

There's a definite linkage between the Bin Laden family and the building of a mosque near the WTC site.

Bin Laden/Al Qaeda funding Ground Zero mosque Imam Rauf

by Pamela Geller, 31 July 2010

http://atlashrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2010/07/terror-finded-ground-zero-mosque-imam-raufs-bin-laden-link.html

G.M.'s Electric Lemon

by Edware Niedermeyer, 29 July 2010

...For starters, G.M.'s vision turned into a car that costs \$41,000 before relevant tax breaks, but after billions of dollars of government loans and grants for the Volt's development and production. And instead of the sleek coupe of 2007, it looks suspiciously similar to a Toyota Prius. It also requires premium gasoline, seats only four people (the battery runs down the center of the car, preventing a rear bench) and has less head and leg room than the \$17,000 Chevrolet Cruze, which is more or less the non-electric version of the Volt...

...In short, the Volt appears to be exactly the kind of green-at-all-costs car that some opponents of the bailout feared the government might order G.M. to build...

...So the future of General Motors (and the \$50 billion taxpayer investment in it) now depends on a vehicle that costs \$41,000 but offers the performance and interior space of a \$15,000 economy car...

...Quantifying just how much taxpayer money will have been wasted on the hastily developed Volt is no easy feat. Start with the \$50 billion bailout (without which none of this would have been necessary), add \$240 million in Energy Department grants doled out to G.M. last summer, \$150 million in federal money to the Volt's Korean battery supplier, up to \$1.5 billion in tax breaks for purchasers and other consumer incentives, and some significant portion of the \$14 billion loan G.M. got in 2008 for "retooling" its plants, and you've got some idea of how much taxpayer cash is built into every Volt.

In the end, making the bailout work — whatever the cost — is the only good reason for buying a Volt. The car is not just an environmental hair shirt (a charge leveled at the Prius early in its existence), it is an act of political self-denial as well...

More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/30/opinion/30niedermeyer.html>

Augusta State Univ. to counseling student: change your beliefs or get out

22 July 2010

Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund filed suit against Augusta State University Wednesday on behalf of a counseling student told that her Christian beliefs are unethical and incompatible with the prevailing views of the counseling profession. The student, **Jennifer Keeton**, has been told to stop sharing her beliefs with others and that she must change her beliefs in order to graduate from the counseling program.

Augusta State ordered Keeton to undergo a re-education plan, in which she must attend "diversity sensitivity training," complete additional remedial reading, and write papers to describe their impact on her beliefs. If she does not change her beliefs or agree to the plan, the university says it will expel her from the Counselor Education Program.

"A public university student shouldn't be threatened with expulsion for being a Christian and refusing to publicly renounce her faith, but that's exactly what's happening here. Simply put, the university is imposing thought reform," said ADF Senior Counsel David French...

More: <http://www.alliancedefensefund.org/news/story.aspx?cid=5346>

Stop START Now Petition

Sign our petition to the Senate. Tell the Senate to reject this dangerously naïve treaty.

No American President should sign a treaty that projects weakness and undermines America's national security. Yet, early this year, President Obama signed a treaty with the Russians, which undercuts our national security efforts. The Senate is currently considering that treaty, known as the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Not only will the treaty weaken America, but also it does little to address the dual threats of North Korea and Iran.

We, the undersigned, demand the Senate reject the new START treaty. If our children are to live in a free and prosperous world, America must maintain a strong national defense. That cannot happen under this treaty.

Add your name to our petition and stand up for American exceptionalism and a brighter future for our children and grandchildren: <http://heritageforamerica.org/start-sign-the-petition/>

If you need more specifics, read this:

A Treaty for Utopia

by John Bolton, 19 Apr 2010

On April 8, in Prague, the United States and Russia signed what they call the “New START” bilateral arms-control agreement, important specifics of which, in hallmark Obama-administration fashion (see health care), were still being negotiated. Nonetheless, the president and his acolytes are calling for the treaty’s swift ratification.

The Senate would better protect our country’s future by actually deliberating before rushing over the precipice...

...The Obama-Medvedev treaty, leaving all other questions aside, almost certainly will require the United States to bear the brunt of operational-warhead cuts, reducing us to Russian levels...The treaty thus transforms a substantial U.S. superiority in conventional-warhead delivery into an equivalence with Russia, with no visible offsetting Russian concessions...

...Russia’s unilateral statement accompanying the treaty explicitly states that a qualitative or quantitative increase in U.S. missile-defense capabilities would constitute grounds for Moscow to withdraw. The Obama administration argues that this unilateral assertion does not bind the United States. Although the assertion is true at a superficial level, in a far more profound sense Russia’s position handcuffs Obama, perhaps in a way he enjoys, by preventing him from doing much, if anything, to enhance homeland missile defense. The president has proclaimed the treaty a huge victory, and it would defy reason to think he would invite Russian withdrawal in the near future.

Thus, to preserve his precious treaty, he has given Russia a de facto veto over U.S. missile-defense plans. This national humiliation, because it is implicit, in some ways is worse than an express surrender in treaty language: Obama thinks he can conceal it from his countrymen. But no senator should have any illusions. Advances in missile defense are now effectively impossible if this treaty enters into and is to remain in force.

Moreover, senators should relentlessly probe the implications of the treaty’s preambular language “recognizing the existence of the interrelationship between strategic offensive arms and strategic defensive arms,” and the equally vague and troubling assertion “that the interrelationship will become more important as strategic nuclear arms are reduced.” This linkage has long been Russia’s view, and the Bush administration rejected it. Including it in the treaty is thus an important advance for Russian efforts to prevent effective U.S. homeland missile defense. In fact, the treaty precludes converting ICBM launchers, such as missile silos, to use for missile-defense purposes, which certainly reads prima facie as a limitation...

...Any assertion that this agreement must be ratified quickly and casually is contrary to U.S. national security, and should be treated accordingly. Now in fact is the time for some profiles in courage.

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MDVINGVhZGNhOWRhNjZhNjU4ZWVmNTMzMmYyOTEzNGE=>

The Dudley Two Go Free

by Baron Bodissey, 30 July 2010

Remember the **Dudley Two**?

Leon and Snowy are two English Defence League members who were arrested back in May for occupying the roof of the existing building on the site of the proposed mosque in Dudley. They were held in jail for several days and then charged with burglary and breach of the peace.

Now comes word that the charges have been dropped, and both men are free. However, one of them had his arm broken when he was beaten by the police — I suppose that’s just a little souvenir to remind him of his visit with Dudley’s friendly law enforcement community.

...A rumor is circulating to the effect that Muslims in Dudley are now rioting in protest over the release of Leon and Snowy. I don’t have any confirmation of this intriguing report, but **another news story** seems to support the contention that Dudley’s “youths” have indeed been rioting.

Full story: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/dudley-two-go-free.html#readfurther>

California Rep. Waters may face fall ethics trial

by Larry Margasak (AP), 31 July 2010

A second House Democrat, Rep. Maxine Waters of California, could face an ethics trial this fall, further complicating the election outlook for the party as it battles to retain its majority...

... Waters, 71, has been under investigation for a possible conflict of interest involving a bank that was seeking federal aid. Her husband owned stock in the bank and had served on its board.

New York Democrat Rep. Charles Rangel also faces an ethics trial this fall on charges that include failure to disclose assets and income, nonpayment of taxes and doing legislative favors for donors to a college center named after him.

Both Waters and Rangel are prominent members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the trials would be an embarrassment for the group. Dual ethics trials would also be a major political liability for Democrats, forcing them to defend their party's ethical conduct while trying to hold on to their House majority. While Rangel is a former chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, Waters is a prominent member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Waters came under scrutiny after former Treasury Department officials said she helped arrange a meeting between regulators and executives at Boston-based OneUnited Bank without mentioning her husband's financial ties to the institution...

More: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100731/ap_on_go_co/us_waters_ethics

Geert Wilders is "Very Pleased"

by Baron Bodissey, 31 July 2010

As we reported a few hours ago, the VVD, the CDA, and the PVV have reached an agreement on the formation of a minority right-wing government in the Netherlands. It will consist of the CDA and the VVD, and be supported by the PVV. Further details may be found at the [PVV website](#). Many thanks to our Flemish correspondent VH for the translation:...

Read the joint statement of the three parties:

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/geert-wilders-is-very-pleased.html#readfurther>

D.C.'s Race Quota Job Boom

by Tait Trussell, 30 July 2010

While millions of jobless Americans struggle in the rough-edged recession, Washington employment is booming, driven partly by new racial and gender quotas. The swollen federal government under President Obama has guaranteed a robust job market for regulators, policy wonks, contractors, [Washington elitists](#), and plenty of under-qualified job-holders. Helping Washington's job boom is a provision of the new financial regulation law requiring [race and gender](#) employment ratios in private financial institutions that do business with the government..

...The housing market in the District of Columbia, but especially the outlying areas or northern Virginia and southwestern Maryland, where many of the high-income bureaucrats, members of Congress and professionals live, is far outpacing other parts of the country. So, as [an article](#) in Politico points out, there's "a yawning gap between the American people and D.C. powerful when it comes to their economic reality—and their economic perceptions."

The huge expansion of the federal bureaucracy under Obama has "guaranteed a robust job market for policy professionals, regulators and contractor for years to come. According to a Politico poll, close to half of the "Washington elites" said the country and the economy are headed in the right direction. In contrast, only about 25 percent of the general population said they felt that way.

Federal civilian employees (1.9 million of them) had an [average pay](#) of \$79,197 in 2008, according to an examination of data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis by the Cato Institute. The average pay for the nation's 108 million private-sector workers was only \$50,028. With enormous federal deficits for years to come, the Cato study said one place to find savings is the generous compensation of the (now 2.1 million) civilian employees.

"Total wages and benefits paid to executive branch civilians was \$230 billion in [fiscal year] 2010." A job-to-job comparison found that "federal workers earned higher wages than private-sector workers in four-fifths of the occupations examined." When health care and pensions are included, those on the federal payroll averaged \$119,982, double what 'Joe Six-pack' makes. Routine adjustments move federal employees into higher salary rackets regardless of performance. Federal job-holders are [more unionized](#) (37.4percent) than in the real world of the private sector (7.2 percent), according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/07/30/d-c-s-race-quota-job-boom/>

Woodrow Wilson, FDR, Stephen Douglas, and Barack Obama trash the Constitution. Abraham Lincoln, William Voegli, and R.J. Pestritto defend it.

An old argument revisited

Scott Johnson, 28 July 2010

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2010/07/026865.php>

Holder Favors Felons Over Soldiers

by Quin Hillyer, 29 July 2010

...It's amazing. The time and effort required to compile all the information, and the obvious priority the Obamites made it, really show the highly politicized cast of mind of this administration. The section includes a state-by-state list of where felons can call or write in order to try to get their voting privileges back. Yet, I repeat, this should be NO business of the Justice Department. It has no statutory or constitutional role to play in helping felons regain voting privileges. But it DOES have a statutory requirement to help DoD ensure voting rights for the military, yet it can't even be bothered, with an entire year to do it, to post even a simple link to the new law requiring that ballots be mailed to military personnel 45 days before an election...

...Felons tend to vote for Democrats, like Barack Obama. The military tends to vote for Republicans. And Eric Holder's Justice Department isn't interested in justice, but in serving as a political arm of the White House and the Democratic Party...

More: <http://spectator.org/blog/2010/07/29/holder-favors-felons-over-sold>

The Hilarious Arizona Ruling

by Rich Lowry, 30 July 2010

Judge Susan Bolton has to get credit for her cheekiness. She took a matter of profound national concern and injected an element of hilarity into it.

As gloriously ridiculous as a classic Monty Python skit, the federal judge's decision blocking Arizona's immigration law is an appropriate first volley in the legal war over the law. If our immigration system is to be defined by a judicially sanctioned lawlessness, we might as well dispense with the pretense...

Continue: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MWQ3NmYxMDIhNDhmMjE5YjA1MTlhM2YwNThlOTE2NWwM=>

Britain shows that U.S. will have no choice but to ration health care

by Cal Thomas, 29 July 2010

...Anyone who believes a U.S. health care system based on the NHS model can somehow fare better than Britain's had better consider this recent headline and story from London's Sunday Telegraph: "Axe Falls on NHS Services; Hip operations, cataract surgery and IVF rationed; Cancer care, maternity, pediatric services at risk."

Rationing? Oh yes, and it is something the unconfirmed, recess-appointed U.S. health care czar, Donald Berwick, strongly favors. British government leaders had promised to protect frontline services. The Obama administration also made similar promises in order to win enough support from members of Congress, most of whom never read the bill before they voted for it.

Here's what America can look forward to if it follows the NHS model, according to an investigation by the Sunday Telegraph: "Plans to cut hundreds of thousands of pounds from budgets for the terminally ill, with dying cancer patients to be told to manage their own symptoms if their condition worsens at evenings or weekends." Never has "take two aspirin and call me in the morning" sounded more callous...

...Katherine Murphy of the Patients Association called the cuts "astonishingly brutal." She expressed particular concern at attempts to ration (that word again) hip and knee operations. "These are not unusual procedures," she said. "This is a really blatant attempt to save money by leaving people in pain..."

...This paragraph in the Telegraph story should send chills down the spine of every American: "Doctors across the country have already been told that their patients can have the operations only if they are given 'prior approval' by the

Primary Care Trust, with each authorization made on a 'case by case' basis."

When cost, rather than the value of life, becomes supreme, rationing will inevitably lead to other cost-cutting policies. And yes, despite protestations from those who favored Obamacare that "death panels" would not be part of the equation, you can count on them...

More:

<http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/07/29/britain-shows-that-u-s--will-have-no-choice-but-to-ration-health-care.html?sid=101>

The Rangel Dispensation

Wall Street Journal editorial, 30 July 2010

As we went to press last night, it wasn't clear if Charlie Rangel would cut a plea deal with the House ethics committee to avoid a public trial. Still, the rap sheet of 13 alleged violations the committee released yesterday after a two-year investigation of the New York Democrat's conduct in office are an object lesson in the reasons the public holds Congress in contempt. They reveal in detail the culture of entitlement and self-dealing that typifies modern Washington...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703578104575397591909929192.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

The Timeless Principles of American Prosperity

by Peter Ferrara, 28 July 2010

We know, based on economic experience, theory, and logic, how to create another economic boom that will last 25 years, or a generation into the future. We achieved that in America from the end of 1982 to the end of 2007, with only two, short, shallow recessions that barely interrupted sustained, robust, economic growth. But that was not the only instance of success. Several times in the last 100 years, whenever the nation's economic policies adhered to the timeless principles of economic growth and prosperity, our economy has boomed. When it has departed from those policies, it has fallen into stagnation, or worse.

Moreover, as we will discuss next week, such booming economic growth is much more beneficial for working people and the poor than counterproductive, socialist redistribution to achieve equality of results. A booming market economy produces a much higher standard of living for working people and the poor. This is especially so when policies are structured to channel the flows of booming economic growth through working people and the poor, as we will explain. Economic experience, theory, and logic shows that outdated, throwback, socialist redistribution, by contrast, inevitably leads to lower standards of living, stagnation and decline...

All about supply-side economics: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/07/28/the-timeless-principles-of-ame>

Israel: An Apartheid State?

Is there any truth at all in this oft-repeated calumny?

by Gerardo Joffe et al., June 2010

http://www.factsandlogic.org/ad_121.html

Detaining Arizona

National Review editorial, 29 July 2010

...The judge twists facts and logic to support the Justice Department's claim that the state law preempts the federal immigration scheme. To do so, she accepts Justice's implicit argument that it's not the letter of the federal law that matters, but what parts of the law the executive decides to enforce...

...Judge Bolton notes that the Department of Homeland Security has set up a national operations center to promptly apprise local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies of the legal status of aliens they encounter in the course of their work. Federal law requires that DHS "respond to an inquiry by a federal, state, or local government agency, seeking to verify or ascertain the citizenship or immigration status...for any purpose authorized by law, by providing the requested verification or status information."

Bolton bizarrely turns this explicit acknowledgment that the federal government envisions a state role in enforcement, and this *requirement* that the feds cooperate with states and municipalities, against Arizona. If the state finds too many suspected illegal aliens, it will overburden the system. "An increase in the number of requests for determinations of immigration," she writes, "will divert resources from the federal government's other responsibilities and priorities." Earlier in her decision, Judge Bolton sets out the different kinds of preemption, e.g. field preemption (where federal regulation is so comprehensive it "occupies the field") and conflict preemption (where a state law is at odds with a federal law). This is something utterly different: "We can't be bothered to answer the phone" preemption...
More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NmQ5ZDZlY2Y1MTIyZjA3NTI5ZWlyOWU0M2IxZWlzM2M=>

E.J. Dionne: class warrior, economic and civic illiterate

Don John, 29 July 2010

Today's column, "**In American politics, stupidity is the name of the game**," combines economic illiteracy with petulant abuse of its opponents. The column itself is so stupid that it was pre-published online yesterday at the lunatic website **TruthDig**.

In calling for a tax increase against the "rich," Dionne cites a growing disparity in net (after-tax) income between the top and bottom earners. But he fails to mention that nearly half of all adults pay no federal income tax at all, and 86% of federal income tax receipts come from the top 25% of taxpayers. These facts mean nothing to a liberal, to whom anything that's not *equal* is bad, wrong, unfair, racist, stupid—you name it.

Then he trumpets another laughable liberal talking-point, saying "studies showing that the stimulus created or saved as many as 3 million jobs are very hard to refute." Yeah, they may be hard to refute—but that's only because they're impossible to prove in the first place, since the very terms they're couched in are impossible to verify.

Finally, Dionne bemoans the fact that small states have just as many Senators as large states, making it much harder to "get anything done." Dig it, Mr. TruthDig: the Founding Fathers did this on purpose—firstly, to recognize the sovereignty of our Republic's member states; and secondly, for the very purpose of cooling off any movement to make sudden, sweeping changes. The Founders knew that while most new ideas may sound good in concept, they have a tendency to be very wrong in practice.

Earlier this year, Mike Rosen of the *Denver Post* traced E.J. Dionne's transition from respectably liberal, to left-liberal, to delusional-left: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14421218

Aside from a gratuitous (and ill-informed) slap at Andrew Breitbart, this is a splendid column.

It's WikiTreason, and it's Deadly:

Don't minimize the damage WikiLeaks' Julian Assange has done

by Ross Baker, 28 July 2010

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/07/28/2010-07-28_its_wikitreason_and_its_deadly_dont_minimize_the_damage_julian_assange_has_done.html

Clueless in New York

Don John, 28 July 2010

David Margolick's piece "**Maybe I Am Chopped Liver**" (5 Nov 2006) was a review of David Mamet's book of essays *The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Jewish self-hatred, and the Jews*. The review included the following passage, which **Terry Teachout** calls a summation of elite opinion on Mamet's views:

On Israel, Mamet's problem isn't timing but oversimplification. That Israel represents so much of what he admires in contemporary Jewish life, that he has become the lineal descendant of another Hollywood figure — Ben Hecht — should not blind him to its faults, nor lead him to caricature its critics. Not all Jewish criticism of Israel is self-hatred, and not all gentile criticism is anti-Semitic. Jews who sympathize with the Palestinians are not necessarily neurotic. Few Jews consider Zionism "criminal," and are there any who condone suicide bombing? And, by the way, not all Israeli crimes are "imaginary."

