

## The Case for High-Deductible Health Insurance

by Michael Tanner, 26 Feb 2010

...Perhaps that is because in the long-run, the only way to spend less on health care is to consume less health care. Someone, sometime, has to say no. But the incentives under our current health care system perversely encourage everyone to say "yes."

Essentially, we all want to live forever. This makes health care a very desirable good. At the same time, the normal restraints imposed by price are frequently lacking. Today, of every dollar spent on health care in this country, just 13 cents is paid for by the person actually consuming the goods or services. Roughly half is paid for by government, and the remainder is covered by private insurance. And, as long as someone else is paying, consumers have every reason to consume as much health care as is available...

...Think of it this way. If every time you went to the grocery store, someone else paid 87 percent of your bill, not only would you eat a lot more steak and a lot less hamburger—but so would your dog. And food costs would go up for everyone...

**Read it all:** [http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=11375](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=11375)

## O.T.P. ( One Term President )

by Wolverines, 27 Feb 2010

**Watch it:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MddREczVeL4>

(Hat tip: Richard D.)

Sometimes he's **idiotic**. Sometimes he's **defeatist**. And sometimes he spouts **Tom Friedmanesque** twaddle. But this is worth reading.

## America, the fragile empire

Here today, gone tomorrow—could the United States fall that fast?

by Niall Ferguson, 28 Feb 2010

...If empires are complex systems that sooner or later succumb to sudden and catastrophic malfunctions, what are the implications for the United States today? First, debating the stages of decline may be a waste of time—it is a precipitous and unexpected fall that should most concern policymakers and citizens. Second, most imperial falls are associated with fiscal crises. Alarm bells should therefore be ringing very loudly indeed as the United States contemplates a deficit for 2010 of more than \$1.5 trillion—about 11% of GDP, the biggest since World War II.

These numbers are bad, but in the realm of political entities, the role of perception is just as crucial. In imperial crises, it is not the material underpinnings of power that really matter but expectations about future power. The fiscal numbers cited above cannot erode U.S. strength on their own, but they can work to weaken a long-assumed faith in the United States' ability to weather any crisis.

One day, a seemingly random piece of bad news—perhaps a negative report by a rating agency—will make the headlines during an otherwise quiet news cycle. Suddenly, it will be not just a few policy wonks who worry about the sustainability of U.S. fiscal policy but the public at large, not to mention investors abroad. It is this shift that is crucial: A complex adaptive system is in big trouble when its component parts lose faith in its viability...

**Read it all:** <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-ferguson28-2010feb28,0,7706980.story>

## Safe Toyotas, and Other Surprises

by Steve Chapman, 28 Feb 2010

...The current sentiment on Capitol Hill is that carmakers cannot be trusted with our well-being and therefore stern government action is in order. In fact, safety is a big selling point in the auto marketplace—which happens to be one reason Toyota has sold so many cars... Toyota vehicles do not turn out to be the four-wheeled caskets Congress imagines. In fact, they consistently rank better than average... Out of 20 carmakers, says Edmunds.com, Toyota is fourth best in the number of complaints per vehicle sold. But none of the others is being used as a piñata.

A more expansive government role is one of those answers that is neat, simple and wrong. "There are 250 million vehicles with 3,000 parts apiece," says Hurley. It's safe to assume the government couldn't police them all, even if it chose to do nothing else.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to do that in order for consumers to be protected. A carmaker's need to attract buyers is a far more powerful force for safety...

**More:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/safe-toyotas-and-other-surprises.html>

## **Video: Allen West Discusses Energy Independence**

*by Cubachi, 26 Feb 2010*

...Running for Florida's 22nd district, West's claim to fame was in August 2003 when he was in charge of the artillery unit of the 4th ID in Iraq. He was responsible for 600 men. West's primary objective was not only to win and defeat the enemy, but to protect his men. He endured a series of deadly attacks by the Iraqi insurgents endangering many in his infantry.

West suspected an Iraqi police officer for plotting to kill him and the men in his infantry. After hours of interrogation, the Iraqi man was steadfast in claiming that he knew nothing. **West had enough** and was desperate for answers. From his experience, he knew this man was hiding vital information. He held a pistol and fired several shots by the head of the Iraqi officer. By threatening this Iraqi, or "scaring him straight" if you will, the Iraqi finally chirped and revealed his guilt as well as information about those involved in the plot.

West saved hundreds of lives and should be hailed as a hero. Instead, but not surprisingly, he gained enemies in the liberal media including the Washington Post, accusing West of mentally "abusing a prisoner during an interrogation." As a result, a host of legal troubles came crashing at Lt. Col. West, who endured years of trials. Can you believe this? However, he was finally cleared of charges...

**More, including two videos:** <http://www.therightscoop.com/video-allen-west-discusses-energy-independence/>

N.B.: The two videos have been removed from the above address. Here's one of them with a current link.

**Allen West on Fox's Red Eye:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG2jQITs1pI>

—Don John, 9 March 2010

## **Obamacare: Federal Price Controls You Can Believe In**

Calling Obamacare "Carteresque" is an insult to our 39th president.

*by Deroy Murdock, 26 Feb 2010*

Imagine a small town whose sole shoe store suddenly charged \$500 for sneakers and \$1,000 for wing tips. Shocked and awed, citizens convened a town-hall meeting to decide what to do. Some wanted Congress to establish a Federal Footwear Commission to block "unreasonable" shoe prices. Others suggested inviting outside shoe stores to open on Main Street. They argued that this would expand consumer choices, reduce prices, and, ultimately, persuade even the controversial shoe store to stop giving its former customers sticker shock.

This scenario parallels the debate between Democrats and Republicans over Wellpoint's anticipated 25 to 39 percent **hikes** in health premiums for its 800,000 customers in California.

President Obama's new reform proposal would launch a Health Insurance Rate Authority. The Health and Human Services secretary could use HIRA to block "unreasonable and unjustified" increases in private premiums. Yes, a one-year, 39 percent hike seems severe. Would a 29 percent increase stop the howling? How about 19? Even 9 percent seems steep. How on earth would Uncle Sam define "reasonable and justified"?

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/426289/obamacare-federal-price-controls-you-can-believe-in/deroy-murdock>

It never hurts to remember that schemes like ObamaCare have failed repeatedly in other countries.

## **Why Canadian premier seeks health care in U.S.**

*by Sally C. Pipes, 25 Feb 2010*

Danny Williams, the premier of the Canadian province of Newfoundland, traveled to the United States earlier this month to undergo heart valve surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami. With his trip, Williams joined a long list of Canadians who have decided that they prefer American medicine to their own country's government-run health system

when their lives are on the line.

But just as American hospitals are becoming popular vacation destinations for about 40,000 Canadians a year, California's Senate is pressing ahead with its effort to make the state's health care system more like the one in the Great White North. The Senate recently approved a bill sponsored by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, that would install a government-run, single-payer health system in the Golden State. The Assembly will soon consider the measure.

Lawmakers should take Williams' case to heart. Canada's experience shows that government health care leads to waiting lists, rationing and lower quality of care...

**Continue:** <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/02/25/EDVV1C6HTS.DTL&type=printable>

## Eminent Domain as Central Planning

Wielding creative definitions of blight, New York runs roughshod over property rights and uproots viable neighborhoods.  
*by Nicole Gelinas, Winter 2010 issue*

...Eminent-domain abuse, dangerous though it is, is a symptom of a deeper problem: government officials' belief that central planning is superior to free-market competition. That's what New York has decided in each of its current eminent-domain cases. In Brooklyn, high-rise towers and an arena are better than a historic low-rise neighborhood; in Harlem, an elite university's expansion project is better than continued private investment; and in Willets Point, Queens, almost *anything* is better than grubby body shops.

To cure yourself of the notion that the government can do better than free markets in producing economic vitality, stroll around Atlantic Yards. You'll walk past three-story clapboard homes nestled next to elegantly corniced row houses—the supposedly blighted residences that the state plans to demolish. You'll see the Spalding Building, a stately sporting-goods-factory-turned-condo-building that, thanks to Ratner and his government allies, has been slated for demolition and now stands empty. You'll peer up at Goldstein's nearly empty apartment house, scheduled to be condemned and destroyed...

**More:** [http://city-journal.org/2010/20\\_1\\_emanent-domain-abuse.html](http://city-journal.org/2010/20_1_emanent-domain-abuse.html)

## The Anti-Obama?

Mitch Daniels might challenge Obama in 2012; the GOP would be lucky to have him.

*by Mona Charen, 26 Feb 2010*

...He earned his spot on the short list of possibilities the hard way: In a quicksand year for Republicans, he managed to win re-election as governor by 18 points (in a state Obama carried). His margin of victory included 24 percent of Democrats, 20 percent of African-Americans, 51 percent of the youth vote, 67 percent of the elderly, and 57 percent of independents.

When Daniels took office in 2004, Indiana, which had been enduring Democratic governors for 16 years, was running an \$800 million deficit. Four years later, it had a \$1.3 billion surplus. Daniels accomplished this without raising taxes (as 66 percent of states have done); in fact, he passed the largest tax cut in state history. Nor did he cut essential services like education, as 40 states have done. As Mark Hemingway reported in *National Review*, "In the last three years, the state has repaid \$760 million to schools and local governments that had been appropriated to finance the state's deficit spending." Additionally, Indiana has hired 800 new child welfare caseworkers and 250 state troopers, all while cutting the rate of increase in state spending from 5.9 to 2.8 percent annually.

Daniels has successfully courted business investment and has welcomed "two Toyota plants, a Honda factory, a \$500 million Nestlé facility, and a British Petroleum project that will bring \$3.8 billion to the state."

This is a laboratory of successful conservative governance...

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/426286/the-anti-obama/mona-charen>

## Impossible-to-Fire Teachers

*by John Stossel, 25 Feb 2010*

...So it took 16 lawyers/administrators two years to get rid of 13 teachers. Practices that would immediately bankrupt a private company are considered normal for the public sector. If we continue to grow the public sector, we are indeed on a **Road to Serfdom**. The teachers' union claims principal could fire bad teachers if they just followed the steps required. But that's disingenuous. On my last FBN show I displayed the pages of steps required. [[Video here.](#)]

One teacher that the city wants to fire is Michael Ebevo. During an inspection of his classroom, the principal found: "a chart with misspellings and unclear instructions,"... "students students staring into space and doodling rather than completing their worksheet, which contained questions that the students, who were in special education, had difficulty understanding. Rather than pressing the students for answers, Mr. Ebevo simply answered himself, making the students only more confused."...

**More:** <http://stossel.blogs.foxbusiness.com/2010/02/25/impossible-to-fire-teachers/>

## The national crisis of second-hand dentures

*Mark Steyn on the Hugh Hewitt Show, 25 Feb 2010*

HH: You'll have to forgive me if I'm just a touch incoherent. I watched a lot of the health care summit... Mark, the clock is now in. The Democrats spoke for 233 minutes, the Republicans spoke for 110 minutes, President Obama alone spoke for 119 minutes. Do you think anyone is alive in America?

MS: No, I would be very surprised if any American who wasn't paid to do it sat through that whole thing willingly. But you didn't have to watch a lot of it to get the broad tone. And I think at the end of the day, however many minutes each participant spoke for, it was a net loss for Obama and the Democrats at some degree.

HH: That is actually widely shared, with the exception of Jonathan Chait at the New Republic, who evidently never let him handicap a football game...

**Read on:** <http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=bea98ce8-19a9-401c-8052-866bd6cd7c88>

## Ducking and Dodging

The Democrats can't explain away the gimmicks in their health bill.

*by Stephen Spruiell, 25 Feb 2010, 8pm*

"We have some strong disagreements on the numbers," President Obama said after Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) concluded his **devastating critique** of the Democrats' budget claims, "but I don't want to get too bogged down." In the ensuing debate, what became clear is that the Democrats just don't have an answer to Ryan's arguments. They ducked, dodged, and changed the subject repeatedly, because Ryan's numbers themselves are unimpeachable.

The Democrats are touting an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office that their health-care bill would reduce the deficit by around \$130 billion over the next ten years. What Ryan pointed out — and what no Democrat even attempted to counter — is that this is because the legislation front-loads tax hikes and Medicare cuts and defers costs, forcing the CBO to score ten years of offsets with only six years of spending. Looked at on a level playing field, the true ten-year cost of the bill is \$2.3 trillion rather than \$950 billion, Ryan said.

Then he brought up another gimmick: The bill is full of double-counting...

**Continue:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=OTAwMDQwNTJmNDU4ZTMxMjZiYzRiMGEwNDhkNWNhOTM=>

"The man who labored for another last year, this year labors for himself, and next year will hire others to labor for him."

—Abraham Lincoln in 1856, on the American way to economic prosperity

## Too Many Apologies

*by Thomas Sowell, 24 Feb 2010*

...This craze for aimless apologies is part of a general loss of a sense of personal responsibility in our time. We are supposed to feel guilty for what other people did but there are a thousand cop-outs for what we ourselves did to those we did it to.

Back in the 1960s, when so many foolish ideas flourished simply because they were new, a New York Times columnist tried to make the case that we were all somehow responsible for the assassination of John F. Kennedy. That was considered to be Deep Stuff. It made you one of the special folks when you believed that, instead of one of the rest of us poor dumb slobs who believed that the man who shot him was responsible.

For more than a century, the intelligentsia have been trying to get us to focus on the "root causes" of crime—supposedly created by "society"—instead of locking up thieves or executing murderers. If some people don't have the

money or the achievements of others, that too is society's fault, in the eyes of those for whom personal responsibility is an outmoded idea.

Personal responsibility is a real problem for those who want to collectivize society and take away our power to make our own decisions, transferring that power to third parties like themselves, who imagine themselves to be so much wiser and nobler than the rest of us...

**More:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/thomas-sowell/too-many-apologies.html>

## **Even More on The Coming War Over Public-Sector Pensions**

*by Nick Gillespie, 21 Feb 2010*

...The basic bargain about public-sector work, hammered out decades ago in a very different world, is supposed to be: You give up status, upward possibility, and compensation now for job security and payoffs later in retirement. That has never really been true and is certainly less so now. Yes, public-sector jobs offer more security than their private-sector counterparts, but compensation is also higher on average and the benefits, especially in retirement are gold-plated to the nines. That bargain, which is unsustainable economically, is going to hit the rocks. The only question is: Who is going to pay? Taxpayers or the public-sector workers?...

