won over by Obama's accommodating gestures. Neither is likely to go along, though. True to his word, Obama has worked a remarkable change in America's reputation in the world—from purported bully to notorious chump in less than a year...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YzZmOWNhNTZiYTdiZTU2OTgzMzlhNmYxNGE5YjgzMDk=>

Scientific scandal appears to rock climate change promoters

by Clarice Feldman, 20 Nov 2009

There's big news for climate change students. A hacker has gotten into the computers at Hadley CRU, Britain's largest climate research institute and a proponent of global warming, and seems to have uncovered evidence of substantial fraud in reporting the "evidence" on global warming; the unlawful destruction of records to cover up this fraud, conspiracy, and deceit in the entire operation.

While hacking into the institute's records is inappropriate if not illegal, the activities disclosed appear illegal and damaging to science and the economies of the world.

At first many of us were inclined to dismiss the posted emails from the Institute as fraud, but the **head of the institute admits** the records were hacked and the emails seem genuine.

Here is a sample of the purportedly hacked material (1079 emails and 72 documents) available online...

Check it out: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/11/scientific_scandal_appears_to.html

Barack Obama's Rules for Revolution: The Alinsky Model

by David Horowitz, 20 Nov 2009

An 11,000-word booklet. Order one for \$3, or download a PDF copy for free.

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/20/barack-obama%e2%80%99s-rules-for-revolution-the-alinsky-model-by-david-horowitz/>

This helps to explain why BHO encourages class warfare, every chance he gets. He resents America, white people, and capitalism—for no other reason than pure envy and sense of entitlement. He had no sense of personal responsibility that would spur him to pull himself up by his bootstraps. Just "blame Whitey." And his white mother probably taught him that; it's clear that she hated Whitey, too.

Obama's expatriate years

by Thomas Lifson, 20 Nov 2009

...Given the depth of poverty of Indonesia in the late 1960s, the gap between the locally-based staff and the American oil company executives and technical staff resident in Jakarta must have been huge. With a young Caucasian-American wife, a young stepson, and his own daughter Maya, born in 1970, it is highly likely that the Soetoro and his family were invited to functions at places like the **American Club of Jakarta**, where they saw a lavish lifestyle enjoyed by the Caucasian corporate elite. This was a lifestyle denied to them, and a universe apart from the abject poverty of most Jakartans.

Any young child seeing other children enjoying stuff that is out of bounds to him experiences real pain. Being told that the other kids have stuff because their fathers are American while his stepfather is not would no doubt fuel particularly acute resentments. Seeing (and probably being told) that he still had far more wealth than the local kids made the lesson in class structure doubly painful. The class structure of rich white Americans on top must have grated on Obama very roughly. This could well be the moment in which deep resentments were planted....

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/obamas_expatriate_years.html

It's a stunner, and it certainly isn't "just" about Israel. Just read it!

Jerusalem Stone and the Genocide of Titus

by James Lewis, 19 Nov 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/jerusalem_stone_and_the_genoci.html James Lewis

Another set of cooked books

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 20 Nov 2009

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is touting the Senate's latest health-care bill as costing \$849 billion over 10 years. But this uses the same accounting trick as past versions: 99 percent of the costs don't kick in until the fifth year of that "10-year" period. The *true* 10-year costs are well over twice what Reid's advertising: \$1.8 trillion.

The Democrats cite the bills' projected costs from 2010-19. Yet, as the Congressional Budget Office reports, the bill would cost just \$9 billion *total* from 2010 through 2013—versus \$147 billion in 2016 alone. In the first 40 percent of what the Democrats are calling the bill's "first 10 years," only 1 percent of its costs would yet have hit.

As the CBO analysis indicates, the bill's *real* 10-year costs would start in 2014. And in its true first decade (2014 to 2023), the CBO projects the bill's costs to be \$1.8 trillion—double the price Reid is advertising.

And that's even though the CBO optimistically assumes the government-run "public option" wouldn't cost a cent. Over this same 10-year span, the bill would hike taxes and fines by \$892 billion—more than the alleged price of the bill.

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/another_set_of_cooked_books_loFmlm5OEIdYuzuJySXBaN

California's Suicide

Investor's Business Daily, 19 Nov 2009

California's slide into fiscal oblivion continues, with no end in sight. Despite lots of budget cuts this year, a \$21 billion deficit looms. The politicians' solution? Stop selling high-definition TVs in the state...

...The "energy savings" are likely to be minimal. But because of the new rules, more retailers will go out of business, consumer costs will rise and tax revenues will drop. And those who want a big-screen, high-def TV will simply order online.

And this is just one thing, on one day. Hardly a week goes by that the state doesn't announce some new initiative, tax or regulation intended to make it harder on business to build or expand.

The results have been tragic. From January 2001 to this September, California's manufacturers — which, by the way, pay an average wage of about \$60,000 a year — have slashed employment from 1.88 million to 1.295 million, destroying roughly 31% of the state's industrial base in a mere nine years.

California is besieged with such petty micromanaging that it's almost impossible to build factories or businesses there. The Tax Foundation ranks California 48th among the 50 states for its business tax environment.

But a costly labyrinth of regulations makes it even worse. A new study from California State University at Sacramento estimates regulations cost the state \$492 billion per year — a toll that translates into 3.8 million fewer jobs, \$211 billion less in worker pay and an annual tax on each small business equal to \$57,260.

Someday, residents of this once-well-governed state will wise up and throw those who are systematically destroying it out of office. Until then, they bear as much responsibility for the destruction as the hacks they've re-elected.

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=513042>

To create jobs, voters say cut taxes and stop spending

Rasmussen Reports, 19 Nov 2009

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/business/economic_stimulus_package/november_2009/to_create_jobs_voters_say_cut_taxes_and_stop_spending

47% trust Private Sector more than Government to keep health care costs down, quality up

Rasmussen Reports, 19 Nov 2009

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/healthcare/november_2009/47_trust_private_sector_more_than_government_to_keep_health_care_costs_down_quality_up

Zelaya's Useful Idiot

by Jamie Weinstein, 20 Nov 2009

During the Cold War, Congressional Democrats compiled a long history of being useful idiots for leftist causes and regimes in Latin America. Democratic Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky of Illinois seems to be trying to revive the tradition for the 21st century.

Last week, Schakowsky became the first Congressional Democrat to visit Honduras since Manuel Zelaya was forcibly removed from the Honduran presidency in June. Zelaya's removal was authorized by the country's Supreme Court and legislature in response to multiple attempts by Zelaya to violate the Honduran Constitution. It is widely suspected that Zelaya was seeking to change the Constitution in order to extend his presidency, which is limited to one term by Honduran law...

...It is true that the international community condemned Zelaya's removal as an illegal coup, a position with which the Obama administration has concurred. But Schakowsky's statement that the coup was illegal is in conflict with an August report by the Law Library of Congress on the situation in Honduras. The report reviewed the relevant Honduran law and ultimately concluded that "available sources indicate that the judicial and legislative branches applied constitutional and statutory law in the case against President Zelaya in a manner that was judged by the Honduran authorities from both branches of the government to be in accordance with the Honduran legal system."...

...Most illegal coups take place as a power grab. But Zelaya's removal was supported not only by the Supreme Court, but by almost the entirety of the Honduran legislature, including by the vast majority of members in Zelaya's own party. On November 29, Honduras will hold democratic elections in which Honduras's interim President Roberto Micheletti will not participate. Micheletti has stated that he plans step down in January and turn over power to whomever is elected in the forthcoming elections...

...Why not just allow the elections to go forward at the end of the month and allow the Honduran people to decide their new leader? More broadly, why were so many of those on the Left so hesitant to criticize the fraudulent elections that occurred in Iran over the summer, but so quick to criticize Honduran internal matters that the Library of Congress says were legitimate?...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/20/zelaya%e2%80%99s-useful-idiot-%e2%80%93-by-jamie-weinstein/>

Meet SEIU's Andy Stern (President Obama's most frequent visitor)

He spouts Marxist slogans. Surprise!

And Bill Moyers smiles approvingly. Surprise!

Video from Naked Emperor News: <http://www.breitbart.tv/meet-president-obamas-most-frequent-white-house-visitor/>

Roadmap to Victory

Providing a contrast would best expose the weaknesses of the Democratic health bills.

by Tevi Troy & Jeff Anderson, 19 Nov 2009

By proposing a health-care bill of their own, Senate Republicans can throw the extraordinary weaknesses of the Democratic bills into stark relief. In the wake of the Congressional Budget Office's recent scoring of aspects of the House Republican bill, there is now an opening for Republicans to provide a clear contrast with the proposed Democratic overhaul...

...Finally, the Democratic bill would likely *raise* Americans' insurance premiums substantially; the Republican bill would *lower* Americans' insurance premiums significantly — according to the CBO.

The Republican bill would have no obvious weaknesses. Aside from inefficiently and expensively increasing the number of insured, the Democratic bill would have no obvious strengths.

By taking the House Republican bill, adding a tax cut for the uninsured, and adopting a variation on the CBO's proposal to convert DSH payments into block grants, Senate Republicans could offer an extraordinary — and extraordinarily popular — health bill. This bill would meet *both* widely stated goals of health-care reform: lowering costs and decreasing the number of uninsured. And it would do so sensibly, affordably, and unobtrusively.

In comparison, the Democratic bill would appear all the more plainly irresponsible, profligate, and counterproductive...

Read the rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MmFmNzA3MzNIOWRmYTJjY2YwYTk4MmZmZDc2NjJlMDk=&w=MA==>

No Political Purge

by James Simpson, 19 Nov 2009

There has been a story flying around the internet in recent days that the Obama administration intends to purge Republicans from the bureaucracy by using a new federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rule requiring that all applicants for career civil service jobs who held political jobs "within the past five years" be approved by OPM. The assertion is that "past five years" can refer only to Bush appointees, and that OPM's memo authorizes the agency to ferret out Republican civil service hires and find some bureaucratic pretext to kick them out...

...The OPM stressed that

this rule does not apply to current employees who have already been accepted into the civil service. It will affect only *new hires* going forward from January 1st. So the OPM will not be going back and examining the credentials of current civil service employees who were at one time political appointees. This seems clear from the memo.

However, a question remains. What happens if a current civil service employee who had a political job within the past five years applies for a *new job* within the civil service?...The memo is silent on this question, and as written, it could be interpreted to include such people. In any event, it is easy to envision the hyper-political Obama administration interpreting it this way. All the memo says is that *anyone* seeking civil service employment who held a political appointment within the past five years must receive OPM approval.

This was Rush's concern—a legitimate question completely overlooked by Media Matters. In fact, according to the OPM, the same concern was raised by a federal agency. The Center for Merit Systems Accountability, which developed the rule in the first place, responded directly to this question: "The policy announced last week simply does not apply to a former political appointee who was hired for a career federal job and applies for a different federal job at the same or another agency. For example, a Bush appointee from 2005 who was hired by HHS as a GS-14 career federal employee in 2007 can apply for another federal job at the VA and the VA's selection of that person will NOT be reviewed by OPM under the new policy."...Kaplan stated flatly, "If a current career federal employee applies for a new career federal job in the same or another agency, we would not review the matter even if that person was a political appointee within the past five years..."

So while Rush raised a legitimate concern, OPM has provided reassurances that the memo simply needed clarification on that point. In addition to their routine ad hominem attacks and hyperbolic language, **Media Matters'** **cursorly read** of the memo misinterpreted its purpose, too. The rule was not created to prevent politicians from "burrowing in" to the bureaucracy, as Media Matters asserts. It was created to make all applicants subject to the same standards. But they were correct in concluding that Republicans weren't targeted. Who would have thought? Apparently, even a blind pig finds a mushroom every now and then...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/no_political_purge.html

The AG's Distortion of the Opposition to His Decision

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 19 Nov 2009

...For what it's worth, I think the team I led in the Blind Sheikh case did an excellent job, and we also convicted everybody. But that is not the measure of success. It's not whether the government wins the litigation; it's whether the national security of the United States has been harmed more by having the trial than it would have been harmed by handling the detainees in a different manner.

What made the United States most vulnerable in the Nineties was our enemies' perception that they were at war and we were not. They gave us bombs, we gave them rights. That encouraged them to attack us more often and more audaciously — which is exactly what they did.

If we are at war, and the Attorney General said this morning that we are, we have to treat it like a war. Pressed by Sen. Graham this morning, **the AG could not name a single time when, during war, we captured an enemy combatant outside the U.S. and brought him into the United States for a civilian trial** — vesting him with all the rights of an American citizen. That's because hasn't happened. That's not how you treat wartime enemies.

Further, if we are going to have military commissions at all (and Holder says we will continue to have them), it makes no sense to transfer the worst war criminals to the civilian system. Doing so tells the enemy that they will get more rights if they mass-murder civilians...

More: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=NzIxNTM5ODU2YWIIjZjESOGMzNTQyYmM4NWRkNzg3ZTI=>

Sen. Reid's government-run health plan requires a monthly ABORTION fee

by John Boehner, 19 Nov 2009

<http://republicanleader.house.gov/blog/?p=690>

Climatologists Baffled by Global Warming Time-Out

by Gerald Traufetter, 19 Nov 2009

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,662092,00.html>

Oh, yes. Very puzzling indeed: to anyone who refuses to consider the possibility that it's all been a bunch of hysterical nonsense from the very beginning! Here's a scholarly study by the world's leading global warming skeptic.

Climate Science: Is it currently designed to answer questions?

by Richard S. Lindzen

Program in Atmospheres, Oceans and Climate

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

27 Sept 2008

<http://arxiv.org/pdf/0809.3762v2>

The Issue of Separatism at the Forefront after Ehsan Fatahiyan's Execution

by Sayeh Hassan, 16 Nov 2009

Kurdish people have been tirelessly fighting against the Islamic Regime for the past 30 years. They have been killed in highest numbers alongside many other minorities in Iran. As a result Iranian Kurdistan is heavily armed by Revolutionary Guards and Kurds are harassed and abused on a regular basis. Kurdish activists, teachers, writers and students are arrested and subjected to torture in order to force them to confess to crimes they have not committed. Currently there are many Kurdish students and activists who are serving heavy prison sentences. There are also at least 12 Kurdish activists who are currently facing execution due to their political activities. It must be noted that all of these individuals were subjected to torture and were sentenced to death after sham trials behind closed doors, in most cases without the presence of their lawyers. Most recently a Kurdish activist Ehsan Fatahiyan was executed despite great national and international pressure to stop the execution...

...Ehsan Fatahiyan was a young man who was against the Islamic Regime in its entirety. He was tortured and sentenced to death, however he did not back down, not until the last second. Even at the time of his execution he did not allow the Regime Agents to touch him and carried out his own execution dying with dignity. In my eyes that makes him a hero.

I hope that we can all respect Ehsan's memory even if we do not agree with his political stand, and to prevent certain groups or individuals from using his name and what he stood for to spread hate propaganda. Ehsan was one of the thousands of Iranian young men who were murdered for speaking out against dictatorship. He was a freedom fighter and he will remain that way in the hearts of people of Iran and Kurdistan.

[Down with the Islamic Regime in Iran](#)

[Long Live Freedom in Iran](#)

Read it ALL: <http://shiro-khorshid-forever.blogspot.com/2009/11/issue-of-separatism-at-forefront-after.html>

see also: **A Tribute to Ehsan Fatahiyan**

<http://shiro-khorshid-forever.blogspot.com/2009/11/tribute-to-ehsan-fatahiyan.html>

Ken Myers

is often NPR's only actively Christian talent.