A clueless NYT hack, Mr. Margolick unwittingly validated Mr. Mamet's main points—because most Jewish criticism of Israel **is** self-hatred, most Gentile criticism of Israel **is** anti-Semitic, most Jews who sympathize with the Palestinians **are** neurotic, and most of the crimes Israel gets accused of **are** imaginary.

Not a zero-sum game

Don John, 28 July 2010

I'm not a professional economist—just a rational human being. As you may have noticed, I reserve the term "leftist" for **really bad people**. I call Ruth Marcus a centrist, because even though she's a liberal, she sometimes writes some good columns. However, her "**GOP peddling the same old tax nostrums**" (27 July 2010) is economically illiterate and intellectually dishonest.

She bleats that the Bush tax cuts resulted in smaller Federal tax revenues *relative to the Gross Domestic Product*—ignoring the fact that both the GDP and Federal tax revenues skyrocketed between 2002 and 2008. **Both went up approximately 36%**.

It's clear that the increased economic activity that was made possible by the Bush tax cuts put more money into the hands of the people *and* the government. A rising tide, as they say, lifts all boats.

Ms. Marcus also says that the "rich" are less likely than the rest of us to "spend" any extra money that the government allows them to keep. But that assertion confuses saving (and more importantly, investing) with hoarding, and is **refuted here**.

Finally, she cites the fact that America's *overall* tax burden is slightly lower than that of the average developed country, while ignoring the fact that our *corporate* tax rate—you know, the one on companies that can hire a lot of people and "spread the wealth around," to coin a phrase—is **nearly the highest of all industrial nations**. Japan's is very slightly higher, by some measures. But that's the only one higher than the USA.

A Rhee of Hope?

by David Harsanyi, 28 July 2010

...As you know, teachers never are supposed to lose their jobs. In Denver, teachers are granted effective "tenure" after only two years of service. (Fortunately, this will change in a few years.) In New York City, the infamous rubber rooms often house teachers talented enough to pull down six-figure salaries but not moral enough to be permitted near any children.

In 2006, 8 percent of eighth-graders in Washington, D.C., could perform minimal math, yet not a single teacher was fired for stinking up the place. In fact, as D.C.'s chancellor, Michelle Rhee, points out, for years, more than 90 percent of teachers in her district were evaluated as having "exceeded expectations."

All of this makes Rhee's decision to fire 241 Washington teachers—after they failed a new (real) evaluation system—a precedent-setting moment. Another 737 teachers could face a similar fate unless they significantly improve their performances. Does anyone doubt that many of them will?

Rhee—appointed by a liberal mayor in the bluest of American cities—is a radical in the best sense of the word. Bureaucrats succeed through a devotion to risk aversion. But Rhee came into the job and immediately commissioned an outside audit of the entire school district, laid off scores of administrators and nonessential staff, and closed more than 20 underperforming schools...

More: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_15615807

Health Care Reform, After ObamaCare

Orange County Register, 27 July 2010

Robert Moffit, director of the Center for Health Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, met recently with the Orange County Register Editorial board for a discussion and online video interview with columnist Brian Calle (see the video at ocregister.com/opinion) about the impending consequences of the new, 2,300-page health care law and simple, practical legislative alternatives to Obamacare that could better address problems in the U.S. health system...

Continue: <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/health-259544-care-moffit.html>

"Cowardice and meekness toward colonization by alien primitives are now the defining feature of late Western civilization."

—Takuan Seiyo, "From Meccania to Atlantis, Part 17" (23 July 2010)

Empire of Silence

JournoList, Breitbart, and what the Left doesn't say

by Andrew Klavan, 26 July 2010

A personal incident has given me a particular perspective on recent news about the media. Last Tuesday, I received word that the French release of my thriller novel *Empire of Lies* had been canceled by publisher Seuil Policiers. The editor who originally bought the book had left the French company, and the new editor, my agent says, feels that "she can not publish...because of the political and religious aspects of the story."...

...The book's French cancellation is, I realize, a rather small cultural event. Yet it gives specific color to the recent revelations on the Daily Caller website that left-wing journalists conspired to suppress scandals that might harm Barack Obama and to the brouhaha over Breitbart's online release of a video that resulted in a government worker's momentarily losing her job. In both stories, one thing leaps out at me: everywhere, the Left favors fewer voices and less information, and conservatives favor more. Everywhere, the Left seeks to disappear its opposition, whereas the Right is willing to meet them head-on...

... The point is not these people's animus or ignorance or wickedness. The point is that what they desired was not victory in open debate but silence—the silence of censorship, intimidation, or the grave...

More: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon0726ak.html>

Best course for dealing with the Taliban: Win, then negotiate

by Michael Gerson, 27 July 2010

...A consensus is growing among foreign policy realists, skittish NATO allies and anti-war activists that the time has come to cut a deal with the Taliban. The Afghan government is hopeless; recent elections were discrediting; nation-building has failed. The only hope is to pursue not only reintegration of low- and mid-level Taliban fighters into Afghan society but reconciliation with Taliban leaders based in Pakistan. As long as these leaders end their relationship with al-Qaeda—the only firm, non-negotiable red line—the Taliban could return to effective control of southern Afghanistan in a more decentralized system...

... "Women are living in great fear for a peace deal with the Taliban because of what it will mean for their rights," says the manager of an Afghan woman's shelter. In areas currently controlled by the Taliban, schools for girls are shut down, women terrorized for working outside the home, woman politicians and activists attacked and murdered. A typical "night letter" from the Taliban reads: "We warn you to leave your job as a teacher as soon as possible otherwise we will cut the heads off your children and we shall set fire to your daughter." An Afghan women's rights activist recently explained to Human Rights Watch, "Every woman activist who has raised her voice in the last 10 years fears they (the Taliban) will kill us."

This debate is not only a conflict of two policy views but of two worlds. Recently, I attended a meeting of diplomats, foreign policy experts and journalists where a diplomatic settlement with the Taliban was broadly endorsed. The participants admitted that some regrettable abuses would result. But Afghanistan, in the general view, had become a costly distraction from issues such as Iran and North Korea. Best to cut our losses and get out. Around the polished table, every participant was a well-dressed, Western man, casually condemning millions of poor and powerless women to fear and slavery...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/26/AR2010072604739.html>

America Plays the Fool in Pakistan's Double Game

by Ralph Peters, 27 July 2010

...Our government's response to Pakistani complicity in the death of hundreds of our troops and the wounding of thousands? Send additional aid—on top of the \$6 billion recently committed—and bills in Congress to grant special trade privileges to Pakistanis in Taliban-infested territories. It's like dating someone who's wildly, flagrantly promiscuous and hoping that patience will lead to his or her sudden reform. But tolerance only encourages more bad behavior.

Gen. David Petraeus, our new commander in Afghanistan, *knows* that the Pakistanis are corrupt and deceitful. But he, too, continues to hope they'll see the light. Why do Petraeus and other veteran officials continue to dream of Pakistan's magical self-reformation? Because we're out of strategic imagination, having tied ourselves to Pakistan for everything from the transit of supplies for our troops to intelligence. We're *begging* the Pakistanis to make fools of us.

Our troops die—and we make excuses for their killers.

Of course, this shouldn't be too great a surprise, given that our government insists that Islamist terrorists have nothing to do with Islam and that jihad's just a peaceful inner struggle. (Check out al Qaeda's new online magazine if you want a little taste of Islamist pacifism.)...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/america_plays_the_fool_in_pakistan_fZOjcKtRYU17iMSHAD38HJ

So much down-to-earth wisdom in only 900 words!

Without Stable Money, There Can Be No Trust

by John Tamny, 21 July 2010

Imagine being contacted by a real estate agent about a 5,000-square-foot house, only to show up and find a home half the size. Off the bat, the prospective purchaser would have very little trust.

Of course the above scenario is purely hypothetical given that a foot is a foot. Since its definition is unchanging, 5,000 square feet means the same today as it did 20 years ago. Whatever the level of trust home buyers have in their real estate agents, square footage will never be a factor; that is, unless the length of the foot is allowed to "float," and its length declines. Suddenly, 5,000 square feet could very well mean 2,500 square feet in "real terms," and trust in real estate agents will plummet.

Sadly, this is the case with the world's currencies. Debased currencies without definition are what the world has suffered since August of 1971, when President Richard Nixon severed the dollar's link to gold. No longer defined in terms of the most stable commodity on earth, the dollar has been left to fluctuate without a golden anchor, its value changing minute by minute, hour by hour, and day by day...

Continue: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/07/18/dollar-gold-standard-trust-opinions-john-tamny-fiat-currency.html>

Shirley Sherrod's husband, Charles, is just as prejudiced against white people as she is—maybe more. Also, pardon my anti-Communism, but they have a son named Kenyatta and a daughter named Russia (both born in the 1960s).

Sherrod: "We must stop the white man and his Uncle Toms."

by Dan Riehl, 26 July 2010

http://www.riehlworldview.com/carnivorous_conservative/2010/07/sherrod-we-must-stop-the-white-man-and-his-uncle-toms-.html

Go for Growth

An agenda for Republicans.

by Matthew Continetti, 26 July 2010 (August 2 issue)

If Republicans were James Bond villains, this would be the moment in the movie when they chuckle and say deviously, "Everything is going according to plan." The president's approval rating continues to fall. Last week Gallup found that Congress is the least popular institution in the land. The GOP maintains a slight lead in the congressional generic ballot, a metric in which the Republicans typically underperform. What was recently unthinkable—that the GOP could take one or both houses of Congress this November—is a real possibility.

If only Republicans knew what to do when (and if) they return to power...

Continue: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/go-growth>

No Jobs But More Benefits

by Ralph Reiland, 26 July 2010

...The legislation extends benefits averaging \$309 per week until December. That's an *average*, however, with benefit levels differing widely among the states. In Massachusetts, the top benefit is \$943 a week, or \$49,036 a year. For a lucky jobless couple living off the bay in Nantucket and eligible for the maximum checks, that's \$98,072 a year and plenty of free time to catch some striped bass for dinner.

A recent editorial in the *Wall Street Journal*, "Stimulating Unemployment: If you can't create any jobs, pay people not to work," contended that the extended benefits to subsidize joblessness will have the direct effect of expanding and prolonging unemployment...Further, President Obama's call for 99 weeks of jobless benefits, argued *the Journal*,

underscores the failure of his economic program, the failure of his \$862 billion stimulus, and the job-killing impact of Obama's continuous calls for more regulations, more mandates and higher taxes on the nation's job creators in the private sector.

...What doesn't work in creating jobs in a free-enterprise system is an ideology that's anti-boss and pro-worker. Richard Lowry, editor of *National Review*, recently pointed out the irrationality and inconsistency of that position, succinctly, stating, "The Democrat's sympathy for the unemployed doesn't extend to the people who might hire them."

Investing and hiring new employees is too risky, in short, when businesses see a plethora of higher taxes and more regulatory costs on the horizon, beginning with one of the largest tax increases in U.S. history on Jan. 1 that is precisely aimed at the incomes of the nation's entrepreneurs, investors and small business owners.

"Among businesses of all sizes, there is now a pervasive sense that the administration does not understand economics," states Joel Kotkin, an adjunct fellow at the Legatum Institute in London and a presidential fellow in urban futures at Chapman University. "Obama's real problem is that he's a product, basically, of the fantastical faculty lounge."

More: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_691746.html

Is It Time to End Climate Alarmism?

by Mark Landsbaum, 25 July 2010

...These investigations appear to have been about as independent and thorough as a congressional investigation into legislative pork. People recognize self-interested exoneration. Despite proclamations of innocence, the verdicts didn't accomplish what the climate catastrophe community most desired—a welcoming of the prodigals back into society's good graces.

In part, this is because the relationship of investigators to those they investigated was eyebrow raising, casting doubt on their conclusions. From the beginning, neither global warming skeptics nor true believers expected investigators to find anything amiss. As many have noted, the institutions paid for and/or commissioned the investigations of themselves by cadres of friendly faces. A pervasive sense of glossing over also exists because many of the most obvious questions weren't even asked, or asked of the right people...

...When even global warming believers scoff at the findings, it's obviously a whitewash. Clive Crook, who believes global warming threatens the planet and advocates a carbon tax to mitigate its effects, wrote in the *Atlantic* that the Penn State investigation was so hard to swallow, it "would be difficult to parody." Three of four allegations were dismissed out of hand, and not even investigated, Crook wrote...

...Professor Michael Mann, the target of the investigation at Penn State, was applauded by investigators for having won awards, which in their circular reasoning led them to conclude therefore, "his research could not have been outside of respected practices..." In short, he's accomplished, so he can't have done anything wrong.

University of East Anglia's investigators didn't bother to ask the Climate Research Unit's Director Phil Jones whether he actually deleted any e-mails to avoid Freedom of Information requests, as he said he had in one of the leaked messages. Is it unreasonable to expect an investigator to ask questions such as, "Did you do it?"...

Read the rest: <http://www.oregister.com/opinion/-259100--.html>

Not a State-Broken People

by George Will, 13 May 2010, at the *Cato Institute's biennial Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty Dinner*

...Madison asserted that politics should take its bearings from human nature and from the natural rights with which we are endowed, and which preexist government. Woodrow Wilson, like all people steeped in the 19th century discovery that history is a proper noun—History—with a mind and a life of its own, argued that human nature is as malleable and changeable as history itself, and that it's the job of the state to regulate and guide the evolution of human nature and the changeable nature of the rights we are owed by the government that—in his view—dispenses rights...

...Those of us of the Madisonian persuasion believe that we take our bearings from a certain constancy. Not from — to coin a phrase— "the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society." That phrase, from Justice Warren, has become the standard by which the Constitution is turned into a living document— a Constitution that no longer can constitute. A constitution has, as Justice Scalia has said, an anti-evolutionary purpose. The very virtue of a constitution is that it's not changeable. It exists to prevent change, to embed certain rights so that they cannot easily be taken away.

Madison said rights pre-exist government. Wilson said government exists to dispense whatever agenda of rights suits its fancy, and to annihilate, regulate, attenuate, or dilute others. Madison said the rights we are owed are those

necessary for the individual pursuit of happiness. Wilson and the Progressives said the rights you deserve are those that will deliver material happiness to you, and spare you the strain and terror of striving.

The result of this is now clear. We see, in the rampant indebtedness of our country and the European countries, what Yuval Levin has called a "gluttonous feast upon the flesh of the future." We see the infantilization of publics that become inert and passive, waiting for the state to take care of them. One statistic: 50 percent of all Americans 55 years old or older have less than \$50,000 in savings and investment. The feast on the flesh of the future is what debt is.

Let's get a sense of the size of our debt. In 1916, in Woodrow Wilson's first term, the richest man in America, John D. Rockefeller, could have written a personal check and retired the national debt. Today, the richest man in America, Bill Gates, could write a personal check for all his worth and not pay two months interest on the national debt...

Read the whole thing: http://www.cato.org/pubs/policy_report/v32n4/cpr32n4-1.html

Now a conservative blogger, Ms. MonCrief was the ACORN staffer who blew the whistle on ACORN and Project Vote.

Revealed: The Obama Donor List

by Anita MonCrief, 23 July 2010

For a number of years traditional print media has been on life support, but after the revelations from Tucker Carlson's The Daily Caller, it looks like someone finally pulled the plug. The exposé on Journolist, a now defunct, listserv that included hundreds of liberal journalists, detailed:

the Journolisters' attempt, during the 2008 presidential campaign to kill and bury stories about Obama's relationship with "Reverend" Jeremiah Wright;

their push to deliberately smear innocent conservative journalists and politicians as "racists" and "bigots";

their twisted passion to see Rush Limbaugh killed off and dead;

their intolerant desire to have the government censor and shut down Fox News; and

their baldly partisan effort to coordinate liberal talking points that would discredit Sarah Palin and John McCain, while helping to elect Barack Obama president.

Considering that Journolist included journalists from Washington Post, the New York Times, National Public Radio, New Republic, and Time, one has to wonder if the biggest story covered up in 2008 was the illegal coordination between ACORN and the Obama campaign...

More (including links to the Donor List): <http://emergingcorruption.com/?p=100>

JournoList's anti-Palin crusade of 2008

by Jedediah Bila, 25 July 2010

<http://dailycaller.com/2010/07/23/journalist%E2%80%99s-anti-palin-crusade-of-2008/>

Among the supposedly unbiased "journalists" who are implicated in the co-ordinated assassination of Sarah Palin's character: Jonathan Stein, Daniel Levy, Ezra Klein, Matthew Yglesias, Katha Pollitt, Harold Pollack, Joe Conason, Michael Cooper, Elisabeth Bumiller, Saul Friedman, Russell Berman, and Suzanne Nossel.

All about the racism of Shirley Sherrod, and the bias of the "JournoList" hacks.

Know When to Hold 'Em

by Clarice Feldman, 25 July 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/clarices_pieces_know_when_to_h.html

The Persecution of Indonesian Christians

by Baron Bodissey, 24 July 2010

The sharia authorities in West Java have developed a two-prong strategy to discourage the practice of Christianity. First they knock down a church, which drives the Christian congregation into open-air worship. Then they harass them for praying in the open, because public worship by non-Muslims is against the law...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/persecution-of-indonesian-christians.html#readfurther>

The Threat to Greece

A Greek-American historian contributes a guest essay on the historical relationship between Turkey and its Greek minority, culminating in the Istanbul Pogrom of 1955.

by *The American Patriot*, 24 July 2010

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/threat-to-greece.html#readfurther>

Another huge lie from Obama: Does he *ever* tell the truth about *anything*?

White House backed release of Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi

by *Jason Allardyce and Tony Allen-Mills*, 26 July 2010

The US government secretly advised Scottish ministers it would be "far preferable" to free the Lockerbie bomber than jail him in Libya. Correspondence obtained by The Sunday Times reveals the Obama administration considered compassionate release more palatable than locking up Abdel Baset al-Megrahi in a Libyan prison.

The intervention, which has angered US relatives of those who died in the attack, was made by Richard LeBaron, deputy head of the US embassy in London, a week before Megrahi was freed in August last year on grounds that he had terminal cancer. The document, acquired by a well-placed US source, threatens to undermine US President Barack Obama's claim last week that all Americans were "surprised, disappointed and angry" to learn of Megrahi's release...

More: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/white-house-backed-release-of-lockerbie-bomber-abdel-baset-al-megrahi/story-e6frg6so-1225896741041>

Toward a more honest discussion of race

Washington Examiner editorial, 25 July 2010

...Neil Barofsky, special inspector general for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, found that the Obama administration used race and gender as criteria to decide which auto dealerships would be closed.

