

Officer reflects on work in Iraq

'It's at least 90 percent safer.'

by T. J. Greaney, 31 Aug 2010

As U.S. forces shift from active combat operations in Iraq to Operation New Dawn, which will see fewer than 50,000 U.S. troops remain in an advisory and training role, there are questions from inside and outside the U.S. military.

Lt. Col. James Kazmierczak answered some of these questions about the next phase of the U.S. presence in Iraq...

More: <http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2010/aug/31/officer-reflects-on-work-in-iraq/>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Obama's Speech

by Jonah Goldberg, 31 Aug 2010

...This is what passes for bipartisan graciousness at the highest level of national security? Bush was a really swell guy who loved his country. Okay. What about the fact that he was *right* about the surge and our ability to leave Iraq (as much as we are) is attributable not to Obama's fidelity to his campaign pledge, but to a decision made by Obama's predecessor, a decision Obama opposed vociferously. I don't expect an "I was wrong" from an Oval Office address (though it would be nice — as it would have been from Bush more than once, too). But Obama's lawyerly avoidance of reality makes him seem petty and raises the suspicion that he can't think straight about these issues. That is dangerous...

...If you read this closely, what Obama is saying is that not only do we owe it to the troops to rally around his discredited and partisan economic agenda ("It's our turn"), not only is it a test of our patriotism to sign on with his environmental and industrial planning schemes, but that doing so "must be our central mission as a people" I find everything about that offensive.

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/245325>

Obama from the Oval Office

by Jennifer Rubin, 31 Aug 2010

...In his recap and praise of George W. Bush's administration, he never explained how it was that we succeeded in Iraq. It was of course that same surge that we are now using in Afghanistan. He said this about Bush:

"This afternoon, I spoke to former President George W. Bush. It's well known that he and I disagreed about the war from its outset. Yet no one could doubt President Bush's support for our troops, or his love of country and commitment to our security. As I have said, there were patriots who supported this war, and patriots who opposed it. And all of us are united in appreciation for our servicemen and women, and our hope for Iraq's future."

But Mr. President, Bush was not just a great guy — he was *right*. It was one more instance of the lack of introspection and grace that has characterized Obama's entire presidency....

...Most of all, the bulk of the speech had nothing to do with either Iraq or Afghanistan — it was a pep talk for his domestic agenda. This cements the sense that he simply wants out of messy foreign commitments. He also repeated a number of domestic policy canards. This was among the worst, blaming our debt on wars rather than on domestic fiscal gluttony: "We have spent over a trillion dollars at war, often financed by borrowing from overseas. This, in turn, has short-changed investments in our own people, and contributed to record deficits. For too long, we have put off tough decisions on everything from our manufacturing base to our energy policy to education reform"

He is arguing for *more* spending...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/351236>

Actor John Cusack unhinged

On 29 Aug 2010, he tweeted: "I AM FOR A SATANIC DEATH CULT CENTER AT FOX NEWS HQ AND OUTSIDE THE OFFICES OF DICK ARMEY AND NEWT GINGRICH and all the GOP WELFARE FREAKS"

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2010/08/31/actor-john-cusack-calls-satanic-death-fox-news-gop-leaders/?test=faces>

Undercurrents below the Ground Zero mosque

Overall, the message that emerges from this discourse can hardly be missed: When Muslim grievance is at question, America is the culprit.

by Judea Pearl, 28 Aug 2010

...The American Muslim leadership has had nine years to build up trust by taking proactive steps against the spread of anti-American terror-breeding ideologies, here and abroad. Evidently, however, a sizable segment of the American public is not convinced that this leadership is doing an effective job of confidence building.

In public, Muslim spokespersons praise America as the best country for Muslims to live and practice their faith. But in sermons, speeches, rallies, classrooms, conferences and books sold at those conferences, the narrative is often different. There, Noam Chomsky's conspiracy theory is the dominant paradigm, and America's foreign policy is one long chain of "crimes" against humanity, especially against Muslims.

Affirmation of these conspiratorial theories sends mixed messages to young Muslims, engendering anger and helplessness: America and Israel are the first to be blamed for Muslim failings, sufferings and violence.

Terrorist acts, whenever condemned, are immediately "contextually explicated" (to quote Tariq Ramadan); spiritual legitimizers of suicide bombings (e.g. Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi of Qatar) are revered beyond criticism; Hamas and Hizbullah are permanently shielded from the label of "terrorist"...

Read it all: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-EdContributors/Article.aspx?id=186290>

Government Pay: Now For The Really Bad News

by John Tamny, 30 Aug 2010

...Perverse incentives exist among federal workers. Not able to advance based on profits, and doing more with less, workers in the government succeed the more the bureaucracy they work for grows, the more lawsuits they win against private actors, the more regulations they impose, and the more fines/fees they lift from the increasingly empty hands of the average American taxpayer.

Not only are we fleeced to cover the rising pay and gold-plated benefits of federal workers, we're essentially paying them to make our lives more difficult. The more they're able to do so, the more they advance.

Considering private businesses, whatever their size they all started out small. And irrespective of their size, businesses need "human capital" in order to grow.

The problem now is that with the federal government aggressively hiring at excessive levels of pay, it is necessarily distorting the cost of hiring for private businesses. The "unseen" is what we must consider in this scenario, and there we can only guess how many world-renowned companies of tomorrow will never see the light of day thanks to Washington increasingly snapping up potentially productive workers...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/27/government-jobs-wages-innovation-opinions-columnists-john-tamny.html>

The Greening of Godzilla

by Walter Russell Mead, 28 Aug 2010

Watching the colossal and implausible decline of the once mighty green movement to stop global warming has been an educational experience. It's rare to see so many smart, idealistic and dedicated people look so clueless and fail so completely. From the anti-climax of the Cluster of Copenhagen, when world leaders assembled for the single most unproductive and chaotic global gathering ever held, the movement has gone from one catastrophic failure to the next...

...Even in defeat, the greens can't get it right. The greens didn't fail because they were too loyal to their ideals; they failed because lost touch with the core impetus and values of the environmental movement. Bambi wasn't crushed by Godzilla; Bambi turned into Godzilla, and the same kind of public skepticism and populism that once fueled environmentalism have turned against it...

Read the rest: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/08/28/the-greening-of-godzilla/>

Our Macroeconomic Fetish

by Richard A. Epstein, 30 Aug 2010

...Start with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which are beset by an aggressive Food and Drug Administration that thinks that the path to public safety is to raise as many obstacles to the introduction of new drugs and devices as it is humanly possible to design... These policies are in turn complemented by the Obama administration's endorsement of extensive tort liability...

...Or move to the housing market... The current policy features all sorts of mindless short-term subsidies for new houses, coupled with massive government meddling in the foreclosure process. Why would anyone want to lend in a market where the government's vast powers have forestalled private creditors from foreclosing on loans that are in arrears?...

...Look next to labor policy. It is easy to kill entry-level jobs to support high minimum wages in a down economy. It is easy to get corporate firms to think about overseas plans by showing continued support for organized labor. It is easy to wreck state governments and to do nothing whatsoever to combat the massive and indefensible growth in public pensions. The Obama administration flunks on all three points.

It is possible to tell a similar tale of woe in virtually any other sector that comes to mind: health care, energy, environment, banking and money, securities regulation, corporate policy, intellectual property. At every stage we see a populist frenzy to support new layers of regulation, each of which in its own way kills jobs and chokes off economic growth. In sum, there is more than one way to kill an economy. Ours is dying a death of a thousand cuts, which no stimulus program can cure.

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/30/economics-paul-krugman-stimulus-opinions-columnists-richard-epstein.html?boxes=Homepagelighttop>

O's terror outrage

by Arthur Herman, 30 Aug 2010

Americans are learning there's one minority group President Obama is never afraid to offend: families of victims of Islamist terror...

...Obama told his political allies on the left that as president he'd turn Bush's War on Terror upside down. The terrorists would now get constitutional protections; and those who fought against them would go to jail as "war criminals."...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/terror_outrage_GHUXM04i7NPI0OaUzeIJ6K

The Failure of the Liberal Economic Experiment?

by James K. Glassman, Sept 2010 issue

...**Bastiat** would have appreciated one of the obvious explanations for the impotence of the stimulus. In 1957, Milton Friedman argued that attempts to increase consumer demand through government spending are doomed. The reason, Friedman wrote, is that individuals make their decisions about consumption by looking at their likely income and wealth far into the future. (He called it the "permanent income hypothesis") If the government starts spending huge sums today, consumers foresee higher taxes and, by inference, presume that their lifetime incomes will drop because of the increased level of their tax burden.

If government spending is short-term or one-time-only, which is what the stimulus was supposed to be, then individuals might be expected to take a more benign view. But the 2009 stimulus did not take place in a vacuum. It was soon accompanied by other economic policies and proposals of the Obama administration and the Democratic Congress: health-care reform extending public coverage to 30 million new people, cap-and-trade energy proposals featuring vastly higher taxes, and the imminent expiration of the Bush tax cuts at the end of 2010.

Because of these policies, the "unseen" became "seen" in a fashion devastating to the politicians supporting them. Americans judged that the party in power intends the radical expansion of the size of government in perpetuity. That expansion will have to be paid for. There is no reason to expect very much good from the future if you are the sort of person who generates income and creates jobs. Your "permanent income" is going to decline, and your gut response will be to husband your resources.

More disastrously for the Democrats, the "unseen" became "seen" almost immediately...

Read the rest: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-failure-of-the-liberal-economic-experiment—15500>

The new Wiki warfare

by Ralph Peters, 27 Aug 2010

...And the cyberassaults go on, 24/7. Security leaks haunt the Internet (and our amoral media). Terrorists kill, then sue us. In the first case, we take our beatings and slap on bandages. In the second, we huff, puff and do nothing. In the third case, an apprehended terrorist gets better medical care than an out-of-work American.

Even the civil laws and military codes we *do* have on the books are not enforced. If found guilty, that Army private who allegedly passed over 90,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks should get the "full Rosenberg," a shortened life and a hot exit. Instead, he'll do a few years at most—*at most*—then get a book contract. (Can't wait for the movie!) As for Julian Assange, who released a deluge of sensitive operational data to America's enemies, he'll probably pay no price at all for any deaths his actions cause. Instead, he'll rake in speaking fees.

Our own cyberwarriors in the Pentagon and the intelligence community face no end of frustration as they try to defend us. We have superb, conscientious, capable officers working the problem. But the absence of laws to deter enemies or facilitate retaliation not only ties our hands behind our backs, but chains our ankles, too...

Read it all: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_new_wiki_warfare_LMvWGedGjmgQu4FaTDTzrM

That's Rich, Frank

by Matt Welch, 29 Aug 2010

The *New York Times'* former theater critic gives a **hi-five** to Jane Mayer's **flawed** *New Yorker* hit piece on ObamaNation's enemy numero uno: The libertarian brothers Koch...

...Here is the basic and apparently horrifying fact: There are millions of people, including me, including the Kochs, including people who have never heard of the Koch family, who feel some basic bedrock affinity for the notion that **that government is best which governs least**. There are a thousand disagreements about the details, but that American tradition is real, and sporadically potent. As it gathers strength in advance of November (and hopefully long beyond), it will be interesting—and so, so pleasurable—to watch people continue criticizing what they can't understand.

More: <http://reason.com/blog/2010/08/29/thats-rich-frank>

Spreading Hayek, Spurning Keynes

Professor Leads an Austrian Revival.

by Kelly Evans, 28 Aug 2010

Peter J. Boettke, shuffling around in a maroon velour track suit or faux-leather rubber shoes he calls "dress Crocs," hardly seems like the type to lead a revolution.

But the 50-year-old professor of economics at George Mason University in Virginia is emerging as the intellectual standard-bearer for the Austrian school of economics that opposes government intervention in markets and decries federal spending to prop up demand during times of crisis...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052748703418004575455911922562120-1MyQjAxMTAwMDIwNzEyNDcyWj.html

Cole killer confusion

New York Post editorial, 28 Aug 2010

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri is a man with blood on his hands. A year before 9/11, the Saudi al Qaeda operative masterminded the bombing of the guided-missile destroyer *USS Cole*, killing 17 sailors as the vessel refueled in the Yemeni port of Aden.

A Guantanamo tribunal was ready to arraign him last year, but since the Obama administration took office, it's been a case of trial and error. No trial—*plenty* of error.

As the 10th anniversary of the Oct. 12, 2000, attack looms, the White House has inexplicably frozen the prosecution. The Justice Department said this week that "no charges are either pending or contemplated with respect to al-Nashiri in the near future." And it's not the first time the Obama White House has meddled with Nashiri's case...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/editorials/cole_killer_confusion_qImIncXfkGQL4jUtl8uf6L

Progressives Against Progress

The rise of environmentalism poisoned liberals' historical optimism.

by Fred Siegel, Summer 2010 issue

...Neither the failure of the environmental apocalypse to arrive nor the steady improvement in environmental conditions over the last 40 years has dampened the ardor of those eager to make hair shirts for others to wear. The call for political coercion as a path back to Ruskin's and Mishan's small-is-beautiful world is still with us. Radical environmentalists' Tory disdain for democracy and for the habits of their inferiors remains undiminished. True to its late-1960s origins, political environmentalism in America gravitates toward both bureaucrats and hippies: toward a global, big-brother government that will keep the middle classes in line *and* toward a back-to-the-earth, peasantlike localism, imposed on others but presenting no threat to the elites' comfortable lives. How ironic that these gentry liberals—progressives against progress—turn out to resemble nothing so much as nineteenth-century conservatives.

Perfectly delicious: http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_3_american-liberalism.html

Why They Can't Condemn Hamas

Rauf and his friends employ different methods, but they are on the same team.

by Andrew McCarthy, 28 Aug 2010

Hamas is a shibboleth. If you want to know whether an ostensible Muslim "moderate" is really moderate, ask him if Hamas is a terrorist organization.

It is really not a hard question, even if Feisal Rauf can't — or won't — answer it. Rauf, the would-be imam of the controversial Ground Zero mosque, is also a stud in the State Department's stable of ready-to-travel-on-your-dime "moderates." That same State Department has branded Hamas a terrorist organization, and we can't even get it to say that about the Taliban, the guys we're fighting in the overseas contingency operation formerly known as the War on Terror.

During a WABC radio interview, Aaron Klein three times pressed Rauf to admit that Hamas is a terrorist organization. Rauf bobbed and weaved in classic Islamist style. "I'm not a politician," he replied, as if only politicians trouble themselves over whether terrorists are terrorists. "I try to avoid the issues. The issue of terrorism is a very complex question." Avoid the issues? You don't say!

But it is not a complex question, no more complex than "Does Derek Jeter play for the Yankees?"...

Read on: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/245004>

Oikophobia

Why the liberal elite finds Americans revolting.

by James Taranto, 27 Aug 2010

If you think it's offensive for a Muslim group to exploit the 9/11 atrocity, you're an anti-Muslim bigot and un-American to boot. It is a claim so bizarre, so twisted, so utterly at odds with common sense that it's hard to believe anyone would assert it except as some sort of dark joke. Yet for the past few weeks, it has been put forward, apparently in all seriousness, by those who fancy themselves America's best and brightest, from the mayor of New York all the way down to Peter Beinart. What accounts for this madness?...