He also creates religious podcasts at <http://marshillaudio.org/>

Israel brushes off Obama criticism over Jerusalem

by Ben Hubbard (AP), 18 Nov 2009

...Israel has offered to restrain construction in the West Bank, but it says it will build homes anywhere it wants in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem municipality on Thursday issued a statement detailing plans to build 5,000 new housing units for Palestinians in three neighborhoods in the eastern sector. Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Nir Barkat, rejected U.S. criticism of the building projects for Jews. "The city is working to respond to the needs of its Jewish and Arab residents equally," Barkat was quoted as saying.

Underscoring Israel's claim to the city, a member of the Israeli parliament and American Jewish visitors held a groundbreaking ceremony for another construction project in east Jerusalem on Wednesday. The lawmaker, from Netanyahu's Likud Party, accused Obama of making a "racist demand" by ordering Israel to halt settlement activity.

"President Obama should not interfere with the rights of the Jewish people to live in Jerusalem," said lawmaker Danny Danon. "This...is a racist demand, saying that Jews cannot live in Jerusalem, only Arabs."...

More: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ioi_0jtO9RjMwPNRoXNCndRPRq3gD9C23HQ80

Government completely out of control.

\$50,000 to clean up a 2 oz mercury spill

by Larrey Anderson, 19 Nov 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/11/50000_to_clean_up_a_2_oz_mercu.html

I use some CFL bulbs. If one breaks, I sweep it up and put it in the dustbin—just as people did with broken thermometers many years ago. If the government expects citizens to call in a Hazmat team, it had better re-think the whole CFL thing. Here's what the Obama people would consider a good idea: tag each bulb with a tiny tracking device that would enable the government make sure the purchaser disposes of it "properly," perhaps by turning it in to recycling centers that would provide hundreds of thousands of jobs for the minions of ACORN or SEIU.

—Don John

Excused Horrors

by Walter E. Williams, 19 Nov 2009

...Professor Kors said that over the years, he has frequently asked students how many deaths were caused by Joseph Stalin and Mao Tsetung and their successors. Routinely, they gave numbers in the thousands. Kors says that's equivalent to saying the Nazis are responsible for the deaths of just a few hundred Jews. But here's the record: Nazis were responsible for the deaths of 20 million of their own people and those in nations they conquered. Between 1917 and 1983, Stalin and his successors murdered, or were otherwise responsible for the deaths of, 62 million of their own people. Between 1949 and 1987, Mao Tsetung and his successors were responsible for the deaths of 76 million Chinese...

...Whether it's the academic community, the media elite or politicians, there is a great tolerance for the ideas of socialism — a system that has caused more deaths and human misery than all other systems combined...

...The reason why the world's leftists give the world's most horrible murderers a pass is because they sympathize with their socioeconomic goals, which include government ownership and/or control over the means of production. In the U.S., the call is for government control, through regulations, as opposed to ownership. Unfortunately, it matters little whether there is a Democratically or Republican-controlled Congress and White House; the march toward greater government control continues. It just happens at a quicker pace with Democrats in charge.

You say, "Come on, Williams, there will never be the kind of socialist oppression seen elsewhere here!" You might be right because Americans have become very compliant with unconstitutional and immoral congressional edicts. But what do you think would happen if some Americans began to rise up and heed Thomas Jefferson's admonition "Whensoever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force." and decided to disobey unconstitutional congressional edicts?

Full column: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/19/excused-horrors-by-walter-williams/>

Islam Bashers Repent

by Amil Ismani, 19 Nov 2009

...What really is hard to deal with are those who either, through ignorance or a misplaced sense of fairness and multiculturalism, keep saying that Islam itself is not bad, the Quran contains no more violence than does the Bible, and

that the moderate Muslims, who are the vast majority, are good people and need to do something about the criminal minority. These folks go even a step further and call those of us who sound the alarm against Islam in general, as unjustified hatemongers.

But the notion of moderate Muslims is an illusion created by the wishful thinking of a good-hearted yet deluded people. The so-called minority Jihadist-types are indeed the real Muslims. These Jihadists hate the so called moderate Muslims as much as they hate the kefir—the infidels. And it is always **the small group**, the militant minority that eventually topples the complacent uncaring majority. History is replete with support of this contention.

In my view, truth and the naked truth should be the only standard. No sugar-coating, no political correctness, no hired-guns to cover up for the Islam menace that has afflicted humanity for so long and keeps marching across the globe doing more harm...

Read the rest: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/islam_bashers_repent.html

From Bust to Burst

by Vasko Kohlmayer, 19 Nov 2009

...What the G-20 meeting did is, in effect, guarantee for the foreseeable future the availability of cheap loans and easy money. This makes for a temptation to engage in unhealthy risk-taking, because it invites Wall Street to take out cheap loans and then invest the borrowed money in assets that promise a higher rate of return. The difference is profit.

The problem with this is that the glut of cheap money pushes the trading price of assets into which it flows beyond what is warranted by economic fundamentals. The recent run in the stock market is an example of this. Many observers have been puzzled by the sharp rise in the price of equities in light of the difficult situation we find ourselves in. Given the economic realities, there is simply no way stocks should be going up that fast. The main reason behind their rapid rise is the ready availability of easy money. What this means, however, is that there is another bubble forming right before our eyes.

But stocks are not the only asset class that has been posting large gains in recent months. In his recent *piece* in the *Financial Times*, Nouriel Roubini notes that there has been a "massive rally" in assets across the spectrum. Oil, energy and commodities have all participated. Observes Roubini: "Asset prices have risen too much, too soon and too fast compared with macroeconomic fundamentals."

This incongruity cannot last forever. The prices of these assets will continue rising as long as investors have access to low interest loans. But sooner or later central banks will have to raise interest rate. Once that happens many borrowers will be forced to sell in order to cover their loans. As many people unwind their positions, assets will lose their artificially inflated value. Falling asset prices will then likely trigger a stampede with investors seeking to cut their losses. This will result in a rapid drop of value and we will end up with another bust.

The underlying mechanism will be similar to the one that led to the bursting of the housing bubble, an event that was triggered by the Fed's raising of interest rates. This time, however, the bust will affect several asset classes simultaneously. That the burst of this multi-headed bubble in a shaky economic environment would have devastating repercussions goes without saying. This time, however, there will be no money for trillion dollar bailouts, since governments have already maxed out their credit cards. The next big bust can well bring the whole system to its knees.

But notice the cause of the predicament which lies with the government. In an effort to keep people content in their credit-funded lifestyles, our political and monetary elites have kept interest rates unnaturally low. As they do so, they unwittingly inflate bubbles whose subsequent busts wreak havoc across the economy...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/19/from-bust-to-burst-by-vasko-kohlmayer/>

The Coming Jihadi Trial Disaster

by J.R. Dunn, 18 Nov 2009

...Simply put, Obama wishes to Mirandize the entire murderous crew.

I'm using that term as shorthand for the liberal tendency—not to say "compulsion"—to treat all underdogs as victims, no matter the circumstances. In the liberal worldview, criminals are the ultimate underdogs, the romantic rebels with all the power of society ranged against them. The liberal role in this regard is to help even the odds, to protect and nurture the criminal so that his more "worthwhile" aspects—whatever those might be—aren't simply snuffed out by a vengeful society. This paradigm has governed the treatment of criminals since at least the 1950s.

By redefining Islamist terrorists as "criminals," liberals have automatically retrofitted them with "victim" status, endowing them with all the rights and privileges granted to American street hoodlums. If the record is any indication, this is going to end far worse than anyone can foresee.

Criminal justice reform was a major pillar of liberal utopianism during the postwar period. American liberals wanted to "humanize" the treatment of criminals under the impression that this would in and of itself end crime. As in so much else involving the liberal program, criminal justice reform was a wish-fulfillment daydream carried out without adequate research or foresight...

... These reforms amounted to loosening all legal and social restrictions on criminals and lawless behavior. "Sentencing reform" cut sentences to little or nothing. "Rehabilitation," which usually took the form of a few hours spent with a harried social worker, replaced punishment...

... Some of these decisions were justified, even overdue—*Gideon*, for instance. But coming all at once, with no preparation, guidance, or warning, they acted as a sledgehammer to the justice system, resulting in a confused court system, a demoralized police force, and an increasingly frightened populace. From the criminal point of view, they promised unlimited get-out-of-jail-free cards, free legal representation, and a sentence that at worst involved a few encounters with a tired parole officer.

The end result was exactly what any sane individual would have predicted. Beginning in 1964 (not coincidentally, the year of *Escobedo*), crime exploded... This long witch's sabbath did not begin to abate until the early '90s, when New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and police chief William Bratton adapted George Keller's and James Q. Wilson's "Broken Windows" thesis...

... It is this paradigm, with those results, that is being invoked in the case of the jihadis. Never let it be said that liberals ever learn a lesson, or fail to fumble the opportunity to apply one... Mirandizing the jihadis is a first step in gearing down the War on Terror so that Obama can afford to ignore it and instead concentrate his attention on more interesting tasks, such as wrecking the economy and turning the U.S. into an international laughingstock... We are being made to look weak, childish, and silly in the eyes of the barbarians. There is a price for that, and that price will be paid, as it was paid by the millions of victims of the great crime explosion...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_coming_jihadi_trial_disast_1.html

Collaborators in the War Against Israel and the Jews

a Front Page Magazine series by John Perazzo and Steven Plaut

The first nine installments:

Howard Zinn (MIT)

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/10/21/collaborators-in-the-campus-war-against-israel-and-the-jews-howard-zinn/>

Joel Beinin (Stanford)

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/18/2009/10/16/collaborators-in-the-campus-war-against-israel-and-the-jews-joel-beinin-%E2%80%93-by-steven-plaut/>

Mark LeVine (UC Irvine)

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/18/2009/10/14/collaborators-in-the-campus-war-against-israel-and-the-jews-mark-levine-%E2%80%93-by-steven-plaut/>

Neve Gordon (Ben Gurion Univ.)

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/18/2009/10/13/collaborators-in-the-campus-war-against-israel-and-the-jews-neve-gordon-by-john-perazzo/>

Norman Finkelstein (ex-DePaul)

<http://97.74.65.51/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=36406>

Tony Judt (NYU)

<http://97.74.65.51/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=36238>

Michael Lerner (*Tikkun*)

<http://97.74.65.51/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=36178>

Marc H. Ellis (Baylor)

<http://97.74.65.51/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=36028>

Sara Roy (Harvard)

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/18/collaborators-in-the-war-against-the-jews-sara-roy/>

And Now, On to Immigration Reform

by Steven Malanga, 18 Nov 2009

... Our current immigration regime might best be described as an accidental system. When Congress fashioned it in the mid-1960s, its supporters assured the country that the new legislation, which eliminated strict quotas for immigrants by nation in favor of new, nationwide quotas, wouldn't boost immigration very much. But since the new system gave visa preferences to family members of U.S. citizens and legal residents—including not only spouses and minor children of U.S. residents but also parents, adult children and adult brothers and sisters of those already here—the math was simple. The more people who came and established residence here, the longer the so-called 'family re-unification' list of visa applicants grew as newcomers placed their own relatives on it. That put pressure on Congress to continually expand the

family-visa category until it came to dominate our immigration system. It also sparked more illegal immigration because Congress could never enlarge the number of immigration slots fast enough to reduce wait lists for family members, which meant many people just came without permanent visas to join relatives and then hoped for the best.

Meanwhile, many other developed countries were moving in another direction. Countries like Australia, Ireland and Canada recognized that most immigrants in the modern world hadn't been forcibly separated from their relatives but had migrated by choice, and so a visa policy based on the idea that countries should be allowing families to 'reunite' was misleading.

Instead, these countries tilted their policies toward focusing on those with skills and talents most likely to succeed in and contribute to a late 20th century developed economy. Some, like Australia, went so far as to create extensive lists of the jobs their economies needed filled and placed a premium on granting visas to people who could do those jobs. Others, like Canada, enacted broader criteria that rewarded visa applicants with points based on their education levels or their ability to speak and read the native language.

In less than 15 years Australia completely flipped the ratio of its immigrant visas: whereas in 1993, 70 percent of those arriving were granted family visas, by 2006, 70 of Australia's immigrants had been admitted based on skills criteria. The newly arriving immigrants performed far better. A 2006 study concluded that the average immigrant to Australia gained income parity with native-born Australians just five years after arriving. By contrast similar studies in the United States suggest that many immigrants today start out far behind average native-born workers in pay and make little progress over their lifetime...

More: http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2009/11/18/and_now_on_to_immigration_reform_97515.html

First-pitch form: Bush vs Obama

photo essay by Kent Czerwinski

http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/First-pitch_form_Bush_vs_Obama.pdf

(hat tip: Tony C.)

The Permanent TARP

Current financial reform proposals would establish 'too big to fail' as national policy.

by Peter Wallison, 16 Nov 2009

It's hard to imagine a worse piece of financial regulatory legislation than the bill Barney Frank and the administration put before the House Financial Services Committee last month. But Sen. Chris Dodd's effort, introduced last week, clears this hurdle.

Much attention has focused on the fact that his "Restoring American Financial Stability Act" differs from the administration and Frank proposals by creating an entirely new agency to function as a "systemic regulator" of nonbank financial institutions, instead of the Federal Reserve. Far more important, however, is the regulatory and bailout powers it gives to the government. Here the Dodd bill follows the same flawed ideas advanced by the administration and Mr. Frank, but in some ways make things worse...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704431804574537921614296680.html>

If you read nothing else today, read this. It gets close to the core of *everything* in politics.

The Essential Fusion

by Doctor Zero, 15 Nov 2009

...A strictly financial argument for conservatism never makes much progress with the electorate, because liberalism is presented as an explicitly moral enterprise. This is one of the big reasons it is never held to account for its practical failures. Every liberal talks up the latest huge expansion of the government as if the year is 1909, rather than 2009, and the ideas he advocates haven't been proven disasters around the globe. Collectivist agriculture yields starvation, the trillion-dollar War on Poverty produces more poverty, political control of industries crashes those industries... and yet, it's always Day One of the great socialist experiment, and no one has ever hit on the brilliant idea of making the "rich" pay their "fair share" to fund a government crusade against want.

This increasingly stale series of fresh starts is not merely a cynical attempt to keep the population from challenging liberal ideas, by exploiting the case of historical amnesia it gained by slamming its collective head into the public school system. Confronted with the grim history of their ideology, most liberals will say it doesn't matter if their ideas are

efficient, because there is a moral imperative to follow them, and all opposition to them is fundamentally immoral. It doesn't matter that liberalism doesn't work, because it's the right thing to do... the *only* right thing to do...

...One of the reasons liberals always sound so foolish when they discuss economics is their belief that moral certainty trumps objective knowledge. In his infamous encounter with Joe the Plumber, Barack Obama expressed it like this: "It's not that I want to punish your success. I just want to make sure that everybody who is behind you, that they've got a chance at success, too... My attitude is that if the economy's good for folks from the bottom up, it's gonna be good for everybody. If you've got a plumbing business, you're gonna be better off... if you've got a whole bunch of customers who can afford to hire you, and right now everybody's so pinched that business is bad for everybody and I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody."

In other words, the lot of underemployed plumbers will improve when the government seizes a huge amount of money from the wealthy, keeps a large portion for itself, and distributes the remainder to poor people, some of whom will doubtless use their welfare money to hire plumbers. Keep this logic in mind the next time some fossilized liberal makes a crack about "trickle-down economics."...