Then there's the Democrats' Dodd-Frank financial regulation bill, which mandates race- and gender-based hiring quotas for government agencies, private companies and subcontractors who do business with the government, and creates a raft of new **Multicultural Mafia** bureaucrats to enforce them. As Examiner Columnist Diana Furchtgott-Roth points out, the new law affirmatively requires discrimination on the basis of race. Surely the hypocrisy of defending such policies while branding as racist those who disagree with them is obvious...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Toward-a-more-honest-discussion-of-race-1003192-99143329.html>

What the Earth Knows

Understanding the concept of geologic time and some basic science can give a new perspective on climate change and the energy future.

by *Robert B. Laughlin*, 1 June 2010

4,600 words: <http://www.theamericanscholar.org/what-the-earth-knows/>

A legacy of budget trickery

by *Peter Suderman*, 25 July 2010

No more budget gimmicks? That's what outgoing White House budget director Peter Orszag promised as the Obama team prepared to take control of the White House. "The president prefers to tell the truth, rather than make the numbers look better by pretending," he told The New York Times.

But numbers games turned out to be Orszag's specialty. He's set to step down at the end of July, but for the last 18 months, he's presided over a wave of fiscal trickery. This year's White House budget, which Orszag played a key role in preparing, is a prime example...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/legacy_of_budget_trickery_8ct6pTyZoTHgKNhwerJdCM

Guantánamo Prison Horrors

by *Humberto Fontova*, 24 July 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/guantanamo_prison_horrors.html

Kill the Ground Zero Mosque

National Republican Trust PAC, 2 July 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjGJPPRD3u0>

58% in New York Oppose Mosque Near Ground Zero

Rasmussen Reports, 23 July 2010

Most voters in New York (58%) oppose the building of an Islamic mosque near Ground Zero in New York City.

A new Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of Likely Voters in the state finds that just 20% favor the building of a mosque near the 9/11 Ground Zero site, while 21% are not sure. These findings are very similar to those found nationwide.

Some of those in favor of the mosque have argued that it will “honor” the 9/11 victims by promoting the peaceful side of Islam, but 60% of voters in New York lack confidence that this is truly the motivation behind construction. Thirty-one percent (31%) are confident the mosque is being built for this reason. This includes 12% who are Very Confident and 39% who are Not At All Confident. These findings, too, are roughly in line with those measured on the national level...

More: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_state_surveys/new_york/58_in_new_york_oppose_mosque_near_ground_zero

Obama's Soft-Core Socialism

by *Steve Forbes*, 21 July 2010

...The truth is that not even the Franklin Roosevelt Administration was as hostile to and ignorant about free enterprise as this Administration is. Almost every action Obama officials take underscores their belief in the stereotype that businesspeople are mostly amoral, corner-cutting, consumer-shafting, pollution-loving menaces. The economy itself needs to be tightly controlled and rigidly guided by Washington mandarins because free markets are inherently and destructively unstable.

One hesitates to bring up the economics of Benito Mussolini and his ilk because fascism means ugly nationalism and racism, as well as mass murder and aggressive war. So let's label the economic part of that ideology as neosocialist, corporatist, statist or—to be sophisticated and use a French word—*dirigiste*...

...The closest the U.S. came to adapting *dirigiste* economics was during the first two years of FDR's New Deal with the National Recovery Administration. The NRA had businesses set up industrywide cartels to regulate prices, wages and the rules of competition. Thankfully the Supreme Court threw out this fascist edifice early on.

Now, in the midst of another economic crisis (and one not nearly as severe as that faced three-quarters of a century ago), Washington is at it again, this time with a far more ideologically rigid President than FDR. Incrementalism and the velvet glove over an iron fist are Obama's preferred methods. Thus, it will take several years for surviving health care companies to become full-fledged vassals of the federal government, which will dictate what policies are offered and at what prices. The new financial "reform" bill is taking the same approach—its language is intentionally vague in order to give bureaucrats enormous discretionary powers...

Read it all: <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2010/0809/opinions-steve-forbes-fact-comment-obama-socialism.html>

'A Commandeering of the People'

One of America's leading libertarian legal scholars handicaps whether the Supreme Court will find ObamaCare's insurance mandate constitutional.

James Taranto and Randy Barnett, 23 July 2010

No Mosque at Groud Zero

by Center for Security Policy, 21 July 2010

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

Dr. Berwick's admiration for Britain's loathsome National Health Service, and his desire to replicate it by force in America, are already well known. But now we discover his deep involvement with [Physicians for Human Rights](#), a collection of terrorist-supporting Jew-haters.

Donald Berwick and the Anti-Israelis

by Robert M. Goldberg, 23 July 2010

<http://spectator.org/archives/2010/07/23/donald-berwick-and-the-anti-is>

From Meccania To Atlantis, Part 17: Shotgun Marriage In Europe

by Takuan Seiyo, 23 July 2010

As the West is being destroyed by its own elected leaders, its smartest and most creative, its most successful and prettiest, and the great majority of the population follows as though after the Piper of Hamelin, the salient question is how to save what remains and the people who carry what remains. Very few of the latter are in the political or managerial leadership caste, and you could count on one hand the ones whose exceptional talents or beauty set a large number of hearts aflutter.

An even greater problem is that the destroyers and looters have been in sole purview of culture and education for so long that hardly any under-50 Whites remain who have retained their own mind and its link to their uniquely magnificent Western heritage. That link has been replaced either by a permanent hairshirt for the real and imagined transgressions of the West against the (broadly speaking) East and South, or by a moronic multiculti rainbow pastiche expressed, among others, in the pumping loins of white rappers and pop divas that are but inferior copies of stuff black people do better.

The majority of the people alive now in every Western country, and overwhelmingly so among the young, react at best with discomfort and avoidance to ideas that are not apologist for their race, history and religion. If they are socialist and proactively *dhimmi*, as most young are, that reaction to the West's traditional culture and heritage often sharpens to hateful hysteria that may resemble [Donald Sutherland's vocalization](#) as a fresh Pod (1) encountering the last remaining person in San Francisco that has not been snatched and cloned, yet.

As the prevailing social fairytales and phantom finance dominoes topple sequentially, the ruling elites that constructed that particular train of hollow pieces engage in increasingly frantic actions to disguise and postpone the effects of the staggered downfall...

5,200 words: <http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/4488>

Digging a deeper hole

New York Post editorial, 22 July 2010

In extending jobless benefits this week, Democrats are trying to claim the moral high ground—pretending they "stood on the side" of "working families," as President Obama put it, while heartless Republicans stood in the way.

It's rubbish. Starting with the fact that the extension—which will let out-of-work Americans collect weekly checks for almost *two years*, instead of the traditional 26 weeks—will bloat the federal deficit by some \$34 billion.

That's right: The entire tab for stretching out benefits will simply be added to this year's shortfall, now pegged at a mind-blowing \$1.4 trillion. As if it's all just *play* money.

It's not, of course. Indeed, the Dems' horrifying yearly gaps are pushing the nation's total debt to dangerous levels—and diverting ever-more-scarce capital from the job-creating private sector. Which is why the national debt has become an issue in this fall's elections. And it's the *sole* reason, in fact, why Republicans opposed the benefits bill...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/editorials/digging_deeper_hole_TJF2CGZHhYOnOBYUePIgzJ

The Vast Left-Wing Media Conspiracy

by Fred Barnes, 22 July 2010

...Among journalists in general, there's always been a herd instinct. Eugene McCarthy, the Minnesota senator and Democratic presidential candidate, once described political writers as birds on a telephone wire...

...I think JournoList is—or was—fundamentally different, and not simply because one of its members proposed to make palpably false accusations. As best I can tell, those involved in JournoList considered themselves part of a team. And their goal was to make sure the team won. In 2008, this was Mr. Obama's team. More recently, the goal seems to have been to defeat the conservative team.

Until JournoList came along, liberal journalists were rarely part of a team. Neither are conservative journalists today, so far as I know. If there's a team, no one has asked me to join. As a conservative, I normally write more favorably about Republicans than Democrats and I routinely treat conservative ideas as superior to liberal ones. But I've never been part of a discussion with conservative writers about how we could most help the Republican or the conservative team.

My experience with other conservative journalists is that they are loners. One of the most famous conservative columnists of the past half-century, the late Robert Novak, is a good example. I knew him well for 35 years. He didn't tell me what stories he was working on nor ask what I was planning to write. He never mentioned how we might promote Republicans or aid the conservative cause, nor did I.

What was particularly pathetic about the scheme to smear Mr. Obama's critics was labeling them as racists. The accusation has been made so frequently in recent years, without evidence to back it up, that it has little effect. It's now the last refuge of liberal scoundrels...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704684604575381083191313448.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Dhimmi of the Month: the Losertarian Steve Chapman, who is willfully blind to the long-standing Muslim practice of erecting mosques on formerly sacred sites—like a dog pissing to mark his territory.

Repeal Religious Freedom at Ground Zero?

by Steve Chapman, 22 July 2010

<http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/repeal-religious-freedom-at-ground-zero.html>

Let's return once again to the words of Raymond Ibrahim, scholar of Middle Eastern history, fluent speaker and reader of Arabic, and author of the *Al Qaeda Reader*, a translation of key jihadist writings:

"Throughout Islam's history, whenever a region was conquered, one of the first signs of consolidation was/is the erection of a mosque atop the sacred sites of the vanquished: the pagan Ka'ba temple in Arabia was converted into Islam's holiest site, the mosque of Mecca; the al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site, was built atop Solomon's temple in Jerusalem; the Umayyad mosque was built atop the Church of St. John the Baptist; and the Hagia Sophia was converted into a mosque upon the conquest of Constantinople."

An additional point: Islam is a religion of intolerance. In country after country where its votaries settle, Islam attempts to use the West's own traditions of tolerance in order to conquer the West. It has happened in much of Europe, and now it's happening in North America. It's time to stand athwart it, and yell "Stop!"

—Don John

Moonbat of the Month: whoever wrote this moronic piece.

Approval deficit: It's ironic that the more good bills Obama signs into law, the lower his job ratings sink

Houston Chronicle editorial, 21 July 2010

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/7118884.html>

Just read some of the Comments by *intelligent* Americans, like these:

Terryanne wrote:

Americans know what happens to countries that "level the playing field." They turn into Zimbabwe.

Preptile wrote:

Translation to the above unsigned editorial: You Bumpkins do not know what is good for you, and don't appreciate beneficial 'Change' when you see it. Obama's efforts at rebuilding America need not have begun w an ax. There was no need to rebuild it

at all , or for ANY of his misguided bills either . To quote the article and the President tho , " it's the right thing to do for America." Actually , Mr President , there is a spirited debate about that . You and this paper will be stunned at the ' temper tantrum ' of this electorate on 11/02 /10 , because all that 'Change' you see as 'all good' was actually 'all wrong.' The electorate is about to demand Change Back .

Creg123 wrote:

Obama inherited a bad situation that he made worse by all his needless spending. The stimulusBill created no jobs except census workers The Heath care Bill if it is fully enacted will be a big problem in the future because the cost of it keeps going up. The Onam administration is a job killing administration, and it won't get any better until he is out of office.

ReformReformNow wrote:

It's not ironic. Only the sycophants suggest these bills are good, neither the right nor the center feels that way. It is these kinds of blatantly false statements that cause his approval to fall: "Obama fired back, noting that years of Republican policies had turned a record surplus into a massive deficit, including a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans," and that Republicans have "finally decided to make their stand on the backs of the unemployed." Again, the sycophants believe them, those of us with Google can look at the facts and see that they are not honest.

By Her Own Words, Kagan Will Violate Her Oath

by Sen. Tom Coburn, 20 July 2010

...The Supreme Court has repeatedly turned a blind eye when Congress exceeded its authority under the Commerce Clause. As a result, the federal government can control practically every aspect of our lives...

...Kagan refused to answer the substance of my question. Her answers indicated she would support the big-government policies that created our \$13 trillion debt and the welfare state that is collapsing into a fiscal black hole.

Even more troubling was Kagan's refusal to say whether she believed in the principle of natural rights contained in the Declaration of Independence. Kagan told me, "I don't have a view of what are natural rights independent of the Constitution."

While I understand a nominee's reluctance to express personal beliefs, it was extraordinary to hear a Supreme Court nominee decline to endorse the concept of natural rights contained in the Declaration of Independence that is the very basis of our Constitution.

Kagan's answer exposed a troubling train of thought in progressive ideology. Refusing to acknowledge natural or God-given rights removes the morality from the progressive's moral certitude. Without natural law there would have been no Constitution. Without natural law, "progressives" would take us back to the 17th century, when rights emanated from the state or the king rather than the creator...

...Instead of looking toward foreign courts for inspiration, Kagan, and more importantly the country, would be wise to look at the United States Constitution...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/231197>

The Forgotten Employer

by Rich Karlgaard, 20 July 2010

...What's lost in these arguments about jobs, especially by those on the left, are the voices of the jobs' creators themselves. Those would be the employers. Let me repeat: In a national debate about jobs and job creation, hardly anyone is talking to job creators about jobs! For example...[columns by John Harwood, Paul Krugman, Barbara Kiviat, and Daniels Gross—none of whom talked to a single employer]...

...Gross hacks away at straw CEOs throughout his 718-word piece. What he can't be bothered to do is actually talk to one. I understand the left's reluctance to talk to employers directly. Talking to employers about jobs, and lack thereof, would wreck the left's narrative. What do you hear when you listen to employers? You hear stories like this one, from the comments section of a recent Mort Zuckerman piece:

"I am a building designer, used to have employees and wanted to grow my firm to about 8 people. No longer. I will be more likely semi-retired by choice from this point on because..."

Read why: <http://blogs.forbes.com/digitalrules/2010/07/the-forgotten-employer/?boxes=Homepagecolumnsblogs>

Nothing Post-Racial About Barack Obama

by Thomas Sowell, 20 July 2010

...You want bipartisanship and an end to bickering in Washington? He will say that he wants bipartisanship and an end to bickering in Washington. Then he will shut Republicans out of the decision-making process and respond to their suggestions by reminding them that he won the election. A famous writer—Ring Lardner, I believe—once wrote: "Shut up," he explained."

You want a government that is open instead of secretive? He will say that. He will promise to post proposed legislation on the Internet long enough for everyone to read it and know what is in it before there is a vote. In practice, however, he has rushed massive bills through Congress too fast for anybody—even the members of Congress—to know what was in those bills.

Racial issues are more of the same. You want a government where all citizens are treated alike, regardless of race or ethnicity? Obama will say that. Then he will advocate appointing judges with "empathy" for particular segments of the population, such as racial minorities. "Empathy" is just a pretty word for the ugly reality of bias...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/540936/201007201820/Nothing-Post-Racial-About-Barack-Obama.aspx>

Obama: Mr. Incredible

by David Keene, 19 July 2010

During the healthcare debate, President Obama and his operatives assured congressional Democrats and the media that once Obama-Care passed, all would be well...

...However, the public has made it clear it likes neither the product (about which more is being learned by the day) nor the process that led to passage. Many of the deals needed to piece together majorities in the House and Senate received enough publicity at the time to outrage many, but as time goes on revelations about additional concessions made to woo votes are justifying what were dismissed as simple partisan attacks during the debate.

Moreover, the possible consequences of the bill are making many wake up and take note.

When critics of the legislation alleged during the debate that the enforcement of its many provisions would vastly increase the power of the IRS and empower tax collectors to go where they had never gone before, administration spokesmen reacted in outrage. The president's critics, they charged, were not just wrong, but lying to scare people.

It turns out that the critics were dead right and that if there was any lying going on, they weren't the guilty ones...
<http://thehill.com/opinion/columnists/david-keene/109631-obama-mr-incredible>

Global Warming Hysteric Dies

Don John, 21 July 2010

What the Wikipedia [article](#) on Stephen Schneider won't tell you is that he was involved in "Climategate," a widespread conspiracy to falsify climate data (November 2009):

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/11/19/breaking-news-story-hadley-cru-has-apparently-been-hacked-hundreds-of-files-released/>

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

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100017393/climategate-the-final-nail-in-the-coffin-of-anthropogenic-global-warming/>

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

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

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

But Wikipedia *will* tell you that he won a Nobel Peace Prize—just like Yasser Arafat, Jimmy Carter, Al Gore, Betty Williams, and Barack Obama. May he rest in peace, free from hysteria.

Generic Congressional Ballot: Republicans 45%, Democrats 36%

Rasmussen Reports, 19 July 2010

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/mood_of_america/generic_congressional_ballot

What's up with Tom Friedman?

Columnist's recent piece on Hizbullah's Fadlallah shows a man who's line between right and wrong is becoming blurred by the day.

by Shmuley Boteach, 19 July 2010

...Now, in his column on Fadlallah, Friedman begins by condemning CNN for firing its senior editor for Middle East affairs, Octavia Nasr, after she tweeted that she was "sad to hear of the passing of" Fadlallah," adding for good measure that the terrorist was "one of Hizbullah's giants I respect a lot." Friedman concedes that Nasr's posting was "troubling," but not because she lamented the death of a terrorist but because "reporters covering a beat" undermine their credibility when they "issue condolences" for the people they cover.

If that amorality weren't wacky enough, Friedman then begins to personally praise Fadlallah, quoting Richard Norton of Boston University who said that Fadlallah supported women and "was not afraid to speak about sexuality," adding that "he even once gave [a mosque sermon] about sexual urges and female masturbation." In the long line of recent bizarre columns by Friedman, this one wins a prize.

For the record, I too am a cleric who writes about sexuality. My book *Kosher Sex* has appeared in 17 languages and its follow up, *The Kosher Sutra*, was likewise a best-seller. Having been raised by a single mother and as the father of six daughters, I too am a strong advocate for women. But I have a sneaking suspicion that if I were the spiritual head of a genocidal terrorist movement who publicly preached about the need for more suicide bombs against children, then notwithstanding how many lectures I might give about masturbation, it would not save me from being seen as a monster. Friedman's train has simply left the tracks.

But lest you conclude that the three-time Pulitzer-prize winner has lost all sense of morality and the ability to condemn murder, he does confess that Fadlallah "was not a social worker. He had some dark side."

Well now, Tom, you don't say. Really?...

More: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=181941>

OK, he does quote someone from the loony site PrisonPlanet.com. But this is still an issue. Institutions we trusted under a freedom-loving Republican president cannot be trusted during the Obama regime.

Drones Over America: Tyranny at Home

by John W. Whitehead, 28 June 2010

...Police today use whatever tools are at their disposal in order to anticipate and forestall crime. This means employing technology to attain total control. Technology, which functions without discrimination because it exists without discrimination, tends to be applied everywhere it can be applied. Thus, the logical aim of technologically equipped police who operate as technicians must be control, containment and eventually restriction of freedom.