Continue: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142405274870414780457545523068802824.html#printMode>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Roger Ebert, Hypocrisy, and "the Big Lie"

by Michael C. Moynihan, 26 Aug 2010

...In a [recent blog post](#) upbraiding Glenn Beck for his reckless invocations of Nazism and Communism, Roger Ebert, the boring movie critic turned heavy-breathing political blogger, laments the "increasing tendency of the extreme right to automatically describe its opponents in negative buzz words" Couldn't agree more, Roger. But wait! Here he is, offering a warm encomium to *American Taliban* and Moulitsas, who "alerts us to a clear and present danger in America: radical zealots who disregard our Constitution and our freedoms and who disguise themselves as patriots"

In [Ebert's post on Beck](#), he rightly bemoans the lazy use of Nazi references, "This whole argument is described by a term widely familiar on the internet (sic), the (sic) *reductio ad Hitlerum*. It is also known, Wikipedia explains, as playing the Nazi card" But that's only when the other side calls people fascists; when Ebert does it, it's with a certain measure of

precision and élan. So in a more recent post, Ebert writes that, in her silly effusions on the so-called Ground Zero mosque, Sarah Palin "employs the methodology of the Big Lie, defined in *Mein Kampf* as an untruth so colossal that 'no one would believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously.'" No need to explain the implication...

Read the rest: <http://reason.com/blog/2010/08/26/roger-ebert-hypocrisy-and-the>

Tanenhaus actually wrote that Obama is "steeped in the principles of Burkean conservatism" ? **ROFL!**

The Death of Conservatism Was Greatly Exaggerated

In 2008 liberals proclaimed the collapse of Reaganism.

Two years later the idea of limited government is back in vogue.

by *Peter Berkowitz*, 28 Aug 2010

...In late October 2008, *New Yorker* staff writer George Packer reported "the complete collapse of the four-decade project that brought conservatism to power in America." Two weeks later, the day after Mr. Obama's election, *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne proclaimed "the end of a conservative era" that had begun with the rise of Ronald Reagan.

And in February 2009, *New York Times Book Review* and *Week in Review* editor Sam Tanenhaus, writing in *The New Republic*, declared that "movement conservatism is exhausted and quite possibly dead." Mr. Tanenhaus even purported to discern in the new president "the emergence of a president who seems more thoroughly steeped in the principles of Burkean conservatism than any significant thinker or political figure on the right."

Messrs. Packer, Dionne and Tanenhaus underestimated what the conservative tradition rightly emphasizes, which is the high degree of unpredictability in human affairs. They also conflated the flagging fortunes of George W. Bush's Republican Party with conservatism's popular appeal. Most importantly, they failed to grasp the imperatives that flow from conservative principles in America, and the full range of tasks connected to preserving freedom...

Read the rest: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704147804575455090270186082.html?mod=WSJ_newsreel_opinion

If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Start Beating Your Head Against the Wall Now

by *Peter Suderman*, 26 Aug 2010

<http://reason.com/blog/2010/08/26/if-you-like-your-health-care-p>

Glenn Beck 8/28 rally: It's a matter of honor

The niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explains why she's speaking at the Glenn Beck 8/28 rally in Washington this Saturday.

by *Dr. Alveda King*, 26 Aug 2010

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0826/Glenn-Beck-8-28-rally-It-s-a-matter-of-honor>

Mr. Zuckerman took his magazine sharply to the left in 2005. After Scooter Libby was indicted by Patrick Fitzgerald's kangaroo court, *US News* gloated with a cover story titled "Bushwhacked!"—and I promptly cancelled my (gift) subscription, as I'd already done with the formerly centrist *Atlantic*. A number of Commenters give him a proper roasting for his folly in supporting the Obamesiah for president in 2008. This column is an attempt at penance.

The Most Fiscally Irresponsible Government in U.S. History

Current federal budget trends are capable of destroying this country.

by *Mortimer B. Zuckerman*, 26 Aug 2010

Column: <http://politics.usnews.com/opinion/mzuckerman/articles/2010/08/26/the-most-fiscally-irresponsible-government-in-us-history.html>

Comments: <http://politics.usnews.com/opinion/mzuckerman/articles/2010/08/26/the-most-fiscally-irresponsible-government-in-us-history/comments/>

The last refuge of a liberal

by *Charles Krauthammer, 27 Aug 2010*

Liberalism under siege is an ugly sight indeed. Just yesterday it was all hope and change and returning power to the people. But the people have proved so disappointing. Their recalcitrance has, in only 19 months, turned the predicted 40-year liberal ascendancy (James Carville) into a full retreat...

...Now we know why the country has become "ungovernable," last year's excuse for the Democrats' failure of governance: Who can possibly govern a nation of racist, nativist, homophobic Islamophobes?

Note what connects these issues. In every one, liberals have lost the argument in the court of public opinion. Majorities—often lopsided majorities—oppose President Obama's social-democratic agenda (e.g., the stimulus, Obamacare), support the Arizona law, oppose gay marriage and reject a mosque near Ground Zero.

What's a liberal to do? Pull out the bigotry charge, the trump that preempts debate and gives no credit to the seriousness and substance of the contrary argument. The most venerable of these trumps is, of course, the race card. When the Tea Party arose, a spontaneous, leaderless and perfectly natural (and traditionally American) reaction to the vast expansion of government intrinsic to the president's proudly proclaimed transformational agenda, the liberal commentariat cast it as a mob of angry white yahoos disguising their antipathy to a black president by cleverly speaking in economic terms...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/26/AR2010082605233.html>

Mr. Chapman believes in capitalism, and has defended the Patriot Act and GWB's handling of Katrina. But he's also decried the liberation of Iraq, minimized the threats of Islamism and Iran, blathered endless idiocies about Guantanamo, and (most recently) supported the Ground Zero Gloating Mosque. It's nice to see him return to the side of the angels, if only for a day.

Inconvenient Facts About Stem-Cell Research

by *Steve Chapman, 26 Aug 2010*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-oped-0826-chapman-20100825,0,410387.column>

WaPo, NYT, NPR, Time, et al. resolutely refuse to see things as they are. The world's most intolerant religion is trying to bully the world's most tolerant nation, and all the MSM can do is impose its tired old "other as victim" template.

Muslims + Mainstream Media = Madness

The media's biased coverage of the Ground Zero mosque leaders.

by *Clifford May, 26 Aug 2010*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/244803>

Pols Clueless on Ground Zero Mosque

by *Nat Hentoff, 25 Aug 2010*

...Imam Rauf was interviewed on CBS' 60 Minutes (Sept. 30, 2001) by Ed Bradley. Asked how he felt as a Muslim "knowing that people of your faith committed this act," Imam Rauf spoke about Muslim reaction throughout the world "against the policies of the U.S. government, politically, where we espouse principles of democracy and human rights and where we ally ourselves with oppressive regimes in many of these countries."

"Are you in any way suggesting that we in the United States deserved what happened?" Bradley asked.

"I wouldn't say that the United States deserved what happened," Rauf answered, "but the United States' policies were an accessory to the crime that happened. ... Because (the United States has) been an accessory to a lot of—of innocent lives dying in the world. In fact, it—in the most direct sense, Osama bin Laden is made in the U.S.A."

Were the heads of government in Iran, Hamas and Sudan also "made in the USA?" ...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/hentoff082510.php3>

Human Rights Kowtow

The Obama Administration makes itself an accomplice to U.N. corruption.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 25 Aug 2010

President Obama and his State Department have been widely criticized for downplaying human rights in their efforts to engage abusive regimes in Iran, China, Russia, Burma and even Sudan. But there's at least one country whose human rights record merits the Administration's minute scrutiny: the United States.

In a 29-page report submitted last Friday to the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Administration offered a summary of the status of human rights in the U.S. The report forms part of what the U.N. Human Rights Council calls its "Universal Periodic Review" (or UPR) in which countries grade their own human rights records. For instance, in 2008 Iran praised itself for its achievements in promoting a free press and the rights of women.

That charade should suffice to ascertain the contribution UPR has made to the stock of knowledge about human rights...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703447004575449960554393200.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Hugh devoted the first two hours of last Friday's program to a God-fearing British conservative who's no more doctrinaire than his atheist, liberal brother Christopher.

Peter Hitchens discusses the decline of Christianity in the West, and his book *The Rage Against God*

The Hugh Hewitt Show, 20 Aug 2010

...We are a country in very severe decline of all kinds, and there is, at the moment, no sign whatever of any serious attempt to recover from that decline. On the contrary, it's embraced by a large part of the population, and it, one of the things about Anglophiles abroad is that even when they come here, they tend to see a country which is actually not the one that I live in, because the tourist visitor inevitably sees the nicer parts, and isn't going to go to the sort of place where you discover that the feral youths loping through the streets, where they will kick your head in at the drop of a hat. But we see them, and we see the un-policed cities, and we see vast areas from which the economy has withdrawn, and where people live entirely on welfare. And we see the colossal baleful effects of uncontrolled mass immigration. And we see the effects of an education system in which people can spend eleven years in full-time education and come out unable to read, write, or count. And these things are all there. They're present.

And even someone like me, who's fantastically fortunate and lives a very good and comfortable life by comparison with most, I can't actually avoid the effects of these things in my daily life as I travel about. And I feel it's absolutely incumbent on me to say this is what is happening. And unless something is done about it very soon, then as a society, we will cease to function. We are becoming an uncivilized anarchy, and a very, very uneducated and immoral one as well. The other thing, the institution of marriage is in an advanced state of collapse here. Marriage simply doesn't enter into the lives of many young people who set up home without even considering getting married. It doesn't happen. It's gone. The number of children being born outside wedlock is colossal. I think it's now the majority...

...Do you know, if you're in the public services in Britain now, your contract of employment will contain a commitment to support two things called equality and diversity. Therefore, you're actually officially obliged to support the political theory of egalitarianism... And diversity is just a polite name for political correctness. Everybody in the British public services—nurses, teachers have to, in their contract of employment, uphold these things. And on the basis of this contract of employment, people who have openly professed Christian views have been threatened with dismissal, or suspended from their jobs, and told by their labor unions that they won't defend them, because the code obliges them to uphold diversity, and therefore to be specifically Christian is anti-diversity...

12,400 words: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=2d232d1e-81d1-4b16-b1b9-ccc4fd94265f>

This amusing essay on the excesses of *Atlas Shrugged* shows that Whittaker Chambers had a first-class intellect as well as a courageous heart—which is why he must be a charter member of any Conservative Hall of Fame.

Big Sister Is Watching You

by Whittaker Chambers, 28 Dec 1957

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/222482>

The retrospective is occasioned by the two efforts Jason Lee Steorts published this week:

The Greatly Ghastly Rand 23 Aug 2010 (*August 30 issue*)

Ayn Rand and Whittaker Chambers 24 Aug 2010

Islamophobia? Not Really

by Jonah Goldberg, 24 Aug 2010

...Let's start with some data. According to the FBI, hate crimes against Muslims increased by a staggering 1,600% in 2001. That sounds serious! But wait, the increase is a math mirage. There were 28 anti-Islamic incidents in 2000. That number climbed to 481 the year a bunch of Muslim terrorists murdered 3,000 Americans in the name of Islam on Sept. 11. Now, that was a hate crime.

Regardless, 2001 was the zenith or, looked at through the prism of our national shame, the nadir of the much-discussed anti-Muslim backlash in the United States. The following year, the number of anti-Islamic hate-crime incidents (overwhelmingly, nonviolent vandalism and nasty words) dropped to 155. In 2003, there were 149 such incidents. And the number has hovered around the mid-100s or lower ever since. Sure, even one hate crime is too many. But does that sound like a anti-Muslim backlash to you?

Let's put this in even sharper focus. America is, outside of Israel, probably the most receptive and tolerant country in the world to Jews. And yet, in every year since 9/11, more Jews have been hate-crime victims than Muslims. A lot more.

In 2001, there were twice as many anti-Jewish incidents as there were anti-Muslim, again according to the FBI. In 2002 and pretty much every year since, anti-Jewish incidents have outstripped anti-Muslim ones by at least 6 to 1. **Why aren't we talking about the anti-Jewish climate in America?**

Because there isn't one. And there isn't an anti-Muslim climate either. Yes, there's a lot of heated rhetoric on the Internet. Absolutely, some Americans don't like Muslims. But if you watch TV or movies or read, say, the op-ed page of the New York Times—never mind left-wing blogs—you'll hear much more open bigotry toward evangelical Christians (in blogpeak, the "Taliban wing of the Republican Party") than you will toward Muslims...

Read the whole column: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/24/opinion/la-oe-0824-goldberg-islamophobia-20100824>

Putting the Brakes on ObamaCare

How a Republican Congress could begin the process of repealing this unpopular law.

by Grace-Marie Turner, 25 Aug 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703649004575437271015655924.html>

Fox Examines New Ground Zero Mosque Imam Tape

24 Aug 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ-yCsshV_s

Here's a site run by Liz Cheney, Debra Burlingame, and Bill Kristol.

Keep America Safe

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

Obama Misreads Message of 'Live Free or Die'

by Amity Shlaes, 23 Aug 2010

Stick with me, families, on this experiment of government expansion. That is the implicit message from President Barack Obama this summer...

...The nation doesn't have to wait for the Obama experiment to finish to learn the outcome. Such experiments have been running over decades at the state level. Even before Obama was born, some states were applying the Obama rule of "spend, even if it means higher taxes, and you will grow" Others operated on the philosophy that less government, even perhaps in times of trouble, served their residents better.

J. Scott Moody of Public Choice Analytics, a New Hampshire public policy consultant who specializes in cross-state analysis, ran his own experiment. Moody compared Maine, a state that more than 60 years ago embarked on one path, with New Hampshire, which went a different route. Like the president, Moody favors an emphasis on the

household pocketbook. He therefore spends time looking at per capita personal income of individuals...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-24/obama-misreads-message-of-live-free-or-die-commentary-by-amity-shlaes.html>

As the very first commenter put it: "There are few things I enjoy as much as a really skillful critical evisceration. Bravo."

Rajendra Pachauri: Voodoo Scientist and Lone Ranger of Love?

by *Walter Russell Mead*, 22 Aug 2010

Rajendra Pachauri, the formerly outspoken head of the IPCC, was yanked firmly off the global stage last January after his blustering and insulting attacks on well-founded criticisms of exaggerations and false predictions in the **UN's high profile climate report** turned him into an embarrassing liability to the global environmental movement. "Voodoo science," he said dismissively of Indian critics of the IPCC's ludicrously overstated and ultimately discredited claim that the Himalayan glaciers would melt in 35 years. After months of non-stop grandstanding and counter-productive public appearances, someone seems to have hooked him offstage; for now, Dr. Pachauri has vanished down a rabbit hole, though he may pop up again on August 30, when the **UN assessment of the IPCC report** will be released.

But if we do not have him, we still have his work to comfort us during the long and lonely hours. True, his remarkable novel *Return to Almora* has unaccountably failed so far to find a US printer, but thanks to **Amazon** a trickle of copies is available for those who simply can't do without him. Count me among that number; I've read every word of this fascinating book, trying to learn about the man that the global environment movement placed at the forefront of the science of climate change.

More: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/08/22/rajendra-pachauri-vooodoo-scientist-and-lone-ranger-of-love/>

Time for the Left to Curb Its Corrosive Contempt

by *Carol Platt Liebau*, 23 Aug 2010

http://townhall.com/columnists/CarolPlattLiebau/2010/08/23/time_for_the_left_to_curb_its_corrosive_contempt/page/full#

The ignorant and hateful attitude Mrs. Liebau talks about is epitomized in an idiotic column by Kirsten Powers, in which she managed to characterize opposition to Black Panther thugs, illegal immigration, and the Ground Zero mosque as nothing but racism—and misquote Rush Limbaugh, to boot (he actually said "Imam Barack Hoover Obama," not "Imam Hussein Obama." <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-08-22/republicans-long-hot-racist-summer/>

When Economic Policy Became Social Policy

by *Peter J. Wallison*, 21 Aug 2010

...In reality, Fannie and Freddie were doomed by a badly designed government housing policy, and government efforts to disguise its responsibility with a false narrative will only make a solution more difficult...

...When in 1992 Congress dragooned Fannie and Freddie into lowering their underwriting standards, it confused the *economic* goal of creating a viable national mortgage market for good quality mortgages with the *social policy* of increasing home ownership by making mortgage credit available to low-income borrowers. The added benefit for Congress was that it could achieve the social goal without budgetary consequences; the operations of Fannie and Freddie were and still are off-budget.