Be sure to read the whole essay: <http://hotair.com/greenroom/archives/2009/11/15/the-essential-fusion/>

Simply a gem, from beginning to end.

Bowing to "world opinion"

by Thomas Sowell, 17 Nov 2009

In the string of amazing decisions made during the first year of the Obama administration, nothing seems more like sheer insanity than the decision to try foreign terrorists, who have committed acts of war against the United States, in federal court, as if they were American citizens accused of crimes.

Terrorists are not even entitled to the protection of the Geneva Convention, much less the Constitution of the United States. Terrorists have never observed, nor even claimed to have observed, the Geneva Convention, nor are they among those covered by it. But over and above the utter inconsistency of what is being done is the utter recklessness it represents...

...Behind this decision and others is the notion that we have to demonstrate our good faith to other nations, sometimes called "world opinion." Just who are these saintly nations whose favor we must curry, at the risk of American lives and the national security of the United States?

Internationally, the law of the jungle ultimately prevails, despite pious talk about "the international community" and "world opinion," or the pompous and corrupt farce of the United Nations. Yet this is the gallery to which Barack Obama has been playing, both before and after becoming President of the United States...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell111709.php3>

Let the fat, America-hating bitch rot in jail before she burns in hell.

Terror-abetting attorney ordered to prison immediately

by Ed Morrissey, 17 Nov 2009

Perhaps Lynne Stewart should have quit while she was behind. Convicted of abetting terror while acting as an attorney for the Blind Sheikh, Omar Abdel Rahman, Stewart had remained free on bail while appealing her conviction. Today, the federal appeals court not only **upheld her conviction and revoked her bail**, but they also sent the case back to the district court for reconsideration of the shockingly light 28-month sentence Stewart initially received (via **JWF**):

Disbarred radical lawyer Lynne Stewart is going to jail—maybe for a lot longer than she thought.

A federal appeals court Tuesday upheld her conviction for smuggling messages to her jailed terrorist client, and said she deserves more than the 28 months she got because she may have lied at her trial...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2009/11/17/terror-abetting-attorney-ordered-to-prison-immediately/>

"Cooking the books" to cover up Obama's falling approval ratings.

WaPo/ABC poll: The 14-point partisan gap

by Ed Morrissey, 17 Nov 2009

<http://hotair.com/archives/2009/11/17/wapoabc-poll-the-14-point-partisan-gap/>

AP shocka: Support for ObamaCare craters when trade-offs are mentioned

by Allahpundit, 16 Nov 2009

<http://hotair.com/archives/2009/11/16/ap-shocka-support-for-obamacare-craters-when-trade-offs-are-mentioned/>

Jobs 'Saved or Created' in Congressional Districts That Don't Exist

by Jonathan Karl, 16 Nov 2009

...Late Monday, officials with the Recovery Board created to track the stimulus spending, said the mistakes in crediting nonexistent congressional districts were caused by human error...

Full story: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/jobs-saved-created-congressional-districts-exist/story?id=9097853>

Just like the election of Barack Hussein Obama.

Mafia-style health insurance: An offer you can't refuse

by Dr. Paul Hsieh, 16 Nov 2009

...The recently passed Pelosi plan is essentially a national version of the failing Massachusetts system of mandatory health insurance—a plan that has led to skyrocketing costs and worsening health care.

Under any system of mandatory insurance, the government must necessarily determine what constitutes an "acceptable" plan. Hence, this creates a magnet for special interests seeking to include their pet benefits on the required insurance menu.

Massachusetts residents must purchase numerous benefits that they may neither need nor want, such as in vitro fertilization, drug abuse therapy and chiropractor services. If you'd rather purchase low-cost catastrophic-only insurance without those options, tough luck. Mandatory insurance thus violates the individual's right to spend his own money for his benefit according to his best judgment.

Since the plan's inception in 2006, insurance premiums in Massachusetts have risen by 8 percent to 10 percent each year, nearly twice the national average...average waiting times in Boston to see a specialist have increased to seven weeks, whereas in other states it has fallen to three weeks...

...According to CNN, eight of every 10 Americans are happy with their current health care, but concerned about rising costs. Polls also show a majority of Americans opposed to Congress' plan. Free-market reforms that lowered costs while respecting individual rights would be smart politics.

Where would meals be better and cheaper? A city where customers could choose between restaurants competing in a free market? Or a city where everyone was forced to buy all their meals at a few mafia-controlled restaurants?...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/OpEd-Contributor/Mafia-style-health-insurance_-An-offer-you-can_t-refuse-8537964-70149222.html

Obama's Malpractice

Why the health care bill isn't reform.

by Robert Samuelson, 15 Nov 2009

There is an air of absurdity to what is mistakenly called "health care reform." Everyone knows that the United States faces massive governmental budget deficits as far as calculators can project, driven heavily by an aging population and uncontrolled health costs. Recovering slowly from a devastating recession, it's widely agreed that, though deficits should not be cut abruptly (lest the economy resume its slump), a prudent society would embark on long-term policies to control health costs, reduce government spending, and curb massive future deficits. The administration estimates these at \$9 trillion from 2010 to 2019. The president and all his top economic advisers proclaim the same cautionary message.

So, what do they do? Just the opposite...

Read on: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/182992>

The Rationing Commission

Meet the unelected body that will dictate future medical decisions.

Wall Street Journal, 15 Nov 2009

...Like most of Europe, the various health bills stipulate that Congress will arbitrarily decide how much to spend on health care for seniors every year—and then invest an unelected board with extraordinary powers to dictate what is covered and how it will be paid for. White House budget director Peter Orszag calls this Medicare commission "critical to our fiscal future" and "one of the most potent reforms."

On that last score, he's right. Prominent health economist Alain Enthoven has likened a global budget to "bombing from 35,000 feet, where you don't see the faces of the people you kill."...

...It makes little room for medical innovations. The commission is mandated to go after "sources of excess cost growth," meaning treatments that are too expensive or whose coverage will boost spending. If researchers find a pricey treatment for Alzheimer's in 2020, that might be banned because it would add new costs and bust the global budget. Or it might decide that "Maybe you're better off not having the surgery, but taking the painkiller," as President Obama put it in June. In other words, the Medicare commission would come to function much like the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, which rations care in England. Or a similar Washington state board created in 2003 to control costs. Its handiwork isn't pretty...

...So far, the commission has banned knee arthroscopy for osteoarthritis, discography for chronic back pain, and implantable infusion pumps for pain not related to cancer. This year, it is targeting such frivolous luxuries as knee replacements, spinal cord stimulation, a specialized autism therapy and MRIs of the abdomen, pelvis or breasts for cancer. It will also rule on routine ultrasounds for pregnancy, which have a "high" efficacy but also a "high" cost.

Currently, the commission is pushing through the most restrictive payment policy in the nation for drug-eluting cardiac stents—simply because bare metal stents are cheaper, even as they result in worse outcomes. If a patient is wheeled into the operating room with chest pains in an emergency, doctors will first have to determine if he's covered by a state plan, then the diameter of his blood vessels and his diabetic condition to decide on the appropriate stent. If they don't, Washington will not reimburse them for "inappropriate care."...

...The core problem with government-run health care is that it doesn't make decisions in the best interests of patients, but in the best interests of government.

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703792304574504020025055040.html>

A delicious compilation of Democrat failures, both foreign and domestic—and the public's change of heart.

For the Dems, What a Difference a Year Makes

by Richard Baehr, 16 Nov 2009

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/for-the-dems-what-a-difference-a-year-makes/?print=1>

Newsweek Photo of Palin Shows Media Bias and Sexism

by David Brody, 16 Nov 2009

For all of you who live in a dream world and think the mainstream media isn't biased, get a load of the latest cover of Newsweek...

Check it out: <http://blogs.cbn.com/thebrodyfile/archive/2009/11/16/newsweek-photo-of-palin-shows-media-bias-and-sexism.aspx>

Left Fascists Beat Tea Partiers

by Pamela Geller, 16 Nov 2009

The left wants a civil war. A.N.S.W.E.R. organizers set their thugs loose on the two men and stood by until they heard police coming. Then they stopped their members and re-positioned them to make it look like nothing happened. This was an orchestrated attack designed to make people fearful of protesting against their agenda.

A.N.S.W.E.R. Florida had sent out this email to people prior to this incident...

Video and more: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/left-fascists-beat-tea-partiers.html

The KSM Trial Will Be an Intelligence Bonanza for al Qaeda

by John Yoo, 15 Nov 2009.

...Even more harmful to our national security will be the effect a civilian trial of KSM will have on the future

conduct of intelligence officers and military personnel. Will they have to read al Qaeda terrorists their Miranda rights? Will they have to secure the "crime scene" under battlefield conditions? Will they have to take statements from nearby "witnesses"? Will they have to gather evidence and secure its chain of custody for transport all the way back to New York? All of this while intelligence officers and soldiers operate in a war zone, trying to stay alive, and working to complete their mission and get out without casualties.

The Obama administration has rejected the tool designed to solve this tension between civilian trials and the demands of intelligence and military operations. In 2001, President George W. Bush established military commissions, which have a long history that includes World War II, the Civil War and the Revolutionary War. The lawyers in the Bush administration—I was one—understood that military commissions could guarantee a fair trial while protecting national security secrets from excessive exposure.

The Supreme Court has upheld the use of commissions for war crimes. The procedures for these commissions received the approval of Congress in 2006 and 2009...

...For a preview of the KSM trial, look at what happened in the case of Zacarias Moussaoui, the so-called 20th hijacker who was arrested in the U.S. just before 9/11. His trial never made it to a jury. Moussaoui's lawyers tied the court up in knots. All they had to do was demand that the government hand over all its intelligence on him. The case became a four-year circus...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704431804574537370665832850.html>

Obama's swelling ego

by Jeff Jacoby, 14 Nov 2009

President Obama was too busy to attend the celebrations in Germany this week marking the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago. But he did appear by video, delivering a few brief and bloodless remarks about how the wall was "a painful barrier between family and friends" that symbolized "a system that denied people the freedoms that should be the right of every human being." He referred to "tyranny," but never identified the tyrants—he never uttered the words "Soviet Union" or "communism," for example. He said nothing about the men and women who died trying to cross the wall. Nor did he mention Harry Truman or Ronald Reagan—or even Mikhail Gorbachev.

He did, however, talk about Barack Obama. "Few would have foreseen," declared the president, "that a united Germany would be led by a woman from [the former East German state of] Brandenburg or that their American ally would be led by a man of African descent. But human destiny is what human beings make of it."...

...Was there ever a president as deeply enamored of himself as Barack Obama?... "At the start of his presidency, Obama seemed to content himself with the royal "we"—"We will build the roads and bridges... We will restore science to its rightful place... We will harness the sun and winds," he declaimed at his inauguration.

But as the literary theorist **Stanley Fish points out**, "By the time of the **address to the Congress on Feb. 24**, the royal we [had] flowered into the naked I: 'As soon as I took office, I asked this Congress.' 'I called for action.' 'I pushed for quick action.' 'I have told each of my Cabinet.' 'I've appointed a proven and aggressive inspector general.' 'I refuse to let that happen.'" In his speech on the federal takeover of General Motors, Obama likewise found it necessary to use the first-person singular pronoun **34 times**. ("Congress" he mentioned just once.)

At this rate, it won't be long before the president's ego is so inflated that it will require a ZIP code of its own...

Entire column: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/11/14/obamas_swelling_ego?mode=PF

Scots Outraged Over Bomber's Release

by Debra J. Saunders, 15 Nov 2009

EDINBURGH—Do not believe that Scotland was united behind Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill's decision to grant "compassionate" release to the terminally ill convicted Pan Am 103 bomber Abdel Basset al-Megrahi in August.

When al-Megrahi flew home to a hero's welcome in Libya, Member of Scottish Parliament Richard Baker recalls "universal outrage" among Scots at the sight of Scotland's flag "being waved to welcome home the Lockerbie bomber in Tripoli. It just turned stomachs"—and produced among sensible Scots "profound shame and embarrassment."

Al-Megrahi was released after the former Libyan intelligence officer served a mere eight years in Scottish prison for his conviction for the 1988 airline bombing that killed 270 people, including 11 souls on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Scottish Parliament in Holyrood voted 73-50 in favor of a measure that determined that MacAskill mishandled the decision. A poll conducted for the BBC found that 60 percent of Scots were opposed to Megrahi's early release; 32 percent supported it....

A Jihadist Hiding in Plain Sight

by Mark Steyn, 13 Nov 2009

...The truth is, we're not prepared to draw a line even after he's gone ahead and committed mass murder. "What happened at Fort Hood was a tragedy," said Gen. Casey, the Army's chief of staff, "but I believe it would be an even greater tragedy if our diversity becomes a casualty here." A "greater tragedy" than 14 dead and dozens of wounded? Translating from the original brain-addled multicult-speak, the Army chief of staff is saying that the same fatuous prostration before marshmallow illusions that led to the "tragedy" must remain in place. If it leads to occasional mass murder, well, hopefully it can be held to what cynical British civil servants used to call, during the Northern Irish "Troubles", "an acceptable level of violence." Fourteen dead is evidently acceptable. A hundred and forty? Fourteen hundred? I guess we'll find out.

"Diversity" is one of those words designed to absolve you of the need to think. Likewise, a belief in "multiculturalism" doesn't require you to know anything at all about other cultures, just to feel generally warm and fluffy about them...

...The brain-addled "diversity" of Gen. Casey will get some of us killed, and keep all of us cowed. In the days since the killings, the news reports have seemed increasingly like a satirical novel that the author's not quite deft enough to pull off, with bizarre new Catch-22s multiplying like the windmills of your mind: If you're openly in favor of pouring boiling oil down the throats of infidels, then the Pentagon will put down your e-mails to foreign jihadists as mere confirmation of your long-established "research interests." If you're psychotic, the Army will make you a psychiatrist for fear of provoking you. If you gun down a bunch of people, within an hour the FBI will state clearly that we can all relax, there's no terrorism angle ...

Read the rest: <http://www.oregister.com/opinion/one-219268-hasan-diversity.html>

This story also includes photos of Douglas MacArthur and Richard B. Cheney in distinctly **non**-submissive poses while greeting Japanese emperors.

How low will he go? Obama gives Japan's Emperor Akihito a wow bow (Updated with video, pic)

by Andrew Malcolm, 14 Nov 2009

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2009/11/obama-emperor-akihito-japan.html>

A loss for America

by Kris W. Kobach, 14 Nov 2009

http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/loss_for_america_nxkrr7XdjXII1ngqXVO8nL

KSM Hits Manhattan—Again

Eric Holder's decision to move a trial on war crimes to American soil is morally confused, dangerous and political.

Wall Street Journal, 14 Nov 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703683804574533622533459520.html>

Holder's Hidden Agenda, cont'd

by Andrew McCarthy, 13 Nov 2009

...Let's take stock of where we are at this point. KSM and his confederates wanted to plead guilty and have their martyrs' execution last December, when they were being handled by military commission. **As I said at the time**, we could and should have accommodated them. The Obama administration could still accommodate them. After all, the president has not pulled the plug on all military commissions: Holder is going to announce at least one commission trial (for Nashiri, the Cole bomber) today.

Moreover, KSM has no defense. He was under American indictment for terrorism for years before there ever was a

9/11, and he can't help himself but brag about the atrocities he and his fellow barbarians have carried out.