In this way, under the guise of keeping Americans safe and controlled, airborne drones will have to be equipped with an assortment of lethal and nonlethal weapons in order to effectuate control of citizens on the ground. The arsenal of nonlethal weapons will likely include Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs), which are used to break up protests or riots by sending a piercing sound into crowds and can cause serious hearing damage; high-intensity strobe lights, which can cause dizziness, disorientation and loss of balance and make it virtually impossible to run away; and tasers, which administer a powerful electric shock.

Since June 2001, over 350 people, including women, children and elderly individuals, have died in the U.S. after being shocked with "non-lethal" tasers. "Imagine how incidents would skyrocket," notes Paul Joseph Watson for PrisonPlanet.com, "once the personal element of using a Taser is removed and they are strapped to marauding surveillance drones, eliminating any responsibility for deaths and injuries that occur."

"Also available to police," writes Watson, "will be a drone that can fire tear gas as well as rubber pellets to disperse anyone still living under the delusion that they were born in a democratic country."...

More: http://www.rutherford.org/articles_db/commentary.asp?record_id=661

Obama Omits Jobs Killed or Thwarted from Tally

by Caroline Baum, 18 July 2010

Can you believe they're still touting that silly metric?...

...These numbers might just as well have been pulled out of a hat. Recall that it was the same model and method the administration used in January 2009 to **predict** an unemployment rate of 7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010 with the enactment of the fiscal stimulus and 8.8 percent without. The **unemployment rate** now stands at 9.5 percent.

This same model convinced policy makers that the subprime crisis was contained, encouraged the rating companies to slap AAA ratings on collateralized garbage, and led banks to believe they had adequately managed their risks and reserved for potential losses.

Econometric models rely on the assumption that \$1 of government spending generates more than \$1 of GDP, the

so-called multiplier effect. There is no allowance for the negative multiplier on the other side.

Sure the government can spend money and generate GDP growth in the short run: Government spending is a **component** of GDP! What it giveth it taketh away from the private sector via taxation or borrowing. Every dollar the government spends is a dollar the private sector doesn't spend, an investment it doesn't make, a job it doesn't create. This is what is unseen, as Frederic Bastiat explained in an 1850 **essay**...

...What's more, firms less than five years old are responsible for all of the net new jobs created in the U.S., the Kauffman study found. Job creation by start-ups is more stable, less sensitive to the business cycle. So, if the goal is to create more jobs, and start-ups are the ones that create them, why is the Obama administration partnering up with existing firms?...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-19/obama-omits-jobs-killed-or-thwarted-from-tally-caroline-baum.html>

Excusing the Oakland Rioters

Looting is not a form of civil rights protest.

by Heather Mac Donald, 26 July 2010 issue

...The hundred or so homicides in Oakland each year are part of nearly 6,000 murders nationally committed by blacks, mostly of other blacks, compared to just over 5,300 homicides committed by whites and Hispanics combined. (Blacks are 12.8 percent of the U.S. population, whites and Hispanics, 81 percent.) Only in those extremely rare cases where a white police officer mistakenly shoots a black man do the activists, who allegedly care so much about the unjustified taking of black life, spring into action. (Needless to say, fatal police shootings of whites rarely get national press coverage and don't raise fears of riots.)

...The disproportionate rate of black crime is assiduously kept out of the public eye, whether through deliberate press policies to conceal the race of individual crime suspects or through an informal practice of suppressing aggregate crime data. The *Times* article on stop-and-frisks in the 73rd Precinct did not mention that the per capita rate of shootings there is *81 times* higher than in the mostly white 68th precinct, to choose just one local benchmark; not surprisingly, the stop rate in the 73rd precinct is 15 times higher than in the 68th. Blacks in New York City commit 80 percent of all shootings, whites 1.4 percent, though blacks are 23 percent of the population, and whites 35 percent. Police tactics are color-blind; they target crime, not race. But given the reality of wildly disproportionate racial crime rates, rational, data-driven police activity cannot help but have a disproportionate impact on black neighborhoods, because that is where the overwhelming amount of violent crime occurs and where the victims who most need police protection live...

Full report: <http://weeklystandard.com/articles/excusing-oakland-rioters>

Why do these people need to lie like this?

Documents show media plotting to kill stories about Rev. Jeremiah Wright

by Jonathan Strong, 20 July 2010

...It was another crisis, and members of Journalist again rose to help Obama.

Chris Hayes of the Nation posted on April 29, 2008, urging his colleagues to ignore Wright. Hayes directed his message to "particularly those in the ostensible mainstream media" who were members of the list. The Wright controversy, Hayes argued, was not about Wright at all. Instead, "It has everything to do with the attempts of the right to maintain control of the country."

Hayes castigated his fellow liberals for criticizing Wright. "All this hand wringing about just how awful and odious Rev. Wright remarks are just keeps the hustle going. Our country disappears people. It tortures people. It has the blood of as many as one million Iraqi civilians — men, women, children, the infirmed — on its hands. You'll forgive me if I just can't quite dredge up the requisite amount of outrage over Barack Obama's pastor," Hayes wrote.

Hayes urged his colleagues—especially the straight news reporters who were charged with covering the campaign in a neutral way—to bury the Wright scandal...

More: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/07>

[/20/documents-show-media-plotting-to-kill-stories-about-rev-jeremiah-wright/](http://dailycaller.com/2010/07/20/documents-show-media-plotting-to-kill-stories-about-rev-jeremiah-wright/)

Why Hasn't Israel Bombed Iran (Yet)?

The military risks are large; the political risks could be even bigger.

by Bret Stephens, 20 July 2010

...Finally, Israeli leaders are mindful of history. Put aside the routine comparisons between a prospective military strike on Iran with Israel's quick and effective destruction of Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981. As I'm reminded by Michael Doran, a Middle East scholar at NYU, Israel's leaders are probably no less alert to the lessons of the Suez War in 1956. Back then, a successful military operation by Britain, France and Israel to humiliate Egypt's Gamel Abdel Nasser (in many ways the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of his day) fell afoul of the determined political opposition of the Eisenhower administration, which mistakenly thought that it could curry favor with the Arabs by visibly distancing itself from Israel and its traditional European allies. Sound familiar?

There is now talk that the Obama administration may be reconsidering its military options toward Iran. Let's hope so. Israel may ultimately be willing to attack Iran once it reckons that it has run out of other options, as it did prior to the Six Day War. But its tactical margin for error will be slim, particularly since an effective strike will require days, not hours...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703720504575376742991948412.html>

Rush spent most of Monday's show reading from this.

America's Ruling Class—And the Perils of Revolution

by Angelo M. Codevilla, 16 July 2010

12,300 words: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/07/16/americas-ruling-class-and-the>

Should Black Folks Give the Tea Party a Second Look?

by Sophia Nelson, 14 July 2010

...I think that in part their conclusion about the Tea Party *may* miss the larger issues of why the Tea Party exists in the first place. This is something black Americans need to consider carefully. To narrow it all down to race is a straw man that we should not buy into.

I recently watched the History Channel's series *The Story of Us*, a fabulous documentary about the formation of America through the American Revolution of the mid-1700s. The 12-part series takes you from the great frontier to the Obama presidency. It provides a very clear and majestic insight about what it means to be an "American." What struck me about this documentary most of all was the American Revolution segment and how average, hard-working men and women rebelled against the great British Empire, in large part because of oppressive taxes. The founders, all men of means (many of who owned slaves), risked their very lives and fortunes as "traitors" once they declared their "independence" from Great Britain in 1776. What I think we all miss is that the colonies rebelled against *economic tyranny* and *oppression of individual freedom and liberties*. This is a key takeaway that often gets lost in the modern Tea Party debate...

...Does anyone among us really believe that government knows what is best for our lives?...

Read the rest: <http://www.theroot.com/print/42628>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Both entertaining and stimulating.

Unions 'Own the Democratic Party'

A contrarian author, blogger, and Senatorial candidate on interest-group politics, immigration, and the Velvet Underground.

Nick Gillespie interviews Mickey Kaus, 19 July 2010

4,600 words: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/07/19/mickey-kaus-interview>

I'm from the government, and I'm here for your BMI

by Brenton Stransky, 19 July 2010

The second concern we should have is what the government agents reading our health care records will do with the information, such as our BMI, or our blood pressure, disease history, psychological profile, and everything else in our

health records, once they have it. The only reason that the government measures anything is to exercise some level of control over the variable that is being measured, be it citizens registering guns, completing a census, filing taxes, or any other mandatory bureaucratic paperwork.

To predict what action the government might take after dissecting our most private information, we might look at what they have already said. Regarding BMI, we already know that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) believes that American society is "obesogenic" and that it is the government's role to regulate not only the food we eat, but also the society or environment that we live in: "Policy and environmental change initiatives that make healthy choices in nutrition and physical activity available, affordable, and easy will likely prove most effective in combating obesity."

This statement from their website should be extremely alarming to you. The verbiage "policy and environmental change initiatives" should send the chill of a big-brother government up your spine. This language indicates that a major government agency believes that only policy initiative and government action can manage the citizen's health and gives no power or mention to the rights of individuals over their own lives...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/im_from_the_government_and_im.html

This includes three video clips, to prove that the Lord God King Obama was lying.

Obama Flip-Flops on the Individual Mandate (Again)

by Michael F. Cannon, 19 July 2010

...The next time Obama is in the mood to reverse himself on the individual mandate, he might consider this statement from June 2009: "When you hear people saying, 'socialized medicine,' understand that I do not know anybody in Washington who is proposing that—certainly not me."

When the government makes health insurance compulsory, that *is* socialized medicine. (Why else would ObamaCare win plaudits from Fidel Castro?) It would be nice to hear the president admit it.

More: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2010/07/19/obama-flip-flops-on-the-individual-mandate-again/>

According to Gov. Luis Fortuño, a Reaganite Republican who was elected in a landslide in 2008 (yes, 2008) it would be a reliably red state.

GOP should support state of Puerto Rico

by George F. Will, 18 July 2010

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/07/18/1735267/gop-should-support-state-of-puerto.html>

American politics has caught the British disease

Under Barack Obama, the phenomenon of class resentment is a live political issue.

by Janet Daley, 17 July 2010

...So the Democrats, who once represented the interests of ferociously self-respecting blue-collar America, are now seen—under their highly educated president, who wholeheartedly embraces the orthodoxy of the liberal salon—as having abandoned their traditional following. Which is precisely what Labour did here when it turned its back on what used to be called "the respectable working class" because of its embarrassing resentments and "prejudices" against welfare claimants, immigrants, and anti-social youths. Bizarrely, among people who see themselves as profoundly empathetic, there was an utter failure to understand why the spirit of benevolent understanding and tolerance did not flourish among those whose daily lives were directly affected by a mass influx of foreign workers, or local delinquency, or a welfare system that rewarded inertia...

Read the rest: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/janetdaley/7896446/American-politics-has-caught-the-British-disease.html>

Wall Street Reform That Isn't

Washington Examiner editorial, 18 July 2010

...Instead of ending tax-paid bailouts of politically favored corporations that are "too big to fail," Dodd-Frank makes the process permanent...Instead of congressional votes, Treasury Department bureaucrats will unilaterally decide under the bill's "orderly liquidation process" how much of the taxpayers' money to hand out to troubled firms...Dodd-

Frank makes tax-paid bailouts of selected corporations permanent in a manner that overrides the bankruptcy process established by the U.S. Constitution...

...To paraphrase Mark Twain, despite consuming more than 2,300 pages, Dodd-Frank bears the same relationship to reform as "lightning" does to "lightning bug."...

...So Dodd-Frank does not remedy the fundamental cause of the economic meltdown of 2008, which was the government's decision to shift the costs of bad investment decisions from corporate executives to taxpayers...Fannie and Freddie are still losing billions by the month on bad mortgage investments and taxpayers are still on the hook.

This means the housing crisis is far from being resolved, and, thanks to the continuing high rate of foreclosures, could plunge the economy back into recession at any time. No wonder four out of five Americans, according to a recent Bloomberg News survey, believe the reform bill Obama hailed as historic is anything but.

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Wall-Street-reform-that-isn_t-1001080-98624969.html

Good news from Rasmussen Reports

Balance of Power Ratings: Pennsylvania Shifts from Toss-Up to Leans GOP (19 July 2010)

Washington Senate: Murray Falls Behind Two GOP Challengers (16 July 2010)

A Climate Absolution?

The alarmists still won't separate science from politics.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 16 July 2010

...For anyone who believes that science benefits from transparency, Climategate was a very good thing. The scandal prompted reporters, bloggers, independent scientists and parliamentary committees to take a closer look at the "settled science." A widely cited claim by the IPCC that Himalayan glaciers would all but vanish by 2035 was debunked. Another stunner about a potential 40% decline in the Amazonian rainforest "appears to have absolutely no scientific basis at all," according to Roger Pielke, Jr., an environmental studies professor at the University of Colorado. Other attention-getting IPCC assertions turn out to have been based on the work of environmental pressure groups and popular magazines.

At a minimum, then, Climategate ought to have prompted some soul-searching among climate scientists about the need for greater openness, less politics and a more balanced treatment of the data. Which makes it all the more unfortunate that last week's "Independent Climate Change Email Review," commissioned and funded by the University of East Anglia and chaired by Muir Russell, the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, amounts to a 160-page evasion of the real issues...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703394204575367483847033948.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Obama Moves away from 'Freedom of Religion' toward 'Freedom of Worship'?

Words matter—listen carefully to our current administration.

by Randy Sly, 18 July 2010

The change in language was barely noticeable to the average citizen but political observers are raising red flags at the use of a new term "freedom of worship" by President Obama and Secretary Clinton as a replacement for the term freedom of religion. This shift happened between the President's speech in Cairo where he showcased America's freedom of religion and his appearance in November at a memorial for the victims of Fort Hood, where he specifically used the term "freedom of worship." From that point on, it has become the term of choice for the president and Clinton....

...Let's be clear, however; language matters when it comes to defining freedoms and limits. A shift from freedom of religion to freedom of worship moves the dialog from the world stage into the physical confines of a church, temple, synagogue or mosque. Such limitations can unleash an unbridled initiative that we have only experienced in a mild way through actions determined to remove of roadside crosses, wearing of religious t-shirts and pro-life pins as well as any initiatives of evangelization. It also could exclude our right to raise our children in our faith, the right to religious education, literature or media, the right to raise funds or organize charitable activities and the right to express religious beliefs in the normal discourse of life...

More: http://catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=37390&page=2

Four great posts today at Atlas Shrugs

all by Pamela Geller, 18 July 2010

The EDL Jewish Defense Division

Embarrassment of Riches in "Poor, Starving" Chubby Gaza

Muslims Attack Village, Slaughter 8 Christians with Machetes, and Burn 7 Houses

Eyewitness Reportage: Attacking EDL at Demonstration, UK Police State

Alliance Defense Fund demands that University of Illinois immediately reinstate professor fired for teaching facts about Catholic doctrine on homosexual behavior in class about Catholic doctrine

by Adam Cassandra, 16 July 2010

...Ironically, the U of I Department of Religion had [congratulated](#) Howell in the previous school semester for his "excellent teaching" in the Introduction to Catholicism course, as ranked by students in the Fall of 2009.

But Howell was informed in late May of this year by Dr. Robert McKim, head of the religion department, that he would no longer be able to teach classes at the University.

"This kind of heavy handed authoritarian response to an opinion that some anonymous person found objectionable is simply not the way classrooms should function at universities in the United States," Lorence told CNSNews.com...

...The ADF letter reiterates several times that Howell was fired for teaching Catholic doctrine in a class about Catholic doctrine, and says that, "the University's only reason for removing Dr. Howell is that other students, faculty, and staff disliked his speech."...

More: <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/69516>

Alliance Defense Fund: <http://www.alliancedefensefund.org/main/default.aspx>

Lynne Stewart is the Commie lawyer who used her privilege to pass secret messages for the terrorist Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, and was initially sentenced to only 28 months in jail.

Let the devil's advocate rot

by Michael Goodwin, 18 July 2010

...Stewart's mistakes were her boasts to reporters and an appeal that argued for no jail time at all. Manhattan prosecutors seized on that fatuous claim to argue that, far from being too harsh, the 28 months was too lenient, given the serious nature of her crimes, her obvious lies under oath and sentences in similar cases.

Happily, the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the government. It upheld the conviction and, saying Koeltl had erred in calculating his initial sentence, ordered him to reconsider Stewart's sentence. He did, and last week tacked on nearly eight more years. He cited her lack of remorse, as well as the appeals court ruling.

"I'm somewhat stunned, Judge, at the swift change in my outlook," a blubbing Stewart told him.

No doubt she is, as we all are. Stunned that justice was done.

Stewart is 70, so there's a good chance she's right when she says she won't get out of prison alive. She's served only eight months and claims already "prison has diminished me," adding, "I sense myself losing pieces of my personhood."...

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/local/let_the_devil_advocate_rot_MFHbFGSUoh0h6VVJGmq0kO

Well, good!

We're drinking Tea, not Kool-Aid

by Bill O'Reilly, 18 July 2010

...The NAACP picked a bad time to brand the Tea Party with the racist label. Recently, the New Black Panther Party has been in the news because the Justice Department declined to prosecute a case in which three of its members apparently intimidated voters at a Philadelphia polling place. One DOJ lawyer even quit his job, saying he was ordered not to pursue the case because it involved race.

In response to the story, a number of New Black Panthers have been shown on TV saying incredibly bigoted things. NBPP member King Samir Shabazz even suggested that black Americans kill white babies. This is on tape. Obviously, racial bigotry cuts both ways.

It is true that there's a big difference between the Tea Party and the NBPP. The tea people have quickly become a potent political force in America, while the NBPP is few in number and brain cells. If it were just about the Panthers, the story would be meaningless. But because Attorney General Eric Holder is involved in the dismissal of the criminal charges, the situation takes on some importance.

One of the weaknesses of the NAACP is that it has rarely acknowledged black racism. The organization is silent on the Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Louis Farrakhan. Yet, it is outraged about the Tea Party. There might be something hypocritical about that...

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20100718were_drinking_tea_not_kool-aid/

Illegal immigrant deaths in Arizona desert soaring in July

16 July 2010

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20100717/D9H0G0LG1.html>

Well, good!

This speech includes a wealth of facts about Middle Eastern history—both ancient and modern—that thoroughly debunk the claims of the worldwide anti-Israel mob. On a personal note: two things that made me start to turn away from leftism were (1) people who've said that Israel is illegitimate and has no right to keep the territory it won in defensive wars against aggressors, and (2) the anti-freedom, anti-Western-culture nonsense promulgated by Herbert Marcuse.

—Don John

The War Against the Jews at UC San Diego

by David Horowitz; from a speech delivered at U.C. San Diego on 10 May 2010

The last time I visited this campus was 40 years ago when I came to have lunch with Professor Herbert Marcuse, a malicious Marxist who made a reputation for himself and became a hero to the left by advancing the proposition that if you can claim to speak on behalf of the oppressed you have the right and the obligation to silence, and, if necessary, to obliterate people who disagree with you. This, of course, is the creed of every run-of-the-mill dictator on earth, and it is the creed of the progressive left today.