**More:** <http://reason.com/blog/2010/02/21/even-more-on-the-coming-war-ov>

## **Mitch Daniels' Rules for Republicans**

*by Fred Barnes, 23 Feb 2010*

...Daniels has two basic ideas for the next Republican presidential candidate. One, the candidate should have a plan for solving the spending, deficit and debt crisis that has "intellectual credibility" and "holds water." This means the candidate would "campaign to govern, not merely to win" on what Daniels calls a "survival" issue for the country.

The second idea: The candidate should "speak to Americans in a tone a voice that is unifying and friendly and therefore gives you a chance of unifying around some action." In his campaigns for governor, Daniels never ran a single negative TV commercial attacking an opponent...

**More about our next president:** <http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/man-plan-mitch-daniels>

A fascinating discourse on the history and prospects of Congressional "reconciliation."

## **The Return of ObamaCare, Part 1: The Legislative Context**

*by Jay Cost, 24 Feb 2010*

...While I don't think right versus wrong properly enter into considerations of reconciliation, I have noticed one particularly ridiculous moral argument in favor of reconciliation making the rounds. We are told that it promotes the ideal of a simple majority, which most people believe is normatively appropriate. Indeed, that is the common opinion—but the Senate is not a majoritarian institution! You could have a super-majority of 82 senators whose constituents still don't amount to a majority of the United States population. So, what is the normative value of half-plus-one votes in an institution where votes are not pegged on population?

**Read the whole thing:** [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2010/02/the\\_return\\_of\\_obamacare\\_part\\_1.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2010/02/the_return_of_obamacare_part_1.html)

## **Al Gore's Nine Lies**

*Investor's Business Daily editorial, 23 Feb 2010*

The godfather of climate hysteria is in hiding as another of his wild claims unravels — this one about global warming causing seas to swallow us up...

...Last November, Al Gore was hailed by Newsweek as "The Thinking Man's Thinking Man." Since then we and he have been given much to think about, starting with the damning e-mails from researchers associated with the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in Britain. The e-mails revealed an organized attempt to "hide the decline" in global temperatures, to manipulate data to fit preconceived conclusions, and to discredit and shun reputable skeptics.

A key finding of the IPCC, which along with Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, was revealed last month to

be utterly bogus. The IPCC claimed glaciers in the Himalayas would likely disappear by 2035. The only thing they had to back it up was a 1999 non-peer reviewed article in an Indian mass-market science magazine.

It's been revealed that researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been systematically eliminating weather stations, with a clear bias toward removing colder latitude and altitude locations. The number of reporting stations in Canada dropped from 600 to 35, with only one station used by the NOAA as a temperature gauge for Canadian territory above the Arctic Circle...

...One by one, Gore's prophecies of doom and those of the climate charlatans he inspired are being exposed as the work of con artists. From the CRU to the IPCC, the climate dominoes are falling one by one. His silence speaks volumes...

**More:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=522005>

## **Imprisoned for saving American lives**

*by John L. Work, 22 Feb 2010*

Former U.S. Army Master Sergeant John Hatley is now serving a forty-year sentence in Leavenworth prison. He was convicted by a 2009 Court Martial of murdering four Iraqi insurgent arrestees in Baghdad following a 2007 ambush and firefight, and dumping the bodies into a Baghdad canal. Two other Sergeants with the Alpha Company 1-18 1st Infantry were also convicted and sent to prison.

Hatley's wife, Kim Hatley, is leading a crusade to win clemency for her husband. I recently spoke with her by telephone. A veteran of six years as an Intel-analyst and Crypto-analyst with the U.S. Army 18th Airborne Corps, Mrs. Hatley has a nineteen-year-old son in the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan. She related some details of events that led up to the firefight, the shootings and the investigation that sent her husband to prison...

...Many officers in the military's upper echelons remain willfully ignorant of Islamic doctrine and oblivious to its dynamics in the war. They write the crippling ROE and the Catch-and-Release policies that have caused the deaths of innumerable American soldiers and Marines — and they sit comfortably behind their desks at the Pentagon. In the meantime, men like John Hatley sit in prison.

**Read it all:** <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/02/22/imprisoned-for-killing-terrorists-in-iraq-2/>

[To help Kim Hatley win clemency for her husband, visit **DefendJohnHatley.com**]

## **ObamaCare at Ramming Speed**

The White House shows it has no interest in compromise.

*Wall Street Journal editorial, 23 Feb 2010*

..."The President's Proposal," as the 11-page White House document is headlined, is in one sense a notable achievement: It manages to take the worst of both the House and Senate bills and combine them into something more destructive. It includes more taxes, more subsidies and even less cost control than the Senate bill. And it purports to fix the special-interest favors in the Senate bill not by eliminating them—but by expanding them to everyone...

...The coercive flavor that animates this exercise is best captured in the section that purports to accept the Senate's "grandfather clause" allowing people who like their current health plan to keep it. Except that "The President's Proposal adds certain consumer protections to these 'grandfathered' plans. Within months of legislation being enacted, it requires plans . . . prohibits . . . mandates . . . requires . . . the President's Proposal adds new protections that prohibit . . . ban . . . and prohibit . . . The President's Proposal requires . . ." After all of these dictates, no "grandfathered" plan will exist...

...The larger political message of this new proposal is that Mr. Obama and Democrats have no intention of compromising on an incremental reform, or of listening to Republican, or any other, ideas on health care. They want what they want, and they're going to play by Chicago Rules and try to dragoon it into law on a narrow partisan vote via Congressional rules that have never been used for such a major change in national policy...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704454304575081391789004352.html>

## **Obamacare 2.0 Is a Job Killer**

*by Diana Furchtgott-Roth, 23 Feb 2010*

Fifteen million Americans are unemployed and actively looking for work, and millions more have given up looking. Countless others are underemployed. Many working Americans worry whether they will have a job next month, and

Americans who have health insurance fear they may lose it.

What should the Washington brain trust do to improve our economic situation? Surely two actions should not be on the table: (1) raise taxes which would discourage employment; and (2) deprive Americans of their health insurance policies.

Yet these two steps are at the heart of President Obama's health care "reform," released Monday. Like the House and Senate plans, it would raise about \$500 billion in taxes over the next decade, discouraging employment, and it would outlaw most health insurance plans in America. Opposition to precisely this type of plan won Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown his seat in the U.S. Senate.

The unveiling of Mr. Obama's health "reform" plan sets the stage for Thursday's health care summit between Republicans and Democrats. Although some might think that the differences in plans are only political, they have vast ramifications for the future performance of the U.S. economy...

...The Republican plans don't cost \$1 trillion, adding to national debt; they don't raise taxes, slowing the economy; they don't impose mandates on employers, discouraging low-skill employment and reducing wages; and they attempt to give Americans a broader choice of plans, thereby increasing the efficiency in the delivery of health care services. Watch for these winning ideas during Thursday's debate.

**More:** [http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/23/obamacare\\_20\\_is\\_a\\_job\\_killer\\_98359.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/23/obamacare_20_is_a_job_killer_98359.html)

## Progress into entropy

by Doctor Zero, 22 Feb 2010

...The reason Big Government is unsustainable is that it really only has one coin to spend: **compulsion**. All of its resources are gained by extracting them from the citizens who produce them. The federal government doesn't really spend money; it forces citizens to do so. Compulsion suffers from the law of diminishing returns—the more it's used, the less value it can appropriate. In a relatively free society, clear and simple laws can generate enormous resources for the State. Here at the twilight of the New Deal, the acolytes of Big Government are reduced to proposing thousand-page bills that will regulate what kind of light bulbs you can use, or levy fines for failing to purchase government-approved health insurance.

Each of these increasingly desperate power grabs reduces the overall wealth of society, because wealth is a function of choice. It is only generated by free men. The slaves of a totalitarian State may be able to generate *subsistence*, but they don't produce a significant amount of wealth. The more freedom government takes from its citizens, the weaker they become, dramatically worsening the problems a supposedly compassionate, progressive State claims it can solve.

You can read an example of this in the *New York Times* piece on the millions of people who might remain out of work for years to come. The *Times* tries to pin this on "institutional investors who crave swift profits," and amazingly blames "the declining influence of unions" for making it "easier for employers to shift work to part-time and temporary employees." Ah, yes, if only we had larger and more powerful labor unions, demanding unsustainable benefits and work contracts for everyone...

...Progressives have no ideas beyond increasing State power, so their ideology is unable to cope with the dynamics of a vast economy. Look at the absurd Thomas Friedman, blubbing that "we've gone from the age of government handouts to the age of citizen givebacks," and quoting a Johns Hopkins foreign-policy expert who says "the great task of government and leadership is going to be about taking things away from people." **Wrong**. The great task of a resurgent America is taking things away from the government, and the intellectually bankrupt Left...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.doczero.org/2010/02/progress-into-entropy/>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

## Climategate Meets the Law: Senator Inhofe To Ask for DOJ Investigation

by Charlie Martin, 23 Feb 2010

Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) today asked the Obama administration to investigate what he called "the greatest scientific scandal of our generation" — the actions of climate scientists revealed by the Climategate Files, and the subsequent admissions by the editors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).

Senator Inhofe also called for former Vice President Al Gore to be called back to the Senate to testify.

"In [Gore's] science fiction movie, every assertion has been rebutted," Inhofe said. He believes Vice President Gore should defend himself and his movie before Congress.

Just prior to a hearing at 10:00 a.m. EST, Senator Inhofe released a minority staff report from the **Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**, of which he is ranking member. Senator Inhofe is asking the Department of Justice to investigate whether there has been research misconduct or criminal actions by the scientists involved, including Dr. Michael Mann of Pennsylvania State University and Dr. James Hansen of Columbia University and the NASA Goddard Institute of Space Science...

**Read on:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/climategate-and-the-law-senator-inhofe-to-ask-for-congressional-criminal-investigation-pajamasmediapjtv-exclusive/?singlepage=true>

## **Greece and the Welfare State in Ruins**

*by Robert Samuelson, 22 Feb 2010*

...Every advanced society, including the United States, has a welfare state. Though details differ, their purposes are similar: to support the unemployed, poor, disabled and aged. All welfare states face similar problems: burgeoning costs as populations age; an overreliance on debt financing; and pressures to reduce borrowing that create pressures to cut welfare spending. High debt and the welfare state are at odds. It's an open question whether the collision will cause social and economic turmoil.

Greece is the opening act in this drama; already, its budget problems have spawned street protests. By the numbers, Greece's plight is acute. In 2009, its government debt—basically, the sum of past annual deficits—was 113 percent of its economy (gross domestic product, or GDP). The budget deficit for 2009 was 12.7 percent of GDP. Two-thirds of the debt is owed to foreigners, reports the Institute of International Finance...

...Almost every advanced country—the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Belgium and others—faces some combination of huge budget deficits, high debts, aging populations and political paralysis. It's an unstable mix. Present deficits may aid economic recovery, but the persistence of those deficits threatens long-term prosperity. The same unpleasant choices now confronting Greece await most wealthy nations, even if they pretend otherwise.

**Read it all:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/21/AR2010022102914.html>

## **Boehner: President's health care proposal jeopardizes summit, doubles down on failed approach Americans have already rejected**

*22 Feb 2010*

House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) issued the following statement in response to the partisan health care proposal posted online by the White House for discussion at the upcoming bipartisan health care summit:

"The President has crippled the credibility of this week's summit by proposing the same massive government takeover of health care based on a partisan bill the American people have already rejected. This new Democrats-only backroom deal doubles down on the same failed approach that will drive up premiums, destroy jobs, raise taxes, and slash Medicare benefits.

"This week's summit clearly has all the makings of a Democratic infomercial for continuing on a partisan course that relies on more backroom deals and parliamentary tricks to circumvent the will of the American people and jam through a massive government takeover of health care...

**More:** <http://republicanleader.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=171326>

## **The White House Health-Care 'Compromise'**

*by Daniel Foster, 22 Feb 2010*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/onthenews/?q=OWMxMzhIN2E0YjE2MTE3ZjY5YmRhOGM2ZmQ4NWUyYWY=>

## **Obama Health Plan Costs \$950 Billion Over 10 Years**

*by Laura Meckler, 22 Feb 2010*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704454304575081264262957600.html?mod=e2tw>

## **Pin the Bogeyman On the Tea Party**

*by Bill Frezza, 22 Feb 2010*

...Imagine the impact on political discourse if the Tea Party threw its weight behind any candidate from any party that takes **the Pledge of No.**

"If elected I promise to vote "No" on any bill that proposes to expand government power for any purpose. I promise to vote "No" on any bill whose net effect does not reduce government spending. I promise to vote "No" on any bill whose net effect does not reduce federal taxes."

That's it. To maximize its impact, the Tea Party should studiously avoid taking any positions on social policy. Or foreign policy. Or abortion, gay rights, immigration, healthcare, religion, drugs, unionism, or any other issue that might tear the Tea Party into as many pieces as there are diverse opinions amongst the American people. Let one hundred flowers bloom. But not with our money.

Just as a sick person needs to stay away from quack doctors long enough to heal, our ailing economy needs to stay out of the clutches of Congress long enough to recover. The best way to do that is to strike fear in the heart of every Congressman who doesn't take the Pledge of No.

The American economy has tremendous reserves of resilience if you just let its productive members be. The reason is simple. While some Americans hope to achieve the egalitarian dream of social democracy where everyone lives the good life at the expense of someone else, most understand that if we go that route we are destined to end up as bankrupt as the Greeks...

**More:** [http://www.realeclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/22/pin\\_the\\_bogeyman\\_on\\_the\\_tea\\_party\\_98353.html](http://www.realeclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/22/pin_the_bogeyman_on_the_tea_party_98353.html)

## **The Mount Vernon Statement**

Constitutional Conservatism: A Statement for the 21st Century

*17 Feb 2010*

Read it. Sign it.

<http://www.themountvernonstatement.com/>

## **Contract from America**

Organized by Tea Party patriots. They need your input now:

<http://www.contractfromamerica.com/>

## **New Afghanistan strategy sacrifices troops**

*by Nolan Finley, 21 Feb 2010*

...Civilian casualties are an inevitable and regrettable cost of war. They ought to be avoided whenever possible. But it's not always possible when the lives of Americans are at stake.

Harry Truman rained down hellfire on Japan's civilian population to spare the lives of a half-million Allied troops. He wasn't worried about Japanese resentment. He was trying to avoid sending any more "We regret to inform you" letters...

**More:** <http://detnews.com/article/20100221/OPINION03/2210312/1008/opinion01/Finley--New-Afghanistan-strategy-sacrifices-troops>

## **Bill Maher: simply reprehensible**

His elite liberal cohorts must be so proud!