That is not to say, of course, that achieving this social goal is illegitimate. There is much data to support the proposition that home ownership significantly benefits the housing stock, neighborhoods, and families. That was another theme in the Treasury's conference. But we should recognize that this is a different question from whether there is a necessary government role in financing well-underwritten mortgages for people whose circumstances and creditworthiness already enable them to gain access to private mortgage credit.

There are risks in this social policy, to be sure, as shown by the enormous losses taxpayers will have to take on Fannie and Freddie. But if the American people want to keep this policy in place, there is an agency—the Federal Housing Administration (FHA)—that already has this purpose. The FHA is on-budget, so the taxpayers and their representatives in Congress can keep tabs on the costs it is running up. That is the honest way, without hiding the real costs by requiring profit-making entities like Fannie and Freddie, or insured banks, to cross-subsidize risks they would not otherwise willingly assume...

More: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/august/when-economic-policy-became-social-policy>

Duking It Out

The Dukakis administration that never was.

by Noemie Emery, 22 Aug 2010 (August 30 issue)

As Barack Obama sees his ratings descend toward the high 30s, he is increasingly described as the second coming of James Earl Carter Jr., whose presidency, gone but hardly forgotten, lives on in masochists' minds. The comparison is unkind and not quite on target: This is less Carter II than the lost presidency of Michael Dukakis, which seemed a sure thing at this date 22 years ago, and from which we were saved by the elder George Bush.

Of course, no one thought Dukakis could be the messiah, but in other ways the connections are strong: both creatures of the liberal Northeast and of Harvard, with no sense at all of most of the rest of the country; both rationalists who impose legalistic criteria on emotion-rich subjects; both with fixed ideas of who society's victims are, which do not accord with the views of the public; and both with a tin ear for the culture and a genius for creating wedge issues that split their own party. Obama has the Carter naïveté in foreign affairs—treating allies like foes, and vice versa—but it is the Dukakis campaign that provides the better parallel.

Obama's culture war began in spring 2008, when he talked at a fundraiser about people who "get bitter [and] cling to guns or religion"...

...The culture war of Michael Dukakis began with a 1972 prison reform law (signed by the governor before him) that gave unsupervised furloughs to prisoners serving life without parole; it grew worse when his state legislature passed a bill requiring teachers to lead their students each day in the Pledge of Allegiance...

Read it all: <http://weeklystandard.com/articles/duking-it-out>

The Point of No Return

The warnings of Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln have never been more relevant.

by Thomas Sowell, 20 Aug 2010

...In other words, a constitutional government does not depend on the Constitution but on us. To the extent that we allow clever people to circumvent the Constitution while dazzling us with rhetoric, the Constitution becomes just a meaningless piece of paper as our freedoms are stolen from us, much as a pick-pocket might steal our wallet while we were distracted by other things.

It is not just evil people who would dismantle America. Many people who have no desire to destroy our freedoms simply have agendas of their own that are singly or collectively incompatible with the survival of freedom.

Someone once said that a democratic society cannot survive for long after 51 percent of the people decide that they want to live off the other 49 percent. Yet that is the direction in which we are being pushed by those who are promoting envy under its more high-toned alias, "social justice."...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/244252>

Many possible Israeli concessions would be suicidal

by George F. Will, 22 Aug 2010

'Twas a famous victory for diplomacy when, in 1991 in Madrid, Israelis and Palestinians, orchestrated by the United States, at last engaged in direct negotiations. Almost a generation later, U.S. policy has succeeded in prodding the Palestinians away from their recent insistence on "proximity talks"—in which they have talked to the Israelis through American intermediaries—and to direct negotiations. But negotiations about what?

Idle talk about a "binational state" has long since died...Rhetoric about a "two-state solution" is de rigueur. It also is delusional, given two recent, searing experiences...

Read on: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/20/AR2010082004682.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

Allen West on Islamic Fundamentalism

24 July 2010

...We must not get to the point that we are so hung up on Multiculturalism On Steroids that we are willing to sacrifice our own culture...If someone is driving a stake into your country, and into your culture, the time for negotiating a peace

with them is over.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XaSXSm__94

The Battalions of Islam

by Baron Bodissey, 21 Aug 2010

As mentioned here repeatedly, the most telling document to emerge from the Holy Land Foundation trial in 2008 was written in 1991 by Mohamed Akram. It describes the long-term Muslim Brotherhood plan for Islamic subversion in the United States...

...Our persistent tendency is to view Muslims as mirror images of ourselves, worshipping differently, but otherwise having the same basic motivations. This tendency is deeply entrenched in modern liberal ideology, and makes many educated people not just unwilling to consider any evidence for what is really happening, but unable even to *see* it.

It is literally unthinkable to most of us that there may be a concerted and persistent plan, extending over more than half a century, to undermine and overthrow Western Civilization. Our minds just won't go there.

We now have ample evidence that Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the front man for the Ground Zero mosque, is not only a dedicated Islamic zealot and proponent of sharia, but also a part of the Muslim's Brotherhood's long-term planning. Alyssa Lappen, one of the premier investigators of the Ground Zero mosque, has [uncovered evidence](#) that Feisal Abdul Rauf is part of a strategic plan centered in Malaysia. Cordoba House, more commonly known as "the Ground Zero mosque," is intended to be just one of a series of "battalions" for the takeover and destruction of the West...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/08/battalions-of-islam.html#readfurther>

Obama's Point of No Return

by J.R. Dunn, 19 Aug 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/obamas_point_of_no_return.html

Moral myopia at Ground Zero

by Charles Krauthammer, 20 Aug 2010

...At least Richard Cohen of *The Post* tries to grapple with the issue of sanctity and sensitivity. The results, however, are not pretty. He concedes that putting up a Japanese cultural center at Pearl Harbor would be offensive but then dismisses the analogy to Ground Zero because 9/11 was merely "a rogue act, committed by 20 or so crazed samurai."

Obtuseness of this magnitude can only be deliberate. These weren't crazies. They were methodical, focused, steel-nerved operatives. Nor were they freelance rogues. They were the leading, and most successful, edge of a worldwide movement of radical Islamists with cells in every continent, with worldwide financial and theological support, with a massive media and propaganda arm, and with an archipelago of local sympathizers, as in northwestern Pakistan, who protect and guard them.

Why is America fighting Predator wars in Pakistan and Yemen, surveilling thousands of conversations and financial transactions every day, and engaged in military operations against radical Muslims everywhere from the Philippines to Somalia—because of 19 crazies, all of whom died nine years ago?...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/19/AR2010081904769.html>

ObamaCare Proponents Running Scared

by Marguerite Higgins, 20 Aug 2010

A new messaging strategy, based on public polling results from top Democratic pollsters, suggests that congressional lawmakers should wave the white flag when discussing Obamacare in their election campaigns. The PowerPoint presentation, released in a conference call organized by Families USA, encouraged officials to "keep claims small and credible: don't overpromise or 'spin' what the law delivers."

In other words, abandon ship on claims that lawmakers made for months during the health reform debate—that the legislation would in any way reduce the nation's deficit or lower health care costs (in fact, this was a recommendation in

the presentation's "not-to-do" list).

But wait, weren't those the main reasons why President Barack Obama in July 2009 pressed for a fast-track passage of a massive overhaul to our health care system?...

Continue: <http://blog.heritage.org/2010/08/20/obamacare-proponents-running-scared/>

Victory in Iraq

Wall Street Journal editorial, 20 Aug 2010

"Somewhere down the road, we trust that August 18, 2010 will be remembered as Victory in Iraq day."

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704476104575439743828817562.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Wrong, WSJ. As a matter of fact, Victory In Iraq Day was actually **22 Nov 2008:**

http://www.zombietime.com/vi_day/

Before you read anything by the lying, jihadi-loving scumbag Robert Fisk, read these:

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/article/19033_The_Lies_and_Distortions_of_Robert_Fisk

<http://markhumphrys.com/modern.leftists.html#fisk>

US troops say goodbye to Iraq

Torture. Corruption. Civil war. America has certainly left its mark.

Robert Fisk, 20 Aug 2010

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/fisk/robert-fisk-us-troops-say-goodbye-to-iraq-2057387.html>

Obama is guilty of far worse things than denying his religious beliefs. Still, this does point to some pretty conclusive indications of Muslim identity. And I'd actually thought he was an atheist.

Did NY Times Memory Hole Kristof On Obama?

by Dan Riehl, 19 Aug 2010

http://www.riehlworlview.com/carnivorous_conservative/2010/08/did-ny-times-memory-hole-kristof-on-obama.html

And here's the full text of Nick Kristof's puff piece in the NYT (6 March 07)—still posted on BHO's own website:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/davidhuntington/CqsD>

The Stump Speech

For the use of every Republican candidate for every House and Senate seat and every Governor's office.

by Hugh Hewitt, 17 Aug 2010

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/6b03fa8f-2f47-4eca-9577-cf4a89eeebc3>

Prop. 8 ruling ignores precedent, evidence and common sense

by Edwin Meese III, 17 Aug 2010

Even some who support same-sex marriage worry that, in striking down California's voter-approved proposition defining marriage as between one man and one woman, U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker went too far. They are right—and not the only ones who should be concerned. Walker's ruling is indefensible as a matter of law wholly apart from its result.

By refusing to acknowledge binding Supreme Court precedent, substantial evidence produced at trial that was contrary to the holding and plain common sense, the ruling exhibits none of the requirements of a traditional decision. This opinion is arbitrary and capricious, and its alarming legal methodology and overtly policy-driven tenor are too extreme to stand.

Regardless of whether one agrees with the result, structurally sound opinions always confront binding legal precedent. Walker's is a clear exception because the U.S. Supreme Court has spoken on whether a state's refusal to authorize same-sex marriage violates the equal protection and due process clauses of the 14th Amendment. In 1972,

Baker v. Nelson, a case over whether Minnesota violated the Constitution by issuing marriage licenses only to opposite-sex couples, was unanimously thrown out on the merits, for lack of a substantial federal question. The Supreme Court's action establishes a binding precedent in favor of Proposition 8. But Judge Walker's ruling doesn't mention Baker, much less attempt to distinguish it or accept its findings...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/16/AR2010081604254.html>

The Obamacare Disaster

by Peter Ferrara, 18 Aug 2010

Forthcoming for public release shortly will be my extensive study of the Obamacare legislation, "The Obamacare Disaster: An Appraisal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (Heartland Policy Study No. 128, The Heartland Institute, August 2010), available shortly at the Heartland Institute [website](#). Following Nancy Pelosi's dictum that we will have to pass it first to know what's in it, I personally slogged through the thousands of pages of this legislative atrocity for the study, as well as thousands of pages of supplemental materials such as government, think tank and media reports.

The bottom line is that you will lose your health care under this legislation, if not your job, your country as they bankrupt America, and maybe ultimately your life or the life of a loved one. All that to make dreamy, emotionalized liberals happy, even though many of them are not happy because the socialism in the bill is not overt enough. Moreover, the promises made to the American people to pass the bill are shown in the study to be thoroughly false. This pattern of calculated deception, however, did not fool the American people, only members of Congress, many of whom will now pay with *their* jobs as a result.

But the study is not all gloom and doom. It thoroughly explains the Patient Power reforms that should replace it when it is repealed, drawing on the broad scholarship of the Patient Power movement and its intellectual leaders, such as John Goodman, Grace Marie Turner, Sally Pipes, Merrill Mathews, and Greg Scandlen, among others. It consequently serves as a guidebook for the grassroots Tea Party activists who will lead the long-term crusade for Health Care Liberation...

Read on: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/08/18/the-obamacare-disaster>

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."—Ronald Reagan

Railroading the Taxpayer

by Steve Forbes, 11 Aug 2010

...If the White House has its way the federal government—as well as state and local ones—will spend hundreds of billions of dollars over the next couple of decades on projects that will be mammoth moneylosers and serve but a tiny fraction of the U.S. traveling public. Despite the fact that almost all the world's bullet trains operate in the red, they have cast a spell over political elites. Environmentalists love them because they will allegedly get us out of our automobiles. Unions love them because government projects mean bloated payrolls, pay packages and pensions. And the poor taxpayer gets railroaded...

...La-La Land expects private investors to kick in \$12 billion because so many people will want to ride the train that it will turn a handy profit. That's about as likely as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac making honest money. The passenger estimates assume the line will attract more riders than the bullet trains in Japan, even though Japan's population density is about ten times that of the U.S. And on it goes with other rail projects. For instance, the feds have endorsed pumping \$1.1 billion into a high-speed rail line that would better the driving time between Chicago and St. Louis by all of 10%.

Bottom line: All of these rail projects couldn't pass even a laugh test in the private sector, yet they will soak up capital that otherwise could be used for productive purposes. And it's not just the capital. Almost all high-speed rail schemes around the world operate at a loss. Even those touted as turning a profit are usually helped with off-balance-sheet government subsidies.

European countries have gone for passenger rail projects with gusto. Despite substantial subsidies, though, *the rails attract only 6% of all travelers in Europe*. In the geographically gargantuan U.S. there is no reason to think we will do any better. No wonder the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* concluded: "Investing...in passenger railroads is a little like building a bridge to the 19th century."...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/11/fact-and-comment-opinions-steve-forbes.html?boxes=opinionschanneleditors>

Nancy's nefarious conspiracy theory

by Rich Lowry, 19 Aug 2010

Is Nancy Pelosi making a bid to join Robert Welch, longtime leader of the John Birch Society, as a truly great conspiracy theorist? It would seem only an inspired paranoid could find it so unaccountably strange—cue the *Twilight Zone* theme music—that there's a public outcry about a mosque project planned two blocks from Ground Zero that an investigation is in order.

But Pelosi senses foul play. "There is no question there is a concerted effort to make this a political issue by some," she told KCBS radio in San Francisco late Tuesday. "And I join those who have called for looking into how this opposition to the mosque is being funded."

So fire up the subpoenas and get Henry Waxman on the case. Or reunite Woodward and Bernstein to "follow the money." Whatever. Someone needs to expose the nefarious financial tentacles. What everyone else in America sees as a natural reaction against an ill-advised project, Nancy Pelosi sees as . . . *Chinatown*.

...She is such a deeply parochial liberal that every time public opinion swings in a direction she dislikes, she can only imagine malign financiers or puppet-masters at work...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/nancy_nutty_nose_for_conspiracy_xKly3RgUYM4YefSrZrJQ8O

N.B.: 'Parochial,' of course, does not mean 'Catholic' in this context. And Catholic never means Nancy Pelosi in any context. Nor does it mean Joe Biden or Teddy Kennedy. If you believe in abortion, you are not a Roman Catholic.

Fannie & Freddie: Mortgage moronity

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review editorial, 19 Aug 2010

It defies comprehension that federal meddlers, whose reckless interventions turned the nation's housing market on its head, have come up with "corrections" that perpetuate, and more likely will aggravate, the disaster of their last intervention.

Government-backed mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac wreaked havoc by *encouraging* mortgages not worth the paper they were written on. Still ailing but now with no limit on bailout funding, both taxpayer-enabled entities are raising the curtain on Act II.

Fannie Mae and the National Council of State Housing Agencies—which advocates and coordinates "affordable housing"—are offering mortgages with a little as \$1,000 down in three states (thus far). Brother Freddie is promoting *no-down-payment* mortgages through Housing and Urban Development programs.

So, rather than allow a much-needed housing market correction and recovery, government steps in with *both* humongous clodhoppers. But don't worry. When those quickie mortgages go bad, \$3 billion in fresh federal bailout money supposedly will keep homeowners afloat after they get in over their heads, reports Conn Carroll of The Heritage Foundation. So much for no more taxpayer bailouts.