It is appropriate — and not coincidental of course — that I arrive here during "Israel Apartheid Week" or, as I prefer to call it, "Hitler Youth Week." I use that reference because — as should be evident — what is going on here is part of a globally organized movement centered in the Arab Muslim Middle East to finish the job that Hitler started...

Read on: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/05/28/the-war-against-the-jews-at-uc-san-diego-2/>

Ban on deep-water drilling adds insult to injury

by Governor Bobby Jindal, 17 July 2010

...This moratorium will do nothing to clean up the Gulf of Mexico, and it is already doing great harm to many hardworking citizens. The effects will extend well beyond Louisiana. Since the moratorium was announced, America has already lost two rigs to foreign countries. More drilling companies are negotiating right now to work elsewhere. Every time we decrease our level of production, we make America more dependent on foreign sources of energy.

On those few occasions when our country suffers a commercial airline tragedy, we do not respond by stopping all air travel for six months. Rather, we get to work figuring out the root cause and set about trying to make air travel safer. We don't grind everything to a halt and put tens of thousands of people out of work, jeopardizing our economy.

So, my state joined a lawsuit against the moratorium. We pointed out that a majority of the experts the federal government consulted before the ban, including representatives from the National Academy of Engineering, **have stated publicly** that they do not agree with the six-month blanket moratorium.

The court sided with the people of Louisiana in this matter...Our federal government chose to fight on in court, and lost a second time. Surely now, many of us thought, the federal government would stop its efforts to halt all drilling and instead get serious about more rigorous oversight and inspections. Nope.

Instead, the federal government drafted a new moratorium. This seems to be a cynical ploy. It will take time to

again take federal officials to court. If Washington loses, officials can issue a third moratorium and play this game out as long as they want. Such is the power of the federal government...

...We don't want to see the federal government create a second disaster, an economic disaster, for the people of our state thanks to its "capricious" and "arbitrary" actions. The bottom line is this: **Thousands of Louisianans shouldn't have to lose their jobs just because the federal government can't do its job.**

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/16/AR2010071605180.html>

What a dirtbag the President is!

He came, he saw, he spent

by Henry Payne, 15 July 2010

In the latest stop on his "Recovery Summer" tour, rock star President Barack Obama landed in Holland, Michigan Thursday, insulted its congressman, handed American stimulus dollars to a Korean corporation, and proclaimed Obamanomics a success even as Michigan has lost 94,000 jobs since his Recovery Act was enacted. All in all, another day in the life of an increasingly unpopular president who seems to be living in an alternative universe...

...Obama couldn't even get his manners right. Ever the partisan, he took a shot at his host, Holland Congressional representative Pete Hoekstra who was in the audience. Despite opposing the Recovery Act, Hoekstra attended the ground-breaking ceremony, he told The View, "out of respect for the office of president."

The respect was not returned. "Some made the political calculation that it's better to obstruct than to lend a hand," sneered Obama at the end of his remarks. "Now that doesn't stop them from being at ribbon cuttings, but that's OK."

And then the president jumped in his 10 mpg Caddy limo and headed to the next stop on his tour to transform what Americans drive.

More: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20100715/MIVIEW/100715001/1467/opinion01/He-camehe-sawhe-insulted>

Obamacare abortions on tap

Washington Times editorial, 13 July 2010

...In Rep. Dahlkemper's own Keystone State, the federal government on June 28 approved rules governing \$160 million in federal taxpayer money for a "high risk" insurance program that will—repeat: absolutely, positively will—cover just about any abortion before the 24th week of pregnancy. The Pennsylvania plan submitted to the feds provides coverage for "only" those abortions that satisfy certain state laws. But the key, applicable state law allows abortion if a single doctor decides it is necessary for reasons that include psychology, emotions or the woman's age.

This isn't merely a loophole you can drive a truck through; it's a canyon you can fly through in O Force One. It's as open an invitation to taxpayer-funded abortion as can be imagined...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/13/obamacare-abortionson-tap/>

This includes a total of 18 shocking, damning quotes from the Mad Doctor Berwick. He even says people should be forced to share-and-share-alike in the interests of something called "social justice." I think I'm going to puke.

Berwick: Bigger Than Kagan

If the American people want the health-care world Dr. Berwick wishes to give them, that's their choice. But they must be given that choice.

by Daniel Henninger, 15 July 2010

...Let's look, then, at what President Obama won't let the American electorate hear Dr. Berwick say in front of a committee of Congress. These excerpts are from past speeches and articles by Dr. Berwick:

"I cannot believe that the individual health care consumer can enforce through choice the proper configurations of a system as massive and complex as health care. **That is for leaders to do.**"

"Please don't put your faith in market forces. It's a popular idea: that Adam Smith's invisible hand would do a better job of designing care than leaders with plans can."

"Indeed, the Holy Grail of universal coverage in the United States may remain out of reach unless, through rational collective action overriding some individual self-interest, we can reduce per capita costs."

"A progressive policy regime will control and rationalize financing—control supply."

"The unaided human mind, and the acts of the individual, cannot assure excellence. Health care is a system, and its

performance is a systemic property."

"Health care is a common good—single payer, speaking and buying for the common good."

"And it's important also to make health a human right because the main health determinants are not health care but sanitation, nutrition, housing, social justice, employment, and the like."

"I would place a commitment to excellence—standardization to the best-known method—above clinician autonomy as a rule for care."

"Young doctors and nurses should emerge from training understanding the values of standardization and the risks of too great an emphasis on individual autonomy."

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703792704575367020548324914.html>

Can You Hear Goldman Laughing?

After a big wind-up, the SEC is essentially allowing Goldman Sachs to redeem itself for the price of a few days' revenue.

by Tunku Varadarajan, 16 July 2010

Absorbing the gush of news yesterday afternoon, I was struck between the eyes by the fact that the financial reform bill had sailed blithely through the political portals on the very same day on which it was announced that Goldman Sachs would settle its potentially castrating lawsuit with the SEC (a body now known in the Varadarajan household as the "Securities Eyewash Commission"). As they say in the movies, all coincidences are purely coincidental! (If you believe that, you're my wife's aunt's second cousin's grandma's neighbor in Winston-Salem.)

What beautifully cynical choreography we have just witnessed...

Big business and big government, in bed together as usual:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-07-16/goldman-sachs-pays-small-sec-fine-and-nothing-else/full/>

Jeffersonian Vision and the Rejection of Progressivism

by Michael Barone, 13 July 2010

We are once again—as in the days of the early republic and not in the heyday of the Progressives and the New Dealers—a republic of property owners.

"No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." So reads a portion of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, part of the Bill of Rights passed by the First Congress and ratified by state legislatures, sponsored originally by Thomas Jefferson's friend and political ally James Madison. It echoed, of course, Jefferson's words in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Madison and Jefferson followed the tradition of John Locke, the British philosopher whose *Two Treatises on Government* was taken as the justification for the transfer of power known as the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89—the subject of my 2007 book, *Our First Revolution: The Remarkable British Upheaval That Inspired America's Founding Fathers*. Locke believed that men could be free only if their lives, liberty, and property were protected by the rule of law. And he believed that only men with property could be relied on to self-govern...

Read on: <http://american.com/archive/2010/july/the-return-of-the-jeffersonian-vision-and-the-rejection-of-progressivism>

Russian Spies and Strategic Intelligence

by George Friedman, Stratfor, 13 July 2010

The United States has captured a group of Russian spies and exchanged them for four individuals held by the Russians on espionage charges. The way the media has reported on the issue falls into three groups:

(1) That the Cold War is back; (2) that, given that the Cold War is over, the point of such outmoded intelligence operations is questionable; and (3) that the Russian spy ring was spending its time aimlessly nosing around in think tanks and open meetings in an archaic and incompetent effort...

...In our view, the media may have conflated two of Moscow's missions...

America and Russia use very different methods of spying:

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100712_russian_spies_and_strategic_intelligence

Arrogance Surplus Leads to Government Excesses

by Amity Shlaes, 14 July 2010

What helps business? President Barack Obama seems to think putting a complaining executive on a prestigious committee is the answer. That's what Obama did when he responded to Verizon Chairman Ivan Seidenberg's complaint about policy uncertainty with invitations to chat and a seat on a committee studying exports. Democrats think that the way to help business is to create a small business fund, at least according to legislation proposed by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus.

Nobody knows what Republicans think about business. To judge by its chatter this week, the Grand Old Party solution for business has something to do with curtailing the distribution of medical marijuana.

The problem for all is that business isn't an identifiable person, group or company. Good policy is what might be called humble policy. It starts with admitting what we don't know...

...The fourth humble move is up to voters. It is to reduce expectations about entitlements. This would be easier to do if the fifth and final requirement were met: electing lawmakers or hiring government advisers with an ability to demonstrate humility.

One such humble hero in the wings is Mitch Daniels, Republican governor of Indiana. Daniels spent time in the second Bush administration as director of Office of Management and Budget, so he knows the details of crafting, say, a humbler Medicare policy. Ryan, the congressman, may also meet the humility criterion.

Right now there's little evidence of humble vision in Washington...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-14/arrogance-surplus-leads-to-government-excesses-commentary-by-amity-shlaes.html>

This is what happens when people replace human freedom with government planning, control, and taxation.

Mystery Train

How has California's high-speed rail project survived for 14 years without a plan, a budget, or a single accomplishment?

by Tim Cavanaugh, 13 July 2010

...Since 1996—twice as long as the Transcontinental Railroad took from approval to completion in the 1860s—the bullet train project has cost taxpayers more than \$250 million, yet not one millimeter of track has been laid. If all those taxpayers were in California, we could at least take comfort in knowing that only the guilty are being punished. But the bullet train is the centerpiece in President Barack Obama's national rail plan...

...The bullet train is a case study in the immortality of a bad idea. While the train itself may never become a reality, sheer political will makes the train *project* impossible to kill...

Read it all: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/07/13/mystery-train>

Darkness in Beijing

by Guy Sorman, 11 July 2010

Andrei Sakharov, Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel, Lech Walesa: in the 1980s, these men were household names, winners of extraordinary victories against bestial tyrannies. Western politicians and intellectuals supported and encouraged them, and our solidarity contributed to the liberation of hundreds of millions of human beings whom certain relativists had considered ineligible for democracy (supposedly an exclusively Western cultural trait). Today, we need to remember another set of names: Wei Jingsheng, Hu Jia, and Liu Xiaobo. They are the new Havel and Mandelas, the heroic agents of a future dignity now denied to 1 billion of their fellow Chinese, men and women seeking the same rights that we enjoy...

...The new China seduces us with the Olympic Games in Beijing and with "Expo 2010," a world's fair currently taking place in Shanghai. But when we look behind the stage curtain, we see a nation divided in two. There are the rich, who consist of Communist bureaucrats and military brass. And then there are the ordinary people, who show themselves to be well-informed and ready to rebel against the Party and its clients...

...Westerners often ask whether the Party is still Communist. Some invoke the strange oxymoron "state capitalism." Liu Xia, who knows the regime from the inside, finds fascism a more appropriate reference point: rule under a single party that allies itself with capital and disdains culture. "We democrats," Liu Xia writes, "are like the Jews in Nazi Germany. We are exterminated in the face of general Western indifference. You will wake up when we are

gone."...

From the moment these heroes asked for our help, we Westerners have had no right to refuse it. Our duty is to accuse Liu Xiaobo's and Hu Jia's jailers; if we keep silent, we are cowards.

Continue: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon0711gs.html>

Holder's Hypocrisy

by Victor Davis Hanson, 15 July 2010

Attorney General Eric Holder has developed a bad habit of accusing others of acting in bad faith while doing so himself...

...In just 18 months, Holder has proven to be the most political attorney general since Richard Nixon's attorney general, John Mitchell. And like the hyper-partisan Mitchell, Holder will continue to embarrass the nation until he steps down...

The appalling record: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0710/hanson071510.php3>

Marriage and the Reign of Judges

The latest decision from our judicial overlords on same-sex marriage spells trouble for republican constitutionalism and the institution of marriage.

by Matthew Franck, 13 July 2010

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was grounded on a fear of judges run amok. This past Thursday, federal district court judge Joseph Tauro of Boston justified this fear when he struck down section 3 of the act in two separate cases...

Read on: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2010/07/1417>

The Charge of Racism: It's Time to Bury the Divisive Politics of the Past

by Sarah Palin, 13 July 2010

I am saddened by the NAACP's claim that patriotic Americans who stand up for the United States of America's Constitutional rights are somehow "racists." The charge that Tea Party Americans judge people by the color of their skin is false, appalling, and is a regressive and diversionary tactic to change the subject at hand...

...Having been on the receiving end of a similar spurious charge of racism (in a recent [frivolous lawsuit](#) which was finally dismissed by a federal judge), I know how Tea Party Americans feel to be falsely accused. To be unjustly accused of association with what Reagan so aptly called that "legacy of evil" is a traumatizing experience, and one of which the honest, freedom-loving patriots of the Tea Party movement are truly undeserving.

On this subject, I can recommend the statement issued by a man I was proud to endorse, Tim Scott, the GOP candidate from South Carolina's First Congressional District. Tim, poised to become the first African-American Republican Congressman from the former Confederacy since Reconstruction, is himself a sign of a hopeful, truly post-racial future for our country. It gives added meaning to his warning that "the NAACP is making a grave mistake in stereotyping a diverse group of Americans who care deeply about their country and who contribute their time, energy and resources to make a difference."

The only purpose of such an unfair accusation of racism is to dissuade good Americans from joining the Tea Party movement or listening to the common sense message of Tea Party Americans who simply want government to abide by our Constitution...

More: <http://www.facebook.com/notes/sarah-palin/the-charge-of-racism-its-time-to-bury-the-divisive-politics-of-the-past/408166998434>

Tim Scott's statement: <http://www.votetimscott.com/2010/07/13/tim-scott-statement-on-naacp-resolution-condemning-tea-party-as-racist/>

People like Thomas Glick aren't satisfied with merely making excuses for *today's* Islamofascists.

Pirenne and his Detractors

A review of Thomas Glick's attack on Henri Pirenne in his book *Islamic and Christian Spain*.

by John J. O'Neill, 10 July 2010

Henri Pirenne's posthumously-published *Mohammed et Charlemagne* (1938) presented to the academic world the results of a lifetime of research and study. His conclusions were stunning. The accepted narrative of western civilization, he maintained, was erroneous in a fundamental way. Classical civilization, the literate and urban culture of Greece and Rome, did not die as a result of the "Barbarian" Invasions of the fifth century. On the contrary, the great cities of the west, of Gaul, of Italy, of Spain and of North Africa, continued to flourish as before, this time under Germanic kings. These monarchs enthusiastically adopted the Latin language as well as Christianity, and regarded themselves as functionaries of the Roman Emperor — who by now however sat in Constantinople. Literature, as well as the arts and sciences, Pirenne found, continued to flourish in the western provinces until the middle of the seventh century. At that point, however, everything fell apart. Now, quite suddenly, a darkness — complete and total — descends. Gold coinage disappears and the great cities go into terminal decline. Within a generation, Europe is in the middle of a Dark Age. The light of classical civilization is utterly and completely extinguished.

What, Pirenne mused, could have caused such a total and dramatic disintegration? The conclusion he reached was almost as dramatic as the civilizational collapse he described. It was, to use Pirenne's own phrase, explainable in one word: Mohammed. It can have been no coincidence, argued Pirenne, that all the luxury items of Near Eastern origin, which were commonplace in western Europe until the early seventh century, suddenly disappear in the middle of that same century — just at the moment Islam spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Islamic war and piracy must have closed the Mediterranean to all trade and strangled the economy of western Europe. Since the great cities of the west were dependant for their existence upon the luxury items imported from the east, these soon began to die. With the cities went the wealth of the kings, whose tax revenues disappeared: Local strongmen, or barons, seized power in the provinces. The Middle Ages had begun.

It was thus Islam, and not the German barbarians, who had caused the Dark Age of Europe...

Fascinating history: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/pirenne-and-his-detractors.html#readfurther>

The Onion, or the Post? 'One Nation' Article an Exercise in Parody

A *Washington Post* article describing the latest progressive response to the tea party movement may be the most unintentionally hysterical reporting of the year.

by John Rosenberg, 13 July 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-onion-or-the-post-one-nation-article-an-exercise-in-parody/?singlepage=true>

The Bush Tax Cuts and the Deficit Myth

Runaway government spending, not declining tax revenues, is the reason the U.S. faces dramatic budget shortfalls for years to come.

by Brian Riedl, 13 July 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704738404575347302831199046.html>

Despite lending some credence to the hoax of anthropogenic global warming, Mr. Mead delivers a scathing critique of leftist policy prescriptions for alleviating it. You've got to love anyone who says "chuckleheaded do-gooders" and "peace quacks."

The Big Green Lie Exposed

by Walter Russell Mead, 12 July 2010

...Greens who feared and climate skeptics who hoped that the rash of investigations following Climategate and Glacieregate and all the other problems would reveal some gaping obvious flaws in the science of climate change were watching the wrong thing. The Big Green Lie (or Delusion, to be charitable) isn't so much that climate change is happening and that it is very likely caused or at least exacerbated by human activity. The Big Lie is that the green movement is a source of coherent or responsible counsel about what to do...

...Many leaders of today's environmental movement are like the anti-alcohol activists before Prohibition who convinced Americans that the problem of alcohol abuse was real, destructive, and likely to get worse unless addressed. These farsighted activists were absolutely correct... The problem is that the remedy proposed, Prohibition, not only failed to solve the problem — it made the problem of alcohol abuse worse, and it also reduced respect for the law and led to the rise of organized crime in the United States on an unprecedented scale...

...The green movement's strategic failure is also reminiscent of the Peace Movement of the 1920s. Chuckleheaded do-gooders correctly recognized the problem of war... Yet the strategies they proposed — a treaty to 'outlaw war' in the 1920s, and appeasement of dictators and revisionist powers in the 1930s — were utter disasters and made World War Two inevitable. The Nuclear Freeze movement in the 1980s repeated the mistake: confusing the identification of a problem (nuclear weapons) with a workable policy solution (a unilateral western freeze on nuclear weapons deployment that would have given the Soviets superiority in Europe). There are fewer nuclear weapons today than would have existed had the Nuclear Freeze people had their way; there almost certainly would have been fewer wars and fewer war deaths if the policy recommendations of the pre-World War Two peace movements had been greeted with the obloquy and contempt they deserved...

...The problem is real; therefore my solution is right: that is the faulty logic behind the Green Lie, and it is exactly the tired old lie of the Prohibitionists and the peace quacks...

Beautifully written: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/07/12/the-big-green-lie-exposed/>

What will Gates' legacy be at Defense?

by Jed Babbin, 13 July 2010

...Gates is a long-time Washington insider, and plays the game as well as anyone since James Baker was White House chief of staff. Gates—a Baker protégé—listens far more closely to congressional liberals than to the military professionals who serve under him...