"While we were off, Sarah Palin agreed to do commentary at Fox News, which is actually very similar to her day job, talking to a baby with Down syndrome."

—Bill Maher, on his 19 Feb 2010 television show

**George Washington** (February 22, 1732-December 14, 1799)

**Farewell Address to the Army** 2 Nov 1783

... and to bid a final adieu to the Armies he has so long had the honor to Command—he can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful Country, and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favors both here and hereafter attend those, who under the divine auspices have secured innumerable blessings for others...

**First Inaugural Address** 30 April 1789

...Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either...

**Farewell Address** 17 Sept 1796

...The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the Independence and Liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings, and successes...

**Mark Twain on George Washington** Three stories.

## Obama's Stimulus PR Fraught With Malarkey

by Jay Ambrose, 18 Feb 2010

President Barack Obama's claim that his disastrous joke of a stimulus bill helped stave off a second Great Depression reminds you of another joke, the one about the guy dancing wildly on a street corner with the purpose, he says, of scaring away elephants.

But, someone points out, there are no elephants anywhere around.

"See," says our dancing trickster, "it works, doesn't it?"

That's about the only evidence for Obama's claim, you know. We do not have a Great Depression on our hands and so the stimulus bill sent it scurrying. He would therefore like everyone to quit criticizing a measure that cost as much as the war in Iraq, did precious little to justify its existence, could have been recast to do something important and is helping to shove us into an economic crisis that could make us wish for that second depression instead...

**Continue:** <http://www.oeregister.com/opinion/stimulus-235060-bill-economic.html>

## Moonbat of the Month: Loretta Ross

20 Feb 2010

She's the Executive Director of "Sistersong" at the—get this—Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, in Atlanta. Nice euphemism for a bunch of baby-killing Communists! On February 10 she called Laura Ingraham a racist for reminding people of the truth about Margaret Sanger's racist and morally bankrupt "eugenics" movement.

## ZombieCare

Chicago Tribune editorial, 19 Feb 2010

President Barack Obama is expected to reveal a new proposal for health care in the next few days, a way to revive the reform effort. The White House hints that the proposal might — gasp — include some Republican ideas. The president has also invited Republicans to a health care brainstorming summit next week. It will be televised.

So does the president want a genuinely new approach to health care, or has he just decided that he needs a new political approach to sell an old package the public has come to distrust?

There's one way for Democrats to start restoring trust. They could formally swear off using the legislative trick called "reconciliation." Right now, they're clinging to it as a back-door way to shove their much-maligned health care plans through Congress...

...The Democrats need to reconcile themselves to what Americans are telling them about these health care bills: They're too complicated and too expensive...

**More:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-zombiecare-20100219,0,6638835.story>

## Obama ready for nuclear option on health care bill

The president will bring a proposal primed for reconciliation to next week's summit.

by Daniel Foster, 19 Feb 2010, 2:02 pm

<http://www.nationalreview.com/onthenews/?q=MmM3NmVhYzQ4N2FjZDNkNjRmZTc0NGIwNjc5YjEzNzk=>

## Austin suicide pilot was a liberal

Hated George W. Bush, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and the Catholic Church. Just read his manifesto.

18 Feb 2010

The man suspected of intentionally crashing an airplane into a Texas office building today appears to have posted a lengthy online diatribe attacking the Internal Revenue Service and declaring that, "I know I'm hardly the first one to decide I have had all I can stand." [The six-page manifesto](#), which you'll find below, is dated "2/18/10" and is signed "Joe Stack (1956-2010)." Andrew Joseph Stack, 53, has been identified as the man who flew a small plane into an Austin building housing IRS offices...

**More:** <http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/years/2010/0218102stack1.html>

## Big Bird grills Michelle Obama

**Watch here:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJD9gosG5dg>

**Or here:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnkdKVnincY>

(hat tip: Todd S.)

## Palin vs. Edwards: A Case Study in Media Bias

by Jamie Weinstein, 19 Feb 2010

...No comparison better illustrates the double standard the media has with Palin than how they treated another former vice-presidential nominee, Sen. John Edwards.

When in 2004 John Kerry picked Edwards, whose entire resume in public life at that point consisted of six years in the U.S. Senate, to be his vice-presidential nominee, few questioned whether Edwards was qualified for the post.

Search "Edwards is unqualified" in Lexis-Nexis from the time Edwards was tapped by Kerry through Election Day 2004, and you get 11 results. Do the same for Palin and you get 174 results...

...We now definitively know just how much of a liar, cheat and phony John Edwards is. But if the media had been one half as interested in exposing Edwards as a fraud as they have been in excoriating Palin, perhaps it would not have taken the National Enquirer to discover the truth that has led to the downfall of a politician who had a very real chance of becoming President.

One of the media's favorite attacks against Palin revolves around her failure to tell Katie Couric what magazines and newspapers she regularly reads. The clumsy answer was an early flash point that led many to scoff that the Alaskan governor didn't read anything at all.

But guess who doesn't read very much either? That would be John Edwards, if you believe John Heilemann and Mark Halperin's new book "Game Change." According to their reporting, when a friend inquired if John Edwards read a particular tome, his wife, Elizabeth, apparently found the idea of her husband reading laugh-out-loud funny, saying, "Oh, he doesn't read books."...

**More:** [http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/02/19/2010-02-19\\_palin\\_vs\\_edwards\\_a\\_case\\_study\\_in\\_media\\_bias.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/02/19/2010-02-19_palin_vs_edwards_a_case_study_in_media_bias.html)

## **It's nonsense to say the U.S. is ungovernable**

by Charles Krauthammer, 19 Feb 2010

...And then, of course, there's the filibuster, the newest liberal *bête noire*. "Don't blame Mr. Obama," writes Paul Krugman of the president's failures. "Blame our political culture instead. ... And blame the filibuster, under which 41 senators can make the country ungovernable."

Ungovernable, once again. Of course, just yesterday the same Paul Krugman was warning about "extremists" trying "to eliminate the filibuster" when Democrats used it systematically to block one Bush (43) judicial nomination after another. Back then, Democrats touted it as an indispensable check on overweening majority power. Well, it still is. Indeed, the Senate with its ponderous procedures and decentralized structure is serving precisely the function the Founders intended: as a brake on the passions of the House and a caution about precipitous transformative change.

Leave it to Mickey Kaus, a principled liberal who supports health care reform, to debunk these structural excuses: "Lots of intellectual effort now seems to be going into explaining Obama's (possible/likely/impending) health care failure as the inevitable product of larger historic and constitutional forces. ... But in this case there's a simpler explanation: Barack Obama's job was to sell a health care reform plan to American voters. He failed."...

**More:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/18/AR2010021803413.html>

America's first Latino president, some day.

## **Marco Rubio's keynote speech at CPAC**

18 Feb 2010

**part one:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCd994MIMfM>

**part two:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4VCmq4a6og>

**part three:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gdJBrur8zA>

**transcript:** <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2010/02/marco-rubios-cpac-speech-the-t.html>

## **Hugh Hewitt talks to the noted war correspondent Michael Yon**

17 Feb 2010, live from Afghanistan

**Listen:** [02-17hhs-yon.mp3](http://02-17hhs-yon.mp3)

**Michael's website:** <http://www.michaelyon-online.com/>

## **The Tea Partiers vs. "progressive" leftists and statists**

by Mike Rosen, 18 Feb 2010

...If Obama's march toward an American version of Euro-socialism is behind schedule, it's not because of any lack of effort or commitment on his part. Fortunately, he was elected president, not king. He can only sign or veto legislation, he can't impose it. Opposition from Republicans and the odd Democrat doesn't make Obama any less liberal.

Dionne, refusing to recognize that the left has overreached, doesn't present it this way. This was supposed to be their moment. Frustrated by the delay, he rationalizes that Obama is too "middle-of-the-road." This theme has been echoed by others on the left like Jon Meacham, the editor of *Newsweek*, who proclaimed in a 2009 story that "We Are All Socialists Now." Recently, Meacham went so far as to describe Obama — arguably the most left-wing president in our history — as "right of center." One has to be pretty far left to place Obama on the right...

**More:** [http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_14421218](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14421218)

## **Congress' Phony Price Tags**

Legislators have a lousy track record of keeping costs anywhere near their initial projections.

by Veronique de Rugy, 18 Feb 2010 (*March issue*)

...According to the Danish study, such inaccuracies aren't just errors. They reflect widespread, deliberate lying on the part of public officials. "Project promoters routinely ignore, hide, or otherwise leave out important project costs and risks in order to make total costs appear low," the authors conclude...

...It's hardly surprising that politicians lie so routinely. Voters let them get away with it. When programs go over budget, fail to deliver on their creators' promises, or simply do not work at all, taxpayers rarely punish those responsible. So lawmakers keep making unreliable promises of low costs, and we keep on accepting those promises at face value. Indeed, voters generally reward legislators who bring more federal funds to their states or districts.

The key to minimizing cost overruns is to return most of the public services to the private sector. Projects such as airports, playgrounds, and entertainment facilities are properly the role of the private sector, not the government.

As far as controlling rising costs within health care goes, a better alternative to the semi-nationalization that the president has in mind would be to increase individual responsibility for medical decisions. When people aren't exposed to the true cost of their care—even if they pay for it in foregone wages and higher taxes—they consume more...

**Read it all:** <http://reason.com/archives/2010/02/16/congress-phony-price-tags>

## Nightfall in America

*Pete Du Pont, 16 Feb 2010*

...When the Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, the debt held by the public was 36.2% of GDP. It rose to 40.2% the next year. This year it will be about 63.6%, next year 68.6%, then 77% of GDP in 2020. And the Obama administration's budget estimates 218% in 2050.

The reason for these rising deficits is the huge increases in federal spending—the intended growth of the federal government—that Congress and the president are pushing. The deficit in 2007 was \$160 billion. In the next year the Pelosi-Reid Congress took it up to \$458 billion, and when President Obama came into office in 2009 it hit \$1.4 trillion. The current 2010 projected deficit is \$1.6 trillion, which will lead to a tripling of our national debt from 2008 to 2020.

To the White House and congressional Democrats, these large figures are not a surprise, a mistake or a worry. They part of a strategy to Europeanize America, to make the government larger, broader and in charge of almost everything. And that would of course require broad and massive tax increases. The Washington Post's Robert Samuelson calculated that to fund all the future deficit expenditures would require taxes to increase "by roughly 50 percent from the average 1970-2009 tax burden." A 50% tax increase would become a permanent part of a declining America, just as such tax increases have become a permanent part of declining European countries.

Or as Sen. Judd Gregg, top Republican on the Budget Committee, put it the other day, this huge deficit spending "is a death certificate to the American dream for our children. Their lives will be mortgaged by the debt we put on their backs." Michael Boskin, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under the first President Bush, noted in *The Wall Street Journal* last week that President Obama will have added more debt in his first two years in office than George W. Bush did in eight years. In his first 15 months, Mr. Obama will have raised the debt burden as a percentage of GDP by more than President Reagan did in all of his eight years...

**More:**

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704431404575067350881049536.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLETopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704431404575067350881049536.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion)

## Obama Takes Deficits To New Frontier

*by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 17 Feb 2010*

...Bush thus became the first president to eclipse the \$300-, \$400-, \$500-, \$600- and \$700-billion deficit-spending marks...

...Obama has now become the first president to eclipse the \$800 billion, \$900 billion and \$1-, \$1.1-, \$1.2-, \$1.3-, \$1.4- and \$1.5-trillion deficit-spending marks. And that's not counting his spending in 2009, which took place outside the normal budget cycle...Obama's deficit spending for his first two years in office will exceed Bush's deficit spending for his entire eight-year presidency...

...Liberals like to point to deficit spending in the Reagan era. Of the eight congressional budgets that President Ronald Reagan signed, all of which were passed by a heavily Democratic House and nearly half by a Democratic Senate, the average deficit was \$177 billion, or 4.1% of GDP. The average projected deficit for the two budgets that President Obama has proposed, also to a heavily Democratic Congress, is \$1.412 trillion, or 9.3% of GDP.

Despite not having had to fund Cold War-level expenditures on defense (the defense budget was 64% higher under Reagan than under Obama, even as a percentage of GDP), Obama's annual deficits are, by any measure, easily doubling

Reagan's — and that's not even counting his 2009 deficit spending...

**More:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=521420>

## **Obama defeats FDR (in spending other people's money)**

*by Terrence P. Jeffrey, 17 Feb 2010*

...To put Obama's Olympian hypocrisy in perspective, one need only examine the federal budget tables posted on the White House website by Obama's own Office of Management and Budget...

Under current estimates, Obama will not beat FDR's overall record for borrowing, although he will nearly double FDR's pre-World War II rate of borrowing. From 1934-41, FDR ran annual deficits that averaged 3.56 percent of GDP. Obama, according to OMB, will run average annual deficits of 7.05 percent GDP. When you include the war years of 1942-45, FDR ran average annual deficits of 9.76 percent of GDP. Even without a world war, Obama's overall prospective borrowing is at least competitive with FDR's.

And Obama and FDR share one historic debt-accumulating distinction. By OMB's calculation, they are the only two presidents since 1930 to run up annual deficits that reached double figures as a percentage of GDP. Obama will run up a deficit this year of 10.6 percent of GDP. The last time the deficit hit double digits as a percentage of GDP was 1945—when Germany and Japan surrendered.

The U.S. won the Cold War without ever running a double-digit deficit. President Reagan's highest deficit was 6 percent of GDP in 1983—and he bankrupted the Soviet Union not the United States.

So how does Obama compare with the much-maligned George W. Bush? In Bush's eight fiscal years, annual federal spending averaged 20.43 percent of GDP, significantly less than Obama's estimated 24.13 percent of GDP.

Bush ran annual deficits that averaged 3.4 percent of GDP—and that includes fiscal 2009, when the deficit soared to 9.9 percent of GDP and Obama signed a \$787 billion stimulus bill (some of which was spent in fiscal 2009) after Bush left office. Obama, according to OMB, will run deficits that average 7.5 percent of GDP—or more than twice the average deficits under Bush...

