

"A consensus means that everyone agrees to say collectively what no one believes individually."

—Abba Eban (1915-2002)

"Democracy, immigration, multiculturalism. Pick any two."

—James C. Bennett

"You cannot simultaneously have free immigration and a welfare state."

—Milton Friedman (1912-2006)

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

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

Allen West for Congress (Lt. Col. US Army Ret.)
Ilario Pantano for Congress (Lt. USMC Ret.)
Dan Benishek for Congress (Bart Stoolpack's seat)
Paul Ryan for Congress
Star Parker for Congress

Help fight the Culture Wars:

Alliance Defense Fund
Thomas More Law Center
FIRE
Heritage Foundation
Claremont Institute
American Principles Project

Arizona's immigration law
Mexico's immigration laws
Petition to get Keith Olbermann out of MLB
Government, not business, caused the Crash of 2008

No Mosque at Groud Zero (video)
Three Things About Islam (video)
See You in November (video)
America Rising (video)

The Israel-hating leftist Jews of J Street lied about the massive funding they receive from George Soros.

J Street, Down the Rabbit Hole

by Jeffrey Goldberg, 30 Sept 2010

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/09/j-street-down-the-rabbit-hole/63843/>

The Big Mac Attack on ObamaCare

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 30 Sept 2010

A big employer mulls dropping health insurance coverage due to ObamaCare's mandates. The claim that if you like your plan you can keep it was a lie, and the effort to destroy private insurance is working...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/549026/201009301853/The-Big-Mac-Attack-On-ObamaCare.htm>

Without a defensible record, Democrats try pounding the table

by George F. Will, 30 Sept 2010

It is a lawyers' adage: If you have the law on your side, argue the law; if you have the facts, argue the facts; if you have neither, pound the table. Forgive the Democrats for their current table-pounding...

...Democrats, unable to run on their policies, will try to demonize the opponents with Tea Party support as unstable extremists with personality disorders. They have ridden this hobby horse before.

In 1964, the slogan of the Republican presidential nominee, Barry Goldwater, was "A choice, not an echo." Forty-six years on, the Tea Party is a loud echo of his attempt to reconnect American politics with the tradition of limited government.

In response to a questionnaire from a magazine, 1,189 psychiatrists, none of whom had ever met Goldwater,

declared him unfit for office—"emotionally unstable," "immature," "cowardly," "grossly psychotic," "paranoid," "chronic schizophrenic" and "dangerous lunatic" were some judgments from the psychiatrists who believed that extremism in pursuit of Goldwater was no vice. Shortly before the election, Columbia University historian Richard Hofstadter published in Harper's an essay (later expanded into a book with the same title), "The Paranoid Style in American Politics," that encouraged the idea that Goldwater's kind of conservatism was a mental disorder...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/29/AR2010092905608.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

Taxing the Rich

by John Stossel, 29 Sept 2010

Progressives want to raise taxes on individuals who make more than \$200,000 a year because they say it's wrong for the rich to be "given" more money. Sunday's New York *Times* carries a cartoon showing Uncle Sam handing money to a fat cat. They just don't get it...

Continue: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/taxing-the-rich.html>

The Pelosi-Reid Deficits

by Stephen Moore, 29 Sept 2010

...Far more significant, however, was the president's misstatement that Mr. Bush and the Republicans left the country with \$8 trillion of debt over the next 10 years. The CBO's projected 10-year deficit when Mr. Obama took office was actually \$4.09 trillion. Now, after 20 months of his presidency, the expected deficit has almost doubled, to \$7.68 trillion.

A strong case can be made that the people most responsible for the gigantic deficits we face today are neither George W. Bush nor Barack Obama. The real culprits are Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882404575519784046288058.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

The Most Obnoxious Dem in Congress in Trouble

by Richard Baehr, 29 Sept 2010

Alan Grayson is in real trouble in Florida...

Details: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/09/the_most_obnoxious_dem_in_cong.html

The Freedom of the Press

George Orwell's proposed preface to *Animal Farm*.

Written 1945, published posthumously on 15 Sept 1972.

http://www.orwell.ru/library/novels/Animal_Farm/english/efp_go

Christopher Coates testifies against Justice Dept. over New Black Panther case

by Caroline May, 24 Sept 2010

The Justice Department is failing to apply the law equally to minority and white Americans, ex-Justice official Christopher Coates testified Friday morning — defying orders from the department against appearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights...

...Coates discussed the NBPP case in great detail on Friday, saying that the reason for the case's dismissal was hostility within the division against prosecuting cases that involved a white victim and minority defendant.

"[A] large number of the people who worked in the Voting Section and the CRD (Civil Rights Division), and many of the liberal private groups that work in the civil rights field believe, incorrectly but vehemently, that enforcement of the protections of the VRA (Voting Rights Act) should not be extended to white voters but should be limited to protecting racial, ethnic and language minorities," Coates testified.

Under the George W. Bush administration, the Justice Department pursued the NBPP case. Last year, under the Obama administration, the department dropped the charges — the single caveat being that one of the NBPP members never carry a weapon near a polling place again.

"As important as the mandate in the VRA is to protect minority voters, white voters also have an interest in being able to go to the polls without having race-haters such as Black Panther King Samir Shabazz whose public record includes such statements as 'kill cracker babies' standing at the entrance of the polling place with a billy club in his hand hurling racial slurs," Coates said...