...In 2007, Gates had to decide if Gen. Peter Pace would be nominated for a second term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mi) threatened a contentious hearing on the Iraq war if Gates and President Bush backed the smart, telegenic Vietnam hero who was held in the highest regard throughout the uniformed services. Gates decided against Pace, leading the Wall Street Journal to editorialize that "the man running the Pentagon is Democratic Senator Carl Levin of Michigan. For that matter, is George W. Bush still President?"...

...Disdaining development of military technology, Gates decided and imposed the significant cuts in the acquisition of major new weapon systems before the Quadrennial Defense Review was completed. The QDR is designed to provide the analytical basis for defense budgets and weapon acquisitions. Gates's far-reaching decisions without that analytical basis cost him credibility within the military establishment...

...Abandoning Pace, cutting the future defense systems and then over-promising on missile defense, Gates has lost the trust of too much of that defense establishment. Gates's support for the rapid repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" further undercut that trust...

...Liberal calls for major cuts in defense spending are becoming more frequent and more heated. This is not just another "guns vs. butter" argument between liberals and conservatives. As British economist Niall Ferguson highlighted in a recent speech, it is a battle inevitably resulting from the massive scale of new spending and the accumulation of government debt. Ferguson said that by combating "our crisis of private debt with an extraordinary expansion of public debt, we inevitably are going to reduce the resources available for national security in the years ahead...I fear that the financial crisis doesn't just impact on the economy. It actually impacts on American power in the hardest sense."...

Full column: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/07/13/why_is_secretary_gates_staying_106289.html

Felons voting illegally may have put Franken over the top in Minnesota, study finds

by Ed Barnes, 12 July 2010

The six-month election recount that turned former Saturday Night Live comedian Al Franken into a U.S. senator may have been decided by convicted felons who voted illegally in Minnesota's Twin Cities, according to an 18-month study conducted by a conservative watchdog group.

The six-month election recount that turned former "Saturday Night Live" comedian Al Franken into a U.S. senator may have been decided by convicted felons who voted illegally in Minnesota's Twin Cities.

That's the finding of an 18-month study conducted by Minnesota Majority, a conservative watchdog group, which found that at least 341 convicted felons in largely Democratic Minneapolis-St. Paul voted illegally in the 2008 Senate race between Franken, a Democrat, and his Republican opponent, then-incumbent Sen. Norm Coleman.

The final recount vote in the race, determined six months after Election Day, showed Franken beat Coleman by 312 votes...

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/07/12/felons-voting-illegally-franken-minnesota-study-finds/>

And we all know which party most felons vote for.

Obama Regime sets up to dump disaster on GOP Congress in 2011

Rush Limbaugh, 12 July 2010

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_071210/content/01125106.member.html

Life vs. Feminism

Andrew Ryan, 11 July 2010

Any time anyone comes to you trying to justify something in the name of the "lesser evil"—call her on it. I am always amazed by people who attempt to quantify evil in order to justify it. For those wondering what "quantify evil" means, I'm referring to people who argue for an otherwise immoral action on the basis that it is "the lesser of two evils."

Consider for a moment the moral dilemma: Regardless of reason, is it better to murder one person or ten? I imagine that most people would say it's better to murder one. But now consider what that says...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/life_vs_feminism.html

Fortunately, in the post-Climategate world, Mr. Cox's proposal hasn't a snowball's chance.

Global Warming's Self-Parody

by Mark Landsbaum, 9 July 2010

It's hard to mock global warmists' obsessive fear-mongering more than their own self-parodies do.

This item just in: "WASHINGTON – As the eastern seaboard continues to endure a record-breaking heat wave, the thought of giving up air conditioning seems about as enticing as switching off the furnace during a bitter cold snap. But a Kansas environmentalist is suggesting just that.

"Americans, says Stan Cox, are overly reliant on air conditioning and, with the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster serving as a grim reminder of the U.S. penchant for oil-guzzling, it's time to find other ways to beat the heat."...

The rest: <http://orangepunch.ocregister.com/2010/07/09/global-warmings-self-parody/30299/>

Behind *U.S. v Arizona*: pure politics

by Kris W. Kobach, 12 July 2010

...The decision to file civil charges or to file a civil lawsuit should be based purely on the strength of the legal case against the defendant, not on politics. And when it comes to the Arizona law, the federal government's case is a weak one.

The Arizona law is a narrow measure that mirrors federal law—making the Justice Department's preemption argument a difficult one, at best. Because other kinds of pre-emption don't apply, the department can only win if it can show a conflict with federal law. But there is no federal statute that Arizona's law conflicts with. The department's legal filings don't offer any answer to this fundamental problem.

The opinions of the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Circuits of the US Court of Appeals (which are all of the circuits that have addressed the issue) also support the authority of Arizona to enact its law.

So do the two relevant opinions of the US Supreme Court. Another obstacle for the Obama administration is the fact that the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in 2002 authored an opinion holding that state police officers have the authority to arrest illegal aliens—the same authority underlying the Arizona law. Consequently, the department is arguing against its own previous opinion...

Full column: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/behind_us_arizona_pure_politics_doTiHt4iEpjt4mlSMPMvIO

Corrupting Hatred

by Eileen F. Toplansky, 11 July 2010

...Some sixty years ago, those of my family who survived this constant persecution decided that it was time to become part of the group of nations of the world. They had always lived on a small parcel of land, but they had not yet received official recognition of their statehood.

We fought for the home, and we fight even now. Of course, the land was home to some distant cousins of ours, and as in any family, we have tried to work out differences between us. And yet your Reverend and Imam claim that the "land has been illegally occupied." Don't they know that much of the land was legally purchased? Deeds are on file. Furthermore, our cousins now have their own parcels of land that they totally control, yet they continue to lob bombs into our kindergartens. They teach their children to hate other children just because they are different. Isn't that the racism that you recoil from? Isn't that inimical to Jesus' teaching? If you are following the words of the Koran, why should we not find your beliefs loathsome?

Thus, all is not well. Other nations resent the fact that we have finally stopped being the pawn of their convenience. They want a scapegoat just as they had in the past. Surely, you know the feeling. It is not new to either of our peoples. Even when actual events are evident on YouTube, hateful people deny them. Even when **investigations** prove that we did nothing wrong, no one notices the retractions.

And still other people want us to leave. Just pick up and move. In fact, your men of the cloth have stated it outright. This puzzles us. But if we leave our tiny home, where shall we go? We have lived in India, Spain, Africa, and even China. We are accepted when we number only a dozen, but when we begin to grow we are seen as a threat...A land no larger than New Jersey has been repeatedly truncated in order to gain peace, and its only reward is terror...What is so alarming is that members of groups who have also suffered do not lend a helping hand to us. Instead they sound like our enemies, inciting violence, speaking distortions, printing half-truths.

If people who have suffered as we have do not understand and empathize, then how will anyone?

As more and more people stand idly by, aiding and abetting our enemies, we have no choice but to defend ourselves. But if you do not wish to aid us in our fight, at least do not join the camp of our tormentors...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/corrupting_hatred.html

Afghan turnaround

Top 10 must-do's.

by *Ralph Peters*, 8 July 2010

Gen. David Petraeus has an unprecedented opportunity to seize back the momentum in Afghanistan: Neither President Obama nor Congress wants a confrontation with this general. During his honeymoon, he can write his own rules. And he needs to. Fast...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/afghan_turnaround_9uva1NrTQqQMcyL4BKrDIN

Team Obama Turns Blind Eye to Voter Intimidation

by *Deroy Murdock*, 8 July 2010

...Why would the supposedly ethnically transcendent Obama administration distribute free passes to the black equivalent of Ku Klux Klansmen? Blame power lust and unequal justice under law.

J. Christian Adams, until recently a career attorney in the Voting Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, testified under oath on July 6 about an increasingly radical Justice Department before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

According to Mr. Adams, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Julie Fernandes last November instructed prosecutors on the "motor voter" law that governs voter registration. Regarding that statute's Section 8—which requires that local officials purge their rolls of relocated, ineligible and dead voters—Mr. Adams recalls hearing Ms. Fernandes, an Obama political appointee, say: "We have no interest in enforcing this provision of the law. It has nothing to do with increasing turnout, and we are just not going to do it." Such lawlessness, of course, invites ACORN-style vote fraud.

Mr. Adams also testified: "I was told by Voting Section management that cases are not going to be brought against black defendants [for] the benefit of white victims." Mr. Adams, who resigned from Justice in protest on June 1, encapsulated the Obama administration's moral bankruptcy in this case: "We abetted wrongdoers and abandoned law-abiding citizens."

The rest: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/8/team-obama-turns-blind-eye-to-voter-intimidation/>

The moral bankruptcy of the last sentence is completely in character. Liberals love to spare the guilty and condemn the innocent. You think not? Consider their stance on terrorists, and their stance on unwanted babies.

—Don John

Mr. Weissberg is Professor of Political Science-Emeritus, University of Illinois-Urbana.
His latest book is *Bad Students Not Bad Schools*.

Magical Education and the Slide into Third-Worldism

by Robert Weissberg, 11 July 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/magical_education_and_the_slid.html

The Climategate Whitewash Continues

Global warming alarmists claim vindication after last year's data manipulation scandal.

Don't believe the 'independent' reviews.

by Patrick J. Michaels, 12 July 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704075604575356611173414140.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Health Care Rationing Obama Believes In

by Nat Hentoff, 9 June 2010

As a reporter, I do not use euphemisms—such as calling murderous terrorists "militants" or "activists." And as an American, I can exercise my First Amendment right to say plainly that President Obama is a liar with regard to our new health-care law, often referred to as Obamacare... Wesley Smith, an invaluable investigative reporter on the dangers of government-controlled health care, describes the consequences if Obamacare is not repealed by the next Congress after the midterm elections:

... "Once the centralized planning of medical delivery is complete—with cost-containment boards controlling the standards of care and the extent of coverage for both the private and public sectors—insurance companies, HMOs and the government will be able to legally discriminate against the sickest, most disabled and most elderly in our country. In other words, those whose care is most expensive." ...

... In the British Health Service Berwick loves, "750,000 patients are awaiting admission to NHS hospitals. ... The latest estimates suggest that for most specialties, only 30 to 50 percent of patients are treated within 18 weeks. For trauma and orthopedic patients, the figure is only 20 percent. ... Every year, 50,000 surgeries are canceled because patients become too sick on the waiting list to proceed." ...

... There are many reasons why it is vital for Americans to vote in the midterm elections—and, of course, in 2012, to prevent a second term for the most dangerous and incompetent president we have ever had—but for many Americans, it is particularly important this year to vote against supporters of Obamacare. The question for many voters should be whether, in the years ahead, they will be in condition to vote if they are on waiting lists for government-controlled health care...

More: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=11880

Flashback:

Americans cheer "USA! USA!" as they chase Black Panthers out of town

On December 4, 2007 in Pasadena TX (a suburb of Houston) Joe Horn, 61, shot and killed two men that had burglarized his neighbor's home on November 14, 2007. Black Panthers thought they'd show off, marching through this town in defense of the man who was shot..

<http://www.breitbart.tv/flashback-americans-cheer-usa-usa-as-they-chase-black-panthers-out-of-town/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDpzezRZ1wI>

(Hat tip: Scott A.)

Of course, liberals saw this demonstration as racist, because they always color their world the way they want it to look. The Congressional Democrats' procession last March, on the weekend they passed ObamaCare, was supposedly attacked with spittle and racist taunts. The full videotape of the event showed nothing of the sort. But that didn't matter: liberals still saw the spittle and heard the taunts, even if no one else could. Kind of like a dog whistle. In fact, the



Pasadena demonstration only confirmed what most modern liberals believe: that patriotism is racist.

Constructing the 21st-Century Socialist State

by Baron Bodissey, 11 July 2010

In a speech at the University of Missouri on October 30th, 2008, just before he was elected President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama famously said, "We are five days away from fundamentally transforming the United States of America." His words possessed a chilling resonance with those of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known to history as Lenin. In November 1917, after the Bolsheviks occupied the Tsar's Winter Palace, Lenin sat down with his comrades in their opulent new offices and said calmly, "We shall now proceed to construct the socialist state." And so he did — and we all know how *that* turned out...

...The Husseinization of America over the last year and a half has involved inconceivable amounts of new debt, increased government control over an already damaged economy, abandonment of America's allies, outreach to its enemies, unprecedented interference in the private decisions of citizens, and proposed restrictions on our civil liberties.

From Obamacare to the Gulf oil spill, one can't escape the feeling that all of this is going according to plan, and that the plan depends on the systematic ruin of the United States as an economic and military power. But why? What possible end can Obama and his far-left handlers hope to achieve? Totalitarian control of a completely devastated country?

Anyone of modest intelligence, even a totalitarian Marxist, should be able to discern that the policies of the Obama administration cannot possibly produce the desired results. The United States can be destroyed, but it cannot be transformed by debt and disarmament into a revenant 21st-century Soviet Union.

So why do it? I keep circling round and round that question, and the only answer I can come up with is *stupidity*. The mandarins of Washington D.C. believe, against all the available evidence, that they can pull a socialist utopian rabbit out of a threadbare fiscal hat. In other words, collectively speaking, they're dumber than a box of rocks.

I bring all this up because I just read a fascinating article by Gregory R. Copley that was published last week in [OilPrice.com](http://oilprice.com). It's entitled "The New Civil Wars Within the West", and it outlines the mass hysteria and folly that are running wild across the entire Western world, and not just among the Obamanoids in the United States.

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/constructing-21st-century-socialist.html#readfurther>

Slam dunk, *golaso*, grand slam, palpable hit, ears & tail. Just read it!

Alinsky, Stalinsky, It's Still the Same Old Agitprop

by James Lewis, 11 July 2010

...The word "jihad" is a political lie, and the left knows that, just like the Muslim fascists do. It's like the word "peace" in the mouth of Jozef Stalin. So Brennan dropped a deliberate inside-baseball wink-wink nod-nod to the Islamist radicals around the world. His Arab audience loved his use of "al Quds" for "Jerusalem," which legitimates the (false) assertion that Islam has an originalist claim to Jerusalem. That's why they cheered his quotation. He was telling them "Obama is on your side! Regular Americans are too stupid to get it!"

We have a big jihad sympathizer in the White House, just like Obama and his buds from Chicago, just like Jeremiah Wright and Louis Farrakhan, just like Obama's hero Malcolm X, and just like Jodie Evans and Bill Ayers whipping up crowds for Hamas. These people are predictably on the side of medieval reactionaries who practice barbarities against women, gays, Jews, Christians, and especially any creed that advocates tolerance and open-mindedness. The left is enabling evil today, just as it enabled Mao Zedong's evil in China, Pol Pot's evil in Cambodia, and Stalin's evil in Russia, Poland, and Ukraine.

So are we really supposed to think Jodie and John Brennan didn't know about the Turkish suiciders with white headbands and their wills all signed, chanting "Kaibar! Khaibar!" even before they took off for Gaza? Jodie doesn't have Brennan's phone number in the White House? The CIA doesn't have thousands of highly paid local sources to find out what really happened? Or—maybe Jodie and John just weren't surprised that the stunt **went exactly as planned?**

They knew, just like they knew exactly what Helen Thomas has believed for the last two centuries. For a decade or more, Helen Thomas was the Propaganda Commissar of the White House press corps, whipping them on to attack enemies like George W. Bush. The left has known about Helen Thomas for years. She doesn't bother to hide her real beliefs. The American people find out only when she left her job for saying out loud what she'd told

them every single day for all of her life in the White House press room. Good old Helen. What an idealist.

Agitprop was the Stalinist name for "community organizing," back when Communist agitators were proud to be called Communist agitators. The Gaza crisis served community agitator Obama with perfect timing, because it put overwhelming pressure on Israel just when he wanted to do some heavy-duty arm-twisting...

Brilliant and biting: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/07/alinsky_stalinsky_its_still_th.html

"The West is Best"

by *Baron Bodissey*, 10 July 2010

This video from Finnish TV is the most fatwa-worthy television report that I've seen so far. In it you will see interviews with three infamous Mootoonists as well as clear images of the drawings that got them into trouble.

Be warned! Blasphemy lies ahead!

Ignore the confrontational style of questioning the interviewer directed at the three artists, and pay attention to their responses. Kurt Westergaard said that the confrontation with the Muslim world over the cartoons was unavoidable and necessary, and Lars Vilks summed it up by saying, "The West is best."...

A riveting half-hour show: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/west-is-best.html#readfurther>

The man who may well be our next President talks about some of his favorite political books.

Five Books on Freedom & the Economy

Governor Mitch Daniels, interviewed by Jonathan Rauch, 4 July 2010

<http://fivebooks.com/interviews/mitch-daniels-on-american-conservatism>

The true story of this incredibly heroic man refutes several points of lazy-minded orthodoxy. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was theologically conservative. His legacy has been hijacked by the Left. And despite the tendency of 21st century atheists to equate Christians with Nazism, the actual Nazis were not Christians in any way, shape, or form.

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

by *Eric Metaxas and Timothy J. Keller (2010)*

http://www.amazon.com/Bonhoeffer-Pastor-Martyr-Prophet-Spy/dp/1595551387/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1278827603&sr=1-1

The New Black Panthers voting-rights case has nine lives

by *Christine M. Flowers*, 9 July 2010

In Spring 1967, my father was a young lawyer trying to figure out what to do with rest of his professional life. As an editor of Temple's Law Review, he had choices. But before embarking on a career that eventually led him to be named a "Legend of the Philadelphia Bar," Dad took a detour to Mississippi.

The year before Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down in Memphis, Tenn., Ted Flowers spent a summer registering African-Americans to vote and run for office in Copiah County. His journals tell tales that sound as if they were ripped from the pages of *To Kill a Mockingbird*...

...I thought of Dad when I heard about what happened at a polling place in North Philly on Election Day 2008. Some militants of the New Black Panthers went to a polling place near the old Richard Allen Projects and strutted their stuff, complete with uniforms and billy clubs. Their clear intent was to intimidate people exercising their right to vote in what many called a historic election...

More: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/opinion/20100709_Christine_M_Flowers__The_New_Black_Panthers_voting-rights_case_has_nine_lives.html

Green Economics and the Void of Desire

by *Doctor Zero*, 9 July 2010

<http://www.doczero.org/2010/07/green-economics-and-the-void-of-desire/>

Representation Without Taxation

by Ed Feulner, 8 July 2010

...During the Bush presidency the tax burden for the bottom 80 percent of taxpayers plunged, even as their income grew. For those in the bottom 20 percent, for example, income increased 4.6 percent, while the tax share paid dropped by 27 percent. The same held true for the next four quintiles—they earned more, yet paid a smaller percentage of taxes.

It's only the highest earners (the top 20 percent) who saw their share of the tax burden increase. It jumped by 3.4 percent, while they enjoyed a 12 percent increase in their income...