This is akin to the Titanic circling back to hit the same iceberg. That is, unless its passengers, already soaked, change this nation's course.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_695446.html

How to Win the Clash of Civilizations

by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, 18 Aug 2010

...The West's universalist pretensions are increasingly bringing it into conflict with the other civilizations, most seriously with Islam and China. Thus the survival of the West depends on Americans, Europeans and other Westerners reaffirming their shared civilization as unique—and uniting to defend it against challenges from non-Western civilizations.

Huntington's model, especially after the fall of Communism, was not popular. The fashionable idea was put forward in Francis Fukuyama's 1989 essay "The End of History," in which he wrote that all states would converge on a single institutional standard of liberal capitalist democracy and never go to war with each other. The equivalent neoconservative rosy scenario was a "unipolar" world of unrivalled American hegemony. Either way, we were headed for One World...

...The president's hope was that moderate Muslims would eagerly accept this invitation to be friends. The extremist minority—nonstate actors like al Qaeda—could then be picked off with drones. Of course, this hasn't gone according to

plan. And a perfect illustration of the futility of this approach, and the superiority of the Huntingtonian model, is the recent behavior of Turkey. According to the One World view, Turkey is an island of Muslim moderation in a sea of extremism. Successive American presidents have urged the EU to accept Turkey as a member on this assumption. But the illusion of Turkey as the West's moderate friend in the Muslim world has been shattered...

...The greatest advantage of Huntington's civilizational model of international relations is that it reflects the world as it is—not as we wish it to be. It allows us to distinguish friends from enemies. And it helps us to identify the internal conflicts within civilizations, particularly the historic rivalries between Arabs, Turks and Persians for leadership of the Islamic world.

But divide and rule cannot be our only policy. We need to recognize the extent to which the advance of radical Islam is the result of an active propaganda campaign. According to a CIA report written in 2003, the Saudis invested at least \$2 billion a year over a 30-year period to spread their brand of fundamentalist Islam. The Western response in promoting our own civilization was negligible. Our civilization is not indestructible: It needs to be actively defended. This was perhaps Huntington's most important insight. The first step towards winning this clash of civilizations is to understand how the other side is waging it—and to rid ourselves of the One World illusion.

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703426004575338471355710184.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

Greg Sargent is an unhinged WaPo blogger who's utterly immune to logic—especially on the topic of the Ground Zero mosque. This would be a real laugh riot, if the topic wasn't so serious.

Is Harry Reid Un-American?

by James Taranto, 17 Aug 2010

...It reminds us of something Bob Tyrrell said about the left not long ago: "There is only one political value that they have stood by through three generations, and that is the political value of disturbing your neighbor." The pro-mosque left's pieties about "American ideals" have about as much to do with the reality of the controversy as the fringe right's ravings about "Shariah." In truth, the left favors a mosque near Ground Zero simply because most Americans find the idea obnoxious...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704554104575435484116485898.html>

Obama Demagogues Private Enterprise

by John Stossel, 18 Aug 2010

...Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid accused Sharron Angle, who's challenging Reid's re-election bid in Nevada, of "raiding" the Social Security trust fund because Angle has talked about phasing out Social Security. There are two problems with that statement—as Reid must know: First, there never has been a trust fund! Your FICA tax payments were not saved or invested. Social Security transferred them to current retirees. Second, in return for IOUs, Congress raided Social Security's budget surplus every year and spent like any other tax revenue.

Now the days of surplus are over. Unless benefits are cut and the retirement age is raised, the deficits will only grow. When Social Security passed in 1935, most Americans died before age 65. There were many workers and few retirees. Ten years later, there were still almost 42 workers for each retiree. Five years afterward, the ratio slipped to about 17 to 1. Now it's 3.4 to 1. Thirty years from now, the ratio is **projected** to be 2 to 1.

That won't work. Workers cannot afford to give up half their earnings to pay others' retirement benefits. It would be far better to begin partial privatization now.

But what about Obama's point that President George W. Bush's privatization plan would have been a disaster because the market crashed?

Obama is just wrong. For one thing, under the **privatization plans backed by the Cato Institute and others**, retirees and near-retirees wouldn't have been affected by the 2008 stock-market decline. Only younger workers would have diverted some of their money from government to capital markets. They would have had time to recover (unless government continued to screw up and cripple the private sector). Second, even with the 2008 decline, the picture is not nearly as bad as Obama implies...

Read the rest: http://townhall.com/columnists/JohnStossel/2010/08/18/obama_demagogues_private_enterprise/page/full#

A thorough, dispassionate, and fascinating examination.

U.S. Withdrawal and Limited Options in Iraq

by George Friedman, 17 Aug 2010

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100816_us_withdrawal_and_limited_options_iraq

5,000 words, and well worth the time. The wishful thinking of Gates & Co. is as breathtaking as it is dangerous.

The Re-Hollowing of the Military

by Arthur Herman, 16 Aug 2010 (September issue)

...The dilemma, then, is that no shrinking defense budget will ever be able to modernize our military or maintain force readiness, let alone fight a war—no matter how prudent and careful the number crunchers may be (and Gates is hiring another 30,000 of them, to audit defense contracts).

In the end, there remains only one alternative: to shrink the mission. If you want to see the results of a shrinking CIA budget and mission, visit lower Manhattan. What might follow from Gates's career-capping years at the Obama Pentagon could make Ground Zero look like a war game.

Read it all: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-re-hollowing-of-the-military-15498>

Rachel Maddow to Receive Award for Her 'Civility' and 'Tolerance'

by Noel Sheppard, 17 Aug 2010

...Former winners of this "honor" include George Clooney, Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw, Larry King, and Bill Moyers. Any questions?

More: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2010/08/17/rachel-maddow-receive-award-her-civility-and-tolerance>

A Tea Party Manifesto

The movement is not seeking a junior partnership with the Republican Party. It is aiming for a hostile takeover.

by Dick Armey & Matt Kibbe, 17 Aug 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704407804575425061553154540.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop



Why ObamaCare Must Be Repealed

by Sally C. Pipes, 17 Aug 2010

...As they attempt to deal with this disaster, Massachusetts officials are quickly realizing what Canadian officials learned 30 years ago—the only way to control costs inside a government-directed health system is to cut doctors' pay, transfer patients into managed care, and introduce arbitrary spending caps and price controls.

Not surprisingly, that's what Bay State leaders have tried to do. Last year, a state commission recommended that the government stop paying healthcare providers for each procedure and instead compensate provider networks with a flat fee per patient. Of course, such a system of global payments, or "capitation," encourages provider groups to skimp on care, as they get to keep any money not spent treating patients. State Senate president Therese Murray has decided to delay introducing legislation until 2011 because of the backlash...

A cautionary tale: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/08/17/why_obamacare_must_be_repealed_106780.html

U.S. Withdrawal and Limited Options in Iraq

by George Friedman, 17 Aug 2010

It is August 2010, which is the month when the last U.S. combat troops are scheduled to leave Iraq. It is therefore time to take stock of the situation in Iraq, which has changed places with Afghanistan as the forgotten war. This is all the more important since 50,000 troops will remain in Iraq, and while they may not be considered combat troops, a great deal of combat power remains embedded with them. So we are far from the end of the war in Iraq. The question is whether the departure of the last combat units is a significant milestone and, if it is, what it signifies...

Continue: http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100816_us_withdrawal_and_limited_options_iraq

American Muslim organization says President Obama is wrong

by Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, 15 Aug 2010

...Yes, Mr. President, this is America and you have fundamentally misunderstood the stakes in this discussion and the sentiments of the American people. Instead, you have focused on the very issue that the Islamist propagandists wish you to—the narrative that Americans somehow need lectures about Islam, Muslims, and religious freedom...

...Mr. President this is not about religious freedom. It is about the importance of the World Trade Center site to the psyche of the American People. It is about a blatant attack on our sovereignty by people whose ideology ultimately demands the elimination of our way of life. While Imam Faisal Rauf may not share their violent tendencies he does seem to share a belief that Islamic structures are a political statement and even Ground Zero should be looked upon through the lens of political Islam and not a solely American one.

As a Muslim desperate to reform his faith, your remarks take us backwards from the day that my faith will come into modernity. I do not stand to eliminate Imam Rauf's religious freedom; I stand to make sure that my children's religious freedom will be determined by the liberty guaranteed in the American Constitution and not by clerics or leaders who are apologists for shar'iah law and will tell me what religious freedom is...

More: <http://www.aifdemocracy.org/news.php?id=6131>

US breast cancer drug decision 'marks start of death panels'

America's health watchdog is considering revoking its approval of the drug Avastin for use on women with advanced breast cancer, leading to accusations that it will mark the start of 'death panel' drug rationing.

by Nick Allen and Andrew Hough, 16 Aug 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/7948878/US-breast-cancer-drug-decision-marks-start-of-death-panels.html>

Ms. Rubin takes down *bien-pensant* creeps Ross Douthat and Marc Ambinder

Smearing 68% of America

by Jennifer Rubin, 16 Aug 2010

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/341176>

More Smearing of "Second America"

by Jennifer Rubin, 16 Aug 2010

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/341726>

American Taxpayer, Financial Jihadist

Thanks to our takeover of AIG, we now are involved in Islamic finance.

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 14 Aug 2010

...Sharia-compliant finance (SCF) is now a thriving American industry. Sharia is Islam's authoritarian legal framework. It aspires to control not merely spiritual life but all aspects of society, including economic matters. The purpose of SCF is to advance that mission in two important ways. First, SCF legitimizes the incorporation of sharia into our legal system, despite the fact that **many features** of Islamic law are anti-constitutional...

...In the insurance business, those who purchase policies pay premiums, which insurers like AIG then invest. To be sharia-compliant, investments must not be made in enterprises Islam forbids, e.g., finance (because it makes money off interest, which sharia prohibits), pork, gambling, alcohol, etc. Sounds harmless enough . . . except forbidden enterprises would also include businesses that support or otherwise work with the U.S. armed forces. Islamists consider our military to be an "infidel force" that is "at war with Islam."...

...So, an American company that practices SCF is, wittingly or not, advancing the jihadist agenda: It will deny financing to enterprises that help our military combat terrorists while running the risk that its sharia advisers will steer funding to those same terrorists...

...The **Thomas More Law Center** has filed a lawsuit against Secretary Geithner and the Treasury Department, seeking to shut down AIG's SCF business while that business is owned by the taxpayers. In response, the Obama administration has hilariously denied that SCF is really an "Islamic religious activity." Someone will need to break that news to Professor Hayes, the guy who wrote that "the raison d'etre for the practice of Islamic finance is undeniably religious." When the Treasury Department co-hosted a Harvard SCF seminar less than two years ago, it chose none other than Hayes to preside...

...The Obama administration could have suspended AIG's promotion of sharia finance in order to protect constitutional norms. But, of course, if it were interested in constitutional norms, it would neither be running private companies nor embracing Islamists and their law. So congratulations: You get to fund the jihad, while the jihad gets to target you.

Read the rest: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/243717>

Contribute to Thomas More Law Center: <http://www.thomasmore.org>

Undocumented Imam's Refusal to Perform Interracial Gay Handicapped Wedding Leads to Charges of Racism

by Iowahawk, 6 Aug 2010

<http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/08/wedgeapalooza.html>

WaybackWhen: The Video Game of Better Times and Places

by Red Square, 2 Aug 2010

<http://thepeoplescube.com/current-truth/waybackwhen-the-video-game-of-better-times-and-places-t5778.html>

Obama: Al Qaeda Racists Give Radicals a Bad Name

by Red Square, 17 July 2010

<http://thepeoplescube.com/current-truth/obama-al-qaeda-racists-give-radicals-a-bad-name-t5685.html>

And of course, the global warming hysteric Dr. James Hansen is involved, too.

NOAA: Warmest June Ever! Caveat: We Made It Up

by Art Horn, 15 Aug 2010

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) claimed that this past June was the warmest ever

in its temperature records, which go back to 1880. The global average temperature in June was 61.1 degrees, or 1.22 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average of 59.9 degrees. At face value, this appears to be consistent with the theory that global warming is caused by mankind's use of fossil fuels. But face value can be deceiving, and the value is not what it appears to be.

In fact, the claim that June 2010 was the warmest on record has no value at all.

NOAA gets its temperature data from the Goddard Institute for Space Studies. They calculate the average temperature of the Earth using data from land-based thermometers and ocean buoy and ship measurements of water temperature. However, there is a major problem with how GISS measures temperature in a very large region — the Arctic. The problem is that they don't have any thermometers there. So they make it up. No, really!...

Read how: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/noaa-warmest-june-ever-caveat-we-made-it-up/>

GM Joins Fannie and Freddie

by Christopher Papagianis, 13 Aug 2010

...It's hard to ignore that the reconstituted GM increasingly looks like the newest member of the "government sponsored enterprise" club, which means, in effect, that it is also "too big to fail" Fannie and Freddie morphed into behemoths that profited from their special relationship with the government—and then left taxpayers holding the bag when things went sour. Now, GM is pulling out their old playbook to increase sales **using an in-house subprime lender**. Unsustainable revenue growth in anticipation of an initial public offering (IPO) is not likely to be in the long-term interests of taxpayers.

Until the U.S. government takes its finger off the scale for these two sectors, there can't be a meaningful recalibration of capital and resources across the economy. This recalibration is a key part of the country's ability to break out of its slow-to-no growth trajectory. How to enable the development of new and sustainable patterns of investment and consumption within the economy is the central challenge for policymakers moving forward.

More: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/gm-joins-fannie-and-freddie>

Obama Sides with Ground Zero Mosque Builders vs. Americans

by Jennifer Rubin, 13 Aug 2010

...Rep. Peter King is the first elected official to respond. He issued this statement:

"President Obama is wrong. It is insensitive and uncaring for the Muslim community to build a mosque in the shadow of Ground Zero. While the Muslim community has the right to build the mosque they are abusing that right by needlessly offending so many people who have suffered so much. The right and moral thing for President Obama to have done was to urge Muslim leaders to respect the families of those who died and move their mosque away from Ground Zero. Unfortunately the President caved into political correctness."

Obama has shown his true sentiments now, after weeks of concealing them, on an issue of deep significance not only to the families and loved ones of 3,000 slaughtered Americans but also to the vast majority of his fellow citizens. He has once again revealed himself to be divorced from the values and concerns of his countrymen. He is entirely – and to many Americans, horribly — a creature of the left, with little ability to make moral distinctions. His sympathies for the Muslim World take precedence over those, such as they are, for his fellow citizens. This is nothing short of an abomination.

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/340536>

Conason has always been a moron, but now he's completely unhinged and out of control.

Taranto takes him down with a truth tranquilizer.

The Carnival Police

Joe Conason waxes nostalgic for racism.

by James Taranto, 13 Aug 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703960004575427381953777918.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

MSNBC's Chuck Todd baffled by Wall Street's anti-Obama sentiment: The President 'has not done' much to business

by Rachel Burnett, 12 Aug 2010

...Perhaps Todd could listen to what a colleague on CNBC said. Back in February, **Maria Bartiromo asserted** that "there are a lot of people on Wall Street and in business increasingly that have said to me actually, 'I don't know that I would vote the same today given the fact that we did not expect he was so much to the left, and we did not expect that there was going to be such a big bite in business.' I mean, that's a fact."

Recently the media have been expressing incredulity at Barack Obama's falling poll numbers. This includes MSNBC's news anchor Contessa Brewer lamenting that after everything President Obama has done, "What else do people want?" Sounding a similar note, Good Morning America's George Stephanopoulos on Thursday touted, after all of Obama's achievements, "What more could the President have done?"...

More: <http://www.mrc.org/biasalert/2010/20100812055608.aspx>

Netanyahu's warning

by George F. Will, 14 Aug 2010

JERUSALEM—When Israel declared independence in 1948, it had to use mostly small arms to repel attacks by six Arab armies. Today, however, Israel feels, and is, more menaced than it was then or has been since. Hence the potentially world-shaking decision that will be made here, probably within two years...