**More:** <http://cnsnews.com/commentary/article/61454>

## **Stimulus funds going to slashed programs**

*by Matt Kelley, 17 Feb 2010*

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-02-17-stimulus-funds\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-02-17-stimulus-funds_N.htm)

## **John Murtha: Requiem for a corruptocrat**

*by Michelle Malkin, 12 Feb 2010*

Sufficient time has passed since John Murtha's death to reckon with his true record. No tears for the wreckage, poison, and damage to the public trust he left behind. Latest news: There is a movement to install Murtha's wife in the seat. Given the late congressman's share-the-pork-with-friends-and-family proclivities, this is a very bad idea for those who want integrity in government in Pennsylvania.

We are not supposed to speak ill of the dead. But those whom the deceased viciously smeared and humiliated deserve to be defended. Entrenched Democrat Rep. John Murtha passed away on February 8 after a botched gall bladder surgery. He has been hailed as a "military advocate" (Associated Press) and "one of the greatest patriots ever to serve in Congress" (former Democratic congressman Harold Ford). These obsequious obituaries leave out inconvenient truths...

**More:** <http://michellemalkin.com/2010/02/12/john-murtha-requiem-for-a-corruptocrat/?print=1>

"Oddball" is a pretty mild adjective to describe the Alabama-Huntsville professor and mother of four, who's also a far-left political extremist obsessed with President Obama. On 12 Feb 2010 she opened fire on 6 colleagues, killing 3. She's also suspected of having sent a double-pipe bomb to Dr. Paul Rosenberg in the mail on 19 Dec 93 (which failed to detonate), and also the 1986 murder of her own brother.

## **'Oddball' portrait of Amy Bishop emerges**

Suspect's family, pals offer clues

by Laurel J. Sweet, Jessica Van Sack, Jessica Fargen and Ira Kantor, 15 Feb 2010

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?&articleid=1232943&format=&page=1&listingType=Loc#articleFull>

## Selling Freedom Cheap

Will we barter away our birthright and not even get the mess of pottage?

by Thomas Sowell, 16 Feb 2010

...One of the most audacious attempts to take away our freedom to live our lives as we see fit has been the so-called "health care reform" bills that were being rushed through Congress before either the public or the members of Congress themselves had a chance to discover all that was in it.

For this, we were taught to resent doctors, insurance companies and even people with "Cadillac health insurance plans," who were to be singled out for special taxes. Meanwhile, our freedom to make our own medical decisions—on which life and death can depend—was to be quietly taken from us and transferred to our betters in Washington. Only the recent Massachusetts election results have put that on hold.

Another dangerous power toward which we are moving, bit by bit, on the installment plan, is the power of politicians to tell people what their incomes can and cannot be. Here the resentment is being directed against "the rich." The distracting phrases here include "obscene" wealth and "unconscionable" profits. But, if we stop and think about it—which politicians don't expect us to—what is obscene about wealth? Wouldn't we consider it great if every human being on earth had a billion dollars and lived in a place that could rival the Taj Mahal?

Poverty is obscene. It is poverty that needs to be reduced—and increasing a country's productivity has done that far more widely than redistributing income by targeting "the rich." You can see the agenda behind the rhetoric when profits are called "unconscionable" but taxes never are, even when taxes take more than half of what someone has earned, or add much more to the prices we have to pay than profits do.

The assumption that what A pays B is any business of C is an assumption that means a dangerous power being transferred to politicians to tell us all what incomes we can and cannot receive. It will not apply to everyone all at once. Like the income tax, which at first applied only to the truly rich, and then slowly but steadily moved down the income scale to hit the rest of us, the power to say what incomes people can be allowed to make will inevitably move down the income scale to make us all dependents and supplicants of politicians...

**More:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/425100/selling-freedom-cheap-/thomas-sowell>

## Climategate: Phil Jones finally proves Al Gore right — the debate *is* over

by Steve Milloy, 15 Feb 2010

...Concepts and policies like cap and trade, carbon taxes, carbon footprints, and carbon offsets all should shortly be relegated to the same ash heap of history as eugenics, communism, Enron, and Bernie Madoff. Secondary school students subjected to hysterical global warming propaganda — like Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* — should recover quickly, if they were even paying attention in the first place. Since global warming alarmism for America's universities was all about the federal grant money to start with, they should have no problems switching gears as long as the money keeps flowing...

...Yes, the world will inexorably move on from global warming to new crises, both real and imaginary. But before it does, the world should give credit where credit is due: to the global warming skeptics.

For the past 20 years, the skeptics have consistently, courageously — and most importantly, correctly — pointed out the fatal flaws in the hysterical hypothesis of man-made global warming. In the course of their efforts, they have been mocked, threatened (sometimes physically), abused, derided, cursed, characterized as loons, and likened to Holocaust deniers. One green writer for the prominent online publication *Grist* magazine even **suggested** Nuremberg-style war crimes trials for the denialists.

All this for the crime of being factually, though not politically, correct...

...Had the skeptics not succeeded in preventing the U.S. from signing on to the Kyoto Protocol and to President Obama's cap-and-trade crusade, we would all have been in for a world of hurt as misanthropic socialists — hiding behind their shields of "the environment" and "the children" — destroyed our liberties and ran our economy (further) into the ground...

**Read the rest:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/?p=79562>

## Millions wasted on census as head count approaches

Audit: Census workers collected checks for excessive travel and training, wasting millions.

by Hope Yen (AP) 16 Feb 2010

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Audit-finds-US-census-apf-1237252725.html?x=0&.v=2>

## Surface temperature records: policy driven deception?

by Joseph D'Aleo & Anthony Watts, 29 Jan 2010 (111 pages)

### Summary for Policymakers:

1. Instrumental temperature data for the pre-satellite era (1850-1980) have been so widely, systematically, and unidirectionally tampered with that it cannot be credibly asserted there has been any significant "global warming" in the 20th century.

2. All terrestrial surface-temperature databases exhibit very serious problems that render them useless for determining accurate long-term temperature trends.

3. All of the problems have skewed the data so as greatly to overstate observed warming both regionally and globally.

4. Global terrestrial temperature data are gravely compromised because more than three-quarters of the 6,000 stations that once existed are no longer reporting.

5. There has been a severe bias towards removing higher-altitude, higher-latitude, and rural stations, leading to a further serious overstatement of warming.

6. Contamination by urbanization, changes in land use, improper siting, and inadequately-calibrated instrument upgrades further overstates warming...

**There are 9 more major findings:** [http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/surface\\_temp.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/surface_temp.pdf)

The oldest trophy in international sport used to be a big deal. Possibly the best-kept secret of the week was the fact that the U.S.A. just won it back after 15 years in the hands of the Kiwis and the Swiss. It seems to have gotten buried by all the attention to the Winter Olympics. Good thing the boat wasn't called Audi Oracle.

## U.S. yacht BMW Oracle takes back America's Cup with 2-race sweep

14 Feb 2010

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/more/02/14/americas.cup.ap/index.html>

## Why Washington Can't Reform Healthcare

by Bill Frezza, 15 Feb 2010

...Imagine the world's smartest food expert with access to the best culinary research trying to decide what the right price is for a ham sandwich. Once the price is set, that's it—selling a ham sandwich for more or less is against the law. Oh, and homeless people get free ham sandwiches. Refuse to serve them and you lose your deli license.

Laughable, isn't it? Just imagine the mess freezing prices would create up and down the supply chain that makes it possible for us to walk into a deli and order lunch. Regulations would have to specify what qualifies as a proper ham sandwich. Inspectors, accountants and lawyers would have to be roped into service to monitor compliance. Activists would picket if paying customers got fresh sandwiches and the homeless got stale leftovers. Ham sandwiches would mysteriously disappear from menus whenever pork belly prices spike. Are you still laughing? So why don't you laugh when some expert claims he can set the right price for a colonoscopy?

Healthcare prices are fake, inflexible, and inflated because they are set not by the repeated interactions of buyers and sellers but by opaque acts of collusion between government bureaucrats and special interests. Even if this system were run by a benevolent genius who happened to set prices exactly "right"—whatever that means—these prices would be obsolete the moment they were published...

**More:** [http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/15/why\\_washington\\_cant\\_reform\\_healthcare\\_97634.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/02/15/why_washington_cant_reform_healthcare_97634.html)

## Public sector: An anchor as we sink

Want an example of what union muscle and big deficits can do? Greece.

by Katherine Kersten, 14 Feb 2010

[http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/84264862.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1PciUiD3aPc:\\_Yyc:aUU](http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/84264862.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1PciUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU)

## Dick Cheney: Obama's Worst Nightmare

by Nile Gardiner, 14 Feb 2010

...In many respects, Cheney's vision is the antithesis of that of Barack Obama. In contrast to the current occupant of the White House, Cheney firmly believes the West is engaged in an epic global war against a vicious, Islamist enemy. It is striking for example how the recent 108-page Quadrennial Homeland Security Review omitted the words "Islam," "Islamic" or "Islamist," preferring to use the term "violent extremist," a revealing insight into the Obama administration's refusal to publicly acknowledge the Islamist nature of the enemy the US is fighting in the form of al-Qaeda and its affiliates.

Dick Cheney is a refreshingly forceful advocate of American exceptionalism, and the idea that the United States is a special country with a unique role to play in shaping history. He also understands the importance of maintaining and strengthening America's key alliances...

**More:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100026007/dick-cheney-%E2%80%93-obama%E2%80%99s-worst-nightmare/>

The infamous Audi commercial is only the starting point for this marvelous essay on our incipient nanny state.

## Big Brother out of control

by Jeff Jacoby, 14 Feb 2010

...There was a time when Americans were thought capable of deciding for themselves what to do with their coffee grounds or whether to carry groceries home in paper or plastic bags. It isn't only in San Francisco, and it isn't only when it comes to "green" issues, that such mundane or personal choices are being supplanted by government coercion. One thin slice at a time, liberties we used to take for granted are replaced with mandates from above. Rather than leave us free to choose, Big Brother increasingly makes the choice for us: On trans fats. On gambling. On smoking. On bicycle helmets. On health insurance...

...It isn't to evil dictators with a lust for power that Americans have been slowly surrendering their autonomy. It is to well-intentioned authorities who believe sincerely that our freedoms must be circumscribed for our own good. At the White House on Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama announced what the *New York Times* called "a sweeping initiative aimed at revamping the way American children eat and play..."

**More:** [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2010/02/14/big\\_brother\\_out\\_of\\_control/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/02/14/big_brother_out_of_control/)

## What to Say to a 'Warmer'

by Mark Landsbaum, 14 Feb 2010

It has been tough to keep up with all the bad news for global warming alarmists. We're on the edge of our chair, waiting for the next shoe to drop. This has been an Imelda Marcos kind of season for shoe-dropping about global warming.

At your next dinner party, here are some of the latest talking points to bring up when someone reminds you that Al Gore and the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won Nobel prizes for their work on global warming.

ClimateGate... FOIGate... ChinaGate... HimalayaGate... PachauriGate... PachauriGate II... SternGate... SternGate II... AmazonGate... PeerReviewGate... RussiaGate... Russia-Gate II... U.S.Gate... IceGate... ResearchGate... ReefGate... AfricaGate... DutchGate... AlaskaGate...

**Read about all the "gates" of global warming hysteria:** <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/-234092--.html>

## Climategate U-turn as scientist at centre of row admits:

## There has been no global warming since 1995

by Jonathan Petre, 14 Feb 2010

...Professor Jones also conceded the possibility that the world was warmer in medieval times than now—suggesting global warming may not be a man-made phenomenon. And he said that for the past 15 years there has been no 'statistically significant' warming.

The admissions will be seized on by sceptics as fresh evidence that there are serious flaws at the heart of the science of climate change and the orthodoxy that recent rises in temperature are largely man-made...

...Dr Benny Peiser, director of the sceptical Global Warming Policy Foundation, said Professor Jones's 'excuses' for his failure to share data were hollow, as he had shared it with colleagues and 'mates.'

He said that until all the data was released, sceptics could not test it to see if it supported the conclusions claimed by climate change advocates. He added that the professor's concessions over medieval warming were 'significant' because they were his first public admission that the science was not settled.

**More:** <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1250872/Climategate-U-turn-Astonishment-scientist-centre-global-warming-email-row-admits-data-organised.html>

## More Miranda Idiocy

Rationalizations by Eric Holder about the Miranda rights of suspected terrorists lack seriousness.

by Stuart Taylor Jr, 13 Feb 2010

...Now imagine a more realistic scenario, along the lines of Al Qaeda's aborted 1995 "Bojinka" plot: After learning that Qaeda terrorists with virtually undetectable bombs are planning to blow up 12 airliners carrying almost 4,000 passengers very soon, the FBI captures one of them. Would you want him Mirandized?

The questions answer themselves. Reasonable people disagree about how much coercion interrogators should use to extract potentially lifesaving information from terrorists. (None at all, President Obama unwisely ordered soon after taking office.) But no reasonable person could doubt that starting out with "you have the right to remain silent" is *not* the way to save lives...

**More:** [http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/or\\_20100213\\_5175.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/or_20100213_5175.php)

## The New Commandments on the Animal Farm Barn Wall

by Victor Davis Hanson, 11 Feb 2010

1. Savvy Americans ~~always see through the fraud in the end and do the right thing~~ are infantile and don't know what's good for them.

2. Democracy is ~~finally working again~~ in decline and the people are ungovernable.

3. The filibuster is ~~a much-needed check on the Bush-Cheney steamrolling nexus evil...~~

**The other seven:** <http://victorhanson.com/articles/hanson021110.html>

## The Fable of Market Meritocracy

Markets don't reward smart people. They reward value.

by Shikha Dalmia, 10 Feb 2010

...The beauty of the market, Hayek brilliantly pointed out, is that it allows people to use knowledge of their particular circumstances to generate something valuable for others. And circumstances, he emphasized, are a matter of chance—not of gift. Furthermore, since no two people's circumstances are ever identical, every producer potentially has something—some information, some skill or some resource—that no one else does, giving him a unique market edge. "[T]he shipper who earns his living from using otherwise empty or half-filled journeys of tramp-steamers, or the estate agent whose whole knowledge is almost exclusively one of temporary opportunities, or the *arbitrageur* who gains from local differences of commodity prices, are all performing eminently useful functions based on special knowledge of circumstances of the fleeting moment not known to others," noted Hayek.

In a functioning market, Hayek insisted, financial compensation depends not on someone's innate gifts or moral character. Nor even on the originality or technological brilliance of their products. Nor, for that matter, on the effort that goes into producing them. The sole and only issue is a product's value to others... The idea that there is no god (or some

secular version of him) meting out cosmic justice through the market's invisible hand is unsettling, even to market advocates, but it shouldn't be. It opens up the possibility of a defense of markets that is, as it were, more marketable...