...It seems only fair that, while the wealthy will always pay more, everyone should pay something. Everyone, after all, benefits from our unparalleled military might, and we all ought to contribute something, no matter how small an amount, to keep it strong. Yet the Tax Policy Center reports that 47 percent of households owed no income tax in 2009. In fact, many actually make money through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

It's time to heed an age-old warning. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury...

More: <http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/article/69103>

Ms. Marcus is fairly liberal. She even thinks Dawn Johnsen was OK. But she decries the Berwick maneuver.

Obama's Cynical Recess Appointment of Donald Berwick

by Ruth Marcus, 8 July 2010

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/postpartisan/2010/07/obamas_cynical_recess_appointm.html

"You Want Freedom? You're Gonna Have to Kill Some Crackers"

by Ed Driscoll, 6 July 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/eddriscoll/2010/07/06/youre-gonna-have-to-kill-some-crackers/?singlepage=true>

Punitive Liberalism

by James Piereson, 28 June 2004

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/004/245kubju.asp>

The Ministries of Truth Weigh In

by Victor Davis Hanson, 7 July 2010

...What is going on here? The president is setting the tone, and a host of truth departments are his choruses.

Eric Holder's job description did not include calling us "a nation of cowards." Nor does it include **dropping** a won case about voter fraud, especially when the perpetrator is a known racist who indulges in "hate speech."...Ditto Hilda Solis's silly video calling for workers to report bad employers — "documented or not." She threw that fillip in about not enforcing the law, despite immigration being outside her purview, since she knew that it would remind her leader that she too is a revolutionary on the barricades.

I don't think Janet Napolitano's job at Homeland Security is dealing with "man-caused disasters" like power outages, BP leaks, mine explosions, etc. But again, she wanted Obama to take notice of the fact that she is a true believer by using words that make Muslims feel "good" about themselves.

And then there is Energy Secretary Chu. Why blurt out predictions of "no more agriculture in California"? Instead of figuring out how we are to have enough power to turn on the lights, Chu interjects alarm about the end of farming in the richest agricultural state in the union, part of a green editorial at a time when hundreds of thousands of acres of productive farmland lie idle during one of the wettest years in California's recent history.

What was "boot on their neck" about, Secretary Salazar? That brag assures Obama that his Interior secretary is on board, and can use the Chicago way to shake down \$20 billion. We could do this all day — Van Jones and his various lunacies, Anita Dunn and her Mao worship. The real point is, however, that Obama has set a revolutionary tone, and

everyone beneath him is falling all over themselves to trump it — and thereby gain traction and approval from their leader...

Full report: <http://pajamasmedia.com/victordavishanson/the-ministries-of-truth-weigh-in/?singlepage=true>

NY Times loses its distaste for religion as Houston churches push amnesty for illegals

by Clay Waters, 6 July 2010

<http://www.mrc.org/timeswatch/articles/2010/20100706102100.aspx>

Bloomberg Submits to Islam, Honors 9/11 Victory for Allah

by Joe Blough, 8 July 2010

Hear those crickets? That's the sound of the NYC press as Bloomberg and his non-alcoholic, no caffeine, no smoking, cocktail crowd shove through the Cordoba House Victory Commemoration Mosque — in honor of Allah's great victory over the infidel on 9/11/2001...

...And let there be no doubt in your mind, oh thou faithful and obedient slave of the almighty, that this mosque is intended to commemorate a great victory. In the words of Raymond Ibrahim, scholar of Middle Eastern history, fluent speaker and reader of Arabic, and author of the *Al Qaeda Reader*, a translation of key jihadist writings:

"Throughout Islam's history, whenever a region was conquered, one of the first signs of consolidation was/is the erection of a mosque atop the sacred sites of the vanquished: the pagan Ka'ba temple in Arabia was converted into Islam's holiest site, the mosque of Mecca; the al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site, was built atop Solomon's temple in Jerusalem; the Umayyad mosque was built atop the Church of St. John the Baptist; and the Hagia Sophia was converted into a mosque upon the conquest of Constantinople..."

More: <http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/07/08/bloomberg-submits-to-islam-honors-911-victory-for-allah/>

Natural Reluctance

Elena Kagan's disturbing refusal to acknowledge pre-existing rights.

by Jacob Sullum, 7 July 2010

...The First Amendment does not say, "The people shall have a right to freedom of speech." It says, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech." Likewise with "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" and "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

These are not rights the government creates; they are pre-existing rights the government is bound to respect. There is no other way to make sense of the Ninth Amendment: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

By contrast, here is how Kagan summarized the Supreme Court's conclusion in the 2008 case *D.C. v. Heller* (emphasis added): "The Second Amendment *confers*...an individual right to keep and bear arms." What the decision actually said is that the Second Amendment *acknowledges* that right. "It has always been widely understood," the Court explained, "that the Second Amendment, like the First and Fourth Amendments, codified a *pre-existing* right" that was considered "one of the fundamental rights of Englishmen."...

This is crucial: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/07/07/natural-reluctance>

Americans Oppose Federal Suit Against Arizona Immigration Law

by Frank Newport, 9 July 2010

Americans' initial reactions to the U.S. Justice Department lawsuit against Arizona's new illegal immigration law are more negative than positive, by a 50% to 33% margin...

Poll details: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/141209/Americans-Oppose-Federal-Suit-Against-Ariz-Immigration-Law.aspx>

Symposium: The Fear that Wilders is Right

Jamie Glazov with Roger Simon, Robert Spencer and Kevin Levin, 9 July 2010

...As for Obama, no one should be surprised by what is happening... He is not only presiding over America's decline, but is in a very real sense the apostle of that decline... And so it is no surprise that the list of his anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic appointees and associates just keeps growing: not just Reverend Wright, but also Samantha Power, Robert Malley, Rosa Brooks, Chuck Hagel, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and more. Likewise also his appointees who wish to give international law precedence over American law: Harold Koh, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, John Holdren, Carol Browner—on and on.

In light of all this and more, the situation is very serious, and the time for appeasement, and what Levin terms "the censorship of the appeasers," is over... We beg no more. We entreat no more. We petition no more. We defy them. We are not the aggressors. We are not haters. We are not racists. We are not bigots. We are not neofascists. Those who claim otherwise are knowingly or unknowingly abetting a monstrous evil. We withdraw our sanction from them. We must no longer treat journalists as if they were objective reporters when they are ideologues and propagandists. We must constantly call them out on their game. And refuse to play it ourselves.

The rest: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/07/09/symposium-the-fear-that-wilders-is-right/>

Obama threatens to follow in FDR's economic missteps

by Amity Shlaes, 9 July 2010

...By fixating on the debt and stimulus plans, Obama and Congress are overlooking challenges to the economy from taxes, employment and the entrepreneurial environment. President Roosevelt's great error was to ignore such factors—and the result was that sickening double dip...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/08/AR2010070804272.html>

Here's a quick refresher course on the **wicked communist doctor** that Obama has just recess-appointed as Administrator of CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). The agency administers over \$740 billion of spending each year, and will be key to thrusting ObamaCare up our collective rectum. And I do mean collective!

Donald Berwick on Redistributing Wealth *from a 2008 speech in Britain*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2Kevz_9lsw

Why Donald Berwick is Dangerous to Your Health *by Hal Scherz, 26 May 2010*

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/05/26/why_donald_berwick_is_dangerous_to_your_health_105730.html

Dangerous to our health *by Jeff Jacoby, 16 June 2010*

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/06/16/dangerous_to_our_health/

And the reason for making it a recess appointment? Why, simply to avoid Congressional hearings that would publicize Berwick's shockingly redistributionist, anti-freedom beliefs. So much for the Obamessiah's promises of transparent, competent government.

Unemployment Benefits Aren't Stimulus

by Arthur B. Laffer, 8 July 2010

...While the unemployed may spend more as a result of higher unemployment benefits, those people from whom the resources are taken will spend less. In an economy, the income effects from a transfer payment always sum to zero. Quite simply, there is no stimulus from higher unemployment benefits.

To see this, imagine an economy that produces 100 apples. If 10 of those apples are given to the unemployed, then people who otherwise would have had those 10 apples now won't. The stimulus of 10 apples for the unemployed is exactly offset by the destimulus of 10 apples for those people from whom the 10 apples were taken.

Given the massive inefficiencies the government creates in securing resources from the private sector, there may also be a large negative income effect over wide ranges of stimulus spending. This is the proverbial "toll for the troll." These massive inefficiencies could lead to lower output.

To see these effects clearly, imagine a two person economy in which one of the two people is paid for being unemployed. From whom do you think the unemployment benefits are taken? The other person, obviously. While the

one person who is unemployed may "buy" more as a result of unemployment benefits, the other person from whom the unemployment sums are taken will "buy" less. There is no stimulus for the economy.

But it doesn't stop there. While the income effects sum to zero, the substitution effects aggregate. The person from whom the unemployment funds are taken will find work less rewarding and will work less. The person who is given the unemployment benefits will also find work relatively less rewarding and will therefore work less. Both people in this two-person economy will be incentivized to work less. There will be less work and more unemployment...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704862404575351301788376276.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Climategate: reinstating Phil Jones is good news—the CRU brand remains toxic

by *Gerald Warner*, 8 July 2010

"Move along now, please... Nothing to see here..." was the predictable burden of Sir Muir Russell's investigation into Climategate. Are we surprised? Any other conclusion would have made world headlines as a first for the climate change establishment. This is the third Climategate whitewash job and it would be tempting to see it as just as futile as its predecessors. That, however, would be to underrate its value to the sceptic cause, which is considerable...

...A big thank you to Professor Edward Acton and the climate establishment at the University of East Anglia and elsewhere, without whose purblind sense of entitlement the eventual overthrow of this false orthodoxy might not have been possible.

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geraldwarner/100046524/climategate-reinstating-phil-jones-is-good-news-the-cru-brand-remains-toxic/>

Mr. Stein is a liberal. Imagine, if you will, the epidemic of apoplexies that would ensue if a conservative wrote the exact same column, or used even one of the ethnic epithets it contains. But Stein, of course, gets a pass because liberals are supposedly incapable of prejudice or cruelty. And besides, he honestly thinks terms like Dot-head, Guinea, and Guido are funny.

My Own Private India

by *Joel Stein*, 30 June 2010

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1999416,00.html>

(decried on the *Hugh Hewitt Show*, 7 July 2010)

Obama: Israelis suspicious of me because my middle name is Hussein ~~Appeasement~~

U.S. president tells Channel 2 Israel is unlikely to attack Iran without coordinating with the U.S.

Haaretz, 7 July 2010

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/obama-israelis-suspicious-of-me-because-my-middle-name-is-hussein-1.300793>

Fact Checking ABC's *This Week*:

Most 'False' Statements Uttered by Democrats

by *Rich Noyes*, 5 July 2010

<http://www.mrc.org/biasalert/2010/20100705050326.aspx>

This damning exposé of racial prejudice in the Obama-Holder Justice Department is just over a week old. The whole phenomenon was predicted in John Fonte's treatise just below it, which was written exactly *ten years ago*.

Unequal Law Enforcement Reigns at Obama's DOJ

by *J. Christian Adams*, 28 June 2010

Earlier this month, I resigned from the DOJ after bringing the New Black Panther voter intimidation case. Longstanding biases within the Civil Rights Division are hostile to a race-neutral enforcement of some civil rights laws. Soon after his confirmation, Attorney General Eric Holder labeled us a nation of cowards, a people supposedly

unwilling or afraid to discuss race. Based on my experience as an attorney at the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, Holder has far more to fear from that discussion than do the rest of us.

If we had that frank, truthful discussion about race, we'd learn that the Obama administration doesn't believe some civil rights laws protect every American. The Bush Civil Rights Division was willing to protect all Americans from racial discrimination; during the Obama years, the Holder years, only some Americans will be protected. Americans have a right to know and judge the racial policies of the administration they elected in 2008.

The dismissal of the voter intimidation lawsuit against armed New Black Panthers in Philadelphia is the most prominent example of this hostility toward race-neutral enforcement of civil rights laws. But that dismissal is far from the only manifestation of the beliefs infesting the Department. Many other cases and decisions — some of which I will detail below — are in question and deserve scrutiny...

Continue: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/j-christian-adams-you-deserve-to-know-%e2%80%94-unequal-law-enforcement-reigns-at-obamas-doj-pjm-exclusive/>

To "Possess the National Consciousness of an American"

by John Fonte, July 2000

...The challenge to traditional patriotic assimilation is deeply embedded in many of the chief assumptions among today's elites. These assumptions include:

1. The primacy of the culture group over the individual citizen...
2. A dichotomy of groups: oppressor groups versus victim groups, with immigrant groups placed among the victims...
3. Group proportionalism as a societal goal...
4. The values of all dominant institutions must be changed to reflect the perspectives of the victim groups...
5. The demographic imperative. Demographic changes render the traditional paradigm of American nationhood obsolete...
6. The redefinition of democracy and "democratic ideals"...
7. We are entering a new transnational era that will inevitably transform traditional ideas of liberal democratic citizenship...

All 6,800 words: <http://www.cis.org/articles/cantigny/fonte.html>

Bad posture on amnesty

Funny how feds lean on Arizona, not Rhode Island.

by Michael Graham, 7 July 2010

...The border's too big. The hole in the Gulf is too deep. The recession is too stubborn. Maybe we should find the president a smaller, easier-to-manage country to govern. You know—send him to the minors for a few years.

Anyway, if enforcing immigration law is a bad thing for local cops to do, as Holder claims, why pick on Arizona? If he's really upset that the same laws he has taken an oath to enforce might actually get (gulp!) enforced, why isn't he suing Providence instead of Phoenix? They've been doing local immigration enforcement for years now.

As The Boston Globe-Democrat reported yesterday, "From Woonsocket to Westerly, the troopers patrolling the nation's smallest state are reporting all illegal immigrants they encounter, even on routine stops such as speeding, to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

Even liberal Providence, where politicians long opposed any local enforcement efforts, changed its policy in 2008 after the infamous Marco Riz case...

More: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view.bg?articleid=1266171

The Massachusetts Health-Care 'Train Wreck'

The future of ObamaCare is unfolding here: runaway spending, price controls, even limits on care and medical licensing.
by Joseph Rago, 7 July 2010

President Obama said earlier this year that the health-care bill that Congress passed three months ago is "essentially identical" to the Massachusetts universal coverage plan that then-Gov. Mitt Romney signed into law in 2006. No one but Mr. Romney disagrees.

As events are now unfolding, the Massachusetts plan couldn't be a more damning indictment of ObamaCare. The state's universal health-care prototype is growing more dysfunctional by the day...

Continue: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704324304575306861120760580.html>

Obama's New Take on Partisanship

by Victor Davis Hanson, 7 July 2010

...President Obama's worst nightmare would be a conservative incarnation of a Senator Obama who in Pavlovian fashion would reject almost all executive initiatives on a strictly political basis — on his way to compiling the most partisan record in the entire U.S. Senate.

Finally, all this is doubly odd in that President Obama is a self-described student of philosophy. So he must know that a theme from Thucydides to Burke is the timeless sanctity of law, custom, and tradition — that one cannot expect, as an insider, to count on the very same protocols that, as an outsider, one once helped to tear apart. Quite simply, for President Obama to restore his presidency, he must now persuade Congress not to act in the fashion that he once found so conducive to his upward career as a senator and presidential candidate.

President Obama's falling approval ratings are not just due to ineptness on the Gulf oil spill, the economy, and the war, but also to a growing perception of abject hypocrisy and lack of character...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YTQxMjMxNmIIMmUyZjk0MDgwOTRkNWUzNDgzNjc1NTI=>

Every time I think the President can't get any sillier, something even more ridiculous comes to light.

NASA's Mission: Building Ties to Muslim World?

by Byron York, 6 July 2010

You'd be hard-pressed to find an American who doesn't know that the "S" in NASA stands for "Space." Since the race to the moon in the 1960s, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been one of the most storied agencies in the U.S. government. Now, under President Obama, its mission is changing—and space isn't part of the story.

"When I became the NASA administrator, [Obama] charged me with three things," NASA head Charles Bolden said in a recent interview with the Middle Eastern news network al-Jazeera. "One, he wanted me to help re-inspire children to want to get into science and math; he wanted me to expand our international relationships; and third, and perhaps foremost, he wanted me to find a way to reach out to the Muslim world and engage much more with dominantly Muslim nations to help them feel good about their historic contribution to science, math, and engineering."

From moon landings to promoting self-esteem: It would be difficult to imagine a more dramatic shift in focus for an agency famous for reaching the heavens. Bolden's words left supporters of space exploration astonished. "Everyone had the same impression: Is this what he is spending his time on?" says a Republican Hill aide who tracks the space program. "A lot of people are very upset about it."...

Read on: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/NASA_s-new-mission_-Building-ties-to-Muslim-world-97817909.html

Paul Krugman's Depression Economics

by John Tamny, 1 July 2010

...That stimulus has failed is quite logical considering we live in a world of limited capital. When governments seek a disproportionate share, there's less available for private-sector businesses to access in order to grow.

To put it very simply, government spending is a huge tax on true economic productivity, so contrary to Krugman's deeply held views, global economic revival will be at least partially authored by the *spending cuts* he decries, not the increases that he endorses. If government austerity were an economy killer as Krugman supposes, West Germany would never have recovered from World War II, and Japan wouldn't have either.

Considering growth more broadly, it must be remembered that "recessions" and "depressions" are false notions. Thanks to our ravenous desire for the better things in life, we only know how to be productive and grow. In short, there's no such thing as "economic" recessions or depressions. Instead, our productivity plummets when governments get in the way of our natural desire to produce. Recessions are always and everywhere authored by governments; they're never economic.

Once this is understood, it's easy to see why our economy struggles now, much as it did in the 1930s. When governments increase taxes and regulations, make it more difficult to trade, and devalue money, recessions and depressions are the frequent result. In that sense, President Obama may well oversee our lurch toward depression, but solely because he's copying nearly every economic play from FDR's failed 1930s playbook...

Essential: http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/07/01/paul_krugmans_depression_economics_98548.html

Arizona Strong

Arizona is fighting to defend its borders, protect its citizens, and preserve the rule of law.

The Obama administration, Mexico and liberal special interests with lawyers and protest groups are trying to destroy the Arizona economy through an irresponsible boycott.

Arizona is getting hit by boycotts from other states and cities but Arizona is staying strong—Arizona Strong.

Arizona's governor is under tremendous pressure from every direction. Arizona faces a future full of lawsuits from advocates of open borders and amnesty for illegal aliens already in the U.S.

Join with us today and declare your solidarity with Arizona.