...*Any* Israeli self-defense *anywhere* is *automatically* judged "disproportionate." Israel knows this as it watches Iran...Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, says that Israel is the "enemy of God." Tehran, proclaiming that the Holocaust never happened and vowing to complete it, sent an ambassador to Poland who in 2006 wanted to measure the ovens at Auschwitz to prove them inadequate for genocide. Iran's former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is considered a "moderate" by people for whom believing is seeing, calls Israel a "one-bomb country."

If Iran were to "wipe the Zionist entity off the map," as it vows to do, it would, Netanyahu believes, achieve a regional "dominance not seen since Alexander." Netanyahu does not say that Israel will, if necessary, act alone to prevent this. Or does he?

He says that CIA Director Leon Panetta is "about right" in saying Iran can be a nuclear power in two years. He says that 1948 meant this: "For the first time in 2,000 years, a sovereign Jewish people could defend itself against attack." And he says: "The tragic history of the powerlessness of our people explains why the Jewish people need a sovereign power of self-defense." If Israel strikes Iran, the world will not be able to say it was not warned.

The full column: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/13/AR2010081304474.html>

Only Republicans Are "Offbeat"?

Rush Limbaugh, 13 Aug 2010

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_081310/content/01125111.guest.html

Judge Walker and Supposed Lack of "Evidence" of Marriage's Procreative Purpose

by Ed Whelan, 11 Aug 2010

Among the many distortions and falsehoods that Judge Vaughn Walker has tried to propagate through his anti-Prop 8 ruling is his claim that the Prop 8 proponents—who intervened as defendants in the case and valiantly carried out the role of defending Prop 8 when the state defendants abandoned their duties to do so—"failed to build a credible factual record to support their claim that Proposition 8 served a legitimate government interest." Walker's claim, which many in the media evidently unfamiliar with the case have parroted, operates to divert attention from the manifest **bias** that he exhibited throughout the case and that pervades his ruling. But in fact the Prop 8 proponents offered a thorough case that Walker almost entirely *ignored*—a case resting on a broad array of judicial authority, recognized scholarship in various academic fields, extensive documentary evidence, and elementary common sense...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/243083>

The Conspiracy Against Economic Growth

by Louis R. Woodhill, 11 Aug 2010

On July 11, Erskine Bowles, co-chairman of President Obama's Debt and Deficit Commission, made the following statement in a speech to the National Governors' Association annual meeting in Boston: "We can't grow our way out of this. We could have decades of double-digit growth and not grow our way out of this enormous debt problem."...

Mr. Woodhill quickly shows how 10% growth (the minimum in Mr. Bowles' assertion) would actually eliminate the budget deficit by the end of 2014, pay off the entire national debt by the end of 2020, and lead to budget surpluses with a starting figure of \$16.6 trillion a year. And then he explains that we don't require anything like 10% growth to produce wonderful results:

...An example of this "conspiracy against growth" is the CBO's LTBO itself. The CBO assumes that economic growth over the next 74 years will average 2.16%. While the CBO considers the impact of various assumptions on the trajectory of the national debt, it does not consider (or even mention) the possibility of higher growth. This is particularly striking because over the 74-year period from 1935 to 2009, America's real annual economic growth averaged 3.73%.

The difference between 2.16% growth and 3.73% growth is enormous. If you increase the growth rate in the CBO's AFS case to 3.73% (again, holding everything else constant), instead of Federal debt rising steadily from 62% of GDP in 2010 to 87% in 2020, 146% in 2030, and 947% in 2084, the debt would peak at 67% of GDP in 2012 and then begin declining. Without any spending cuts and tax increases, it would fall to 60% in 2020 and 52% in 2030. By 2052, the entire national debt would be paid off...

More: http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/08/11/the_conspiracy_against_economic_growth_98619.html

Mr. Fleischer is president of Bogen Communications Inc. in Ramsey, N.J.

Why I'm Not Hiring

by Michael P. Fleischer, 9 Aug 2010

...A life in business is filled with uncertainties, but I can be quite sure that every time I hire someone my obligations to the government go up. From where I sit, the government's message is unmistakable: Creating a new job carries a punishing price.

Read it: http://online.wsj.com/article/NA_WSJ_PUB:SB10001424052748704017904575409733776372738.html

American Socialists Release Names of 70 Congressional Democrats in Their Ranks

by Jim Hoft, 13 Aug 2010

The Socialist Party of America announced in their October 2009 newsletter that 70 Congressional democrats currently belong to their caucus. This admission was recently posted on Scribd.com...

Read on: <http://gatewaypundit.firstthings.com/2010/08/american-socialists-release-names-of-70-congressional-democrats-in-their-caucus/>

The list doesn't contain too many surprises. It includes Senator Sanders, of course, since he openly calls himself a Socialist, and such noted moonbat Representatives as Jackson-Lee, Kucinich, Cleaver, Conyers, DeFazio, Ellison, Frank, Grayson, Gutierrez, Hinchey, Jackson Jr., Kaptur, Maloney, Markey, McDermott, Nadler, Holmes-Norton, Rangel, Rush, Schakowsky, Slaughter, Stark, Waters, Waxman, and Wexler.

The Destiny of a Free Nation

by Doctor Zero, 12 Aug 2010

...Reaching our destiny will require courage. We are the grandchildren of revolutionaries, both natural-born and adopted through immigration. Together we are a family of builders, investors, explorers, and warriors.

The American posture is not a frightened crouch. To discover what we are capable of, we must reject the vision of a hopeless future, where timid clients line up at government offices to receive benefits they cannot be trusted to create or purchase themselves.

Granting the State power over an industry is a concession that it can only be managed through force and compulsion, which are the State's only resources. Freedom is the *rejection* of compulsion, isn't it? Your choices are to

be free, or be cared for... and keep in mind that the promises of those who promise to care for you can *only* be funded by taxing the labor of those who choose freedom. Ask yourself how a system that devours itself to survive could end *anywhere* other than where Barack Obama has taken us.

Our future will grow from the energetic courtship of ideas. The statist suppresses ideas which challenge his ideology. Note well how much effort the various organisms of the Left put into shouting people down, and burying dangerous ideas. Watch them blink in confusion as reality defies their ideology. Examine their rhetorical toolbox, and you'll find nothing but the blunt instruments of class and racial insults...

The full essay: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/08/the-destiny-of-a-free-nation/#more-14624>

A Brazen Muslim

A Gates of Vienna reader writes with a report of his own personal encounter with suburban cultural enrichment.

13 Aug 2010

I want to pass on an incident that just happened to me. I had to stop at a local CVS to pick up some items. As I pulled into a parking space in the lot I noticed another car had pulled into a spot at the exact same time. As I got out of my car so did he. I kind of laughed because the timing was so perfect it was almost like a choreographed dance.

Parked between our two cars was a beat-up black sedan that I didn't pay much mind to. As the both of us continued our "dance" walking towards the entrance of the CVS we heard someone baaaaing rather loudly like a sheep. We both turned around to see a young son of Allah in the beat-up black car. He looked right at us and went "baaaa" again, and started laughing!

The guy next to me (a fellow white man) was stunned. But I knew (thanks to GoV and other sources) exactly what he was doing. I looked at the white guy and said, "He's doing that because we are kuffar." I then said rather loudly to the son of Allah, "Isn't that right? You are acting like an idiot because we are kuffar, am I right?"

He just looked at me laughing and said, "Yes, kuffar. Yes, yes..."

Continue: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/08/brazen-muslim.html#readfurther>

Sacrilege at Ground Zero

by Charles Krauthammer, 13 Aug 2010

...Who is to say that the mosque won't one day hire an Anwar al-Aulaqi—spiritual mentor to the Fort Hood shooter and the Christmas Day bomber, and onetime imam at the Virginia mosque attended by two of the 9/11 terrorists? An Aulaqi preaching in Virginia is a security problem. An Aulaqi preaching at Ground Zero is a sacrilege. Or would the mayor then step in—violating the same First Amendment he grandiosely pretends to protect from mosque opponents—and exercise a veto over the mosque's clergy?

Location matters. Especially this location. Ground Zero is the site of the greatest mass murder in American history—perpetrated by Muslims of a particular Islamist orthodoxy in whose cause they died and in whose name they killed.

Of course that strain represents only a minority of Muslims. Islam is no more intrinsically Islamist than present-day Germany is Nazi—yet despite contemporary Germany's innocence, no German of goodwill would even think of proposing a German cultural center at, say, Treblinka.

Which makes you wonder about the goodwill behind Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf's proposal. This is a man who has called U.S. policy "an accessory to the crime" of 9/11 and, when recently asked whether Hamas is a terrorist organization, replied, "I'm not a politician...The issue of terrorism is a very complex question."

America is a free country where you can build whatever you want—but not anywhere. That's why we have zoning laws. No liquor store near a school, no strip malls where they offend local sensibilities, and, if your house doesn't meet community architectural codes, you cannot build at all. These restrictions are for reasons of aesthetics. Others are for more profound reasons of common decency and respect for the sacred. No commercial tower over Gettysburg, no convent at Auschwitz—and no mosque at Ground Zero...

The whole column: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/12/AR2010081204996.html>

Bailout bribery

Las Vegas Review-Journal editorial, 13 Aug 2010

President Obama and Congress sold their latest bailout of America's public employees as an emergency measure

needed to prevent the layoffs of 160,000 teachers. "We can't stand by and do nothing while pink slips are given to the men and women who educate our children," the president said Tuesday. Then news trickled out that the debt-growing legislation was a payday loan, not a charitable donation...

... "This at least will give 1,400 teachers a job for a year," Mr. Burns said. "I am not sure what the future holds."

We sure do. Next year, when the 2011 Legislature is in session and lawmakers are building the two-year budget, the voting public will be subjected to months of moaning that unless taxes are raised through the roof, at least 1,400 teachers will be laid off.

School districts will build those teaching positions into their baseline budgets. Teachers unions will proclaim the positions invaluable to student achievement. The government will grow to a new level of "essential services," even though student enrollment is declining.

Congress provided nothing more than the means to grow government payrolls, expand union membership and boost union dues and donations to the Democratic Party. States will be coerced into hiring workers they can't afford. The wheels will be greased for the tax increases that will allow public employees everywhere to keep their generous salaries and expensive medical and retirement benefits. The tough fiscal decisions states need to make on their own will be delayed again—until the next federal, strings-attached bailout...

More: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/bailout-bribery-100607414.html>

Mr. Eastman is a law professor and former dean at Chapman University School of Law.

Should judge have recused himself on Prop. 8?

by John C. Eastman, 11 Aug 2010

...The mere fact that Judge Walker may be homosexual would not necessarily have required recusal. But the fact that he "attends bar functions with a companion, a physician," and may therefore be in a stable homosexual relationship of the kind that could lead to marriage, is an entirely different matter...

...If Judge Walker is indeed in a long-term, same-sex relationship, he certainly has an "interest that could be affected substantially by the outcome of the proceeding"—he and his partner are now permitted to marry!—and that, according to Judge Walker's own finding, has financial benefits as well. Such conflicts would have required recusal, and cannot be waived by the parties.

If the relationship does not create such a conflict, it nevertheless creates the circumstance "in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned." That ground for disqualification can be waived by the parties, but the judge must "disclose on the record the basis of the disqualification" and then only continue after the parties have agreed in writing to his continued involvement. No such disclosure and agreement occurred in this case...

More: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/08/10/ED591ERJID.DTL>

As you might have known—or even guessed—Americans For Prosperity is a wonderful organization.

President Obama Insults Americans for Prosperity's 1.2 Million Activists in Fund Raising Speech

Update from AFP President Tim Phillips, 11 Aug 2010

With his poll numbers dropping rapidly because of his big government agenda, the President is now making shrill, desperate attacks on Americans for Prosperity and our 1,200,000 AFP grassroots activists across the nation.

The President is losing on the issues. Americans continue to be disenchanted with Obamacare, his uncontrolled spending habits, and vain attempts to pass an energy tax. This is why thousands of new activists continue to join Americans for Prosperity every day. President Obama can continue his attacks but that won't change the fact that November is coming. The President's remarks can be found on the White House [web site](#).

<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/081110-president-obama-insults-americans-prosperity%E2%80%99s-12-million-activists-fund-raising-speech-0>

(Hat tip: James K.)

Global Warming Hoax Weekly Round-Up, Aug. 12th 2010

by Paul Wornham, 12 Aug 2010

A Democrat wants skeptics put on ice, NOAA nuked Wisconsin, and the Chinese are pretty sure global warming is a Western plot against the developing world...

Part One: Al Gore & Friends
Part Two: AGW Scaremongers
Part Three: Inconvenient Truths
Part Four: AGW in the News
Part Five: Global Hottie

Lots of visuals and links: <http://dailybayonet.com/?p=5227>

A Primary Victory Boosts...WHAT?

by John Podhoretz, 11 Aug 2010

I've read some cracked political analysis in my time, but a story on the *New York Times* website this afternoon called "**A Primary Victory Boosts White House, for Now**" may be the San Andreas Fault of cracked political analyses...

...The liberal fantasy is that the insurgent mood abroad in the land is generic. It's "anti-incumbent." It's not anti-Obama, or anti-Democrat, or anti-liberal. It's a "throw the bums out" thing, and does not represent a rejection of the policies of the past two years but a frustration with the continuing lethargy of the economy...

...If, however, what is happening is a rejection of the *ideas* Obama has championed and the *policies* that emerged from those ideas, then there's really nothing he can do other than repudiate them or make a sharp turn away from them. This is something the people who populate the White House — and the *New York Times* — are unwilling to contemplate...

Read the rest: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/jpodhoretz/339181>

George and Laura Bush greet returning troops.

USO Dallas/Fort Worth's Photos

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=6894887&id=361997510504&comments>

Because Col. Peters is right so often, I trust him on this issue.

The right defense cuts

by Ralph Peters, 11 Aug 2010

On Monday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced a common-sense plan to cut Pentagon fat to preserve battlefield muscle. He'll be damned for it. Gates is breathtakingly willing to take on poisonous political interests, unscrupulous contractors and bloated institutions. He may be the only senior official in our lifetimes who *genuinely* cares about both the troops and the taxpayers...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_right_defense_cuts_af98kOxOwAMUJtCDI6FSSI

Memo to Republicans: It's Big Government, Stupid!

The suburban voters the GOP desperately needs aren't culture warriors. But they're mad as hell about what the Democrats are doing to the economy.

by Michael Tanner, 11 Aug 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YTk0ZmFjNWVjNmRkNWwMTRkNzcwODNjNmEzYmEyOWI=>

Say Goodbye to Fannie and Freddie

by William Poole, 11 Aug 2010

...If Fannie and Freddie were to continue to operate with the government absorbing all their risk, they would keep a large share of the market. But that system has been terribly expensive for taxpayers. The evidence shows that the private market can originate, securitize and distribute home mortgages efficiently on its own. While it's true that the private market brought on the financial crisis by creating so many subprime mortgages, Fannie and Freddie did not block that

parade; they joined it — indeed, in some respects led it.

In principle, it ought to be possible for government financial agencies to be self-supporting. But decades of observation have convinced me that there is no practical way to prevent the government from inserting hidden subsidies and special interest mandates into the agencies' operations...

More: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/12/opinion/12poole.html?_r=2&ref=opinion

Maxine Waters Whacked, Barney Frank Untouched

by Jonathan Weil, 11 Aug 2010

...Frank told Waters sometime in September 2008 to stay out of OneUnited's affairs, because of her husband's prior board membership, and that he would handle issues related to the bank. However, Waters' chief of staff continued communicating with OneUnited executives and raising the subject with Frank's staff, according to the House ethics panel.