So: We are now going to have a trial that never had to happen for defendants who have no defense. And when defendants have no defense for their own actions, there is only one thing for their lawyers to do: put the government on trial in hopes of getting the jury (and the media) spun up over government errors, abuses and incompetence. That is what is going to happen in the trial of KSM et al. It will be a soapbox for al-Qaeda's case against America. Since that will be their "defense," the defendants will demand every bit of information they can get about interrogations, renditions, secret prisons, undercover operations targeting Muslims and mosques, etc., and — depending on what judge catches the case — they are likely to be given a lot of it. The administration will be able to claim that the judge, not the administration, is responsible for the exposure of our defense secrets. And the circus will be played out for all to see — in the middle of the war. It will provide endless fodder for the transnational Left to press its case that actions taken in America's defense are violations of international law that must be addressed by foreign courts. And the intelligence bounty will make our enemies more efficient at killing us.

More: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=NTVkn2ZhMTU0NzcwYWVmYTNmODI1ZTJjMTA1ZDFiODQ=>

November 14, 2009 is the 101st birthday of a great American.

Whom Do You Trust *by Don John, 3 December 2007*

Do you trust Democrats, elite college professors, and the mainstream media on immigration?
National defense?
International relations?
Economics?
Guantanamo?
Global warming?
National sovereignty?
The Patriot Act?
Social Security?
Free speech on the radio?
Waterboarding?
A constitutional right to abortion?

If you're a conservative, you probably don't trust them on *any* of those issues. How about history: for instance, the 1968 Tet Offensive, or America's abandonment of Vietnam in 1974-75? Don't trust 'em there, either, eh?

Well then *why on earth* would you trust Democrats, elite college professors, the mainstream media (and a bunch of checkered-pants country club RINOs) to tell you the true story of Senator Joseph McCarthy?

Liberals hated him passionately, and remain heavily invested in besmirching his name even now, a full 50 years after his death.

Their master narrative goes something like this. McCarthy was a paranoid hyper-patriot who imagined that Soviet spies were everywhere—even hiding under your bed. He played on the public's irrational fear of our erstwhile (World War II) allies. He faked and forged and misinterpreted evidence, brought wholly unsubstantiated charges against innocent people, and although he never proved his accusations, still ruined many of their lives. Assisted by henchmen like the homosexual Roy Cohn, McCarthy created a terrible climate of fear throughout the country, wherein people were terrified to express any liberal opinions, and even ratted on friends just to save themselves. Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*, set in the witch trials of 1690s Salem, Massachusetts, was intended as an allegory of the whole sorry affair. Finally, a few other brave men like Edward R. Murrow and Joseph Welch stepped forward, stood up to Senator McCarthy, and brought the nation to its senses. What a tale of courage!

None of it is true. Some of it is purposely conflated with the proceedings of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and the public relations worries of Hollywood studio moguls—none of which ever had *anything* to do with Joseph McCarthy. The rest is nothing but half-truths, moral inversions, and plain old spin.

Here are the salient facts of Joseph McCarthy's life. He was born in 1908 on a farm in Grand Chute, Wisconsin (near Appleton). He worked his way through to a law degree at Marquette University from 1930 to 1935, and was admitted to the bar in 1935. Originally a Democrat, he was elected Judge of Wisconsin's 10th Circuit Court in 1938. Although his status as a judge exempted him from military service, McCarthy volunteered for the Marine Corps in 1942, and served until April 1945. He fought in the South Pacific, flew more than 30 combat missions, and won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican in 1946, and again in 1952. From 1950 to 1954, he aggressively investigated and exposed numerous traitors (mostly Communists) with government connections. Wrongly accused (by cynical media and leftist politicians) of corruption, fabrication, and persecution, he was censured by the Senate in 1954 by a 67-22 vote, and his power came to an end. In 1957 he died of acute hepatitis (not alcoholism, a lie the liberals love), and was buried in Appleton.

Just because the young women of 1690s Salem weren't really witches, it doesn't follow that there weren't any American Communists in the 1940s and 1950s who were loyal to the USSR and ready to sell out the USA. There were plenty of them: not innocent idealists, but actual Soviet agents who had infiltrated the our government and military, and were reporting sensitive information to Moscow on a regular basis.

In 1995, when the VENONA transcripts were declassified, they revealed that at least 349 people in the U.S., many of them identified by McCarthy, had engaged in clandestine activities with Soviet intelligence agencies. Among them were Mary Jane Keeney, Philip Keeney, Lauchlin Currie (who had been a special assistant to FDR), Virginius Frank Coe, William Ludwig Ullman, Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, Harold Glasser, Allan Rosenberg, Cedric Belfrage, and four staff members of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee.

Some of the individuals who were involved in McCarthy's eventual demise were not spies. McCarthy never said they were. But though the things he did say about them were factual, the Senator was demonized, pilloried, and hounded out of Washington for telling the truth.

Captain Irving Peress, an Army dentist, took the Fifth Amendment twenty times under sustained questioning about his alleged recruiting military personnel to join the Communist Party. He also refused to answer questions on Defense Department forms concerning membership in "subversive organizations," and the Army Surgeon General had recommended his dismissal early in 1953. McCarthy was alarmed that Peress had not been discharged after that recommendation, but for some mysterious reason had been promoted to the rank of Major.

Brigadier General Ralph W. Zwicker, Irving Peress's commanding officer at Camp Kilmer NJ, was not accused of anything at all. But when Senator McCarthy asked him about Peress, Zwicker was evasive, hostile, and uncooperative. When Zwicker, in response to a hypothetical question, said that he would not remove from the military a general who originated the order for the honorable discharge of a Communist major, knowing that he was a Communist, McCarthy told Zwicker that he was not fit to wear the uniform of a general. A lot of people were really upset about the Senator's saying such a thing. Fifty-three years later, one still may well ask: Why?

Young Fred Fisher was indeed a member of the National Lawyers' Guild (NLG), a known Communist front. McCarthy would not have been wrong to reveal this. However, it was already a matter of public record: the *New York Times* had run a story about Fisher's NLG ties on April 16, 1954.

Way back then, facts didn't matter to liberals who were all upset that someone wanted to defend America. Some things never change.

The Real McCarthy Record

A longtime smear campaign has clouded the truth.

by James J. Drummey, 2 Sept 1996 (first published 11 May 1987)

<http://members.tripod.com/~BioLeft/mccarthy.htm>

N.B.: Mr. Drummey's article includes the true context of Joseph Welch's "Have you no sense of decency, sir" nonsense that leftists love to preen about. And, by the way, the National Lawyers Guild is STILL an anti-American organization today. The convicted terrorist-enabler [Lynne Stewart](#) is a prominent member.—Don John

Senator Joe McCarthy, Anti-Communist

<http://members.tripod.com/~wwx2/mccarthy.html>

Joseph McCarthy: Reexamining the Life & Legacy of America's Most Hated Senator

Arthur Herman interviewed by Brian Lamb, 6 Feb 2000

<http://www.booknotes.org/Watch/154513-1/Arthur+Herman.aspx>

VENONA Transcripts (KGB spies 1943-80)

http://www.nsa.gov/public_info/declass/venona/index.shtml

Books about McCarthy

[*McCarthy and His Enemies*](#), by William Buckley and Brent Bozell (1953)

[*Joseph McCarthy: Reexamining the Life and Legacy of America's Most Hated Senator*](#), by Arthur Herman (1999)

[*Treason: Liberal Treachery from the Cold War to the War on Terrorism*](#), by Ann Coulter (2003)

Blacklisted by History: the Untold Story of Senator McCarthy, by [M. Stanton Evans](#) (2007)

Note: Devlin Barrett is the AP weasel who, with Lolita Baldor, **contrived the story** "Rumsfeld Snub of War Hearing Draws Fire" (Aug 06). Then he misreported an encounter in which Rumsfeld utterly routed Hillary Clinton as "Sen. Clinton rips Rumsfeld over Iraq decisions."

9/11 suspects to face death penalty in NYC trial

by *Devlin Barrett, 13 Nov 2009*

WASHINGTON (AP) - Self-proclaimed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other Guantanamo Bay detainees will be brought to trial in a civilian federal courthouse in New York, near the site of the devastating 2001 terror attacks. Prosecutors expect to seek the death penalty.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced the long-awaited and politically fraught decision at a news conference Friday. He also said five other Guantanamo detainees, including a major suspect in the bombing of the USS Cole, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, will be tried through the military commission process...

More: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9BUPQ2O0&show_article=1&catnum=0

Civil trials waste so much money and time. Why aren't all ten being tried by military commissions? In fact, why are the ones who have confessed being tried at all? None of these men are American citizens or legitimate uniformed combatants representing nation-states that have signed the Geneva Conventions. Hence, the U.S.A. has the right to treat them as ordinary spies, and put them to death at will. FDR had the guts and the will **to do that**. Where's Obama's will? Where was Bush's?

—Don John

The Wall separates Reagan from Obama

by *Meghan Cox Gurdon, 12 Nov 2009*

If you knew nothing more of Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama than what each man said about freedom at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, it would still be painfully obvious which of the two was a fierce defender of liberty, and which **the** avatar of toothless internationalist generalities...

Continue: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/The-Wall-separates-Reagan-from-Obama-8516545.html>

Obama Administration Intends to Purge Republicans From the Civil Service

by *Erick Erickson, 12 Nov 2009*

...It is a typical Washington process that many political appointees are able to take jobs within the civil service once their political appointment expires — usually at the conclusion of one administration. What often happens as well is Congressional staffers, before an election or shortly thereafter, will move over to the Executive Branch placed into the civil service, in effect, by appointment.

So, for example, when George Bush became President in 2001, a number of Clinton political appointees became civil service employees. As a result, they became subject to civil service hiring and firing rules, which meant they could no longer be replaced simply for having been a Democratic appointee.

Barack Obama is changing that. He intends to purge all Republicans from the federal bureaucracy retroactive to five years ago...

...No one is allowed to stand in the way of Barack Obama's agenda, including his own bureaucracy. **This is what happens in third world kleptocracies and totalitarian regimes.** This is scary stuff.

Just for perspective: remember the Democrats threatened to throw Bush administration people in jail for firing United States Attorneys who happened to be Democrats. In that case, it was clear as crystal that U.S. Attorneys serve at the pleasure of the President and he can fire them whenever he wants. **In this case, these people are now civil service employees who do not serve at the pleasure of the President and cannot be fired just because they are Republicans.** In fact, the law is very clear on that point.

Read on: <http://www.redstate.com/erick/2009/11/12/obama-administration-intends-to-purge-republicans-from-the-civil-service/>

Should J-Students Work For The Defense?

by Charlotte Allen, 12 Nov 2009

...The conclusion of the Innocence Project's website report reads like a criminal defense lawyer's pull-out-the-stops summation to the jury: "In sum, the actual perpetrators were widely known at the time of the crime, yet law enforcement officials arrested, prosecuted and sought the death penalty for an innocent teenager who happened to be near the crime scene...."

Lawyers in the state's attorney's office say they need the **information they have subpoenaed** concerning Protes's class—which they claim did not include exams or term papers—in order to find out whether the young people thought they would be rewarded with good grades for turning up exonerating information. This rationale isn't as farfetched as it sounds. If the investigators' reports of their interviews with the men who are now supposed to have committed McKinney's crime have any truth to them, teams of eager-to-please 22-year-old journalistic tyros were so desperate to come up with a story for their professor that they gave cash to their sources and at least created the appearance of acting unprofessionally. And the state's attorney's office's assertion that journalism isn't journalism when it gets into the innocence-proving business for the benefit of lawyers isn't farfetched at all.

The most troubling aspect of the Medill Innocence Project, though, is that it has taught a good many budding journalists that their job isn't to cast a skeptical reporter's eye on whatever they see and hear but to **don ideological blinders and view the perpetrators of heinous crimes as victims of society.**

More: http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2009/11/innocence_project_prosecutors.html

Liberal elitists aren't elite

by Mike Rosen, 12 Nov 2009

...Liberals profess to be the champions of the common man. But they don't trust the common man to make the right decisions. As inveterate busybodies and nannyists, they presume to protect us from ourselves through government mandates and regulations on everything from what we eat, to how we travel, to where we live, to what we say; all written by liberal elitists who know what's best for us.

If I'm having open-heart surgery, I'd certainly want to be operated on by an elite surgeon. I want an elite builder to construct my home. As a conservative and an individualist, I'm a firm believer in meritocracy. Excellence deserves to be suitably rewarded and doing so breeds more of it. This is justice based on ability and performance. The liberal notion of "social justice" is based not on ability but on need. As Karl Marx put it: "From each, according to his ability; to each, according to his need." In that sense, presumptuous liberal elitists would wield the heavy hand of government to downgrade those whose ability has earned them *truly* elite status while elevating those of lesser ability.

One liberal pontificated that he wants only the "best and the brightest" in government to "run our country." I suspect he and I would disagree about who the best and brightest are and what qualities earn them that distinction. My list certainly wouldn't include Barney Frank, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and Barack Obama, to whom I don't defer as my intellectual superiors. His list probably wouldn't include Ronald Reagan. Moreover, **I don't want government or politicians to "run our country."** That's a statist view. The state is not society; it's a subset of society. It's the height of pretentious elitism to believe that any panel of bureaucrats is smart enough to "run" our intricate market economy. The Soviets tried that...

More: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_13765840

Climate change 'sceptic' Ian Plimer argues CO2 is not causing global warming

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a natural phenomenon caused by volcanoes and is not responsible for climate change, a scientist has claimed.

by Louise Gray, 12 Nov 2009

This is an idiotic report by a very biased journalist. But the Comments are marvelous; this one in particular:

Patvann, 12 Nov 2009 at 07:17 PM

CO2 is .038% of the atmosphere.

(Source:NASA)

Humans are responsible for 3.225% of the CO2 in the atmosphere.

(Source:NASA/UN)

Human CO2 is therefore .00122% of the atmosphere.

(Source: 4th grade math and a calculator.)

Total CO2 is responsible for 3.618% of the Greenhouse Effect Warming.

(Source:NASA/UN)

Human CO2 contribution is responsible for .117% of the Greenhouse Effect Warming.

(Source:NASA/UN)

From 1900 to 2000 the temp went up .60degC.

If we use 1909 to 2009, it went up .18degC

If we use 1890 to 1990, it went up .32degC

(Source:NASA/UN)

Therefore, human-added CO2 was responsible for .000702degC of the warming between 1900 and 2000.

(Source: 4th grade math and a calculator.)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/6553592/Climate-change-sceptic-Ian-Plimer-argues-CO2-is-not-causing-global-warming.html>

Just like the Global Warming hysterics, the ObamaCare backers base their case on flimsy studies and egregious lies.

Does Lack of Insurance Cause Premature Death? Probably Not.

by Linda Gorman and John Goodman, 2 Nov 2009

Truth is not only the first casualty of war, it is also the first casualty of serious public policy debate.

"An estimated 17,000 children in the United States might have died unnecessarily over nearly two decades because they didn't have health insurance," said *U.S. News and World Report*. "The authors estimated that at least 1,000 hospitalized children died each year simply because they lacked insurance," said *The New York Times*.

They're talking about a *Johns Hopkins Children's Center study* [gated, but with abstract]. But between the media hype and the actual study is an enormous chasm that separates fact from fiction. In truth, the authors of the study did not establish that anybody, anywhere, died of any cause whatsoever because of a lack of health insurance.

This is only the latest in a series of ridiculous claims that have been injected into the health insurance debate. What follows is a brief review, some of which has appeared earlier at the *Health Affairs blog*.