<http://page.townhall.com/arizonastrong/default.aspx?source=default2>

Why We Need the Rich

A message to Americans—and our leaders in Washington DC—on wealth creation.

by Ziad K. Abdelnour, 23 June 2010

<http://blackhawkpartners.com/Blog.aspx?id=42>

Politicians finally hear the people say 'enough'

Voters in Australia and Britain have had their fill of out-of-control multiculturalism.

by Melanie Phillips, 3 July 2010

...Such death-bed conversions are of course driven by cynical political considerations. Nevertheless, they are levering open an ideological fixation which has not just sunk democratic politics into disrepute but driven culture and morality in both Britain and Australia off the rails altogether.

For the doctrines of anti-racism and multiculturalism have not ended intolerance, prejudice or discrimination. They have instead institutionalised reverse discrimination and up-ended truth, morality and justice. Following the Marxist doctrine that prejudice is restricted to those with power, they have given Third-World ethnic minorities special protection from rules or conventions that apply to everyone else.

They have also served to falsify the history of both Britain and Australia in the minds of countless thousands of young people, who are taught propaganda based on a false or distorted story of national oppression and shame.

Multiculturalism threatens to undermine societies, by removing the cultural glue that binds all citizens together and balkanising the country into interest groups fighting for supremacy.

Once upon a time, the need to have strong borders and endorse a historic cultural identity were axiomatic elements of citizenship and national survival. But mass immigration and multiculturalism are predicated on what is called "transnationalism," the belief that the nation is the source of all the ills of the world and must be replaced by supranational institutions and cultural identities.

This is precisely what—at a visceral level—the people of both Australia and Britain understand and are refusing to accept...

Read it all: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/politicians-finally-hear-the-people-say-enough/story-e6frg6zo-1225887310346>

A truly great essay, and a precise analysis of 21st century liberalism.

The New New Deal

by Charles R. Kesler, May 2010

...Postmodernism insists that there's no truth "out there" by which men can guide their thoughts and actions.

Postmodern liberals admit, then, that there is no objective support—no support in nature or in God or in anything outside of our wills—for liberalism itself. Liberalism in these terms is just a preference. The leading academic postmodernist, the late Richard Rorty, argued that liberals are moral relativists who feel an "aversion to cruelty," and it's that aversion that makes them liberals. And indeed, if one admits that all moral principles are relative, the only thing that really sets one apart as a liberal is a certain kind of passion or feeling. President Obama calls this feeling empathy. And yes, of course, all this implies that conservatives don't have feelings for their fellow human beings—except perhaps a desire to be cruel

to them...

...As President Obama hinted in his Berlin speech during the campaign, he really thinks of himself as a multiculturalist, as a citizen of the world, first, and only incidentally as an American. To put it differently, he regards patriotism as morally and intellectually inferior to cosmopolitanism. And, of course, he is never so much a citizen of the world as when defending the world's environment against mankind's depredations, and perhaps especially America's depredations. In general, the emotionalist defense of the earth—think of Al Gore—is now a vital part of the liberalism of our day. It's a kind of substitute for earlier liberals' belief in progress. Although his own election—and secondarily liberalism's achievements over the past century or so—help to redeem America in his view, Obama remains, in many ways, profoundly disconnected from his own land.

This is a very different state of mind and character from that of Franklin Roosevelt, who was the kind of progressive who thought that America was precisely the vanguard of moral progress in the world. This was the way Woodrow Wilson, Lyndon Johnson, and every great liberal captain before Obama thought about his country—as a profoundly moral force in the world, leading the nations of the world toward a better and more moral end point. Obama doesn't think that way, and therefore his mantle as an American popular leader—despite his flights of oratorical prowess—doesn't quite fit him in the way that FDR's fit him. One can see this in the tinges of irony that creep into Obama's rhetoric now and then—the sense that even he doesn't quite believe what he's saying; and he knows that but hopes that you don't.

Obama's ambivalence is, in many ways, the perfect symbol of the dilemma of the contemporary liberal. How can Obama argue that America and liberalism reject absolute truths, and in the same breath affirm—as he did recently to the United Nations—that human rights are self-evidently true? You can't have it both ways, though he desperately wants and tries to...

Outstanding: <http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2010&month=05>

Panther case dismissal needs explanation

A former employee calls Justice hostile to race-neutral, equal enforcement of the law.

by Kevin Ferris, 5 July 2010

...In May, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez told the commission that the case had been re-reviewed, and the evidence deemed insufficient to proceed.

"That claim is false," Adams, the former Justice lawyer, wrote in the Washington Times last month. "If the actions in Philadelphia do not constitute voter intimidation, it is hard to imagine what would, short of an actual outbreak of violence at the polls."

Adams wrote that the dismissal of the case "was motivated by a lawless hostility toward equal enforcement of the law." As for the re-review, "the lawyers who ordered the dismissal ... did not even read the internal Justice Department memorandums supporting the case and investigation."

What's "most disturbing," Adams wrote, is "the open and pervasive hostility within the Justice Department to bringing civil rights cases against nonwhite defendants on behalf of white victims. Equal enforcement of justice is not a priority of this administration. Open contempt is voiced for these types of cases.

"Some of my coworkers," Adams continued, "argued that the law should not be used against black wrongdoers because of the long history of slavery and segregation. ... Incredibly, after the case was dismissed, instructions were given that no more cases against racial minorities like the Black Panther case would be brought by the [Justice Department's] Voting Section."

In a **follow-up article** for the website Pajamas Media on Monday, Adams cited other cases, in Texas and Connecticut, showing the department's "hostility toward race-neutral enforcement of the civil rights laws."...

More: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20100704_Back_Channels_Panther_case_dismissal_needs_explanation.html

Assimilation and the Founding Fathers

They would scarcely understand the language of the immigration lobby.

by Michelle Malkin, 2 July 2010

...Must every response to even the most modest of immigration enforcement measures be "RAAAAACIST"?

Further, as I've noted many times over the years when debating both Democrats and Republicans who fall back on empty phrases to justify putting the amnesty cart before the enforcement horse, we are not a "nation of immigrants." This is both a factual error and a warm-and-fuzzy non sequitur. Eighty-five percent of the residents currently in the United

States were born here. Yes, we are almost all descendants of immigrants. But we are not a "nation of immigrants." (And the politically correct president certainly wouldn't argue that American Indians, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and descendants of black slaves "immigrated" here in any common sense of the word, would he?)

Even if we were a "nation of immigrants," this would not explain why we should be against sensible immigration control...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ITY5ZTJjMTMxYzI4NzRlMzgyOGMzZTA4Y2I0MGEyNWM=>

Son of Hamas: a gripping account of terror, betrayal, political intrigue, and unthinkable choices

by *Mosab Hassan Yousef and Ron Brackin (2010)*

http://www.amazon.com/Son-Hamas-Gripping-Political-Unthinkable/dp/1414333072/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1278211986&sr=1-1

"I think I became an American when I started to fight for liberty and freedom." —Mosab Hassan Yousef

Media Blackout for the Black Panthers

Explosive racist allegations ignored by poodles in the press.

Washington Times editorial, 2 July 2010

Where is the New York Times? Where is The Washington Post? Where are CBS and NBC? A whistleblower makes explosive allegations about the Department of Justice; his story is backed by at least two other witnesses; and the allegations involve the two hot-button issues of race and of blatant politicization of the justice system. A potential constitutional confrontation stemming from the scandal brews between the Justice Department and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. A congressman highly respected for thoughtfulness and bipartisanship has all but accused the department of serious impropriety. By every standard of objective journalism, this adds up to real news.

Or it would be real news if a Republican Justice Department stood accused. It would be real news if the liberal media weren't mostly in the tank for our celebrated but failing first black president...

More about the scandal: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jul/2/media-blackout-for-black-panthers/>

Fourth of July special

"It does not take a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men."

—Samuel Adams (1722-1803)

City Upon a Hill

One of the Great Communicator's best speeches EVER. It was delivered at the first annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), on 25 January 1974. It's a superb elucidation of what America, and Americans, are all about.

Read it all: http://reagan2020.us/speeches/City_Upon_A_Hill.asp

All Honor to Jefferson

Address by Jean Yarbrough at Hillsdale College, 16 Apr 2009

<http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2009&month=05>

Remembering What the Declaration of Independence is Not

by Bruce Walker, 3 July 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/07/remembering_what_the_declarati_1.html

Speech on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

by Calvin Coolidge, 5 July 1926

...Under a system of popular government there will always be those who will seek for political preferment by clamoring for reform. While there is very little of this which is not sincere, there is a large portion that is not well informed. In my opinion very little of just criticism can attach to the theories and principles of our institutions.

There is far more danger of harm than there is hope of good in any radical changes. We do need a better understanding and comprehension of them and a better knowledge of the foundations of government in general. Our forefathers came to certain conclusions and decided upon certain courses of action which have been a great blessing to the world.

Before we can understand their conclusions we must go back and review the course which they followed. We must think the thoughts which they thought. Their intellectual life centered around the meeting-house. They were intent upon religious worship. While there were always among them men of deep learning, and later those who had comparatively large possessions, the mind of the people was not so much engrossed in how much they knew, or how much they had, as in how they were going to live. While scantily provided with other literature, there was a wide acquaintance with the Scriptures. Over a period as great as that which measures the existence of our independence they were subject to this discipline not only in their religious life and educational training, but also in their political thought. They were a people who came under the influence of a great spiritual development and acquired a great moral power.

No other theory is adequate to explain or comprehend the Declaration of Independence. It is the product of the spiritual insight of the people. We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. These did not create our Declaration. Our Declaration created them. The things of the spirit come first. Unless we cling to that, all our material prosperity, overwhelming though it may appear, will turn to a barren sceptre in our grasp. If we are to maintain the great heritage which has been bequeathed to us, we must be like-minded as the fathers who created it. We must not sink into a pagan materialism. We must cultivate the reverence which they had for the things that are holy...

4,400 wonderful words: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=408#axzz1R5Xi83U6>

'All men are created equal' is not hypocrisy but vision

by Jeff Jacoby, 4 July 2010

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/07/04/all_men_are_created_equal_is_not_hypocrisy_but_vision/

"Never Forget: They Kept Lots of Slaves"

The latest maneuver in the culture wars, and how it is distorting our thinking about the Founding Fathers.

by Michael Knox Beran, 29 Dec 2003

<http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/beran200312290000.asp>

Make Mine Freedom

a John Sutherland production, 1948

<http://nationaljuggernaut.blogspot.com/2009/09/this-cartoon-seemed-far-fetched-in-1948.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVh75ylAUXY>

(Hat tip: Tony C.)

And Justice For All

by Richard Fernandez, 1 July 2010

...Like the recently concluded Robert Wone case — in which three gay men were acquitted of the murder of a man in their apartment — the New Black Panther incident pits a politically powerful minority against ordinary victims. The public is asked to understand the situation from the perspective of the underdog. What does it matter if men in New Black Party uniforms paced across a voting precinct? They're just evening the score. Or so we are told...

...Despite the sensational elements in both the Black Panther and Robert Wone cases there has been very little media coverage of the incidents. Wikipedia notes that "Camille Paglia commented that the relative lack of news coverage for the crime 'appears to be a blatant case of politically correct censorship'". The Washington Post was asked about the empty media seats at the Wone trial. It was as if they had been forced to witness a plague...

...It was left to elements of the gay community to appoint themselves the strongest advocates of justice for Robert Wone. Some of them banded together to start the website [Who Murdered Robert Wone?](#) and the depth of their coverage, its professionalism and thoroughness, has put much of the MSM to shame. They at all events had not forgotten that they

shared a common humanity with Robert Wone...

...The greatest damage that political correctness has inflicted on society is to make each of us forget that underneath the accidents of color, nationality and creed, that all of us are men. By dividing humanity into hyphenated buckets, each sequestered in its hate, the puppet masters have managed to set one against the other so thoroughly that the sharpers, wheeler-dealers and fixers can operate undisturbed. In a world where every one thinks of himself as white, black, gay, straight — we have forgotten that the real distinction is between who holds power and who does not. Nothing else matters...

The full column: <http://pajamasmedia.com/richardfernandez/2010/07/01/and-justice-for-all/>

America is sinking under Obama's towering debt

by Nile Gardiner, 2 July 2010

The CBO assessment is probably the most important economic report the President of the United States will read this year. And it should be a huge wake-up call for the Obama administration, which has so far adopted a policy of sticking its head in the sand in the face of an impending Greek-style financial crisis in the very near future.

In striking contrast, the new British government has acknowledged the scale of the debt crisis in the UK, and has launched a tough austerity package to deal with it. The White House needs to wake up to reality, and aggressively reduce borrowing, cut down on public spending, and dramatically reduce the size of the federal government. If it doesn't, there will be devastating implications for the United States as the world's only superpower...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100045733/america-is-sinking-under-obama%E2%80%99s-towering-debt/>

The best stimulus? Spend less, borrow less

by Shawn Tully, 25 June 2010

...To be sure, President Obama frequently advocates shrinking deficits in future years. The problem is that he wants to keep spending heavily today, in what's supposedly a classic Keynesian formula for charging a weak recovery and lowering unemployment.

But that formula isn't what Keynes recommended. "Keynes championed temporary deficits to stimulate consumption during recessions," says Steve Hanke, an economist at Johns Hopkins. "But he also insisted that deficits disappear during recoveries, so that budgets would be balanced or in surplus during most of the business cycle."

Today, the administration is pursuing a totally different policy. It's sharply raising expenditures when the U.S. already faces gigantic, chronic deficits that barely shrink even in a recovery, and burgeoning debt. "Keynes specifically warned against structural deficits when both U.S. and British economists were pushing for them at the end of World War II," says Meltzer. "He never said that more spending on top of chronic deficits was a stimulus. Just the opposite, in fact."...

More: http://money.cnn.com/2010/06/24/news/economy/stimulus_spending_cuts.fortune/index.htm

Hastings Case Sets a Dangerous Precedent

by Cathy Young, 1 July 2010

...The case, *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, involves a small Christian group at Hastings College of Law, a part of the California State University system. In 2004, the college refused to register the CLS chapter as an official student organization because, its officers were told, its bylaws are in violation of the college's non-discrimination policy —specifically, its religion and sexual orientation clauses. Each member is required to sign a "Statement of Faith" affirming belief in a number of Christian tenets, including the Bible as "the inspired Word of God." In accordance with the organization's national policy, the bylaws also state that "unrepentant participation in or advocacy of a sexually immoral lifestyle"—that is, any sexual conduct outside heterosexual marriage—can be a disqualification from membership.

The CLS sued, accusing the college of religious discrimination and arguing that non-religious campus groups—for instance, ones based on political affiliation—were allowed to limit their membership to people "dedicated to their organization's ideals and beliefs," while the CLS was prohibited from doing the same. Shortly afterward, college officials began to articulate a new policy: every registered student organization had to extend full membership to any student who was willing to pay dues, attend meetings, and behave civilly toward other members.

The policy seems rather absurd on its face. Do the College Republicans have to welcome Democrats as members,

and vice versa? Does a feminist student group have to admit people who openly believe that men are divinely ordained to rule over women, and to allow them to vote on issues related to the group's activities and policies? Formally, according to Hastings College, the answer is yes. In a 5-4 ruling this week, the Supreme Court sided with the college...

Read the rest: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/07/01/hastings_case_sets_a_dangerous_precedent_106164.html

Why Obama's Immigration Speech Was a Failure

by Tunku Varadarajan, 1 July 2010

...One is inclined to conclude that his speech was written by someone who has just graduated from high school and has a young head brimming with social studies. This being President Obama, however, one can conclude that he will have written a fair portion of the speech himself, and, in so concluding, one would be struck forcefully by how banal the speech was. It was, if one can say such a thing, the acme of boilerplate, so utterly conventional was it in its narrative of American immigration.

America, a nation of immigrants? Check. Hardworking people who come here only to improve their lives, and those of their families? Check. Being American isn't a matter only of blood and birth? Check. The system is broken? Check. The need for reform? Check.

Speaking at the American University Thursday, the president began by patting himself on the back for his administration's achievements to date, all attained "despite the forces of the status quo": health care, Wall Street reform, and—wait for this—"accelerating the transition to a clean economy." Immigration reform, he indicated, ought to be next, and he gave us a civics lesson on the nature of our society, the centrality of immigrants and immigration, and the tensions that exist between our being "a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants."

Predictably, he came out against an "amnesty" for illegal immigrants in this country, estimated at 11 million people. The president is a smart man and knows political suicide when he sees it. Equally predictably, he said that deportation of these people was not an option, such a course being "logistically impossible and wildly expensive." Besides, "it would tear at the fabric of our society" and "disrupt our economy." So, what do we do? We must "navigate" between the two poles of mass amnesty and mass deportation. Don't you see?...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-07-01/obama-immigration-speech-a-conventional-failure-/?cid=hp:exc>

The Dodd-Frank Financial Fiasco

by John B. Taylor, 1 July 2010

...By far the most significant error of omission in the bill is the failure to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government sponsored enterprises that encouraged the origination of risky mortgages in the first place by purchasing them with the support of many in Congress. Some excuse this omission by saying that it can be handled later. But the purpose of "comprehensive reform" is to balance competing political interests and reach compromise; that will be much harder to do if the Frank-Dodd bill becomes law. For example, many of the same activists who supported proxy-access provisions are those that also favor the Fannie and Freddie subsidies.

Another serious error of omission is reform of the bankruptcy code to allow large complex financial firms to go through a predictable, rules-based Chapter 11 process without financial disruption and without bailouts—a far better alternative than the highly discretionary resolution authority in the bill. Without this orderly bankruptcy alternative, the too-big-to-fail problem will not go away. At least Section 216 of the bill calls for a study of the matter, but this is obviously no substitute for action.

The continuing debate over the Dodd-Frank bill in the days since it emerged from conference is good news. People may be waking up to the fact that the bill does not do what its supporters claim. It does not prevent future financial crises. Rather, it makes them more likely...

Full analysis: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703426004575338732174405398.html>

No asylum for a hero?

Team O's bid to deport 'son of Hamas.'

by Richard Minter, 30 June 2010

The Obama administration goes to court today to try to deport an anti-terrorist hero. Why is our government working overtime to persecute Mosab Hassan Yousef, who saved hundreds of lives from terror attacks while risking his own?...

Read all about him: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/no_asylum_for_hero_Z43jfcz558Q0UyS1WdyNeN

(Even a Few) Words Matter

by *Victor Davis Hanson, 1 July 2010*

...Even little words and gestures still matter in high-stakes international relations. Bad actors look hard for even the smallest sign that they might get away with aggression without consequences.

A deferential and apologetic President Obama may think he is making those abroad like us —and he may be right in some cases. But if history is any guide, aggressive powers are paying close attention to these seemingly insignificant signs. Soon, they may turn their wild ideas into concrete aggression — once they convince themselves that America neither wants to nor is able to stop them.

More: <http://jewishworldreview.com/0710/hanson070110.php3>

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:

The Descent of Liberalism by *Michael Knox Beran*

The State Despotism by *Mark Steyn*

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

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

Just Make Stuff Up by *Victor Davis Hanson*

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

Health Care Mythology by *Clifford Asness*

And here's what a trillion dollars looks like.