**More:** <http://www.forbes.com/2010/02/09/markets-finance-sarkozy-economics-opinions-columnists-shikha-dalmia.html?boxes=opinionschannellighttop>

## **Why Fear Big Government?**

*by Victor Davis Hanson, 10 Feb 2010*

There is no reason to review all the standard reasons why the American people are terrified of an all-powerful federal or state government. The case has been made in thousands of elegant treatises and books, and is best reflected in the Constitution and the written work of the Founding Fathers. But let me list a few other, less elegantly expressed worries, many anecdotal in nature...

**Read it all:** <http://victorhanson.com/articles/hanson021010.html>

## **The 2007 Solution**

Senator LeMieux's plan for the federal budget.

*by Fred Barnes, 15 Feb 2010 issue*

Republican senator George LeMieux of Florida has done the math. If government spending were reduced to its 2007 level, we'd have a balanced budget (with a \$163 billion surplus). Returning to the 2008 level of spending, the budget would be balanced in 2014 (a \$133 billion surplus). And in both cases, that's while keeping the Bush tax cuts across the board and indexing the loathed alternative minimum tax for inflation.

"Could we live with what we did in 2007?" LeMieux asks—the "we" a collective reference to Congress, the federal government, and the country. He thinks so. Because of the recession, "most Americans are living with less than they had in 2007."...

**Read on:** <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/2007-solution>

## **Climategate: The Cover-Up Continues**

*James Delingpole, 12 Feb 2010*

If there's one thing that stinks even more than Climategate, it's the attempts we're seeing everywhere from the IPCC and Penn State University to the BBC to pretend that nothing seriously bad has happened, that "the science" is still "settled," and that it's perfectly OK for the authorities go on throwing loads more of our money at a problem that doesn't exist...

**It's incredible:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100025934/climategate-the-official-cover-up-continues/>

Another look at the lame-brained Audi commercial, and additional surrenders to the fascist state.

## **Getting Our Groupthink On**

*by Mark Steyn, 12 Feb 2010*

<http://www.oregister.com/opinion/way-234018-nick-audi.html>

Lamponing tariffs, government meddling, and favoritism: 165 years ago!

## **The Candlemakers' Petition**

*by Frédéric Bastiat, 1845*

<http://bastiat.org/en/petition.html>

I am shocked—shocked!—that men of the Religion of Peace would mistreat women so.

## Taliban Rape Tapes

by Brad Thor, 12 Feb 2010

<http://bigjournalism.com/bthor/2010/02/12/taliban-rape-tapes-a-muslim-abu-ghraib/>

## Obama's Reality Gap

There is already a debate over what went wrong with the Obama presidency.

by Rich Lowry, 12 Feb 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ODU2M2I0MDk3YjgxN2ViOTRkZGY2YzQzZDYwNTU4M2E=>

## Closing the New Frontier

The space race still matters, and we're losing it.

by Charles Krauthammer, 12 Feb 2010

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/krauthammer021210.php3>

## Obama's Attack Machine—II

The White House is deflecting questions about its ugly budget by hammering on Paul Ryan's plan.

by Kimberley Strassel, 11 Feb 2010

...Should Republicans take back the House this year, or the White House in 2012, they will own giant deficits and runaway entitlements. Reality will force choices. They will either have to embrace politically tough ideas like those included in Mr. Ryan's plan, or flail through, doing nothing or succumbing to bigger government.

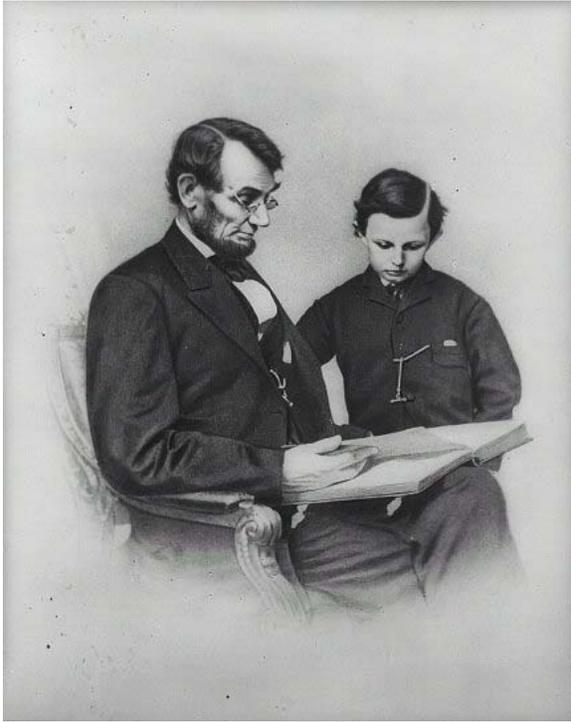
The longer the GOP hides or runs from those reforms, the harder it will be to embrace them later. Instead of spending so much time telling the press that Mr. Ryan's road map is not the "official" GOP plan, the party would be better off asking themselves why it isn't...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703382904575059573079680544.html>

**Summary of Ryan's plan:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703808904575025080017959478.html>

**The plan in full:** <http://www.roadmap.republicans.budget.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Roadmap2Final2.pdf>

**A fair critique of it:** <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/medicare-233901-percent-ryan.html>



## **Abraham Lincoln** (February 12, 1809—April 15, 1865)

**A House Divided** speech to Illinois Republican Convention, 16 June 1858

**Speech at Chicago, Illinois** *contra* Stephen Douglas, 10 July 1858

**The Last Best Hope of Earth** annual message to Congress, 1 Dec 1862

**Proclamation of Thanksgiving** 3 Oct 1863

**Gettysburg Address** 19 Nov 1863

**Second Inaugural Address** 4 March 1865

Poems: *My Childhood's Home I See Again*, *The Bear Hunt*, *The Suicide's Soliloquy*

## **Fire John Brennan**

by *Jed Babbin*, 11 Feb 2010

...Brennan further asserts that, "It's naive to think that transferring Abdulmutallab to military custody would have caused an outpouring of information. There is little difference between military and civilian custody, other than an interrogator with a uniform. The suspect gets access to a lawyer, and interrogation rules are nearly identical." Which is false.

Gitmo detainees aren't entitled to counsel, and don't get access to lawyers until they are charged with war crimes by a military commission or are seeking release in a habeas corpus proceeding.

Brennan also says, "Cries to try terrorists only in military courts lack foundation." Apparently Brennan is willfully ignorant of the exclusive use of military courts to try people who commit acts of war against the United States since the Revolutionary War era, the Constitutional basis for military courts, their affirmation by the Supreme Court over fifty years ago in *Ex Parte Quirin* and the statutory basis in the post-9-11 Military Commissions Act...

**The whole sad story:** <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=35582>

## **Joe Biden sez: Iraq one of Obama's "great achievements"**

10 Feb 2010

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2010/02/joe-biden-update-larry-king-iraq-obama-sarah-palin.html>

## **Gibbs explains how Iraq Is... Obama's achievement**

11 Feb 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uar-II6U8A>

**And yet:**

**Dec 2006: Obama said the Surge would actually worsen sectarian violence**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_igpyewuzQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_igpyewuzQ)

**14 Jan 2007: Obama says the Surge will fail, we will fail.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJbsQ7oUQWw>

**26 July 2008: Even though Surge worked, Obama says he was right**

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

**4 Sept 2008: Barack Obama admits the Surge worked on Bill O'Reilly Show**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Udt92OwPOgs>

## **What the Tea Party movement is—and isn't**

by Mark Davis, 9 Feb 2010

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/viewpoints/stories/DN-markdavis\\_0210edi.State.Edition1.25aca36.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/viewpoints/stories/DN-markdavis_0210edi.State.Edition1.25aca36.html)

I love Tom Tancredo. But if he ever had a completely crazy idea, this would be it!

### **Don't Fear Rabble, Mr. Tancredo**

by Vincent Carroll, 10 Feb 2010

...Why would we want to let government define who is too ignorant to vote — especially when voting is a basic check on government itself?

For that matter, since when does ignorance of civics correlate with an eagerness to elect "committed socialist ideologues"? Tancredo sent Speaker Carroll "a list of 100 sample civics questions used by the federal government for the naturalization civics test," suggesting they might provide the basis for his proposed exam. Yet they are the sorts of questions that the faculty at CU-Boulder, for example — which almost certainly favored Obama over John McCain by a wide margin — could knock out of the park...

...For that matter, which Americans does Tancredo think have been the biggest suckers over the past 100 years for genuine Marxism, complete with commissars and mass graves, if not the very intellectuals who could ace his test?...

**Read the rest:** [http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_14368067](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14368067)

Ms. Young provides a very balanced view of Ayn Rand. And that's important, now that her works and views are becoming popular again. Liberals laugh when we say that Rand had a dark side; to them, she's *all* dark side. Speaking of liberals: Rand favored abortion, and she hated religion, *National Review*, and Whittaker Chambers.

### **A Rand Revival**

by Cathy Young, 9 Feb 2010

Ayn Rand, the controversial Russian-born American writer, would have turned 105 years old on February 2. This anniversary takes place amidst a Rand mini-revival, sparked by the Obama Administrations push to expand government and resulting fears of socialism on the march...

...All this accounts for much of Rand's appeal. But that appeal is severely limited by the flaws of her world-view. One of those flaws is Rand's unwillingness to consider the possibility that the values of the free market can coexist with other, non-individualistic and non-market-based virtues—those of family and community, for example. Instead, Rand frames even human relations in terms of trade (our concern for loved ones is based on the positive things they bring to our lives) and offered at best lukewarm support for charitable aid. When charity is mentioned in Rand's fiction, it is nearly always in a negative context. In *Atlas Shrugged*, a club providing shelter to needy young women is ridiculed for offering help to alcoholics, drug users, and unwed mothers-to-be.

Family fares even worse in Rand's universe. In her 1964 *Playboy* interview Rand flatly declared that it was "immoral" to place family ties and friendship above productive work; in her fiction, family life is depicted as a stifling swamp...

**More:** [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/02/09/a\\_rand\\_revival\\_100227.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/02/09/a_rand_revival_100227.html)

And here's a good column where a small business owner channels "an Ayn Rand hero" in telling the government to "go away."

## **Small Business Has Some News for Big Government**

by *Caroline Baum, 11 Feb 2010*

...What would small business like the federal government to do?

"Stay out of our way," says Sherry Pymer, vice president of Pymer Plastering Inc., a 124-year-old family owned business in Columbus, Ohio. She sounded more like an Ayn Rand hero than a woman dealing with a payroll, unemployment insurance and Ohio's commercial activity tax. "We don't want them bailing out banks and big business. We want them to go away with their mandating and meddling and return this country to the principles it was founded on over 200 years ago."

We're a long way from the Founding Fathers, that's for sure. The handful of small-business owners I talked to across the country are about as close to the entrepreneurial spirit as it gets. They all had one implied piece of advice for Washington: Less is more. Specifically, you do less—and get your fiscal house in order—and we'll do more...

**More:** <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&sid=aMvYEEYtmJGGo>

## **Focusing on abuses**

We must not ignore human rights in Iran.

by *Trita Parsi, 11 Feb 2010*

Old habits are difficult to break. After years of almost singularly focusing on the nuclear issue, the West has been slow to react to the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. While United Nations Security Council members are preparing new sanctions over the nuclear issue, the UN has yet to address Iran's human rights abuses since the fraudulent elections last summer.

Now more than ever, the narrow nuclear focus must be set aside and renewed attention given to the state of human rights in Iran. It is literally a matter of life and death...

**Continue:** <http://www.iranian.com/main/2010/feb/focusing-abuses>

## **Obama says bipartisanship, but what he wants is GOP surrender**

by *Mark Knoller, 9 Feb 2010*

<http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2010/02/09/politics/politicalhotsheet/entry6191815.shtml>

## **America On The Rise**

by *Joel Kotkin, 9 Feb 2010*

...To be sure there are some good reasons for pessimism. The huge deficits, high unemployment, our leakage of industry not only to China but other developing countries are all worrisome trends. Yet if the negative case is easier to make, it does not stand historical scrutiny.

Let's just go back to what we learned during the "Japan is taking over the world" phase during the 1970s and 1980s. At the time *Dai Nippon's* rapid economic expansion was considered inexorable. Yet history is not a straight-line project. Most countries go through phases of expansion and decline. The factors driving success often include a well-conceived economic strategy, an expanding workforce and a sense of national elan.

In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s Japan—like China today—possessed all those things. Its bureaucratic state had targeted key industries like automobiles and electronics, and its large, well-educated baby boom population was hitting the workforce. There was an unmistakable sense of pride in the country's rapid achievements after the devastation of the Second World War.

Yet even then, as the *Economist's* Bill Emmot noted in his 1989 book *The Sun Also Sets*, things were not so pretty once you looked a little closer. In the mid-1980s I traveled extensively in Japan and, with the help of a young Japanese-American scholar, Yoriko Kishimoto, interviewed demographers and economists who predicted Japan's eventual decline...

**Read the rest:** [http://www.forbes.com/2010/02/09/declinism-china-aging-population-opinions-columnists-joel-kotkin\\_print.html](http://www.forbes.com/2010/02/09/declinism-china-aging-population-opinions-columnists-joel-kotkin_print.html)

## Menace in mad march of the thought police

by Janet Albrechtsen, 10 Feb 2010

The dark spectre of illiberalism is slowly poisoning Western liberal democracies. You won't hear about it from much of the left-liberal press. It is part of the problem and its silence only confirms that basic liberties integral to Western liberal democracies are under threat. That is why you may not have heard about the trial of Dutch politician Geert Wilders, who is being prosecuted under hate laws in The Netherlands for his opinions about Islam. Agree or disagree with Wilders, this is the thundering march of the thought police. And don't for a moment imagine that Australia is immune from this menace to democracy...

...In Australia, too, the thought police have been on the march. In January last year, 4BC Queensland radio broadcaster Michael Smith said he thought it dangerous to allow the burka in certain public places because it had been used as a disguise by criminals. He also said he thought the burka impedes vision in a car. Days later, a listener, Omar Hassan, wrote to 4BC and complained to the Australian Communications and Media Authority that Smith had breached the code by vilifying, inciting hatred and discriminating against Muslims.

Last year, ACMA tossed out the complaint. No matter. Hassan also lodged a complaint with Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commission. And the ADC accepted the complaint...