Last year, a *report by Families USA* made the astounding claim that 6 people die every day in Florida because they are uninsured. Seven die every day in Texas, 8 in California, and 25 in New York.

How was Families USA able to tally up all that carnage with such pinpoint precision? As one of us *previously explained*, these claims are based on a 15-year cascade of studies — each repeating the errors and misinterpreting or mischaracterizing the findings of the previous one and ultimately relying on data that is 37 years old...

Read on: <http://www.john-goodman-blog.com/does-lack-of-insurance-cause-premature-death-probably-not/>

Hyping a phantom "backlash"

by Vincent Carroll, 11 Nov 2009

Nearly a week after the Fort Hood massacre, the anti-Muslim backlash that our leaders and some in the media feared remains a no-show. No mobs of braying bigots marching on mosques; no calls for banning Muslims from the military; no anti-Muslim legislation being drafted in Congress or state capitals; no spate of attacks on Muslim students, shop owners, or neighborhoods.

What happened? What's holding the angry, red-blooded vigilantes in check?

Why, if this keeps up, we might have to conclude that the United States is a remarkably fair-minded society as opposed to the cauldron of seething prejudice that many enlightened persons apparently perceive...

Continue: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_13758891

Zuhdi Jasser on the Fort Hood Massacre

on CNN, 9 Nov 2009 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3uzfoGzCAo>

on MSNBC, 9 Nov 2009 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_P26n00i7K0

Or can watch both videos at the American-Islamic Forum for Democracy: <http://www.aifdemocracy.org/>

Recanvassing shows NY-23 race tightens even as Rep. Bill Owens is sworn into

House seat

by Mark Weiner, 12 Nov 2009

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/its_not_over_recanvassing_shows_ny23_race.html

Unholy Union

Why is the SEIU boss the White House's most frequent visitor?

by Stephen Spruiell, 11 Nov 2009 (November 23 issue)

<http://nrd.nationalreview.com/article/?q=ZGFmMDY4NzdkMmlwZTQ1MzU2ZDA4NGZhNzJINGU2MTE=>

The Economic Uses of Al Gore

by Holman Jenkins, 11 Nov 2009

...Notice, for instance, after a decade in which the earth appears to have stopped warming and even cooled, that global warming advocates have rushed to embrace a computer simulation that predicts this cooling (in retrospect, of course) and allows for indefinite future cooling, even while assuring that the world is destined to face disastrous warming anyway. Isn't this what forecasters of doom have done since time immemorial when their deadlines for doom haven't been met?...

...The truth is, evidence of man's impact on climate remains maddeningly elusive, in part because man's impact on climate is so small as to be hard to disentangle from natural variability. This is not Mr. Gore's position, of course. If anything, however, the case for action has become less closed since he pronounced it closed in 1989, if only because of the huge sums and manpower poured into the subject to little avail.

In retrospect, a significant moment was the falling apart or debunking of two key attempts seemingly well-suited to clinch matters for a scientifically literate public. One, the famous hockey stick graph, which suggested the temperature rise of the past 100 years was unprecedentedly steep, was convincingly challenged. The other, a mining of the geological record to show past episodes of warming were sharply coupled with rising CO2 levels, fell victim to a closer look that revealed that past warmings had preceded rather than followed higher CO2 levels.

These episodes from a decade ago testified to one important thing: Even climate activists recognized a need for evidence from the real world. The endless invocation of computer models wasn't cutting it. Yet today the same circles are more dependent than ever on predictions made by models, whose forecasts lie far enough in the future that those who rely on them to make policy prescriptions are in no danger of being held accountable for their reliability.

For a while the media could patch over the scientific shortfall by reporting evidence of warming as if it were evidence of what causes warming. Inconveniently, however, just as temperature-measuring has become more standardized and disciplined and less reliant on flaky records from the past (massaged to the Nth degree), the warming trend seems to have faded from the recent record...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704402404574527572868084330.html>

In case you missed this story the other day: William Owens, the Democrat who won NY-23 when the GOP vote was split between Doug Hoffman and Dede Scozzafava, was sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives and promptly announced his support for four features of the current ObamaCare bill which he'd promised never to vote for.

Owens Breaks 4 Campaign Promises in first hour in Congress

by Nathan Barker, 6 Nov 2009

http://www.gouverneurtimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7623:owens-to-break-campaign-promises&catid=60:st-lawrence-news&Itemid=175

Ms. Paglia is anti-war and essentially pro-Obama. **But she sees ObamaCare for the lunacy it is.**

Pelosi's victory for women

by Camille Paglia, 10 Nov 2009

...This rigid, intrusive and grotesquely expensive bill is a nightmare. Holy Hygeia, why can't my fellow Democrats see that the creation of another huge, inefficient federal bureaucracy would slow and disrupt the delivery of basic

healthcare and subject us all to a labyrinthine mass of incompetent, unaccountable petty dictators? Massively expanding the number of healthcare consumers without making due provision for the production of more healthcare providers means that we're hurtling toward a staggering logjam of de facto rationing. Steel yourself for the deafening screams from the careerist professional class of limousine liberals when they get stranded for hours in the jammed, jostling anterooms of doctors' offices. They'll probably try to hire Caribbean nannies as ringers to do the waiting for them.

A second issue souring me on this bill is its failure to include the most common-sense clause to increase competition and drive down prices: portability of health insurance across state lines. What covert business interests is the Democratic leadership protecting by stopping consumers from shopping for policies nationwide? Finally, no healthcare bill is worth the paper it's printed on when the authors ostentatiously exempt themselves from its rules. The solipsistic members of Congress want us peons to be ground up in the communal machine, while they themselves gambol on in the flowering meadow of their own lavish federal health plan. Hypocrites!

And why are we even considering so gargantuan a social experiment when the nation is struggling to emerge from a severe recession? It's as if liberals are starry-eyed dreamers lacking the elementary ability to project or predict the chaotic and destabilizing practical consequences of their utopian fantasies...

Other topics: http://www.salon.com/news/opinion/camille_paglia/2009/11/10/pelosi/index.html

Hasan and the Big Lie: U.S. "War" Against Islam

IPT News, 10 Nov 2009

<http://www.investigativeproject.org/1508/hasan-and-the-big-lie-us-war-against-islam>

And here's the Fort Hood Muslim Terrorist Murderer's deranged Islamic slide presentation from June 2007:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/gallery/2009/11/10/GA2009111000920.html?sid=ST2009110903704>

Deadly Denial

by Ralph Peters, 10 Nov 2009

...It gets worse: On Sunday evening, a ranking officer in Hasan's medical chain of command raced to cover her butt. Asked why the killer was promoted to major after receiving career-killer performance reviews at Walter Reed, the officer claimed that Hasan faced the same promotion board requirements as everyone else.

Liar, liar, uniform on fire: A dirty big secret in our Army has been that officers' promotion boards have quotas for minorities. We don't call them quotas, of course. But if a board doesn't hit the floor numbers, its results are held up until the list has been corrected. It's almost impossible for the Army's politically correct promotion system to pass over a Muslim physician.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, one of the few lawmakers willing to whisper the word "terrorism," needs to call the officers who sat on Hasan's promotion board before the Senate, put them under oath, then ask if Hasan made major because of minority-quota requirements.

This corrupt (and now deadly) affirmative-action system does a severe disservice to the bulk of minority officers, who make the grade on quality and professionalism. It leaves other officers wondering if the new guy who just showed up in the unit is a "real" officer or an affirmative-action baby.

Ditto for our government's unwillingness to take on Muslim extremists on US soil. Blathering about freedom of religion, we foster hate speech. By protecting the fanatics, we betray the peaceful majority of our Muslim citizens, leaving them afraid to speak out, since the feds shield the fanatics in charge of their mosques and communities...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/deadly_denial_nta2v3RwY9bjnkRWtAyoJP

Dr. Phil and the Fort Hood Killer

His terrorist motive is obvious to everyone but the press and the Army brass.

by Dorothy Rabinowitz, 10 Nov 2009

...The tide of pronouncements and ruminations pointing to every cause for this event other than the one obvious to everyone in the rational world continues apace. Commentators, reporters, psychologists and, indeed, army spokesmen continue to warn portentously, "We don't yet know the motive for the shootings."

What a puzzle this piece of vacuity must be to audiences hearing it, some, no doubt, with outrage. To those not terrorized by fear of offending Muslim sensitivities, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan's motive was instantly clear: It was an act of terrorism by a man with a record of expressing virulent, anti-American, pro-jihadist sentiments. All were conspicuous

signs of danger his Army superiors chose to ignore.

What is hard to ignore, now, is the growing derangement on all matters involving terrorism and Muslim sensitivities. Its chief symptoms: a palpitating fear of discomfiting facts and a willingness to discard those facts and embrace the richest possible variety of ludicrous theories as to the motives behind an act of Islamic terrorism. All this we have seen before but never in such naked form...

...One of the first outbreaks of these fevers, the night of the shootings, featured television's star psychologist, Dr. Phil, who was outraged when fellow panelist and former JAG officer Tom Kenniff observed that he had been listening to a lot of psychobabble and evasions about Maj. Hasan's motives. A shocked Dr. Phil, appalled that the guest had publicly mentioned Maj. Hasan's Islamic identity, went on to present what was, in essence, the case for Maj. Hasan as victim. Victim of deployment, of the Army, of the stresses of a new kind of terrible war unlike any other we have known. Unlike, can he have meant, the kind endured by those lucky Americans who fought and died at Iwo Jima, say, or the Ardennes? ...

... "This terrible event," Gen. Casey noted, "would be an even greater tragedy if our diversity becomes a casualty."...

Read it all: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704402404574525831785724114.html>

Mass Effects in Modern Life

by Winston Churchill, 1925

...Can modern communities do without great men? Can they dispense with hero-worship? Can they provide a larger wisdom, a nobler sentiment, a more vigorous action, by collective processes, than were ever got from the Titans? Can nations remain healthy, can all nations draw together, in a world whose brightest stars are film stars and whose gods are sitting in the gallery? Can the spirit of man emit the vital spark by machinery? Will the new problems of successive generations be solved successfully by 'the common sense of most', by party caucuses, by Assemblies whose babble is no longer heeded? Or will there be some big hitch in the forward march of mankind, some intolerable block in the traffic, some vain wandering into the wilderness; and will not then the need for a personal chief become the mass desire?

We see a restlessness around us already. The cry of 'Measures, not Men' no longer commands universal sympathy. There is a sense of vacancy and of fatuity, of incompleteness. We miss our giants. We are sorry that their age is past...

The full essay: <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?documentprint=1032>

Our Sacred Honor

by Shelby Cullom Davis (1909-1994)

...As Milton, the great poet, wrote several hundred years ago:

But what more oft, in nations grown corrupt
And by their vices brought to servitude,
Than to love bondage more than liberty—
Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty.

Far easier, we suppose, to expect the government to impose such virtue as we must have than for each citizen to take upon himself the strenuous burden of a virtuous life. It is time to recognize that doing one's own thing is totally incompatible with responsible liberty. This, I believe, is what Alexander Solzhenitsyn had in mind when he said, "I insist that the problems of the West are not political. They are psychological and moral." And Solzhenitsyn continued: "A loss of courage may be the most striking feature in the West in our days. The Western world has lost its civil courage, both as a whole and separately, in each country, each government, each political party, and of course in the United Nations.... Should one point out that from ancient times decline in courage has been considered the beginning of the end?"

In higher education today, the reigning philosophy is governed by a value-free concept. How the student, and everyone else, behaves is his own business. Every view of everything is granted equal status and the only offense is to insist that one view is more important than the others. The results of such a philosophy are predictable. Self-discipline lapses if there are no acknowledged evils to avoid...

More: <http://www.isi.org/donors/PDF/canon-fl2009.pdf>

Confessions of an ObamaCare Backer

A liberal explains the political calculus.

Wall Street Journal, 10 Nov 2009

The typical argument for ObamaCare is that it will offer better medical care for everyone and cost less to do it, but occasionally a supporter lets the mask slip and reveals the real political motivation. So let's give credit to John Cassidy, part of the left-wing stable at the *New Yorker*, who wrote last week on its Web site that "it's important to be clear about what the reform amounts to."

Mr. Cassidy is more honest than the politicians whose dishonesty he supports. "The U.S. government is making a costly and open-ended commitment," he writes. "Let's not pretend that it isn't a big deal, or that it will be self-financing, or that it will work out exactly as planned. It won't. What is really unfolding, I suspect, is the scenario that many conservatives feared. The Obama Administration . . . is creating a new entitlement program, which, once established, will be virtually impossible to rescind."

Why are they doing it? Because, according to Mr. Cassidy, ObamaCare serves the twin goals of "making the United States a more equitable country" and furthering the Democrats' "political calculus." In other words, the purpose is to further redistribute income by putting health care further under government control, and in the process making the middle class more dependent on government. As the party of government, Democrats will benefit over the long run.

This explains why Nancy Pelosi is willing to risk the seats of so many Blue Dog Democrats by forcing such an unpopular bill through Congress on a narrow, partisan vote: You have to break a few eggs to make a permanent welfare state. As Mr. Cassidy concludes, "Putting on my amateur historian's cap, I might even claim that some subterfuge is historically necessary to get great reforms enacted."

No wonder many Americans are upset. They know they are being lied to about ObamaCare, and they know they are going to be stuck with the bill.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704795604574522680235765894.html>

The Future is Bright

A three-part plan for taking advantage of the Obama-Pelosi agenda.

by Fred Barnes, 9 Nov 2009 (16 Nov issue)

A coalition of Republicans, independents, and tea party populists is beginning to take shape. How come? Because they again have a common foe. In the 1970s, it was Carter's feeble leadership in the face of stagflation and the collapse of U.S. interests abroad. Today, it's the hyper-liberal policies of Obama and Pelosi that are fostering rampant spending, surging deficits, ruinous debt, higher taxes, growing unemployment, and unlimited government in Washington. On top of all that, Obama's foreign policy of "engaging" adversaries and hammering allies is a dangerous flop.

Obama and congressional Democrats could frustrate the emerging coalition by changing course, seeking a "reset" in relations with Republicans, and agreeing to bipartisan (and far less costly) deals on health care and other domestic policies. But they're too stubbornly ideological for that. They've decided voters in Virginia and New Jersey were sending no message at all.

Instead, their response is: If you don't like what we're offering, we'll give you more of it. Far more Americans oppose Obamacare than support it. Yet Democratic representative Gerald Connolly of Virginia said he "concluded" from last week's election that "we've got to pass health care...[and] give Democrats something to be excited about." It's "a matter of tangibles being delivered," said Democratic representative Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.

Democrats have persuaded themselves that the Republican blowout of 1994 was caused by President Clinton's failure to enact health care reform. This was the election dominated by "angry white men." So we're to understand it was the defeat of Hillarycare that enraged them? Only a fool or a liberal Democrat could believe that.

The mainstream media haven't scoped things out any more convincingly. Their line is Republicans won two big races last week and, boy, are they in trouble now...

Read the rest: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/177wdacd.asp>

The original *New Criterion* link to this classic essay is no longer free. So here's one that is.

The State Despotic

by Mark Steyn, June 2009

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/2283198/posts>

A fascinating 3200-word account of what happened—and what *might* have happened.