The special-favors accusation is only one of the claims against Waters. The other two charges in the ethics panel's complaint are more substantial: using her office to advocate on a matter in which she had a personal financial interest, and behaving in a manner that brought discredit to the House. Waters has denied the allegations and asked for a full hearing.

Those charges aside, for anyone who's upset that OneUnited ultimately got a taxpayer bailout, the person to blame for this is Frank. The government sold TARP to the public as a program for healthy banks only. The reason OneUnited wasn't healthy is it made poor investment decisions. But for Frank's efforts, the bank would have collapsed...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-12/maxine-waters-whacked-barney-frank-untouched-jonathan-weil.html>

This whole scandal is not brand-new. Public knowledge of the corruption goes back to at least March 2009.

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

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

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9BLICBG0&show_article=1

Mr. Tidi is an Israeli-born blogger and IDF veteran. He now lives in America, but maintains his Mideast contacts, and often works in Africa and elsewhere as a security consultant.

Exclusive from Yoni: major Mideast war soon

by Yoni Tidi, 6 Aug 2010

I have had a long briefing from a contact at home. Look for war breaking out at the end of the month. Evidence is building that shows things are marching toward a major war.

1. Hizbullah has dug tunnels into northern Israel.

2. Hizbullah has 60,000 rockets many with chemical warheads.

3. USA aircraft carrier was supposed to head back to USA and is waiting at Malta.

4. Israeli satellite captured photos of submarine off loading weapons to Hizbullah in Northern Lebanon intelligence later showed weapons were special chemical weapons engineered to eat through protective equipment. This agent may now be loaded on Hizbullah rockets.

5. Israel Air Force training in long range missions, jets, helicopters which would suggest commando raids a long way from home.

6. IDF reserves called up and trained at an abnormal pace.

7. Israel delivers letter to UN, Lebanon and USA showing where Hizbullah has hidden rocket in civilian areas.

Israel tell Hizbullah to move the weapons or we will hit them where they are.

8. Israeli subs sitting off Iran.

9. IAF has airbase in Saudi Arabia.

10. Israeli intelligence has captured data showing Hizbullah will preemptively attack Israel at month's end, objective to take out IAF bases so our planes cannot hit Iran.

http://www.yonitheblogger.com/2010/08/exclusive_from_yoni.html

Netanyahu, the anti-Obama

by George F. Will, 12 Aug 2010

Two photographs adorn the office of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Together they illuminate a portentous fact: No two leaders of democracies are less alike—in life experiences, temperaments and political philosophies—than Netanyahu, the former commando and fierce nationalist, and Barack Obama, the former professor and post-nationalist.

One photograph is of Theodor Herzl, born 150 years ago. Dismayed by the eruption of anti-Semitism in France during the Dreyfus Affair at the end of the 19th century, Herzl became Zionism's founding father. Long before the Holocaust, he concluded that Jews could find safety only in a national homeland. The other photograph is of Winston Churchill, who considered himself "one of the authors" of Britain's embrace of Zionism...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/11/AR2010081104747.html>

Surprise! New evidence that the America-hating Howard Zinn, who died earlier this year (thank God), was probably an agent of the Kremlin. Well, knock me over with a feather.

Howard Zinn's Dupes?

by Paul Kengor, 11 Aug 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/howard_zinns_dupes.html

'We Socialists' vs. 'We the People'

by Tony Blankley, 9 Aug 2010

...Just one trivial example of the disconnection between the elites and the nation was the Newsweek headline "We Are All Socialists Now," published last year (before the magazine was sold for \$1 to the billionaire husband of a leading Democratic congresswoman).

Two months ago, though, a poll by the Democracy Corps, a polling group run by Democratic operative James Carville and Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg, asked how well the term "socialist" fit President Obama. Fifty-five percent of all Americans said "well" or "very well." In that same month, the Gallup poll reported that Americans self-identify themselves as 42 percent conservative (a historic high), 35 percent moderate and 20 percent liberal. That would seem to leave 3 percent for socialists, communists, anarchists, fascists, monarchists, Nazis, ultramontanists, Falangists, klansmen, etc.)

I guess that Newsweek headline's meaning depends on what the definition of "we" is. As military experts would say, the upcoming struggle for America's future between the socialist powers and the rest of us would seem to be "asymmetrical."

Much more profoundly, the gap between the consciousness of "we socialists" and "we the people" can be seen in the assertion by some liberals recently that the president's collapse in the polls is part of this current reaction to events is but a passing thing. If they think that, they understand nothing of the forces they have unleashed by their tragically imprudent effort to fundamentally transform our country.

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/9/we-socialists-vs-we-the-people/>

Free Speech Lawsuit: NYC Bans '9/11 Images'

by Pamela Geller, 10 Aug 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/free_speech_lawsuit_nyc_bans_9.html

Her struggle against the authorities who tried to prevent her placing this bus ad:



A splendid report on, and rebuke to, yet another heinous atrocity from the lunatics of Team Obama:

The Liveable Communities Act

by Ed Braddy, 11 Aug 2010

...The Livable Communities Act is top-down central planning aimed at changing where we live and work and how we travel. It will be overseen by bureaucrats in the Environmental Protection Agency, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Transportation and implemented through local governments...

...Social engineering is at the heart of the Livable Communities Act where federal planners hope to reduce personal mobility as measured in vehicle miles traveled and shift housing patterns from single family homes in the suburbs to small apartments in cramped central cities.

In a country as large and diverse as ours, some people will prefer the live-work-travel arrangements prescribed for in the Livable Communities Act, which is based on the Smart Growth planning doctrine. However, the vast majority of Americans in red and blue states alike have long aspired to live in suburban homes with a car in the garage.

This quintessentially middle class version of the American Dream has long been derided by elites and environmentalists who recast suburbs as wasteful sprawl and liken automobile use to a destructive addiction. They want to de-legitimize this land use pattern, restrict automobile use and make suburban housing less affordable. The Livable Communities Act is thus a hammer in the progressive toolbox.

Absent from their advocacy is any acknowledgment that cars and suburbia are not just expressions of freedom but indispensable contributors to our prosperity. For example, automobiles enable us to access more goods and services, forcing businesses to compete by offering higher quality and lower costs...

...The threat to our mobility is but one aspect of the Livable Communities Act that deserves resistance. Property rights, private enterprise, and affordable homeownership are also threatened under this command-and-control legislation, despite the clever catchphrases that soften its message. Defending the right of every citizen to maximize their potential and pursue happiness on their own terms makes opposition to the Livable Communities Act necessary...

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/08/the_livable_communities_act_1.html

The Increasingly Self-Pitying Obama White House

by Peter Wehner, 9 Aug 2010

...What we are seeing, I think, is a group of supremely arrogant people humbled by events. They are turning out to be a good deal more incompetent than they (and many Americans) ever imagined. They see impending political doom in the form of the midterm elections. Yet this is not leading them toward any apparent serious self-reflection; rather, they are engaging in an extraordinary degree of whining, finger-pointing, and self-indulgence.

It was said of President Kennedy that he was a happy president. "Happiness, [Kennedy] often said, paraphrasing Aristotle, is the full use of one's faculties along lines of excellence, and to him the Presidency offered the ideal opportunity to pursue excellence," Theodore Sorenson wrote in *Kennedy*. "He liked the job, he thrived on its pressures."

One doesn't get that sense with Obama or his key advisers. In 18 months they appear to have developed deep grievances and an increasing unhappiness and frustration with the duties of governing...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/338666>

Robbing 'Rich' Wrecks Economy

by Ralph Reiland, 9 Aug 2010

...Even without these proposed tax hikes on "the rich" (defined as those earning more than \$200,000 a year, \$250,000 for couples), high-income earners already pay a disproportionately high portion of federal taxes.

An analysis of IRS data for 2007 shows the top 1 percent of income earners receiving 22.8 percent of total income and paying 40.4 percent of all federal income taxes. Similarly, the top 5 percent of income earners received 37 percent of total income and paid 60.6 percent of all federal income taxes.

In short, the top 1 percent of income earners paid more of the total federal income tax bill than the bottom 95 percent of income earners—40.4 percent vs. 39.4 percent, respectively.

Obama doesn't talk about those numbers. He pushes, instead, for more government, more taxes at the top, and says it won't cost anyone making under \$200,000 a dime. He fails to acknowledge that our current lack of job creation is directly linked to American businesses sitting on nearly \$2 trillion in cash, reluctant to invest and expand in the anti-business, anti-rich, high-tax environment that President Obama is promoting...

More: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_693792.html

Black Murders Eight Whites; Media Blame Whites

In today's new racism, white criminals are criminals, but black criminals are largely victims.

by Dennis Prager, 10 Aug 2010

After 50 years of being inundated with stories of white racism, and being taught in college that in this white-dominated society, only a white can be a racist, the American public has been properly brainwashed into accepting the otherwise incredible: A black man murdered eight white people at his place of work because they were white, and the media story is about the murderer's alleged experiences of racism...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ZjQwYWJjZDczYjc3MTk0ZmI4YWYyZWVvNjFjOTBmYjc=>



(Hat tip: James K.)

August 10, 2010:

GOP +7: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/mood_of_america/generic_congressional_ballot

BHO -19: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/obama_administration/obama_approval_index_history

Three Things About Islam

from White Roses, 16 July 2010

Watch (and listen): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib9rofXQl6w>

White Roses is headquartered in Sweden. The name "White Roses" is based on a student resistance group "Die weiße Rose" in Nazi Germany. The group became known for an anonymous leaflet campaign, from June 1942 until February 1943, which called for active opposition to Adolf Hitler's regime.

Info and links about the quotes from the Koran appear on screen at the end.

(hat tip: Scott A.)

This was created last winter, and first posted here in April. It's not really a GOP ad. But it should be!

America Rising

by Lisa Stevens Thrasher

Watch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBN1okz3Lv0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PvYGG22N7o>

(hat tips: Duane R. Patterson, Tony C.)

Sexual Freedom: Use With Caution

by Stanley Crouch, 9 Aug 2010

<http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/columnists/crouch/index.html>

Richard Foster for President

Medicare's chief actuary vs. President Obama on the ObamaCare facts.

Wall Street Journal, 8 Aug 2010

There probably isn't a worse job in Washington than Medicare trustee, unpaid Capitol Hill interns included. Every year the trustees issue the gravest warnings about entitlement spending and at best prompt a moment of brow-furrowing before the political class returns to its default state of indifference.

This year's report, issued last week, has more than the usual political meaning because Democrats are hailing it as validation of their claims that ObamaCare will save taxpayers money. The trustee report shows "how the Affordable Care Act is helping to reduce costs and make Medicare stronger," the White House said in a statement.

One problem: That spin ignores the extraordinary companion analysis by chief Medicare actuary Richard Foster that repudiates this conclusion and is the most damning fiscal indictment to date of the Affordable Care Act...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703309704575413263344491010.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

The Golden State's War on Itself

How politicians turned the California Dream into a nightmare.

by Joel Kotkin, *Summer 2010 issue*

...What went so wrong? The answer lies in a change in the nature of progressive politics in California. During the second half of the twentieth century, the state shifted from an older progressivism, which emphasized infrastructure investment and business growth, to a newer version, which views the private sector much the way the Huns viewed a city—as something to be sacked and plundered. The result is two separate California realities: a lucrative one for the wealthy and for government workers, who are largely insulated from economic decline; and a grim one for the private-sector middle and working classes, who are fleeing the state...

... Blessed with resources of topography, climate, and human skill, California does not need to continue its trajectory from global paragon to planetary laughingstock. A coalition of inland Latinos and Anglos, along with independent suburban middle-class voters in the coastal areas, could begin a shift in policy, reining in both public-sector costs and harsh climate-change legislation...

Read it all; good charts, too: http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_3_california-economy.html

Pretty dumb, for a smart guy. He really should get out more.

Stephen Hawking: Abandon the Earth

9 Aug 2010

http://www.myfoxnepa.com/dpps/news/stephen-hawking-abandon-the-earth-dpgoha-20100809-fc_9088678

New four-letter word for you liberals: SIIN

by Herman Cain, 8 Aug 2010

In a previous commentary I revealed three of the most often-used tactics of liberals. They *shift* the subject, *ignore* the facts, and resort to *name* calling. Recently, a caller to my nightly radio show invoked a new tactic, which most people know exists, but it is not often used so openly and brazenly...

Continue: <http://www.hermancain.com/news/press-opinion.asp?id=17>

Activists Say Tea Party Imposters Infiltrating Elections

Fox News, 8 Aug 2010

In New Jersey, a "Tea Party" candidate surfaces but local activists haven't heard of him. In Michigan, a Democratic operative appears closely tied to a slate of candidates running under the Tea Party banner. In Florida, conservative activists are locked in court over the right to use the Tea Party name. The list of peculiar Tea Party happenings goes on and on.

As the midterm election nears, allegations are surfacing across the country that Democrats are exploiting conservatives' faith in the Tea Party name by putting up bogus candidates in November—the claim is that those "Tea Party" candidates will split the GOP vote and clear the way for Democratic victories.

The theories may prove to be more than just conspiracy talk. Some of the allegations are coming directly from local Tea Party activists who are trying to flag the media and election officials as soon as they smell something fishy on the ballot. And they say they've got proof...

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/08/08/days-decide-activists-claim-tea-party-imposters-infiltrating-elections/>

Reporters vs. conservative black leaders at press conference 8 4 2010

Human Events, 5 August 2010

Two reporters engage in a heated exchange with black conservative leaders at a press conference at the National Press Club on August 4, 2010 challenging the NAACP on its charges of racism within the tea party.

Video (10:56): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GizNwzKo3n8>

Background and context:

Totschweigtaktik: "Death by Silence"

by Dymphna, 8 Aug 2010

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/08/totschweigtaktik-death-by-silence.html#readfurther>

When Labor Is Capital: The Limits of Keynesian Policy

by Arnold Kling, 6 Aug 2010

...For the followers of John Maynard Keynes, economic activity consists of spending. When economic activity slows down, their prescription is to increase spending by government, businesses, consumers, or all three. Instead, what I like to say is that "economic activity consists of sustainable patterns of specialization and trade." This is my mantra of macroeconomics. (I also have a mantra of microeconomics, which is that "price discrimination explains everything." But that is another topic.)

Here is a simple pattern of specialization and trade: Suppose that all of us eat grain and fruit, which we could grow for ourselves. If some of us have land better for fruit trees, while others have land better for growing grain, then specialization and trading can pay off. It is inefficient to waste good tree land by growing grain on it and to waste good grain land by planting trees on it. Instead, economic activity gives all of us more to eat.

What I mean by a *sustainable* pattern of specialization and trade is that everyone involved would voluntarily continue to follow the pattern. In accounting terms, profits are a sign of sustainability. If the accounts show a profit, then the value of output exceeds the cost of input. If not, then the pattern is not sustainable.

As conditions change, the patterns of specialization and trade evolve. For example, improvements in transportation make new trade patterns sustainable. Recall the changes brought about by ocean-crossing sailing ships, then steamboats, then railroads, then the automobile and the airplane. As new patterns become sustainable, older patterns become unprofitable and therefore unsustainable. The truck replaced the horse-drawn cart...

More: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/august/when-labor-is-capital-the-limits-of-keynesian-policy>

Fidel Castro: Obama can avert impending nuclear holocaust

by Juan O. Tamayo, 7 Aug 2010

...he called Richard Nixon a "cynic," branded Ronald Reagan and Harry Truman as "ignorant" and called Jimmy Carter "a decent person."

More: http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/08/07/1766036_p2/fidel-castro-at-cuban-parliament.html#ixzz0vzT2J9zC

Well, there you have it!