**More:** <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/menace-in-mad-marchof-the-thought-police/story-e6frg6zo-1225828481935>

## Victory — How Quaint an Idea!

Defeating Islamic terrorism is not only definable and possible, but closer than ever before.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 10 Feb 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YmZlMmRjYTUzMzJhMjQxN2IxNGl0ZThhNGU3MzQ=>

## Miranda wrongs

by Ralph Peters, 9 Feb 2010

In a breathtakingly cynical example of playing politics, the White House just accused Republicans of playing politics over its Miranda-rights Christmas gift to the crotch bomber.

With fumbling terrorism czar John Brennan walking point, administration spokesmen attacked those who believe that treating would-be suicide-bomber Umar Abdulmutallab the way we handle shoplifters harms our national security.

The White House position is a PR blend of lies, half-truths and ignorance. Let's strip out the politics and lay out the facts from an intelligence professional's perspective...

**Read the rest:** [http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/miranda\\_wrongs\\_egxhnVBB6OBzXUN9DJuvTJ](http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/miranda_wrongs_egxhnVBB6OBzXUN9DJuvTJ)

## Iran may have to be vaporized

And that would require a military coup in the U.S.

Don John, 10 Feb 2010

The lunatic regime that runs Iran has promised to deliver a "punch" to the West, on or about February 11. There is a possibility that this will consist of an EMP, or electromagnetic pulse: a massive nuclear explosion high above a country or region, which will instantaneously destroy nearly all electronic systems and devices. Any area hit by an EMP is cast back into the technology of the 1840s—but of course with few of the tools, devices, systems, and infrastructure that people actually used in the 1840s. In other words, the people are condemned to chaos, mass starvation, illness, and death.

Much of America's weaponry, especially nuclear missiles, is deep underground and insulated from EMP's. Should the Iranians even *attempt* to do such a heinous deed to the United States (or indeed, *any* country), the proper response will be for our military to unleash a thermonuclear holocaust that will utterly vaporize Iran and all its people, leaving no evidence that any civilization ever existed there.

This will be a great pity, because most of Iran's people are good, and are hoping to somehow overthrow the madmen who've been ruling them for 31 years. But an example will have to be made, for the enlightenment of the rest of the world: this is what happens when you attack America.

In the autumn of 2001, the United States might have chosen to retaliate for 9/11 by simply vaporizing Kabul, Baghdad, Damascus, and Tripoli, making an example of those four cities. Instead, we chose a far more noble, difficult, and costly course of action: to invade and liberate Afghanistan, and make plans to eventually invade and liberate Iraq.

The noble/difficult/costly way is not currently an option with regard to Iran. "Exemplary vaporization" will have to do. Unfortunately, the current regime in Washington is almost as lunatic as the one in Tehran. It would never agree to such violence. The U.S. regime will have to be removed by a military coup—but only temporarily, while our military does what is necessary. Afterwards, it can be returned to office, if not to power.

## **The Great IPCC Meltdown Continues**

*by Walter Russell Mead, 7 Feb 2010*

It's not just the threat of Himalayan glaciers disappearing by 2035. Now another headline-grabbing IPCC scare story is melting away. A report in Sunday's London Times highlights new humiliations for the IPCC.

"The most important is a claim that global warming could cut rain-fed north African crop production by up to 50% by 2020, a remarkably short time for such a dramatic change. The claim has been quoted in speeches by Rajendra Pachauri, the IPCC chairman, and by Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general."

There is however one teensy-weensy little problem. As Professor Chris Field, the lead author of the IPCC's climate impact team has now told reporters that he can find "no evidence" to support the claim in the IPCC's 2007 report.

There's more...

**Read on:** <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/02/07/the-great-ipcc-meltdown-continues/>

## **"Bi-Partisan Health Care Summit" Or Political Theater? (Update)**

*by Bruce McQuain, 9 Feb 2010*

The GOP has every reason to be wary of and, in fact, refuse to participate in the televised "bi-partisan" health care reform summit the President is calling for on NPR unless a number of preconditions are met. The reasons are many, but perhaps the primary one has to do with the fact that this isn't a summit proposed to *begin* bi-partisan talks on reforming health care, but instead, an attempt to shame Republicans into supporting the present Senate bill passed. The president refuses to abandon it and reset the health care reform debate at the beginning.

After months of behind closed door negotiations, it's suddenly "sunshine" time. Why in the world wouldn't Republicans be suspicious? It's hard not to conclude (especially after the results of the televised meeting at the GOP retreat) that this is nothing but political theater designed to show the Republicans as "obstructionists" and the "party of no."...

**More:** <http://www.qando.net/?p=7011>

## **Back to the Drawing Board**

Democratic fantasies face the bracing slap of reality.

*Matt Welch, 8 Feb 2010 (March issue)*

...These developments illustrate a phenomenon that has been playing out across a variety of public policy areas: Progressive Democrats, after being outfoxed by Ronald Reagan, triangulated to the policy margins by Bill Clinton, then routed under the first six years of George W. Bush, are having many of the nostrums they championed during the wilderness years tested in the real world for the first time in decades. The initial results of this long-delayed peer review have been a shock to the progressive system....

**Read the whole thing:** <http://reason.com/archives/2010/02/08/back-to-the-drawing-board>

## **The Fallacy of "Fairness"**

*by Thomas Sowell, 9 Feb 2010*

If there is ever a contest to pick which word has done the most damage to people's thinking, and to actions to carry out that thinking, my nomination would be the word "fair." It is a word thrown around by far more people than have ever

bothered to even try to define it.

This mushy vagueness may be a big handicap in logic but it is a big advantage in politics. All sorts of people, with very different notions about what is or is not fair, can be mobilized behind this nice-sounding word, in utter disregard of the fact that they mean very different things when they use that word.

Some years ago, for example, there was a big outcry that various mental tests used for college admissions or for employment were biased and "unfair" to many individuals or groups. Fortunately there was one voice of sanity—David Riesman, I believe—who said: "The tests are not unfair. LIFE is unfair and the tests measure the results."...

**Continue:** <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell020910.php3>

## **Audi: serving fascists since 1934**



Audi's "Green Police" commercial in support of Enviro-Fascism, 7 Feb 2010:

**Video:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq58zS4\\_jvM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq58zS4_jvM)

The commercial is only a joke, you say? Well, the idea of police poking through people's trash cans for "improperly" discarded bulbs and batteries, arresting plastic bag users, monitoring hot-tub temperatures, and snooping through people's windows to make sure they recycle correctly—all of this *would be* a jolly jest indeed, in a sane America. But sadly, there are millions of moonbat Americans who really believe that our police, spies, and military should be doing those things instead of catching the nation's enemies, torturing them, and killing them. In this commercial for its over-priced "clean diesel" car, Audi puts itself clearly on the side of the oppressive forces of Enviro-Fascism.

It makes me want to go out and throw some used batteries in the river.

—Don John, 8 Feb 2010

**More on Audi's fascist history:** <http://rexcurry.net/maybach-car-pictures.html>

## **China's debt bomb**

by Arthur Herman, 8 Feb 2010

...China now tops Japan as our biggest lender by some \$30 billion a year, at \$789 billion. (By comparison, our No. 3 lender, Great Britain, comes in at a measly \$277 billion).

But that's not all. As its booming economy becomes more global, China is also the world's largest holder of foreign-currency reserves. Most of that is in US dollars. Indeed, without most Americans realizing it, China has become the largest

foreign holder of US dollars in the world. How many dollars foreign exchange traders at the Bank of China decide to sell or buy on any given day is increasingly determining whether the dollars in our purses and wallets buy a little or a lot...

...Last March, the Pentagon held its first-ever economic-warfare war game, with China as the putative opponent and with economists and bankers (including from UBS) helping out. Details of what unfolded are still classified. However, sources told Fox Business News that the scenario played out as planned. That was the good news. The bad news is that China won...

**More:** [http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/china\\_debt\\_bomb\\_0nc23nzJdiQR7gTLkrwSpL](http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/china_debt_bomb_0nc23nzJdiQR7gTLkrwSpL)

## **Shakedown: business as usual for racist black Dems**

Conyers goes to bat for reverse discrimination

*Washington Examiner editorial, 7 Feb 2010*

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Conyers-goes-to-bat-for-reverse-discrimination-83647212.html>

## **EX-Marine Congressman dies; known for betraying U.S. troops**

*8 Feb 2010*

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9DO6O4G0&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9DO6O4G0&show_article=1)

## **The Answer to Socialism**

*by Doctor Zero, 7 Feb 2010*

...The truth is that money is not an evil toxic sludge, whose stain the Left works to scour from our souls. Money is the mechanism that allows you to spend your time doing what you're best at—which produces wealth, the same way a lever amplifies muscle to move great weights. You spend the money you earn each day on a range of products you couldn't possibly create for yourself... This is the genesis of wealth: the freedom enjoyed by people when the value of their time can be measured and traded through currency.

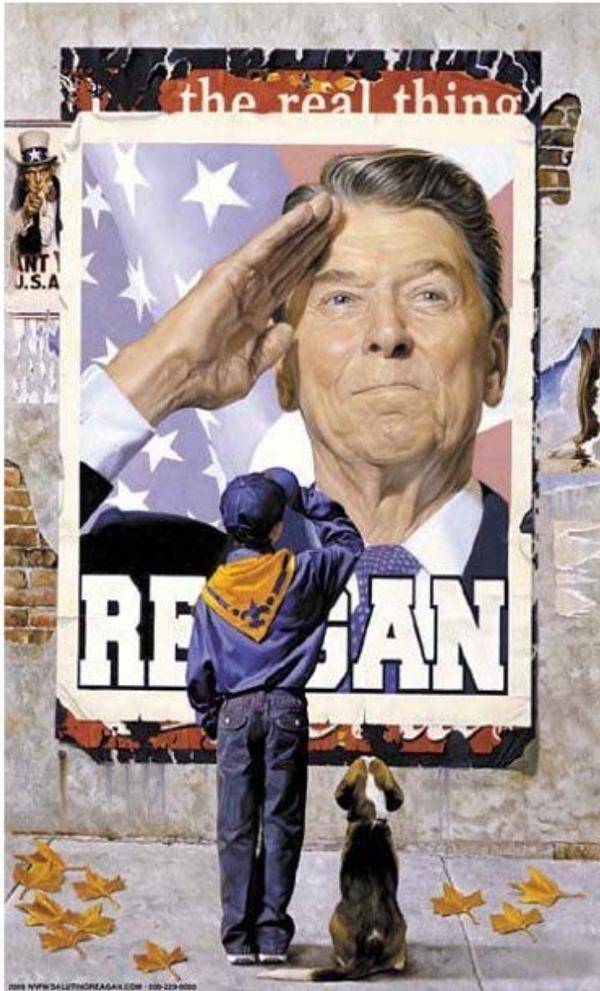
Through the combination of progressive taxation and payroll withholding, socialism established the principle that government has the right to set the value of your time, along with first claim on it, taking your income before you even see it, and refunding the excess without interest, when it takes too much. *Of course* this reduces wealth and prosperity. Capitalism is the right to design your own dreams, and you're much better at it than a gang of politicians scribbling incomprehensible legislation in a distant capitol. The behavioral freedoms socialists like to tout as indulgences are matters of the fleeting moment. The freedom to control your labor and property allow you to build your *future*. True prosperity is measured in things to come. Nothing is *growing* in a still photograph of a flower...

...Follow the premise of socialism to its conclusion, and ask yourself why the government shouldn't achieve 100%

employment by conscripting every single citizen, and eliminate "social injustice" by providing for all of their needs. Why shouldn't your income be paid in coupons, earmarked by the wise and benevolent State for food, medicine, housing, and leisure? The answer is that a command economy can't produce value, allocate resources, or nourish the ambitions of its people with a fraction of capitalism's vigor or efficiency. The value of government scrip could never equal the value of a dollar. Instead of helping its people realize their potential, a socialist government must invest an increasing amount of its energy into compelling their obedience. What capitalism hails as innovation, socialism punishes as impertinence.

To put this philosophy into action, we must return what government has taken to the private sector. We can begin by cracking down on outright fraud and waste. Citizens Against Government Waste has **sniffed out** over \$19 billion in pure pork—money seized from some citizens to buy the votes of others. Medicare oozes \$60 billion in **fraud and waste**...

**Read it all:** <http://www.doczero.org/2010/02/the-answer-to-socialism/#more-14028>



## **Ronald Reagan** (February 6, 1911—June 5, 2004)

**A Time for Choosing (aka "The Speech")** *Ronald Reagan, 27 Oct 1964* **Video**

**City Upon a Hill** *Ronald Reagan, 25 Jan 1974*

**The Ash Heap of History** (speech to the House of Commons) *Ronald Reagan, 8 June 1982*

**Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation** *Ronald Reagan, April 1983*

**At the Brandenburg Gate ("Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!")** *Ronald Reagan, 12 June 1987*

**Reagan's Leadership, America's Recovery** *Margaret Thatcher, 30 Dec 1988*

**Our Revolution: farewell address** *Ronald Reagan, 11 Jan 1989* **Video**

**Eulogy for Ronald Reagan** *Margaret Thatcher, 11 June 2004* **Video**

**Boehner Says We Can't Have 'Anti-Catholic Bigot' in White House,**

## **Calls for Obama Adviser to Resign**

by Karen Schuberg, 4 Feb 2010

...Earlier this week, Knox said he stood by a statement he made last year that Pope Benedict XVI is "hurting people in the name of Jesus" because the pope does not support promoting the use of condoms as a means to stem the spread of HIV.

Knox, who is director of the Human Rights Campaign's religion and faith program, has made other controversial comments about the Catholic Church in the past. For example, in 2007 he was quoted in a statement from the Human Rights Campaign saying that the Catholic Church had committed an act that was "immoral and insulting to Jesus" when it denied communion to a lesbian couple in Wyoming who had promoted same-sex marriage. "In this holy Lenten season, it is immoral and insulting to Jesus to use the body and blood of Christ the reconciler as a weapon to silence free speech and demean the love of a committed, legally married couple," said Knox.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) describes itself as the nation's "largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization." President Obama was the keynote speaker at the HRC's annual national dinner in October.

St. Michael Society, a Catholic organization, started an **online petition** calling for Knox to resign from his position on President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships...

**More, including 2 videos:** <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/60999>

Why poor country folk are suspicious of government: Exhibit A.

## **A Trail of Broken Promises to Nowhere**

by Rosslyn Smith, 7 Feb 2010

[http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/a\\_trail\\_of\\_broken\\_promises\\_to.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/a_trail_of_broken_promises_to.html)

I'd like to second the nominations!