The Road from 1989

Reflections on the greatest peaceful transformation in history

by John O'Sullivan, 9 Nov 2009 (23 Nov issue)

<http://nrd.nationalreview.com/article/?q=NTYxYmExMjFhNWY1ZTEwNWMxNjhjMGRhYzE0ZTI0ODI=>

Barack Obama's shameful absence from Berlin: Four key reasons why the President stayed away

by Nile Gardiner, 9 Nov 2009

...In my view, Barack Obama's absence from Berlin today can be explained by four key factors:

1. Obama is uncomfortable with the idea of American greatness. The fall of the Berlin Wall was the direct result of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher's determination to confront and defeat Soviet communism. Barack Obama is distinctly uncomfortable with the notion of celebrating the successes of American global power. Practically every speech he has given on foreign soil since taking office has been marked by an apology or apologies for America's past. A recognition of American leadership, especially an acknowledgement of Ronald Reagan's leadership, would have been an awkward moment for a US president who seems ashamed of American greatness and exceptionalism.

2. Obama attaches little importance to the advancement of human rights on the world stage...

Well-deserved obloquy: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100016197/barack-obama%E2%80%99s-shameful-absence-from-berlin-four-key-reasons-why-the-president-stayed-away/>

Who Are 'They'?

To Obama, "they" are responsible for all our troubles. Problem is, "they" are most of us.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 9 Nov 2009

...Alas, the first nine months of this administration have proven the most polarizing in memory. Polls show a 61 percent partisan gap. Obama is now rated as the most divisive first-year president in the past four decades. As this week's elections suggest, even in liberal New Jersey and moderate Virginia, voters are becoming tired of being caricatured as either saints or sinners, depending on the degree to which they embrace the Obama vision. No wonder. As a Manichean, he increasingly envisions the world as "us" versus "them."

Who are "they," who have raised the bar on everyone else?...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NjUyOGEyZTUzNjAxMWFjNWl1NzJiYW00MzIwNTZhN2Y=>

Four Little Words

by Anthony R. Dolan, 8 Nov 2009

...Reagan spoke formally and repeatedly of deploying against criminal regimes the one weapon they fear more than military or economic sanction: the publicly-spoken truth about their moral absurdity, their ontological weakness. This was the sort of moral confrontation, as countless dissidents and resisters have noted, that makes these regimes conciliatory, precisely because it heartens those whom they fear most—their own oppressed people. Reagan's understanding that rhetorical confrontation causes geopolitical conciliation led in no small part to the wall's collapse 20 years ago today.

The current administration, most recently with overtures to Iran's rulers and the Burmese generals, has consistently demonstrated that all its impulses are the opposite of Reagan's. Critics who are worried about the costs of economic policies adopted in the last 10 months might consider as well the impact of the administration's systematic accommodation of criminal regimes and the failure to understand what "good vs. evil" rhetoric can do.

The whole story: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704795604574522163362062796.html>



Ronald Reagan's unyielding style won the Cold War

by Rudy Giuliani, 9 Nov 2009

...The Soviets quickly learned not to underestimate Reagan. In 1986, Gorbachev tried to use the international pressure for successful arms reduction talks to get Reagan to abandon the countermissile program. At the end of what had been successful talks, Gorbachev surprisingly said that he would not agree to any of the terms unless President Reagan was willing to abandon the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, known as "Star Wars."

Reagan refused. He hated the doctrine of "mutually assured destruction," saying once, it's "like two cowboys in a frontier saloon aiming their guns at each other's head—permanently." He got up and walked out, to tremendous criticism.

A lesser man, a lesser President would have stepped back in the face of the criticism. But Reagan didn't budge. A few months later, Gorbachev came back, agreed to every one of the terms that Reagan had imposed on him and left out the condition on SDI. And I believe in that act alone the Cold War was won. It took us a few years to realize it was won, but it was won by Reagan's willingness to stick to his principles.

In history, nothing is inevitable. Great events—good and bad, noble and tragic—are the results of individuals who exert every ounce of their strength to change the world.

Reagan is one such person, one of history's causers, and a force for good in the world. Had he never been born, the great good that he wrought might never have happened. And most certainly, it would have taken much longer with much more damage and pain for the oppressed. And the world would be a sadder, poorer place...

More: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2009/11/09/2009-11-09_ronald_reagans_unyielding_style_won_the_cold_war.html

From Berlin to Copenhagen

by Peter Foster, 5 Nov 2009

...What collapsed twenty years ago was Communism. What didn't collapse was anti-capitalism, which remains the principle driver of most shades of politics. The new name for anti-capitalism is environmentalism. The most important political trajectory of the past two decades has been from the rubble of the Wall to the forthcoming climate conference in Copenhagen.

One of the very few politicians who has dared to speak out against the new threat is Vaclav Klaus, the President of the Czech Republic, who castigated Chancellor Merkel for her back-to-front analogy. President Klaus has declared that environmentalism is the 21st century's "biggest threat to freedom, democracy, the market economy and prosperity."

Virtually every other politician and member of the chattering classes is not only a True Believer in catastrophic man-made climate change, but has spent the past year bemoaning the "greed" that allegedly led to the 2008 economic "crisis." They assiduously avoid the role of government policies and regulations in creating the crisis.

Above all, they make no mention of the "greedy" market's stunning success in bringing billions out of poverty since 1989. According to the World Bank, global per capital income, at constant prices, has grown from \$3,615 in 1989 to \$8,613 in 2008. Wall Street bonuses, which have been the focus of so much Sturm und Drang, account for a minuscule

portion of 1% of that income figure. However, the 2008 crisis is really just a sideshow. The attack on greed has moved up a notch.

Whereas the knock against capitalism was once that it impoverished people, now the claim is that it is making them so fecklessly rich that they are destroying the planet. Thus the new Jacobins of what my colleague Terence Corcoran calls "climatism" must "speak for" future generations, who, conveniently, cannot speak for themselves...

...If anything threatens a rerun of the Great Depression, it is the conceit of debt-burdened governments trying to control the weather via draconian regulation at the same time as they are engaged in vast new transfers to developing countries, ignoring the failure of such development programs in the past. Significantly, the new anti-capitalist thrust is supported by Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader who presided cluelessly over Communism's implosion but is now treated as a skillful change agent. You can't teach an old Communist new tricks but you can teach him to hide his old tricks behind new platitudes...

More: <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2009/11/05/peter-foster-from-berlin-to-copenhagen.aspx>

Shooter Exposes Hole in U.S. Terror Strategy

by Mark Steyn, 6 Nov 2009

Lots of people are "anti-war." Some of them are objectively on the other side—that's to say, they encourage and support attacks on American troops and civilians. But not many of those in that latter category are U.S. Army majors. Or so one would hope.

Yet why be surprised? Azad Ali, a man who approvingly quotes such observations as "If I saw an American or British man wearing a soldier's uniform inside Iraq I would kill him because that is my obligation" is an adviser to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service (the equivalent of U.S. attorneys). In Toronto this week, the brave ex-Muslim Nonie Darwish mentioned that, on flying from the U.S. to Canada, she was questioned at length about the purpose of her visit by an apparently Muslim border official. When she revealed that she was giving a speech about Islamic law, he rebuked her: "We are *not* to question Shariah." That's the guy manning the airport security desk...

...The same pathologies that drive al-Qaida beat within Maj. Hasan, too, and in the end his Islamic impulses trumped his expensive Western education, his psychiatric training, his military discipline—his entire American identity.

What happened to those men and women at Fort Hood had a horrible symbolism: Members of the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force on the planet gunned down by a guy who said a few goofy things no one took seriously. And that's the problem: America has the best troops and fiercest firepower, but no strategy for throttling the ideology that drives the enemy—in Afghanistan and in Texas...

Full column: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/hasan-american-maj-2640337-name-major>

Too Scared to Recognize Terrorism

Ignoring facts isn't sensitive; it is suicidal.

Washington Times editorial, 8 Nov 2009

...What diverted authorities from doing a more thorough job of investigating Maj. Hasan six months ago, when he was suspected of jihadist tendencies? Why was he allowed to remain on active duty in the Army, live amongst the troops and prepare for deployment to a combat zone? Those who claim that such an investigation would be some form of discriminatory profiling are simply wrong. It is not profiling to investigate someone based on probable cause. The fact that Maj. Hasan is a Muslim would not be reason enough to open an investigation. However, a Muslim in uniform openly discussing violence against the United States and posting his views on suicide attacks to jihadist forums should at least get a second look.

Those who want to explain this away as the result of stress, workplace violence or the "stretched force" are willfully blind...

...The United States is engaged in a global struggle with violent adherents to an extremist Islamic creed. It does not besmirch the Muslim faith—or the vast majority of American Muslims—to admit that fact. The politically correct tendency to define attacks as something other than terrorism simply to avoid addressing the motives of the attacker is dangerous. Anyone who shouts "Allahu Akbar" and opens fire on a crowd of unarmed people is a terrorist. If Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan is not a terrorist, no one is.

More: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/nov/08/too-scared-to-recognize-terrorism/>

Gorbachev didn't tear down that wall

by George Jonas, 7 Nov 2009

..."Many now forget," Gorbachev writes, "that the fall of the Berlin wall was not the cause of global changes but to a great extent the consequence of deep, popular reform movements that started in the east, and the Soviet Union in particular."

What a fine example of historical revisionism: a half-truth becoming a total lie by the time it reaches the columns of the *Guardian*. Yes, there were reform-communists in the east. Their bodies decorated the gallows or filled the frozen grave sites of the Gulag. True, the fall of the wall wasn't the cause of the changes in the Soviet system but their culmination, except Gorbachev and his fellow Bolsheviks didn't drive those changes. They resisted them.

This raises a question, though. Gorbachev, too, was Stalin's heir. Why didn't he resist reformers as strenuously as some of his mentors and predecessors — say, as Yuri Andropov? After the 1956 Hungarian uprising, when Andropov was Soviet ambassador to Hungary, real reform-communists, like Hungarian prime minister Imre Nagy, were hanged. In contrast, Gorbachev gave his reformers so much rope they ended up hanging the Kremlin instead of themselves. Why?...

More: <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2009/11/07/george-jonas-gorbachev-didn-t-tear-down-that-wall.aspx>

Dictatorships and Double Standards

Tough on Fiji, soft on Iran.

by Stephen F. Hayes, 7 Nov 2009 (16 Nov issue)

...It's encouraging that the Obama administration can get tough with someone—or someone other than Israel, Wall Street CEOs, and Dick Cheney—even if it's with a nation that boasts the population of Rhode Island and a GDP of \$3.5 billion, less than Americans spend annually on cat food. But the Obama administration had no substantive response to the Tehran violence or the silenced protesters' message...

...The White House then sent out a statement commemorating the 30th anniversary of the takeover. It began, delicately, in the passive voice. *"Thirty years ago today, the American embassy in Tehran was seized."* (It was apparently too provocative to say by whom.)

"The 444 days that began on November 4, 1979, deeply affected the lives of courageous Americans who were unjustly held hostage, and we owe these Americans and their families our gratitude for their extraordinary service and sacrifice. This event helped set the United States and Iran on a path of sustained suspicion, mistrust, and confrontation. I have made it clear that the United States of America wants to move beyond this past, and seeks a relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran based upon mutual interests and mutual respect."

...Iran killed hundreds of U.S. Marines in a terrorist attack in Beirut in 1983. Iran sponsored and trained the terrorists who killed 19 American soldiers at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Iran harbored senior al Qaeda leaders in the months after September 11, 2001. It is training, arming, and funding the terrorists fighting U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. And last week Iran was caught red-handed delivering weapons—hundreds of tons of arms—to terrorists. Mutual respect?...

...The new information strongly suggests that Iran did not suspend its entire nuclear weapons program in 2003 as the 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iran claims. So on two separate occasions in the past two months, Obama publicly called for an end to the "mistrust" between Iran and the United States even as he was privately being presented with fresh intelligence showing that Iran has been lying about its nuclear weapons program and its intentions.

Obama's passivity is beginning to frustrate even members of his own party... The French are growing impatient, too... Kouchner told the *Times* that the White House wants to give Iran an opportunity for more negotiations. "We're waiting for talks, but where are the talks?"...

More: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/188gypey.asp>

Washington and the Jobs Market

The U.S. needs to stop pouring money into a Keynesian cul-de-sac.

Wall Street Journal, 7 Nov 2009

A familiar definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing and expecting different results. So in the wake of yesterday's report that the national jobless rate climbed to 10.2% in October, we suppose we can expect the political class to demand another "stimulus." Maybe if Congress spends another \$787 billion in the name of job creation, it can get the jobless rate up to 12% or 13%...

...The White House says the stimulus created as many as one million new jobs, but this is single-entry economic

bookkeeping. No one doubted that such spending would create some jobs and "save" others, especially in government. But such spending isn't free. Every dollar in new government spending is taxed or borrowed from the private economy, which might have put it to better use.

If the government takes \$1 from Paul, who would have invested it in a new business, and gives it to Peter, who spends it on a new lawn mower, the government records it as a net gain for economic growth via consumption. But the economy is hardly more productive as a result. Especially with so much of the Obama stimulus going to transfer payments—such as Medicaid and jobless benefits—the net effect on job creation has probably been negative. **The ballyhooed Keynesian multiplier that every dollar of government spending yields 1.5 times that in economic growth has been exposed again as false...**

...If Democrats really want to create jobs and save themselves from a debacle in 2010, their best policy option is to stop creating so much investment uncertainty and additional barriers to business hiring...The sooner Democrats stop what they're doing, the faster the private job market will recover on its own...

Read it all: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704795604574519602476681352.html>



What the Pelosi Health-Care Bill Really Says

Here are some important passages in the 2,000 page legislation.

by *Betsy McCaughey*, 7 Nov 2009

...• Sec. 202 (p. 91-92) of the bill requires you to enroll in a "qualified plan." If you get your insurance at work, your employer will have a "grace period" to switch you to a "qualified plan," meaning a plan designed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. If you buy your own insurance, there's no grace period. You'll have to enroll in a qualified plan as soon as any term in your contract changes, such as the co-pay, deductible or benefit.

• Sec. 224 (p. 118) provides that 18 months after the bill becomes law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will decide what a "qualified plan" covers and how much you'll be legally required to pay for it. **That's like a banker telling you to sign the loan agreement now, then filling in the interest rate and repayment terms 18 months later.**

On Nov. 2, the Congressional Budget Office estimated what the plans will likely cost. An individual earning \$44,000 before taxes who purchases his own insurance will have to pay a \$5,300 premium and an estimated \$2,000 in out-of-pocket expenses, for a total of \$7,300 a year, which is 17% of his pre-tax income. A family earning \$102,100 a year before taxes will have to pay a \$15,000 premium plus an estimated \$5,300 out-of-pocket, for a \$20,300 total, or 20% of its pre-tax income. Individuals and families earning less than these amounts will be eligible for subsidies paid directly to their insurer.

• Sec. 303 (pp. 167-168) makes it clear that, although the "qualified plan" is not yet designed, **it will be of the "one size fits all" variety.** The bill claims to offer choice—basic, enhanced and premium levels—but the benefits are the same. Only the co-pays and deductibles differ. You will have to enroll in the same plan, whether the government is paying for it or you and your employer are footing the bill.

• Sec. 59b (pp. 297-299) says that when you file your taxes, you must include proof that you are in a qualified plan. If not, you will be fined thousands of dollars. **Illegal immigrants are exempt from this requirement...**

It gets worse—and worse: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704795604574519671055918380.html>

Better or Worse?