Life is Not Fair

a monologue by Rush Limbaugh, 5 Aug 2010

...None of these inequities, none of this unfairness means that the Constitution has been violated. None of these inequities or inequalities or unfairness means that the United States of America is unjust and immoral. None of it means that the way we've governed ourselves is unfair. It doesn't mean that somebody owes you something. It doesn't mean that you're a victim of anything. It's just called life. And I realize a number of you out there on the Left are probably just screeching about now claiming I'm insensitive and lacking in compassion and don't get it when it's just the other way around. It's life. You live your life. We all make decisions: good, bad, indifferent. Some of us are leaders. Some of us are followers. Some of us have unique talents. Some of us don't have any. Some of us have great confidence. Some of us are forever burdened with inferiority complex. Some of us care only what we're thought of; others couldn't care less.

It doesn't mean that anybody's better than anybody else or anybody's any worse. It certainly doesn't mean the United States of America sucks and it doesn't mean that our Constitution needs to be blown up and rewritten, and it doesn't mean you're a victim. It's called life. Everybody tries to live their life. Some people get a better handle on it than others. Some people think they have no control over their lives. They are constant victims that are always looking to blame everybody else for what doesn't go right in their lives. Other people don't have time for that. They realize they only have one life and every day is something to seize, to make the most of. Regardless where you fall in this spectrum, it doesn't mean we have a flawed country, and it doesn't mean our Constitution is flawed. It doesn't mean you're a victim. It means you're alive...

...Wherever you are and whoever you are and whatever you are, you have more opportunity to change what you don't like about yourself than anybody else in the rest of the world because you live in the United States of America...

More: http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_080510/content/01125113.guest.html

If only Tony could have been there

Washington Examiner editorial, 6 Aug 2010

At Thursday's Chicago Democratic fundraiser, it was President Obama, Alexi Giannoulias, who is seeking the Senate seat formerly held by the chief executive, and piles of cash. It was just like the good old days, except for one thing: If only Tony Rezko could have been there. When Obama showed up to raise money for Giannoulias' Senate campaign, the two probably didn't discuss the imprisoned Rezko, the subsidized housing developer and felon who was a business associate of both. Both men were responsible for providing millions in cash to Rezko's crooked enterprises, too...

In it up to his ears: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/If-only-Tony-could-have-been-there-1007765-100079649.html>

"Demolishing" would be more like it. This well-documented piece reveals Klein to be a habitual liar, a pompous windbag—and a simpleton, to boot.

Dismantling Joe Klein

by Peter Wehner, 6 Aug 2010

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/337996>

Mr. Roeser is a long-time Illinois conservative. The first half of this 4100-word piece is a marvelous analysis of the different ways that Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon—and the media—ran the Vietnam War. The second half contains some very perceptive thoughts on Barack Obama's current self-induced predicaments. The punctuation is a little odd in places; I'm not sure Mr. Roeser has the benefit of an editor. But if you read nothing else this week, read this!

Barack Obama and the Reflection of LBJ's Loss of the Mainstream Media

by Thomas F. Roeser, 21 June 2010

The perilous myths of Hiroshima

by Arthur Herman, 7 Aug 2010

...Where is the ceremony where Japanese officials commemorate the deaths caused by imperial Japan's rampage through Asia, including a genocidal war that claimed some 13 million Chinese?...

...First, the Manhattan Project developed the atomic bomb for use on the Germans, not the Japanese. It was pure accident that the Third Reich collapsed before the bomb could be dropped in Europe, and became available to use on Japan instead. Second, the number of Japanese who died in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings—some 300,000 in all—would have been dwarfed by the 2 million or so who'd have perished in a full-scale invasion of Japan—along with the 1 million Americans GIs, Marines, sailors and airmen whom US military planners calculated would also be killed or wounded in that assault. Thus, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings *saved* Japanese lives, as well as untold tens of thousands of other Asians in China, Thailand and Malaysia who'd have died if the war had dragged on for another year—or even two...

...The implied threat that the United States was ready to drop *more* atomic bombs finally forced the Japanese government to believe it faced a stark choice: surrender or oblivion. Inducing that fear is the heart of nuclear deterrence—whether we are talking about imperial Japan, Stalin's Soviet Union or Islamicist Iran. It's why the United States has kept an overwhelming nuclear arsenal ever since.

That implied threat kept Western Europe free from being overrun by Stalin in the early days of the Cold War—and prevented later regional conflicts like Korea, Vietnam and the Yom Kippur War from spinning out of control into full-scale clashes between the superpowers... In short, what happened at Hiroshima 65 years ago made the world a safer place, not a more dangerous one. By distorting the historical and moral truths about what happened that day, President Obama is pointing us in the opposite direction.

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_perilous_myths_of_hiroshima_mLODqS5SubZOrYVu9rVjhFP

ObamaCare: The sum of all fears

by Mary Katharine Ham and Guy Benson, 5 Aug 2010

Two years ago, Ed Morrissey and Allahpundit were kind enough to allow us to write here on "[The Comprehensive Case Against Barack Obama](#)"—a lengthy analysis pitting candidate Obama's rhetoric against his actual record, past statements and long-time associations. We felt certain at the time, and still do, that his campaign was at its core a savvy marketing machine designed, in part, to deliberately mislead voters about the candidate's true beliefs and experience. Revisiting our presentation two years later, we take no joy in saying that the administration has largely vindicated our concerns.

One of those concerns is health care reform. On March 21, after more than a year of contentious debate, Congressional Democrats finally passed their health care reform bill without a single Republican vote in either house. The president has challenged Republicans to run against his unpopular health care law—implying that they don't have the political courage to do so. He may be right on that point; he may not—but the facts show that (a) many of the highest-profile selling points employed by the Left to drag Obamacare across the finish line were either incorrect or intentional distortions, (b) the consequences of not repealing this law are dire, and (c) the public's enduring hostility toward Obamacare demonstrates a political appetite for repeal.

Recent polls reflect America's zeal for repeal, as does an August ballot referendum in Missouri rebuking the individual mandate, which succeeded by a margin of 71-29. Throughout the lengthy public debate, President Obama and his surrogates consistently **ridiculed** and **denounced** critics of the bill as bad-faith, fear-mongering propaganda merchants. The facts now prove there was plenty to fear in good faith.

Promise #1: *If you are satisfied with your existing health care arrangement, you can keep it...*

4,500 words and 8 videos: <http://hotair.com/archives/2010/08/05/obamacare-the-sum-of-all-fears/>

Every toffee-nosed, condescending, lazy-minded liberal should be forced to read this—about 4 times, so that he might possibly understand it.

Same-Sex Marriage and the Assault on Moral Reasoning

Even same-sex marriage advocates should recognize the bad logic in the ruling overturning Proposition 8.

by Matthew Franck, 6 Aug 2010

...Once having admitted same-sex couples to the ranks of those holding the "fundamental right" to marry, the judge has easier sport in his sights, manipulating the "levels of scrutiny" that so afflict modern constitutional law, and concluding withal that the voters who approved Proposition 8 acted without any "rational basis" for their decision to preserve marriage in the only form in which our law has ever known it. Now conservatism gets a hiding from Judge Walker: "Tradition alone ...cannot form a rational basis for a law."

Well, yes, to be sure. Tradition must give its reasons—though in the common-law legal tradition, it is novelty that usually bears a heavier burden in this respect. And is it really as easy as the judge thinks to dismiss a "tradition" so bound up with commonsense understandings of nature, of human flourishing, of the purposes of marriage and family? Confidently sweeping aside such understandings, Judge Walker declares that "moral and religious views form the only basis for a belief that same-sex couples are different from opposite-sex couples."

This is a very telling conjunction. Once it would have been thought to strengthen the case for a law, that it rested on the moral views of the lawmakers, if no countervailing right against being governed by such views could be adduced. And it would have been a matter of no legal suspicion whatsoever that the moral views informing a law found confirmation in widely held religious views as well. For such moral principles are not articles of faith, in the sense of being specially revealed to the elect or the faithful. They are the conclusions of trains of reasoning about right and wrong, and about human ends and the fitness of the means to them. In language we might borrow from Plato's *Euthyphro*, the moral norms that govern marriage are embraced by the pious not because they are mysterious commands of an inscrutable divine will, but because they are rationally knowable as good in themselves, and for this reason find support in the dictates of faith as well.

But for Judge Walker there is an odor of illegitimacy about merely "moral" views expressed in legislation, especially when morality finds support in religion. Thus he declares that Proposition 8 expresses only a "private moral choice," not a considered public morality. And thus in his tendentious "findings of fact" (about the purpose of which, see [this editorial](#) in *National Review*), he makes the astonishing claim—purporting to be a fact found at trial, not a judgment of his own—that "religious beliefs that gay and lesbian relationships are sinful...harm gays and lesbians."

Perhaps here, in this nadir of absurdity, we have found the real fundament of the judge's thinking. Citizens who wish to defend the institution of marriage as they and their families have known it all their lives, and for countless generations, are irrational bigots. Worse still, if they are moved to act because of the union of their faith with their moral opinions, they are crazy religious folk, bent only on harming others whom they merely "dislike" on grounds that cannot possibly be defended before a tribunal of right-thinking people. And those others, the same-sex-couple plaintiffs? They must be rescued from the "harm" to their feelings that results from their exclusion from a historic civil and moral institution that has never hitherto been thought to have been built for them...

The complete essay: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2010/08/1490>

Democrats Bite Democrats—Part II

by Thomas Sowell, 3 Aug 2010

...Although Barack Obama and members of his administration constantly talk about the so-called "stimulus" spending as creating a demand for goods that is in turn "creating jobs," every dime they spend comes from somewhere else, which means that there is less money to create jobs somewhere else.

There is no reason to believe that all this runaway spending is creating jobs—on net balance. The fact that the unemployment rate remains stuck at nearly 10 percent belies the idea that great numbers of jobs are being created—again, on net balance.

White House press Secretary Robert Gibbs' recent rant against Rush Limbaugh for criticizing the bailout of General Motors went on and on about how this bailout had saved "a million jobs." But where does Gibbs think the bailout money came from? The Tooth Fairy?

When you take money from the taxpayers and spend it to rescue the jobs of one set of workers—your union political supporters, in this case—what does that do to the demand for the jobs of other workers, whose products taxpayers would have bought with the money you took away from them? There is no net economic gain to the country from this, though there may well be political gains for the administration from having rescued their UAW supporters.

The same principle applies to money that came from selling government bonds, thus adding to the national debt. People who bought those government bonds had other things they could have invested in, if those government bonds had not been issued...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/thomas-sowell/democrats-bite-democrats-part-ii.html>



Grateful to Harry

Truman's decision to drop the A-bomb saved millions—Americans and Japanese.

by Paul Kengor, 4 Aug 2010

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10216/1077372-109.stm>

Terrible, but not a crime

Hiroshima and Nagasaki should be remembered for the suffering which was brought to an end.

by Oliver Kamm, 6 Aug 2007

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2142224,00.html>

Considering Hiroshima

by Victor Davis Hanson, 5 August 2005

<http://www.victorhanson.com/articles/hanson080505.html>

What Would You Have Done?

It's all too easy to condemn the bombing of Hiroshima.

by Max Hastings, 30 July 2005

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1539275,00.html>

It's not about couples and love. The marriage ruling is all about you.

by Patrick McIlheran, 5 Aug 2010

...Gay-marriage backers constantly mock an idea they cannot grasp, that redefining marriage will damage it. *What*—they say—*suddenly you'll love your wife less?* Obviously not, but as established a few paragraphs back, marriage isn't a private affair. Its strength as a social institution—as the relationship at the core of the family—has certainly been damaged, too, by the explosion in divorce, but that's no reason, either, to euthanize the whole thing.

The reason gay "marriage" damages marriage is not because it changes individual couple's relationships but because it commands us all to accord as much respect to homosexual relations as society always has done to genuine marriage. Insofar as many people, by their own varied moral reasoning, freely choose to see homosexual relationships as somehow disordered, they will respond to this mandate, then, by according less respect to traditional marriage.

Early research shows this is how it actually works, just as easy divorce, while not necessarily changing any individual couple's relationship, nonetheless reduces the social expectation that marriage is permanent. If marriage often amounts to a temporary thing, then people see it so even when it comes to couples who seek permanence.

If this is so (and I think the evidence shows it is), then Judge Walker's decision will have won for gay couples an

"emotional indicator" of a "legitimacy" that will rapidly diminish to meaninglessness...

Read the rest: <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/100032299.html>

Today's Proposition 8 Decision

by John Hinderaker, 4 Aug 2010

Conservatives have long said that the day would come when liberal judges declare the Constitution unconstitutional. That happened today, when a gay federal judge in San Francisco, relying on the opinions of mostly-gay "expert" witnesses, ruled that an amendment to the California constitution, which was adopted in perfectly proper fashion by a substantial majority of voters, is "unconstitutional." In this context, unconstitutional means "unpopular with me and my friends."...

More: <http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2010/08/026923.php>

The Big Bamboozler

by Peter Ferrara, 4 Aug 2010

...Obama continues to campaign as if his economic performance should be measured only from the last trough of the business cycle, apparently thinking he can put together a successful political coalition of the 51% dumbest Americans...

...Growth declined from 5% in last year's fourth quarter, to 3.7% in this year's first quarter, to 2.4% in the second quarter. This is less than half the growth in the first three quarters of the Reagan recovery starting in late 1982. That recovery came after Reagan slew a historic inflation to boot, and continued on to become the longest in U.S. peacetime history. Indeed, it continued effectively for 25 years, a generation, with only two short, shallow recessions over that entire time.

That historic Reagan economic boom, moreover, ended not because of "Republican policies over the last decade," but, as previously discussed here, because of the eventual departure from every plank of Reaganomics, and the reembrace of Big Government liberalism instead. This was supported every step of the way by Obama himself.

As I discussed last week, 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. Reagan showed us how. Why would we want to exchange what we know works, Reaganomics, for the opposite that has been proven to fail, Obamanomics?...

...The socialists are not stupid. They are evil. They know darn well that these policies would work. But they oppose them because the termination of government redistribution they involve, and the resulting economic boom, would work contrary to their fundamental goal of economic leveling. (Too many people would get rich in a boom for the Left's tastes.)

Booming economic growth, however, is much more beneficial for working people, minority communities 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, minorities, and the poor. This is especially so when policies are structured as explained below to channel the flows of booming economic growth through them. Economic experience, theory and logic shows that outdated, throwback, socialist redistribution, by contrast, inevitably leads to lower standards of living, stagnation, and decline...

...This New Civil Rights would be far better for the poor and minority communities than brain dead, throwback, dead end, socialist redistribution, which guarantees only the equal sharing of misery, as Churchill explained. But the old fashioned East Coast establishment stuck rigidly in the deep past is thoroughly wedded, emotionally and intellectually, to the outdated socialist vision. They are spiritually mired in the romanticism of the social struggles of the rise of the industrial revolution in the late 19th century, over 100 years ago. It is long past time to think anew, and move on, for the good of all.

2,460 words: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/08/04/the-big-bamboozler>

Illogical Immigration

Once a law stops being considered quite a law, all sorts of even stranger paradoxes follow.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 5 Aug 2010

...Apparently, at some arbitrary point distant from the border, those who cross illegally are not supposed to be

asked about their immigration status. OK, but exactly why did procedures so radically change at, say, five, 10, 20, or is it 100 miles from the border? A border patrolman often profiles, but a nearby highway patrolman cannot?...

...Why does Washington sue a state that seeks to enhance federal immigration laws and yet ignore cities that blatantly try to erode them?

...And how does Mexico treat the hundreds of thousands of aliens who seek to illegally cross its own southern border with Central America each year? Does Mexico believe in sovereign borders to its south but not to its north?... Why, exactly, does Mexico believe that nearly a million of its own nationals annually have claims on American residency, when Chinese, Indian, European and African would-be immigrants are deemed not to? Is the reason proximity? Past history?...

...Are a clear majority of Americans racist, brainwashed or deluded in believing that their laws should be enforced? And if so, why would immigrants wish to join them?