## **How to get the country to solvency on entitlements**

by George F. Will, 7 Feb 2010

In 2013, when President Mitch Daniels, former Indiana governor, is counting his blessings, at the top of his list will be the name of his vice president: Paul Ryan. The former congressman from Wisconsin will have come to office with **ideas for steering the federal government to solvency**.

Not that Daniels has ever been bereft of ideas. Under him, Indiana property taxes have been cut 30 percent and for the first time, Standard & Poor's has raised the state's credit rating to AAA. But in January 2010, Ryan released an updated version of his "**Roadmap for America's Future**," a cure for the most completely predictable major problem that has ever afflicted America...

**Read on:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/05/AR2010020503475.html>

## **Eurozone 'pigs' are leading us all to slaughter**

The financial crisis is coming to a new, potentially more deadly phase.

by Jeremy Warner, 5 Feb 2010

...Think of the three phases of the economic implosion like this. The first was a fairly conventional, if extreme, banking crisis where a cyclical overexpansion of credit and lending suddenly, and violently, corrects itself in a great outpouring of risk aversion.

In the second phase, governments and central banks attempt to counter the economic consequences of this crunch with unprecedented levels of fiscal and monetary support. Temporarily, at least, it seemed to work.

Until now, investors have been happy to finance the resulting deficits, in part because government bonds have seemed the only safe place to put your funds, but also because central banks have, in effect, been creating money to compensate for the paucity of private-sector credit. The mechanism varies from region to region, but much of this new money has found its way into deficit financing.

We are now entering the third, inevitable phase of the crisis where markets question the ability of even sovereign nations to repay their debts. Unnerved by this loss of fiscal and monetary credibility, governments and central banks are

being forced, much sooner than they would have wished, to start withdrawing their support...

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/jeremy-warner/7168631/Eurozone-pigs-are-leading-us-all-to-slaughter.html>

## Credibility is What's Really Melting

by Mark Steyn, 3 Feb 2010

...Now says he was just idly "speculating"; he didn't do any research or anything like that.

But so what? His musings were wafted upwards through the *New Scientist* to the World Wildlife Fund to the IPCC to a global fait accompli: the glaciers are disappearing. Everyone knows that. You're not a denier, are you? India's environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, says there was not "an iota of scientific evidence" to support the 2035 claim. Yet that proved no obstacle to its progress through the alarmist establishment. Dr. Murari Lal, the "scientist" who included the 2035 glacier apocalypse in the IPCC report, told Britain's *Mail on Sunday* that he knew it wasn't based on "peer-reviewed science" but "we thought we should put it in"—for political reasons.

I wonder what else is in that Nobel Peace Prize-winning report for no other reason than "we thought we should put it in." Don't forget, the IPCC's sole source was the cuddly panda crowd over at the World Wildlife Fund. Donna Laframboise, a colleague of mine from the glory days at the *National Post*, did a simple search of the online version of the IPCC report and discovered dozens of citations of the WWF. It's the sole source cited for doomsday predictions of glacier melt not only in the Himalayas but also the Andes and the Alps, as well as for a multitude of other topics, from coral reefs to avalanches. This would appear to be in breach of the IPCC's own guidelines. The WWF is a pressure group. They're not scientists. They're not even numerate: one of their more startling glacier-melt claims derives entirely from an arithmetical miscalculation arising from a typing error...

**Read the rest:** <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/02/03/credibility-is-what-is-really-melting/>

## America—From Freedom to Servitude: part 1

by Berit Kjos, 3 July 2009

...During the Nazi occupation of Norway (1939-1945), my father joined the Norwegian resistance movement and was willing to die for his country. But when the post-war years brought creeping socialism, he became increasingly disillusioned. Finally he chose to immigrate to America, which shone like a beacon of freedom and opportunity across Europe's war-torn lands.

Entering New York's harbor some years later, we gazed in awe at the Statue of Liberty. But even as we ate our first hamburger soon afterwards, America was changing. Dwight D. Eisenhower, our war-time hero, was now president. John Foster Dulles—a founding member of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR)—was his Secretary of State.

Like most Americans, we had no idea what was happening "behind the scenes." We didn't know that Dulles had been a Trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation—or that he collaborated with Alger Hiss, an active member of the Communist Party, and had helped draft the preamble to the UN Charter back in 1945.

Nor did we realize that our Secretary of State had chaired a 1942 Federal (later renamed National) Council of Churches conference. In an article titled [Conforming the Church to the New Millennium](#), I summarized the conference report. While Hitler's armies were ravaging Europe, the Council used that devastating crisis as an opportunity to promote its agenda:

A world government of delegated powers, immediate limitations on national sovereignty, a [single] democratically controlled international bank, a universal system of money, worldwide freedom of immigration, even distribution of the world's natural wealth.

Does that sound familiar? Apparently that last point didn't originate with Obama! Even *Time* magazine was shocked! Here's its summary of the report...

**Continue:** <http://www.rightsidenews.com/200907035319/editorial/america-from-freedom-to-servitude.html>

## America—From Freedom to Servitude: part 2

"Service learning" through Soviet brainwashing.

by Berit Kjos, 12 July 2009

<http://www.rightsidenews.com/200907125430/editorial/from-freedom-to-servitude-part-2.html>

## One step back for mankind

by Christopher Caldwell, 5 Feb 2010

If we can put a man on the moon, Americans used to say, we ought to be able to solve our current problems. So the question of whether the US can still put a man on the moon matters a lot to national morale. Barack Obama's administration this week released a budget that would scrap NASA's Constellation programme. That plan, announced by George W. Bush after the crash of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003, aimed to send US astronauts to the moon by the year 2020. It has failed.

The new budget dresses up the demise of Constellation as opening the way to "a bold new course for human space flight," a more modern, "21st-century" space programme. But the bravado is that of a dog barking louder as he backs away from a fight. There is no indication of any alternative destination for manned space missions. Richard Shelby, the Republican senator from Alabama, called the NASA budget a "death march for the future of US human spaceflight."

It is an odd time to give up on lunar exploration. India, China and Japan have run unmanned lunar missions in the past half-decade. Advances in instrumentation have made these flights scientifically rewarding...

...The decision to abandon moon exploration has "decline" written all over it. Americans often profess astonishment that the Chinese of 600 years ago failed to take full advantage of their technological superiority. They invented gunpowder and, on the eve of Columbus's discovery of America, their ocean-going vessels were bigger and more seaworthy than Europe's. Perhaps now the process by which an innovative civilisation invents technologies that it is unable to exploit will be easier to explain...

**More:** [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f748d4c6-128b-11df-a611-00144feab49a.html?nlick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f748d4c6-128b-11df-a611-00144feab49a.html?nlick_check=1)

## A Eulogy for Ukraine's Orange Revolution

by Adam Brickley, 5 Feb 2010

Many of us have fond memories of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution. In fact, it seems like it was just yesterday that we were all cheering the throngs of pro-democracy Ukrainians who threw out the nations entrenched post-Soviet oligarchy. And who could forget the faces of the revolution's two dynamic leaders—presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, his face disfigured from attempted assassination by dioxin poisoning, and his fiery sidekick Yulia Tymoshenko, the blonde-braided orator?

These were the two who were supposed to lead Ukraine to a glorious, democratic future—and none of us would have guessed that they could fall so far, so fast. Just five short years later, Ukraine has arrived at it's first post-revolution presidential election, and it now appears the Tymoshenko will not only lose her bid to succeed Yushchenko as president, but she will be defeated by the very man the revolution defeated—the election-rigging former prime minister Viktor Yanukovich...

**Continue:** <http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/eulogy-ukraines-orange-revolution>

This segment included clips in which The Lord High Obama (1) twice pronounced corpsman as "corpseman," (2) lied about filibuster votes in 2009, (3) lied about having included Republicans in ObamaCare negotiations, (4) lied about Bush's deficits compared to his own, and (5) moaned that "these are tough times to hold public office"—when in fact, as Steyn explains, these are really tough times to be a small businessman, with the government sucking you dry.

## Barack Obama's own currency he's devaluing: his words

Mark Steyn and Hugh Hewitt, 4 Feb 2010

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=e78a1409-e2c7-4c72-ace5-3f7e1dc7cd15>

## Rising debt will do U.S. in

President Obama's budget mustn't pass.

by Brian M. Riedl, 5 Feb 2010

...The president who said, "I didn't come here to pass our problems on to the next president or the next generation" would, over the next decade, dump \$75,000 per household in added debt into the laps of our children and grandchildren.

Obama claims it's not his fault. In his State of the Union speech, he said: "By the time I took office, we had a one-year deficit of over \$1 trillion and projected deficits of \$8 trillion over the next decade. Most of this was the result of not paying for two wars, two tax cuts and an expensive prescription-drug program."

Not true. Those policies were all implemented in the early 2000s. Yet, by 2007, the budget deficit was still only \$162 billion.

The trillion-dollar deficits didn't begin until 2009—after the recession hit. And the subsequent deficits are driven by runaway spending—mainly from Social Security, Medicare (beyond just the drug benefit), Medicaid and net interest. Yet Obama's budget includes no plan for restraint. Before the recession, Washington spent \$24,000 a year per U.S. household. Obama would hike it to \$36,000 by 2020...

**More:** [http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op\\_ed/view/20100202rising\\_debt\\_will\\_do\\_us\\_in\\_president\\_obamas\\_budget\\_mustnt\\_pass/](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20100202rising_debt_will_do_us_in_president_obamas_budget_mustnt_pass/)

## The Galbraith Revival

The aristocratic economist's big-government ideas are back in vogue.

by *Theodore Dalrymple, Winter 2010 issue*

...There is, of course, a deep psychological tension in Galbraith. He always talks about the rich as though he were not one of them; but the impoverished rarely spend their winters at Gstaad, Switzerland, as he did. He accepts that enrichment can be licit, no doubt thinking primarily of his own; but his enrichment came about by advocating in best-selling books the governmental expropriation of the riches of others...

...Other priceless observations follow. Noticing the drabness with which people are dressed, Galbraith remarks that it "may be the problem of socialism. Planners can provide for everything but color, and they cannot allow for that because so much of it is associated with idiocy great and small. In any case, the people of Poland have more liberty than variety." One of the great advantages of Galbraith-style planning is the elimination of "idiocy great and small," of the kind that people are apt to embrace when they have the choice. The solution: eliminate choice. You can have any color you like, so long as it's chosen by the philosopher-king...

...Galbraith has come back into fashion: not only his ideas, which imply the need for a huge and expanding class of redemptory politicians and bureaucrats to save people from a fate that would be wretched without them, but his aristocratic assumption of unchallengeable moral superiority, written in his prose as it appears to be written on President Obama's face...

**Read the whole thing:** [http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20\\_1\\_otbie-john-kenneth-galbraith.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_1_otbie-john-kenneth-galbraith.html)

Long before the current world-wide recession, Michigan had achieved a one-state recession all by itself.

## Michigan's Blueprint for America

Behold the cratering of an economy, courtesy of one governor's Obamaesque policies.

by *Henry Payne, 5 Feb 2010*

Most Americans are just getting warmed up to the idea of a self-centered chief executive who has divined America's future as a green economy and is brashly installing the industrial-policy tools to get us there. But we here in Michigan have been living it since Gov. Jennifer Granholm took office in 2003.

On Wednesday night, the flashy second-term governor celebrated the "change" she's brought to Michigan in her final State of the State address. Read it and weep...

**Continue:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/424065/michigans-blueprint-for-america/henry-payne>

## The Great Peasant Revolt of 2010

by *Charles Krauthammer, 5 Feb 2010*

...This being a democracy, don't the Democrats see that clinging to this agenda will march them over a cliff? Don't they understand Massachusetts? Well, they understand it through a prism of two cherished axioms: (1) The people are stupid and (2) Republicans are bad. Result? The dim, led by the malicious, vote incorrectly.

Liberal expressions of disdain for the intelligence and emotional maturity of the electorate have been, post-Massachusetts, remarkably unguarded. New York Times columnist Charles Blow chided Obama for not understanding the necessity of speaking "in the plain words of plain folks," because the people are "suspicious of complexity." Counselled Blow: "The next time he gives a speech, someone should tap him on the ankle and say, 'Mr. President, we're down here.'"

A Time magazine blogger was even more blunt about the ankle-dwelling mob, explaining that we are "a nation of dodos" that is "too dumb to thrive."...

...Democratic opposition to George W. Bush—from Iraq to Social Security reform—constituted dissent. And dissent,

we were told at the time, including by candidate Obama, is "one of the truest expressions of patriotism."

No more. Today, dissent from the governing orthodoxy is nihilistic malice. "They made a decision," explained David Axelrod, "they were going to sit it out and hope that we failed, that the country failed"—a perfect expression of liberals' conviction that their aspirations are necessarily the country's, that their idea of the public good is the public's, that their failure is therefore the nation's...

**More:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/04/AR2010020403623.html>

"In every public expense, behind the apparent benefit, there is an evil which it is not so easy to discern."

—Frédéric Bastiat, 1850

## **Fact-checking Obama's claim of being a deficit victim**

by Robert Robb, 3 Feb 2010

...Certainly the Republicans during the Bush years were fiscally irresponsible. But within historical bounds. The deficits in Obama's budget are beyond historical bounds and are his alone.

Even with Bush's tax cuts, federal revenues in 2007 were at the average as a percentage of GDP, 18.5 percent, going back to 1960. The deficit was just 1.2 percent of GDP, historically on the low side. Accumulated federal debt was 36 percent of GDP.

Then the recession hit. From 2008 to 2009, federal spending increased 18 percent. This was a budget year that straddled the Bush and Obama presidencies. But the spending increase was driven by anti-recession measures, predominately the Bush stimulus and bailouts.

Obama supported these measures. In fact, his complaint about the Bush stimulus was that it was too small. This raises a question of political ontology: If Obama agreed with Bush, is it still just Bush's fault?

The Bush tax cuts expire this year. Except for the legacy costs of the Iraq war, Obama is free to recommend changing anything Bush did. The deficits he recommends from 2011 on are purely his own.

And they are massive, and driven by spending...

**More:** [http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0210/robb020310.php3?printer\\_friendly](http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0210/robb020310.php3?printer_friendly)

"A desire for wealth is the source of all progress. Civilization comes from what men call greed. Let your mercenary tendencies be combined with honesty and they cannot take you astray."