We should ask if a government-run medical system would be a positive reform.

by *Thomas Sowell*, 6 Nov 2009

...If the government has some magic way of reducing costs—rather than shifting them around, including shifting them to the next generation—they have certainly not revealed that secret. The actual track record of government when it comes to costs—of anything—is more alarming than reassuring.

What about insurance companies denying reimbursements for treatments? Does anyone imagine that a government bureaucracy will not do that?

Moreover, the worst that an insurance company can do is refuse to pay for medication or treatment. In some countries with government-run medical systems, the government can prevent you from spending your own money to get the medication or treatment that their bureaucracy has denied you. Your choice is to leave the country or smuggle in what you need.

However appalling such a situation may be, it is perfectly consistent with elites wanting to control your life. As far as those elites are concerned, it would not be "social justice" to allow some people to get medical care that others are denied, just because some people "happen to have money."...

...Ironically, it is politicians who have already made medical insurance so expensive that many people refuse to buy it. Insurance is designed to cover risk. But politicians have mandated that insurance cover things that are not risks and that neither the buyers nor the sellers of insurance want covered...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MzM0ODU5OGY2M2UxNzEyNzJmNGRmNjQwNzU1NWU1OWY=>

Electorally speaking, it's time to think about 2010...and perhaps beyond.



Rubio rising: the Florida GOP has a new star.

by *John J. Miller*, *National Review*, 7 Sept 2009

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Rubio+rising:+the+Florida+GOP+has+a+new+star.-a0206600411>

Marco Rubio's farewell speech to the Florida House of Representatives:

video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Yc-qRFpAM4>

His U.S. Senate campaign site: <http://marcorubio.com/>

Fort Hood's 9/11

by *Ralph Peters*, 6 Nov 2009

On Thursday afternoon, a radicalized Muslim US Army officer shouting "Allahu Akbar!" committed the worst act

of terror on American soil since 9/11. And no one wants to call it an act of terror or associate it with Islam. What cowards we are. Political correctness killed those patriotic Americans at Ft. Hood as surely as the Islamist gunman did. And the media treat it like a case of non-denominational shoplifting.

This was a terrorist act. When an extremist plans and executes a murderous plot against our unarmed soldiers to protest our efforts to counter Islamist fanatics, it's an act of terror. Period.

When the terrorist posts anti-American hate-speech on the Web; apparently praises suicide bombers and uses his own name; loudly criticizes US policies; argues (as a psychiatrist, no less) with his military patients over the worth of their sacrifices; refuses, in the name of Islam, to be photographed with female colleagues; lists his nationality as "Palestinian" in a Muslim spouse-matching program, and parades around central Texas in a fundamentalist playsuit — well, it only seems fair to call this terrorist an "Islamist terrorist."

But the president won't. Despite his promise to get to all the facts. Because there's no such thing as "Islamist terrorism" in ObamaWorld. And the Army won't. Because its senior leaders are so sick with political correctness that pandering to America-haters is safer than calling terrorism "terrorism."...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/fort_hood_xjP9yGrJN7gl7zdsJ31vnJ

A perfect microcosm of how to deal with people who want to kill us. Don't ask them their feelings. Kill them.

Stood her ground

Officer stops a massacre.

Las Vegas Review-Journal editorial, 7 Nov 2009

...Sgt. Munley identified the shooter. She did not ask him to share his feelings. She opened fire.

Sgt. Munley's boss, Chuck Medley, told The Associated Press on Friday that Hasan then spun around and charged the sergeant, a gun in each hand.

Could Sgt. Munley, hit in the wrist and both thighs, really be blamed if she'd ducked for cover?

She didn't. From all reports, she stood her ground under fire, calmly reacquiring her sight picture, putting four rounds right where she wanted, in the advancing murderer's center of mass. She fired until he dropped. The killing ended...

More: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/stood-her-ground-69451432.html>

Looks like the deal to re-install the Marxist dictator is dead.

Hmm...the second half of that sentence sounds so wonderful!

Zelaya Will Not Honor the Accord

6 Nov 2009

<http://www.hondurasnews.com/2009/11/06/zelaya-will-not-honor-the-accord/>

The Myth of '08, Demolished

by Charles Krauthammer, 5 Nov 2009

...November '08 was one-shot, one-time, never to be replicated. Nor was November '09 a realignment. It was a return to the norm—and definitive confirmation that 2008 was one of the great flukes in American political history.

The irony of 2009 is that the anti-Democratic tide overshot the norm—deeply blue New Jersey, for example, elected a Republican governor for the first time in 12 years—because Democrats so thoroughly misread 2008 and the mandate they assumed it bestowed. Obama saw himself as anointed by a watershed victory to remake American life. Not letting the cup pass from his lips, he declared to Congress only five weeks after his swearing-in his "New Foundation" for America—from remaking the one-sixth of the American economy that is health care to massive government regulation of the economic lifeblood that is energy.

Moreover, the same conventional wisdom that proclaimed the dawning of a new age last November dismissed the inevitable popular reaction to Obama's hubristic expansion of government, taxation, spending and debt—the tea party demonstrators, the town hall protesters—as a raging rabble of resentful reactionaries, AstroTurf-phony and Fox News-deranged.

Some rump. Just last month Gallup found that conservatives outnumber liberals by 2 to 1 (40 percent to 20 percent) and even outnumber moderates (at 36 percent). So on Tuesday, the "rump" rebelled...

Entire column: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/05/AR2009110504334.html>

Pamela Geller (Atlas Shrugs) is ON FIRE with great stories!

6 Nov 2009

Major Muslim Hasan Participated in Homeland Security Panel for Obama

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/major-muslim-hasan-advised-obamas-department-of-homeland-security.html

Arab Street is Rejoicing at the Slaughter of US Soldiers—Give 'em Billions! Give 'em Nukes! But most of all, Give 'em Respect!

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/arab-street-is-rejoicing-the-slaughter-of-us-soldiers-give-em-billions-give-em-nukes-but-most-of-all.html

American Woman Took Down Jihadi Hasan at Fort Hood

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/american-woman-took-down-jihadi-hasan-at-fort-hood.html

A Failed President Blames Bush almost a year later UPDATE: UNEMPLOYMENT HITS 10.2% (highest in 26 years)

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/11/a-failed-president-blames-bush-almost-a-year-later.html

Three Strikes against Obamacare

National Review editorial, 6 Nov 2009

...This isn't a question of conjecture or of competing interpretations of complex CBO calculations. Just as Democrats have misled Americans about whether their health-care plans will force taxpayers to subsidize abortion or shunt money into the pockets of illegal aliens, they deny these three facts — Americans will lose their current insurance, will be subject to rationing, and be will encumbered with debt — but that denial does not overrule reality.

The most noisome fact for most Americans is that the legislation coming out of the Democratic caucus will force many families out of their current insurance plans. Estimates suggest that nearly 90 million Americans will lose their current insurance under the Democrats' vision and very likely will be forced into a government-run program. True, current insurance plans are "grandfathered" into the new system — but only for five years. (Doubt it? Consult Section 202(b)(1) of the House bill, page 91.)

After that, the Democrats' mandates will force families and employers to select only those plans that conform to Washington's demands — which is to say, to the demands of the insurance-industry lobbyists who will end up determining the criteria.

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NTQ2ZTI4MzcwMzNmZDY0MzRjNzgwNGY0NjQ2NGI1YTY=>

A portrait of the Fort Hood Jihadi

Manager: Muslim sticker removed from suspect's car

Associated Press, 6 Nov 2009

...Thompson, who manages the Killeen, Texas complex where Hasan lived, says the bumper sticker read: "Allah is Love." In Arabic, Allah means God...

...Soldiers reported that the gunman shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — an Arabic phrase for "God is great!" — before opening fire, said Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, the base commander...Hasan apparently had problems at Walter Reed...Hasan, a lifelong Muslim...

...Someone who used to work with Hasan said he had expressed some anger about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Retired Col. Terry Lee told Fox News said Hasan had hoped President Barack Obama would pull troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq and got into frequent arguments with others in the military who supported the wars...

...Hasan, who was born in Northern Virginia, pursued a career in psychiatry at Walter Reed...But his record at Walter Reed wasn't sterling...

...At least six months ago, Hasan came to the attention of law enforcement officials because of Internet postings about suicide bombings and other threats, including posts that equated suicide bombers to soldiers who throw themselves on a grenade to save the lives of their comrades...

More: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091106/ap_on_re_us/us_fort_hood_shooting

I mean, it's not like there's anything about Islam that's twisted or hateful. Total religion of peace, brotherhood, and tolerance, dude.

Jihad at Fort Hood? Shooter: Maj. Malik Nadal Hasan

5 Nov 2009

Evidently a convert to Islam, and an apparent jihad attack has taken place at Ft. Hood.

Robert Spencer: "Twelve dead, thirty wounded in what was apparently an attack coordinated between two or three gunmen—belying the post-traumatic stress syndrome spin playing out in the mainstream media.

If this turns out to be a jihad attack, watch for the President to caution against 'backlash' and 'Islamophobia.'"

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2009/11/ft-hood-shooter-maj-malik-nadal-hassan-print.html>



(Hat tip: James F.K.)

Pelosi's government-run health plan will require a monthly ABORTION premium

by John Boehner, 5 Nov 2009

Health care reform should not be used as an opportunity to use federal funds to pay for elective abortions. Health reform should be an opportunity to protect human life—not end it.

Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi's 2,032-page **government takeover of health care** does just that. On line 17, p. 110, **section 222** under "Abortions for which Public Funding is Allowed" the Health and Human Services Secretary is given the authority to determine when abortion is allowed under the government-run plan. The Speaker's plan also requires that at least one insurance plan offered in the Exchange covers abortions.

What is even more alarming is that a monthly abortion premium will be charged of all enrollees in the government-run plan. It's right there on **line 16, page 96, section 213**, under "Insurance Rating Rules." The premium will be paid into a U.S. Treasury account—and these federal funds will be used to pay for the abortion services...

More: <http://republicanleader.house.gov/blog/?p=666>

The Permanent American Tea Party

Independent voters have become like a herd of cattle looking for political leadership.

by Daniel Henninger, 5 Nov 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013004574515453039975302.html>

The Economics of a GOP Gubernatorial Sweep

by Larry Kudlow, 5 Nov 2009

...If you go to recovery.gov, the official stimulus website, you'll find that there has been \$207 billion in stimulus spending through Oct. 30, 2009—including \$84 billion in tax benefits, \$52 billion in contract grants and loans, and \$71 billion in entitlements. So even if we give my friend Jared Bernstein his highly flawed "1 million jobs saved or created," that's \$207,000 per job in an economy where the average wage is about \$46,000. Not good. Wasteful and ineffectual spending. (In reality, tax credits are spending. For incentivizing, you need marginal tax-rate cuts.)

Mike Flynn of Breitbart's biggovernment.com notes that the government pumped \$170 billion into the third-quarter economy. But gross domestic product grew by only \$150 billion. As I said, ineffectual spending.

That doesn't mean the economy isn't rebounding. It is. Glitches and all, third-quarter GDP popped up 3.5 percent at an annual rate after inflation. Statistically, the recession is over. That's good. And it corroborates the big stock market rally over the past seven months. This is going to be a business-led recovery as self-correcting firms build profits on top of huge cash flows...

...The first recovery quarter under Ronald Reagan was better than 8 percent, not 3.5 percent. In fact, the average real GDP growth rate for the first quarter of the 10 postwar recoveries is 7.3 percent. So the economic-recovery story, and even the stock market rally, won't bail out the Obamacons today...

More: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=34283>

'Permanent Democratic majority' begins to unravel

by James Pethokoukis, 4 Nov 2009

...Tuesday's election results are a roadmap for political gridlock in Washington and a possible Democratic electoral disaster in 2010.

A respected political forecasting model by Ray Fair Yale University calculates that Democrats and Republicans should split the 2010 vote because of the economy. If that scenario unfolds, then David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report, according to an interview with The Hill, thinks "Republicans will probably be winning back the House."

Did Candidate Obama really transform the American electorate a year ago? Perhaps. (Though, then again, having the economy collapse right before Election Day may have helped artificially inflate his vote totals just a bit.)

But dissatisfaction at the policies of President Obama looks to have quickly transformed it right back..

Read the rest: <http://blogs.reuters.com/james-pethokoukis/2009/11/04/permanent-democratic-majority-begins-to-unravel/>

Here's what I wrote the morning after last November's elections. It's all pretty accurate, right down the line. President Obama hasn't gotten to the Unfairness Doctrine yet, but only because he's busy ruining *other* things.

The Flim-Flam Man by Don John, 5 Nov 2008

I've never much cared for H.L. Mencken's dictum that "Nobody ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American public." It has always struck me as cynical, elitist, snotty...and a little bit unpatriotic. But it rings true for me today, because the American people have elected **The Flim-Flam Man** as their next President.

Barack Obama has done nothing but spout a string of extravagant campaign promises that would have been laughed off the national stage if they'd been made by a white candidate *decades ago*, when the populace was supposedly much more credulous and less media-savvy than today's jaded "sophisticates." And his chief catch-word, "Change," should have been the biggest laugh-line of all, because it was a tired cliché even in those bygone days of yesteryear.

Earlier this year, Obama's hateful and grievance-mongering wife famously said that she'd never been proud of her country before. Well, I've never been ashamed of my country before—not even when I was on the Left myself. But I am today, because 52% of my countrymen have bought into the lamest of campaign hypes, at a time when we can least afford to install such an empty suit in the Oval Office.

Obama is a socialist, a transnationalist, a baby-killer, and a Jew-hater. He has promised to confiscate money from people who've earned it, and give it to worthless layabouts in the name of social (puke) justice. That ambition-crushing policy will be harmful enough to America's economic prosperity. But the Obamessiah won't stop there. He also plans to curtail international free-trade agreements which have fostered a net *increase* in jobs. And perhaps worst of all, he has promised to trash our economic growth with burdensome and costly regulations designed to reduce "global warming"—a mere hoax that's been created by statists to provide an excuse to crush capitalism and other forms of freedom.

President Obama will be certain to capitulate to foreign feces like Hugo Chavez (Venezuela), Mahmoud Ahmedinejad (Iran), Kim Jong-il (N.Korea), Evo Morales (Bolivia), and Ban Ki-Moon (United Nations). Fortunately—thanks to our military and President Bush—the situation in Iraq has been improved to the point where Obama can't get away with abandoning it without being blamed for the aftermath.

Along with henchmen like Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, John Conyers, and Barney Frank, he has promised to destroy freedom of speech by effectively outlawing conservative talk-radio, while leaving untouched the leftist-dominated media of television, magazines, and newspapers.

Once Obama is in office, tens of thousands of crackpot moonbat intellectuals and functionaries will descend on Washington, hoping to assist the new administration in "fundamentally transforming" our country, i.e. completing the destruction of its economic prosperity, social fabric, national sovereignty, and moral standards.

Heaven help us. But we must also help ourselves. Let's do all we can to undermine, obstruct, and criticize these evil and Godless socialists, until their follies bring our countrymen to their senses.

No bad news here!

by Mike Soraghan, 4 Nov 2009

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she sees no need to be worried by Republican victories in two governors races last night, because for her the news was all good...

Be sure to read the comments, too: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/66291-no-bad-news-here->

Obama can't be community organizer for the world

by Byron York, 3 Nov 2009

...During last year's campaign, I spent some time in Chicago looking into Obama's career as an organizer. A number of the people he worked with back then—he was on the job for all of three years, from 1985 to 1988—are still in the field today, and they have vivid memories of their time with future president. Talking to them, and looking back over Obama's record, it was hard to avoid the conclusion that as an organizer, Obama started a lot of projects, gave a lot of inspirational talks, but accomplished very little.