It is considered liberal to support open borders and reactionary to want to close them. But illegal immigration drives down the hourly wages of the working American poor. Tens of thousands of impoverished people abroad, from Africa to Asia, wait patiently to enter America legally, while hundreds of thousands from Latin America do not. How liberal can all that be?...

...Are Americans then subsidizing the Mexican government by extending social services to aliens, freeing up cash for them to send back home?...

Full column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/438967/illogical-immigration/victor-davis-hanson>

ObamaCare, Missouri, and the Coming Inflection Point

by Peter Wehner, 4 Aug 2010

What happened in Missouri yesterday is quite remarkable. By nearly a 3-to-1 margin, voters rejected a key provision of President Obama's health-care law. More than 70 percent of Missouri voters backed a ballot measure, Proposition C, that would prohibit the government from requiring people to have health insurance or from penalizing them for not having it...

...It is hard to overstate the toxicity of the Obama agenda. Losing a net total of 65 or more Democratic House seats is now possible (if not yet likely). We are less than 100 days away from what looks to be an inflection point, one of those rare mid-term elections that altar the trajectory of American politics.

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/337696>

Not at Ground Zero

National Review editorial, 4 Aug 2010

The story of the proposed mosque at the site of the World Trade Center has been thoroughly misrepresented, as have the parties behind the project. They present themselves as ambassadors of moderate Islam. Daisy Khan, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, says the project aims to put the Muslim community "at the front and center to start the healing."

Ms. Khan knows better, because she is also Mrs. Feisal Abdul Rauf, the wife of the main Islamic cleric behind the project...He finds it easy to blame the United States for being a victim of terrorism: "I wouldn't say that the United States deserved what happened, but the United States policies were an accessory to the crime that happened."...

...The fact that an apologist for terrorists and an associate of terrorist-allied organizations is proceeding with this provocation is indecent. We have thousands of mosques in the United States, and who knows how many Islamic cultural centers in New York City. We do not need this one, in this place, built by these people. We're all stocked up on Hamas apologists, thanks very much...

...Beyond that, Americans should make their displeasure with this project felt economically and socially: No contractor, construction company, or building-trades union that accepts a dime of the Cordoba Initiative's money should be given a free pass—nobody who sells them so much as a nail, or a hammer to drive it in with. This is an occasion for boycotts and vigorous protests — and, above all, for bringing down a well-deserved shower of shame upon those involved with this project, and on those politicians who have meekly gone along with it. It is an indecent proposal and an intentional provocation.

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YWMxZjhmYjkwNzBjYTc1MWM5OGQ0ZTcxMmQ5Y2FiNzI=>

And may I add: Mr. Rauf, your name sounds like the barking of a dog. Fuck your mosque, fuck Islam, and fuck "the healing." —Don John

What Social Science Does—and Doesn't—Know

by Jim Manzi, Summer 2010 issue

...But what do we know from the social-science experiments that we have already conducted? After reviewing experiments not just in criminology but also in welfare-program design, education, and other fields, I propose that three lessons emerge consistently from them.

First, few programs can be shown to work in properly randomized and replicated trials. Despite complex and impressive-sounding empirical arguments by advocates and analysts, we should be very skeptical of claims for the effectiveness of new, counterintuitive programs and policies, and we should be reluctant to trump the trial-and-error process of social evolution in matters of economics or social policy.

Second, within this universe of programs that are far more likely to fail than succeed, programs that try to change *people* are even more likely to fail than those that try to change *incentives*...

4,200 words: http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_3_social-science.html

Double standard

Why is it that Mel Gibson is ripped by the media for anti-Semitic statements, and Oliver Stone isn't?

by Jeff Jacoby, 4 Aug 2010

...Gibson and Stone are both guilty of indulging in rank anti-Semitism (for which both promptly "apologized"), but only Gibson was buried under a newsroom avalanche of outrage and disgust. What explains that glaring difference? Surely the media don't think Jew-baiting is intolerable only when it comes from a right-wing Christian like Gibson. Surely they wouldn't overlook Stone's noxious rant just because he is a **pluperfect left-wing activist**.

Surely *that* can't be the explanation for so disgraceful a double standard.

Can it?

Read it all: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/08/04/double_standard/

Evidence and Denial

Obama advisers refuse to believe they're failing.

by Richard Rahn, 3 Aug 2010

...Given the above facts—which have the benefit of being true (unlike many "facts" delivered by our elected officials)—would you follow the Reagan/Clinton II economic policies or the Obama ones? Where is the evidence—**empirical evidence, as contrasted with theoretical models—that Obamanomics will work, particularly, since it is not now working as advertised?** Will the Misery Index be cut by more than half during the Obama administration, as it was during Reagan's terms, or will it rise? Obama economic advisers Paul Volcker, Larry Summers and Christina Romer have, at times, all advocated policies totally contrary to the ones that Mr. Obama is now practicing. Are they, like many of those in the Democratic Party, all suffering from cognitive dissonance by continuing to push a failed model?

The economy performed better under Reagan's supply-side policies than President Carter's economic team had forecast it would if their man had been re-elected and continued his high-tax, Keynesian policies. The economy is now performing worse than Mr. Obama's economic team forecast with its Keynesian policies. Looking at the evidence, it strains credulity to believe that the economy will actually perform better next year when all the tax increases are slated to go into effect. When will Congress wake up?

Those "above facts": <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/3/evidence-and-denial/>

Liberal Piety and the Memory of 9/11

The enlightened class can't understand why the public is uneasy about the Ground Zero mosque.

by Dorothy Rabinowitz, 4 Aug 2010

Americans may have lacked for much in the course of their history, but never instruction in social values. The question today is whether Americans of any era have ever confronted the bombardment of hectoring and sermonizing now directed at those whose views are deemed insufficiently enlightened—an offense regularly followed by accusations

that the offenders have violated the most sacred principles of our democracy.

It doesn't take a lot to become the target of such a charge. There is no mistaking the beliefs on display in these accusations, most recently in regard to the mosque about to be erected 600 feet from Ground Zero. Which is that without the civilizing dictates of their superiors in government, ordinary Americans are lost to reason and decency. They are the kind of people who—as a recent presidential candidate put it—cling to their guns and their religion.

There is no better exemplar of that faith than New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, though in this he is hardly alone. Compared with the Obama White House, Mr. Bloomberg is a piker in the preachments and zealotry department. Still, no voice brings home more unforgettably the attitudes that speak for today's enlightened and progressive class...

Read on: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703545604575407160266158170.html>

Liberty Wins First Skirmish in the Obamacare Legal Battle

by Ilya Shapiro, 3 Aug 2010

... Judge Henry Hudson of the Eastern District of Virginia denied the government's motion to dismiss Virginia's legal challenge to Obamacare. Notably, Judge Hudson agreed with Cato senior fellow Randy Barnett that the government's assertion of Commerce Clause authority for the individual mandate is unprecedented...

...The constitutional defects in the healthcare "reform" are very real and quite serious. Never before has the government claimed the authority to force every man, woman, and child to buy a particular product — and indeed such authority does not exist (as [Cato's amicus brief](#) argued). I look forward to further favorable rulings as the various lawsuits progress.

More: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2010/08/03/liberty-wins-first-skirmish-in-the-obamacare-legal-battle/>

Are Americans Closet Statists?

Despite what liberal pollsters say, we don't secretly worship big government.

by Andrew Ferguson, 2 Aug 2010 (August 9 issue)

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/are-americans-closet-statists>

Aside from a negative reference to Senator Joseph McCarthy, it's a fine column.

Albert the Alligator and the British Ambassador

by Barry Rubin, 1 Aug 2010

Once upon a time in an intellectual galaxy now seemingly far away, liberals and conservatives shared a common view. There were the forces of democracy and the forces of totalitarianism (or, if you prefer, authoritarianism) that threatened the world, took away freedom, and held back both economic and social development. The goal of Western foreign policy was to help those favoring liberty against the tyrants and would-be tyrants.

Naturally, there were different views about how to do this, for example should some dictatorships be backed against those deemed worse, but the basic template was the same.

Then came a turning point which can be symbolized by a line in Walt Kelly's comic-strip "Pogo." A dialogue balloon destined to shake the world: "We have met the enemy," said either Pogo the possum or Albert the alligator, "and he is us."...

Continue: <http://www.gloria-center.org/gloria/2010/08/albert-alligator-and-british-ambassador>
(Thanks to [Melanie Phillips](#))

N.B.: In Kelly's poster for Earth Day 1970, [the line](#) was spoken by Pogo. But it was first written in a 1953 foreword, and may have been uttered by Albert the Alligator on another occasion.

Barbara Boxer in Context

You can see it on YouTube today.

by George F. Will, 31 July 2010

...Two issues ago, this column said, "It is *theoretically* impossible to fashion an abortion position significantly more extreme than Boxer's, which is slightly modified infanticide." Her "when you bring your baby home" criterion

means that a born baby acquires a right to life only when a mother or family decides to confer that right.

She also says she opposes partial-birth abortion "except in cases to save the life or health of the mother." But the "health" exception is widely recognized as a loophole designed to, and large enough to, vitiate any law banning the procedure: An abortion-providing doctor can say that a mother's mental health is threatened by depression or anxiety about being denied an abortion, however late in the third trimester of gestation.

Boxer is caught in the intellectual chaos created by the Supreme Court's slipshod 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling. In it the court was squeamish about a stark fact: Abortion kills. Flinching from that, the court called a fetus "potential life." But it is elementary biology that when the chromosomes of sperm fuse with those of an ovum, a new DNA complex is formed that directs the organism's subsequent development. The serious argument about abortion, concerning which decent people differ, is about the moral significance and proper legal status of fetal life at various stages of the gestational continuum.

The court, having flaunted its faux modesty by refusing to say what every high-school biology student knows—when life begins—then immodestly dismissed a deep philosophic mystery by decreeing when "meaningful" life begins. It said it begins at viability—the point at which life can be lived outside the womb...

More: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/31/barbara-boxer-in-context.html>

video: Santorum vs Boxer, 1999

Part 1 (10:58) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoTjb9rzyEo>

Part 2 (2:10) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjEGIIz7Us0>

transcript: Santorum vs Feingold and Lautenberg, 1996

<http://theshinbone.com/congtran.1.htm>

"The Federal Government can do most anything in this country"

Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark (D-CA-13), in his town hall meeting in Hayward CA, 24 July 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1-eBz8hyoE>

This, mind you, is the treasonweasel who complained in October 2007 about President Bush's veto of expanding socialized medicine to middle class children: "You don't have money to fund the war or children. But you're going to spend it to blow up innocent people if we can get enough kids to grow old enough for you to send to Iraq to get their heads blown off for the President's amusement."

In March 2009 he was caught using his Maryland residence as a tax dodge:

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

On 27 Aug 2009, he called Democrat opponents of socialized medicine "brain dead":

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9ABB88O1&show_article=1

ObamaCare only looks worse upon further review

by Kevin Hassett, 1 Aug 2010

One of the more illuminating remarks during the health-care debate in Congress came when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told an audience that Democrats would "pass the bill so you can find out what's in it, away from the fog of controversy."

That remark captured the truth that, while many Americans have a vague sense that something bad is happening to their health care, few if any understand exactly what the law does. To fill this vacuum, Representative Kevin Brady of Texas, the top House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee, asked his staff to prepare a study of the law, including a flow chart that illustrates how the major provisions will work.

The **result**, made public July 28, provides citizens with a preview of the impact the health-care overhaul will have on their lives. It's a terrifying road map that shows Democrats have launched America on the most reckless policy experiment in its history, the economic equivalent of the Bay of Pigs invasion...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-02/obamacare-only-looks-worse-upon-further-review-kevin-hassett.html>

Download Chart (PDF format): http://www.house.gov/brady/pdf/Obamacare_Chart.pdf

Obama's Immigration Power Play

by *W. James Antle III*, 2 Aug 2010

... "In the absence of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, CIS can extend benefits and/or protections to many individuals and groups by issuing new guidance and regulations," said the memo, which was prepared by four senior officials from different parts of USCIS for the agency's director. Two of the memo's authors are Obama appointees, as is USCIS head Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) made the 11-page document public last Thursday, arguing in a public statement, "This memo gives credence to our concerns that the administration will go to great lengths to circumvent Congress and unilaterally execute a back door amnesty plan." In June, Grassley and six other senators sent President Obama a letter asking him to deny rumors that his underlings were contemplating amnesty by executive fiat.

Now we have good reason to believe the rumors were true. One proposal contained in the memo was that the USCIS grant "parole in place," which comes with a work permit and the right to apply for a green card, to various illegal immigrants. Another suggestion was to give "deferred action," delaying deportation indefinitely and preserving eligibility to apply for a work permit, to illegal aliens who would have benefited from the DREAM Act.

That would be the same DREAM Act, incidentally, that Congress has repeatedly failed to pass, much as it has shot down broader-based amnesty proposals...

...States like Arizona have learned that serious immigration enforcement is a dirty job the federal government won't do—and one that the Obama administration won't let anyone else perform, either. Even if they must rely on unaccountable federal judges and bureaucrats, it is amnesty or bust, the will of the people and their elected representatives be damned.

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/08/02/obamas-immigration-power-play>

The Soak-the-Rich Catch-22

by *Arthur B. Laffer*, 2 Aug 2010

...Anyone who is familiar with the historical data available from the IRS knows full well that raising income tax rates on the top 1% of income earners will most likely reduce the direct tax receipts from the now higher taxed income—even without considering the secondary tax revenue effects, all of which will be negative. And who on Earth wants higher tax rates on anyone if it means larger deficits?...

...During this era of ubiquitous tax cuts, income tax receipts from the top 1% of income earners rose to 3.3% of GDP in 2007 (the latest year for which we have data) from 1.5% of GDP in 1978. Income tax receipts from the bottom 95% of income earners fell to 3.2% of GDP from 5.4% of GDP over the same time period.

These results shouldn't be surprising. The highest tax bracket income earners, when compared with those people in lower tax brackets, are far more capable of changing their taxable income by hiring lawyers, accountants, deferred income specialists and the like. They can change the location, timing, composition and volume of income to avoid taxation...

...When President Kennedy cut the highest income tax rate to 70% from 91%, revenues also rose. Income tax receipts from the top 1% of income earners rose to 1.9% of GDP in 1968 from 1.3% in 1960. Even when Presidents Harding and Coolidge cut tax rates in the 1920s, tax receipts from the rich rose. Between 1921 and 1928 the highest marginal personal income tax rate was lowered to 25% from 73% and tax receipts from the top 1% of income earners went to 1.1% of GDP from 0.6% of GDP.

Or perhaps you'd like to see how the rich paid less in taxes under the bipartisan tax rate increases of Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter? Between 1968 and 1981 the top 1% of income earners reduced their total income tax payments to 1.5% of GDP from 1.9% of GDP.

And then there's the Hoover/Roosevelt Great Depression. The Great Depression was precipitated by President Hoover in early 1930, when he signed into law the largest ever U.S. tax increase on traded products—the Smoot-Hawley Tariff. President Hoover then thought it would be clever to try to tax America into prosperity. Using many of the same arguments that Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid are using today, President Hoover raised the highest personal income tax rate to 63% from 24% on Jan. 1, 1932. He raised many other taxes as well.

President Roosevelt then debauched the dollar with the 1933 Bank Holiday Act and his soak-the-rich tax increase on Jan. 1, 1936. He raised the highest personal income tax rate to 79% from 63% along with a whole host of other corporate and personal tax rates as well. The U.S. economy went into a double dip depression, with unemployment rates rising again to 20% in 1938. Over the course of the Great Depression, the government raised the top marginal personal income tax rate to 83% from 24%.

Is it any wonder that the Great Depression was as long and deep as it was?...Higher tax rates on the rich create the very poverty and unemployment that is used to justify their presence. It is a vicious cycle that well-trained economists should know to avoid.

More, including chart: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703977004575393882112674598.html>

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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.