—Anthony Trollope, in his novel *Can You Forgive Her*, 1865

## **Bibi, not Bam, has Iran plan**

by Michael Goodwin, 4 Feb 2010

TEL AVIV, Israel—Here's the nightmare scenario. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel requests an urgent, private meeting with President Obama. At the White House, the two men sit alone and Netanyahu, looking grave, dispenses with pleasantries and gets to the point:

"Our intelligence services have determined that Iran is less than three months from making a nuclear bomb. Mr. President, as I have told you, no Israeli leader can let that happen because a nuclear-armed Iran is an existential threat to our country. You previously asked that I not surprise you with any unilateral action. Therefore, I am here to inform you that we have decided to take military action against Iran. Based on weather conditions, our air force will carry out the raids in the next week..."

**Read on:** [http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/national/bibi\\_not\\_bam\\_has\\_iran\\_plan\\_3CacWoCSSzFSqut1dniwdK](http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/national/bibi_not_bam_has_iran_plan_3CacWoCSSzFSqut1dniwdK)

## **The Perils of Prosperity**

It doesn't go bust often enough.

by Robert Samuelson, 8 Feb 2010 issue

We need to get the story straight. Already, a crude consensus has formed over what caused the financial crisis. We

were victimized by dishonest mortgage brokers, greedy bankers and inept regulators. Easy credit from the Federal Reserve probably made matters worse. True, debate continues over details. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently gave a speech denying that it had loosened credit too much, though he admitted to lax bank regulation. A congressionally created commission opened hearings on the causes of the crisis.

Still, the basic consensus seems well-established and highly reassuring. It suggests that if we toughen regulation, suppress outrageous avarice and improve the Fed's policies, we can prevent anything like this from ever occurring again. There's only one problem: The consensus is wrong...

**Continue:** <http://www.newsweek.com/id/232784/output/print>

## **Live free or die**

*by Mark Steyn, January 2010 issue*

...In 1215, human rights meant that the King was restrained by his subjects. Today, in the name of entirely specious so-called "human rights," the subjects get restrained by the King. I liked it better the old way...

...The Province of Ontario passed a law making it a crime for you to smoke in your own car if a minor is in the vehicle, and said anti-smoking police units would be enforcing the law rigorously. In March, twenty-year-old Tory Ashton was pulled over in Port Hope for smoking in the presence of a fifteen-year-old passenger. While the officer was writing up his ticket, Mr. Ashton's fifteen-year-old passenger got bored, stepped out of the car, and casually lit up a cigarette. It's illegal in Ontario for a fifteen-year old to buy cigarettes but entirely legal to smoke any they happen to have been given. So Tory Ashton wound up being fined \$155 for smoking in the presence of a smoker—and on his own property, too.

"At some point, somebody's going to snap," predicted Sgt. Bryant Wood of the Port Hope Police. "The problem is people believe they have the right to smoke. It's their vehicle, it's their free will to be able to have a cigarette. Generally speaking, I think we're going to run into a lot of bad attitudes when we pull people over."

Oh, I wouldn't worry. You'd be surprised at how few people snap. Free peoples who were once willing to give their lives for liberty can be persuaded very quickly to relinquish their liberties for a quiet life...

**More:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Live-free-or-die-4357>

A "green" window company called Serious Materials is the lapdog of Obama and Biden and...Rachel Maddow!

## **Big Government's Cronies**

*by John Stossel, 3 Feb 2010*

<http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/big-government-s-cronies.html>

Princess Fairy-pants Obama didn't like a factual news story that Reuters published the other day, concerning his planned economic policies. He asked Reuters to pull the story, and print instead something he would approve of. And Reuters, with its roots in Europe and the Divine Right of Kings, acceded to the imperial wish. But, my goodness gracious, we can't have that kind of dictatorial censorship in a free country. That would be very much like *Liberal Fascism*. Besides, don't liberals always brag about "speaking truth to power"? So here's the original story, in all its truth-telling glory. And Princess, G.F.Y.!

## **Backdoor Taxes to Hit Middle Class**

*by Terri Cullen, Reuters, 1 Feb 2010*

[http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/Backdoor\\_Taxes\\_to\\_Hit\\_Middle\\_Class.pdf](http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/Backdoor_Taxes_to_Hit_Middle_Class.pdf)

"One of the traditional methods of imposing statism or socialism on a people has been by way of medicine. It's very easy to disguise a medical program as a humanitarian project. Most people are a little reluctant to oppose anything that suggests medical care for people who possibly can't afford it."

—Ronald Reagan, "Operation Coffee Cup" speech, 1961

## Democratic despotism comes of age

by Roger Kimball, January 2010 issue

...The tectonic change in the relationship between business and government, between the individual and government, signals more than the expansion of government control. It also signals the contraction of individual freedom in the name of what President Obama calls "fairness." From the very beginning of his campaign, President Obama made it clear that economic "fairness" was his political lodestar. He made it clear, but did we really understand him? "Fairness": that's a good thing, isn't it? Who can be against "fairness"?

But what if by "fairness" he meant not "impartial justice" but "equalized outcomes"? What if by "fairness" he meant "spreading the wealth around"? What then? ...

**More:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articleprint.cfm/Introduction--democratic-despotism-comes-of-age-4356>

## Making Poverty History: A Short History

by Ryan Streeter, 1 Feb 2010

...Between 1970 and 2006, the global poverty rate fell nearly 75 percent. During this period, the percentage of the world's population living on less than a dollar a day fell from 26.8 to 5.4 percent. The world's population grew 80 percent during the same period, which makes the poverty reduction all the more astounding. The global Gini coefficient, a standard measure of inequality, fell from 67.6 to 61.2 percent, indicating a drop in inequality as well as poverty. The same trend is found in other measures of inequality besides Gini.

And when one computes a measure of global "welfare" understood in the old-fashioned sense of well-being, we find that life has gotten better faster for a larger share of the world's population than perhaps any time in history. By deriving a calculation of well-being from GDP and inequality measures, the authors show that between 1970 and 2006, global welfare more than doubled, growing faster than GDP...

**More:** <http://blog.american.com/?p=10054>

He's always been Elmer Fudd, but now he's also Porky Pig.

## Barney Frank named "Porker of the Year"

CNBC and Citizens Against Government Waste, 2 Feb 2010

**Video:** [http://www.realclearmarkets.com/video/2010/02/02/barney\\_frank\\_named\\_porker\\_of\\_the\\_year.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/video/2010/02/02/barney_frank_named_porker_of_the_year.html)

## Politicians in Wonderland

Because soaring political rhetoric leaves out such grubby things as costs, it sounds like a great deal.

by Thomas Sowell, 2 Feb 2010

...So long as most people do not look beyond superficial appearances, politicians can get away with playing Santa Claus on all sorts of issues, while leaving havoc in their wake — such as growing unemployment, despite all the jobs being "created."

Whatever position people take on health-care reform, there seems to be a bipartisan consensus — usually a sign of mushy thinking — that it is a good idea for the government to force insurance companies to insure people whom politicians want them to insure, and to insure them for things that politicians think should be covered by insurance. Contrary to what politicians expect us to do, let's stop and think...

**Read on:** <http://article.nationalreview.com/423614/politicians-in-wonderland/thomas-sowell>

## Prez Quixote

by Rich Lowry, 2 Feb 2010

...Obama has donned his armor and picked up his lance to wage a thoroughly imaginary battle for fiscal restraint. He betrays not the slightest sign that his self-styled brave, tight-fisted responsibility—slaying wasteful programs and freezing spending all around him—is all a dream...

**More:** [http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/prez\\_quixote\\_JmPNCFEFB0E8QId4wAMsYM](http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/prez_quixote_JmPNCFEFB0E8QId4wAMsYM)

## **SEC ruling requires companies to tell shareholders if climate laws are bad for business**

*by Matt Cover, 1 Feb 2010*

A new ruling by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would require corporations to inform their shareholders of the business risks and potential impacts of climate change legislation, environmental regulation, and international climate treaties. The ruling marks the first time the SEC has required companies to make such information available to shareholders.

The ruling—known formally as an interpretive guidance—was handed down Wednesday by Chairwoman Mary Schapiro and is intended to inform companies what information they must include on their annual report to the SEC.

That report, known as a 10-K filing, provides the public with, among other things, information on the company's business model, executive compensation, market outlook, and the potential risk factors facing the company...

**More:** <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/60733>

Yes, there's always lot of bias in the MSM's coverage of the abortion issue. This video exposes it, fisks it, and skewers it. But it also includes countless inspiring images, and one terrific speech by a young woman to a busload of marchers. You'll be glad you watched all seven minutes. If you don't, you'll be like the people Abba Eban spoke of long ago, who "never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

### **Media malpractice on display**

*video by Jack Cashill, 1 Feb 2010*

**Watch:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/02/media\\_malpractice\\_on\\_display.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/02/media_malpractice_on_display.html)

## **White House Report: first three years of Obama will bring three largest budget deficits since World War II**

*by Terrence P. Jeffrey, 1 Feb 2010*

The historical budget tables released Monday by the White House along with President Barack Obama's budget indicate that the first three years of Obama's presidency—2009, 2010 and 2011—will feature the three largest annual budget deficits (when measured as a percentage of GDP) since World War II.

The deficits for 2009, 2010 and 2011 will also be the three largest ever in non-inflation-adjusted dollars. According to the **budget tables** published by the White House, the 2009 deficit was \$1.41 trillion. The 2010 deficit will reach \$1.56 trillion and the 2011 deficit will reach \$1.27 trillion.

When measured as a percent of GDP, according to **the White House**, the deficit for 2009 was 9.9 percent of GDP, the deficit for 2010 will be 10.6 percent of GDP, and the deficit for 2011 will be 8.3 percent of GDP.

From 1946 through 2008, the annual budget deficit never approached 8 percent of GDP. Before Obama, the two highest post-World War II budget deficits as measured by percentage of GDP were immediately after the war in 1946, when the deficit equaled 7.2 percent of GDP and in 1983, when it equaled 6.0 percent.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the deficit peaked in 1934 at 5.9 percent of GDP. During the 1941-45 period of World War II, the deficit rose as high as 30.3 percent of GDP in 1943. By 1947, however, the government was running a surplus of 1.7 percent of GDP.

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/60798>

## **Is Mayor Iorio a Muslim?**

*1 Feb 2010*

<http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/slideshow/photo//100128/480/b07861589f354ce698c3bf88b741d692/>

## Black History Month Should Be about Black History

by Lloyd Marcus, 1 Feb 2010

I've often said jokingly that Black History Month should more accurately be called "white people and America suck" month. Rather than focusing on all of black history, every February, the liberal media and most democrats gleefully bring up all of America's past sins. Fine. I mean, after all, it is a part of history. But what is so wrong is that these race exploiters imply that current race relations in America have not come very far from the days of blacks being lynched. Thus, Black History Month in reality is the liberal democrats' annual fundraiser and promo campaign for more entitlement programs.

American blacks have achieved amazing things under extraordinary circumstances, most of which could not have happened without the assistance of good, decent, God-fearing whites. But we never hear about these white "good guys."...

**Continue:**

[http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/black\\_history\\_month\\_should\\_be.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/black_history_month_should_be.html)

A wonderful lampooning of the countless moronic, poorly reasoned poops that besmirch the Internet each day.

## This is the title of a typical incendiary blog post

by Chris Clarke on January 24, 2010

<http://faultline.org/index.php/site/item/incendiary/>

## Cupid Muslim Stunts

Soon they'll be as bad as their male co-religionists.

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/01/polish-blondes-are-victims.html#readfurther>

Delicious! And Mr. Mead isn't even a global warming skeptic, but an agnostic. Gotta love the jellyfish-climbing-the-stairs. His link to a "written collection of promised actions" is possibly the most sarcastic use of a hyperlink in the history of the Internet; if you're not sure what the document is, scroll up to the top of the page.

## The Death of Global Warming

by Walter Russell Mead, 1 Feb 2010

...After years in which global warming activists had lectured everyone about the overwhelming nature of the scientific evidence, it turned out that the most prestigious agencies in the global warming movement were breaking laws, hiding data, and making inflated, bogus claims resting on, in some cases, no scientific basis at all. This latest story in the *London Times* is yet another shocker; the IPCC's claims that the rainforests were going to disappear as a result of global warming are as bogus and fraudulent as its claims that the *Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035*. It seems as if a scare story could grab a headline, the IPCC simply didn't care about whether it was reality-based...

...For better or worse, the global political system isn't capable of producing the kind of result the global warming activists want. It's like asking a jellyfish to climb a flight of stairs; you can poke and prod all you want, you can cajole and you can threaten. But you are asking for something that you just can't get—and at the end of the day, you won't get it.

The grieving friends and relatives aren't ready to pull the plug; in a typical, whistling-past-the-graveyard comment, the BBC first acknowledges that even if the current promises are kept, temperatures will rise above the target level of two degrees Celsius — but let's not despair! The BBC quotes one of its own reporters: "BBC environment reporter Matt McGrath says the accord lacks teeth and does not include any clear targets on cutting emissions. But if most countries at least signal what they intend to do to cut their emissions, it will mark the first time that the UN has a comprehensive written collection of promised actions, he says."

Gosh! A comprehensive *written collection of promised actions*! And it's a first!! Any day now that jellyfish is going to start climbing stairs. Sure, it will be slow at first — but the momentum will build!

The death of global warming (the movement, not the phenomenon) has some important political and cultural consequences in the United States that I'll be blogging on down the road. Basically, Sarah Palin 1, Al Gore zip. The global warming meltdown confirms all the populist suspicions out there about an arrogantly clueless establishment invoking faked 'science' to impose cockamamie social mandates on the long-suffering American people, backed by a mainstream media that is totally in the tank...

Read it all: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/02/01/the-death-of-global-warming/>

## **Support Our Troops**

They're still fighting for us.

**Soldiers' Angels**

**Wounded Warrior Project**

**Fisher House: help military families**

**Disabled American Veterans**

**Our Military**

## **Be sure to read these superb pieces:**

**What would real health care reform look like?** *by Ronald Bailey*

**Health Care Mythology** *by Clifford Asness*

**Just Make Stuff Up** *by Victor Davis Hanson*

**100 Stimulus Projects: A Second Opinion** *by Sen. Tom Coburn*

**The State Despotism** *by Mark Steyn*

**Seen, and Not Seen** *by Frédéric Bastiat (July 1850)*

And here's what a **trillion dollars** looks like.

## **Reverse the Vote**

Would you like to help defeat the Democrats in Congress who are foolish and arrogant enough to vote for ObamaCare, even though they represent districts or states won by John McCain in 2008?

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