Among other things, Obama tried to find new jobs for displaced steelworkers, to create after-school programs, and to bring new political power to public housing residents. But he truly succeeded at just two things. One, he pushed the city of Chicago to open up a summer-jobs office on the far South Side, where there had not previously been an office, and two, he helped force the city to clean up asbestos in a 1940s-era housing project in the same neighborhood.

That was it...

...That's not to say that Obama left no legacy as an organizer. The colleagues I talked with all remembered him fondly. Several said he inspired them to improve their lives. But these were all people who shared his goals. They wanted to believe in him and in their shared enterprise.

Does Mahmoud Ahmedinejad fit into that category? The Taliban? Kim Jong-il?...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Obama-can_t-be-community-organizer-for-the-world-8474690-68743857.html

Strategy Memo: Election Remains Edition

by Kyle Trygstad and Mike Memoli, 4 Nov 2009

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/politics_nation/2009/11/strategy_memo_election_remains.html

It's Barack Obama's first anniversary—but there's precious little to celebrate

The US President's performance has dismayed even his biggest admirers.

by Simon Heffer, 3 Nov 2009

...By the time you read this you will know whether the Democrats have lost a series of key elections held yesterday, including the governorships of Virginia and New Jersey. If they do, it will reinforce the point that Mr Obama won last November because he was not the heir of George Bush, and for no other reason. The President starts to risk comparisons not just with Jimmy Carter, but with Lyndon Johnson, felled by a combination of a foreign war and welfare reform, and even, with his list of enemies, Richard Nixon. The problem may be one of immaturity and inexperience. If so, he had better learn fast...

Pow! Zap! <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/simonheffer/6496501/Its-Barack-Obamas-first-anniversary—but-theres-precious-little-to-celebrate.html>

So Limbaugh, Hannity, and Beck didn't earn college degrees. Neither did Bill Gates, Harry S Truman, Walter Cronkite, William Safire, Robert Novak, or a host of other worthies. So says Mr. Medved, an honors graduate of Yale.

Judge the person, not the résumé

'A nation that proudly offers fresh starts and open doors regardless of old world titles or family connections should reject snobbery based on either academic attainment or aristocratic ancestry.'

by *Michael Medved*, 4 Nov 2009

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2009/11/column-judge-the-person-not-the-r%C3%A9sum%C3%A9-.html>

Mr. Gaubatz was the first U.S. civilian Federal Agent deployed to Iraq in 2003. He is the owner of **DG Counter-terrorism Publishing**. He is currently conducting a 50 State Counter-terrorism Research Tour (CTRTR). He is the co-author (with Paul Sperry) of the new book, *Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld that's Conspiring to Islamize America*.

CAIR: We Have a Problem

Jamie Glazov interviews Dave Gaubatz, 3 Nov 2009

<http://newsrealblog.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=caa6f67f1482e6214d83be62d&id=c534627b80&e=ff1611b9a9>

The "Costs" of Medical Care

by *Thomas Sowell*, 3 Nov 2009

...There is a fundamental difference between reducing costs and simply shifting costs around, like a pea in a shell game at a carnival. Costs are not reduced simply because you pay less at a doctor's office and more in taxes—or more in insurance premiums, or more in higher prices for other goods and services that you buy, because the government has put the costs on businesses that pass those costs on to you...

...Despite all the demonizing of insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies or doctors for what they charge, the fundamental costs of goods and services are the costs of producing them.

If highly paid chief executives of insurance companies or pharmaceutical companies agreed to work free of charge, it would make very little difference in the cost of insurance or medications. If doctors' incomes were cut in half, that would not lower the cost of producing doctors through years of expensive training in medical schools and hospitals, nor the overhead costs of running doctors' offices.

What it would do is reduce the number of very able people who are willing to take on the high costs of a medical education when the return on that investment is greatly reduced and the aggravations of dealing with government bureaucrats are added to the burdens of the work.

Britain has had a government-run medical system for more than half a century and it has to import doctors, including some from Third World countries where the medical training may not be the best. In short, reducing doctors' income is not reducing the cost of medical care, it is refusing to pay those costs. Like other ways of refusing to pay costs, it has consequences...

Entire column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjYwM2EzM2JkOTkwMjU2ZWZhYWlONzFiM2JmM2I0MmM=>

Frank Rich's Paranoid Style

by *Peter Wehner*, 2 Nov 2009

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/151391>

The Minority Thought Pattern

by *Kenneth L. Hutcherson*, 2 Nov 2009

...It is critical to understand that not only minorities, but also many whites of both sexes have embraced the Minority Thought Pattern. You see, the minorities in this world do not have the power or the financial backing to accomplish the destruction of the great Judeo-Christian values that are the foundation of America's greatness.

Spike Lee attempts to change history by criticizing Clint Eastwood for not using black people in his movie about the

raising of the flag at Iwo Jima, when in fact there were no black people at Iwo Jima.

The Minority Thought Pattern is the fuel for minorities, and especially African-Americans, to attack the very fabric that has given them the greatest opportunity to accomplish anything they so desire, including the opportunity for a people of slavery to rise and put a slave's descendant into the White House. (I am still trying to figure out what faction of his ancestry descended from slaves.)

The Minority Thought Pattern is aimed at destroying America, at rending the very fabric that makes America great. The Minority Thought Pattern denies the greatness, honor, bravery, courage, humility, and sacrifice that has brought us the power to be the greatest nation that has ever existed. The Minority Thought Pattern has a mission to undermine and redefine every characteristic of America, maintaining that it is a nation based on greed, cowardice, selfishness, and a lack of genuine humility. The Minority Thought Pattern is the reason for all the apologies to the rest of the world for how bad American is, coming even from our top leader.

The problem that America has always had is the lack of understanding of what a conquering nation does. When a nation conquers another it always forces the conquered to assimilate into the conqueror's culture and ways. We as Americans have always been the great melting pot of society and the world. We want everyone to become just like us.

The Minority Thought Pattern now wants a nineteen-burner stove with every pot separate and different, and that has given us multiculturalism today. Multiculturalism in its present form has already proven unworkable. Remember in the South the fight between blacks and whites with the concept of "separate but equal." Blacks realized that being "separate but equal" is not equality at all. Those separate pots are no different. . .

All of it: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/11/the_vilification_of_rush.html

The Totalitarians Among Us

by David Horowitz, 2 Nov 2009

This is a month in which the president of the United States has co-sponsored a UN resolution with the police state of Egypt to ban speech that defames religion; a month in which the Democratic Party has placed an amendment on a defense appropriations bill to make anti-gay speech a thought crime, and in which the White House has launched an all-out attack on the Fox News Channel because it didn't like what Fox commentators were saying. . .

...How deeply entrenched is this totalitarian virus in our national culture? A recent column in the Temple University press indicates that it is already an integral element of the curriculum of our schools. [The column by a student named Josh Fernandez](#) is a condemnation of the recent appearance at Temple of the Dutch parliamentarian [Geert Wilders](#) who is under indictment in the Netherlands for defaming [Islam](#), specifically for a fifteen minute film he made about Islam called ["Fitna"](#) which explains why so many atrocities have been committed (and are currently being committed) in its name. Under pressure from Islamic totalitarians, Europeans are already well on their way to outlawing free speech.

Note that the Temple column was protesting the right of Wilders to speak at all and was part of a concerted effort by the Muslim Students Association (which is a notorious supporter of the Islamic jihad) and Temple leftists to stop the Wilders event. . .

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/11/02/the-totalitarians-among-us-by-david-horowitz/>

In the wake of Russia's recent war games (below), this speech is very apt.

President Obama's Foreign Policy: An Assessment

by John Bolton, 11 Sept 2009

...Mr. Obama responded that he believes in American exceptionalism in the same way that the British believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism. Given that there are 192 member countries in the United Nations, I'm sure he could have gone on naming another 189 that believe in their own exceptionalism. But in any case, the idea that all countries believe themselves to be exceptional in the same way leads to the unmistakable conclusion that none are truly exceptional. In other words, the president's response reflects his belief that America is not so different from other countries. . . **[And here's an "emanation of a penumbra" for you: he doesn't feel any pride in his country at all.— Don John]**

...Here at home, the Obama administration has gravely impaired our capability to gather human intelligence by declassifying hundreds of pages of documents that explain our interrogation techniques—information that is now probably in al-Qaeda training manuals. And at a time of the grossest profligacy in domestic spending in American history, the administration has imposed a ceiling on defense spending. At the same time it advocates an \$800 billion stimulus plan that seems to include every idea ever hatched in Washington, it is making radical cuts on missile defense and cancelling the F-22 fighter aircraft. It supports a deposed president in Honduras—deposed, in accordance with the

Honduran Constitution, for attempting to subvert the Constitution as his thuggish ally President Chavez did in Venezuela—against its legitimate government which promises a free and transparent election. The list goes on. And even where the administration has pursued sensible policies, it has only done so grudgingly, and with the clear understanding that, absent political constraints, it would have done things differently...

Read the rest: <https://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2009&month=10>

The fruits of Obama's "surrender diplomacy":

Russia 'simulates' nuclear attack on Poland

Russia has provoked outrage in Poland by simulating an air and sea attack on the country during military exercises.

by *Matthew Day: Warsaw, 1 Nov 2009*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/6480227/Russia-simulates-nuclear-attack-on-Poland.html>

Respect Madison's Republic

by *David Marion, 1 Nov 2009*

...In the rush to reduce the pain associated with the current financial crisis, however, public officials seemingly have turned a blind eye to the rationale behind Madison's superb architectural achievement. He understood that governmental arrangements only make sense if they serve meaningful ends—and specifically in our case, the ends associated with republican liberty. In this connection, experience and the study of history had convinced Madison that dividing powers among governments diminishes the threat of government tyranny at the same time that it facilitates the nourishment of habits and opinions that make for healthy self-government.

It is not by mere chance that Madison's republic entrusted the so-called "police powers" (the authority to regulate the health, morals, safety, and welfare of the people) to the states and local governments. By virtue of their proximity to the people, and hence their accountability to them, local and state officials are more likely to do a better job of protecting the cultural underbelly of the American republic than national officials.

Additionally, decentralized governance creates incentives for civic engagement, in part by creating multiple opportunities to become "big fish in little ponds." These incentives will only be effective, however, if people are entrusted with real power over their own affairs.

Alexis de Tocqueville was only repeating the wisdom of Founders like Madison when he connected local self-government with the creation of the social capital that is indispensable to the protection of liberty and civilization itself...

Read the rest: http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/opinion/commentary/article/ED-MARI01_20091030-203609/302659/

Homeward Bound

words and music by Marta Keen (on the Special Forces website)

Watch and listen: <http://www.sflistteamhouse.com/Freedom/UntilThen/UntilThen.htm>

The Golden State isn't worth it

Our high-benefit/high-tax model no longer works, especially compared with low-tax states like Texas.

by *William Voegeli, 1 Nov 2009*

...Texas students "are, on average, one to two years of learning ahead of California students of the same age," even though per-pupil expenditures on public school students are 12% higher in California. The details of the Census Bureau data show that Texas not only spends its citizens' dollars more effectively than California but emphasizes priorities that are more broadly beneficial...

...California's interlocking directorate of government employee unions, issue activists, careerists and campaign contributors has become increasingly aggressive and adept at using rhetoric extolling public benefits for all to deliver targeted advantages to itself. As a result, the political reality of the high-benefit/high-tax model is that its public goods are, increasingly, neither public nor good. Instead, the beneficiaries are the providers of the public services, and certain favored or connected constituencies, rather than the general population.

The recession will eventually end, and California's finances will get better. Given its powerful systemic bias against efficient and effective public services, however, the question is whether the state will ever get well. California's public

sector has pinned its hopes for avoiding fundamental reform on increased federal aid to replace dollars the state's fed-up taxpayers refuse to surrender. In other words, residents in the other 49 states—the new 49ers?—would enjoy the privilege of paying California's taxes. Their one consolation will be not having to endure its lousy public services.

If, on the other hand, America's taxpayers (and China's bond buyers) succumb to bailout fatigue, California may reach the point at which, after every alternative has been exhausted, it is forced to try governing itself competently...

Full column: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-voegli1-2009nov01,0,825554.story>

He Came, He Saw, He Kowtowed

by Jonah Goldberg, 30 Oct 2009

...Landesman embraced a timeless tactic of power politics. He debased himself with incandescently vulgar obsequiousness to his supreme leader. "There is a new president and a new NEA," he proclaimed. "This is the first president that actually writes his own books since Teddy Roosevelt and arguably the first to write them really well since Lincoln. If you accept the premise, and I do, that the United States is the most powerful country in the world, then Barack Obama is the most powerful writer since Julius Caesar. That has to be good for American artists."...

...Let us pause to reflect on Landesman's odd—by which I mean absurd—historical analysis. Obama has written two books, one good, the other a plodding concatenation of political clichés and bromides. Ulysses S. Grant's memoirs, published by Mark Twain, were a literary triumph. Woodrow Wilson wrote many books of great import but of less literary worth. JFK won a Pulitzer for one of his books—the one he didn't write, alas. But Richard Nixon wrote plenty, as did Herbert Hoover, including two definitive texts, one on mining, the other on fishing.

Oh, and Lincoln never wrote any books. In short, Landesman doesn't know what he's talking about. But he does know what he's doing.

What matters to him is not the power of Obama's writing but the power of the writer. Why else compare a democratically elected president to one of history's most iconic dictators? That is, unless we are to believe he is a huge fan of Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*.

There have been far greater writers with power than Obama since Caesar. Among them: Thomas Jefferson, Winston Churchill, Jawaharlal Nehru, Benito Mussolini, Vladimir Lenin, and Marcus Aurelius.

By demonstrating with brazenly self-abasing ignorance that he is wholly Obama's man, Landesman is making it clear that the NEA is completely committed to Obamaism...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/jonah103009.php3>

Sacrificing free speech won't appease fanatics

by Thomas Mitchell, 1 Nov 2009

The founding principles of this nation are being challenged in the halls of the United Nations, where representatives of Islamic nations are clamoring for a resolution against defamation of religion. It is an ideological battle pitting free speech against those who wish to shield religions from criticism...

...Michael Posner—the assistant U.S. secretary of state for human rights, democracy and labor—worked with Egypt to draft compromise language for the U.N. resolution that condemns religion-oriented harassment and discrimination, making a fragile distinction from defamation.

That compromise language "expresses its concern that incidents of racial and religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative racial and religious stereotyping of religions and racial groups continue to rise around the world, and condemns, in this context, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence."

What might constitute incitement? Speech?

Like Hillary Clinton, it also "expresses regret at the promotion by certain media of false images and negative stereotypes of vulnerable individuals or groups of individuals." Danish cartoons?

Professor Hamilton says the administration, instead of compromising, should have attacked the resolution head on, reminding the world what Americans think of militant Islamists who wish to destroy America and American values.

"To take a position in favor of suppressing speech about religions—especially at this time in history—is to choose to put aside one of our most important weapons against death, oppression, and tyranny," she writes. "Offering a 'middle ground' cedes far more ground than the Islamic countries supporting the resolution—especially those who are host to militant Islamists yet fail to effectively combat them—deserve on this point."

If you thought the United Nations was hostile to free speech, check out our college campuses...

More: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/sacrificing-free-speech-wont-appease-fanatics-68202642.html>