More: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/09/24/christopher-coates-testifies-against-justice-department-over-new-black-panther-case/>

Make way for the milk monitors

by Jeannie DeAngelis, 27 Sept 2010

The hardest thing to figure out is the dichotomous mind of a liberal. Liberals are so confused that destroying a child's innocence is considered a virtuous accomplishment, but allowing M&M's in the cafeteria is an abomination. Liberals remove soda from vending machines to protect the well-being of children and then, in some school districts, insist on teaching kindergarteners sex education couched in confusing stories like "Gloria Goes to Gay Pride."

Truth is, sanctimonious liberal educators believe they are fulfilling a higher calling if middle-school students are shielded from drinking Yoo-Hoo while being instructed how to properly place a condom on a cucumber.

Thanks to a curriculum being influenced by Obama's Safe School Czar, Kevin Jennings, schoolchildren are geniuses when it comes to identifying the date for GLSEN's scheduled April 2011 Day of Silence, but oftentimes those same students graduate lacking the ability to read at grade level, write a coherent sentence, or make change from a five-dollar bill.

Now, in an effort to feel better about substituting moral bankruptcy for academic excellence, educators and government bureaucrats have joined forces in a campaign to expose the evils of Nesquik...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/09/make_way_for_the_milk_monitors.html

Religion, Journalism, and the New American Orthodoxy

by Charles J. Chaput, 24 Sept 2010

...Most arguments for press freedom deal with the media's need for independence from state censorship and propaganda. That makes sense. But Orwell focused on something very different—a kind of undermining of free thought and expression unique to modern democratic societies.

He saw his problems with *Animal Farm* as part of a much bigger pattern of "self-censorship" in wartime England. Nobody demanded the media's fawning coverage of the Soviet Union. Nobody required the falsification of facts, or the ugly attacks on critics of Stalin, or the covering-up of unpleasant truths. Nobody *forced* journalists and editors to do these things. They freely *chose* to do them.

The news media of the day were staffed by decent men and women. They felt they were on the side of social progress. They thought the Soviet Union, whatever its flaws, was fighting for human progress too. So they ignored unhappy details and hard questions about the reality of Soviet life.

Their assumptions created what Orwell saw as a new form of religious orthodoxy. That orthodoxy shaped the boundaries of permissible thought and expression. And Orwell warned that this unspoken tendency toward group-think would threaten the press in democratic societies well into the future...

Read the rest: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2010/09/1717>

See also: [GetReligion.org](http://www.getreligion.org) (religion and the media)

If you like your health insurance, too bad

Washington Examiner editorial, 28 Sept 2010

...Obamacare also creates a panel of unelected bureaucrats known as the Independent Payment Advisory Board whose sole job will be to cap Medicare spending by lowering already untenable reimbursement rates that have prompted doctors to turn away new Medicare patients. The savings from IPAB and the gutting of Medicare Advantage will be diverted to help pay for other parts of Obamacare. As a result, Medicare reimbursement rates are expected to dip in four years to below those of Medicaid, a program that promises free care to the poor but often fails to deliver because of

inadequate reimbursements to care providers.

Just last week, Obama announced that Medicare Advantage premiums would drop only 1 percent next year. That wasn't nearly enough reassurance for Harvard Pilgrim to keep its Medicare Advantage plan in force, nor will it keep more companies from dropping their programs in coming days...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/If-you-like-your-health-insurance_-too-bad-1034707-103958293.html

Poll: Among cable-news networks, MSNBC trusted by...12%

by Ed Morrissey, 27 Sept 2010

..."Among cable news channels, Fox was the clear winner, with 42 percent of respondents saying it is their main source, compared with 30 percent who cited CNN and 12 percent who rely on MSNBC."

How did it get to this state? After all, NBC had a long history in television news, starting decades before CNN and even longer than Fox. Its partnership with Microsoft should have given the cable news network a distinct advantage in the New Media world. Their roster of news anchors, present and future, should have immediately challenged CNN for primacy and marginalized Fox, who may have had cash but relatively fewer newsgathering resources in the US when it launched.

Under the direction of GE's Jeff Immelt, though, NBC's cable network went for the full-insane demographic...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2010/09/27/poll-among-cable-news-networks-msnbc-trusted-by-12/>

So: Fox News is trusted 350% more than PMSNBC.

Star Parker for Congress

A great conservative woman is running in California's 37th District, hoping to oust a far-left Congresswoman who likes to make free-born Americans dependent on government.

<http://www.starparkerforcongress.com/front.asp>

Video: Star Parker Campaign Documentary

<http://www.starparkerforcongress.com/a/48/Video-Star-Parker-Campaign-Documentary>

Video: Star Parker on being a Black Conservative

<http://www.starparkerforcongress.com/a/43/Video-Star-Parker-on-being-a-Black-Conservative>

U.N. Me

That's the title of a new movie about our favorite international organization, to be released soon. It's written, produced, and directed by Ami Horowitz, a former banker who's published columns in *National Review* and the *Weekly Standard*.

Trailers, interviews, and information: <http://unmemovie.com/>

Political oversight of private colleges called unacceptable

Should private colleges and universities be subjected to adversarial oversight by politicians in 50 state capitals?

That's the question posed by federal regulations set to take effect on Nov. 1, unless congressional objections slow down the timetable. Centennial Institute Policy Brief No. 2010-1, "No Political Oversight for Private Colleges," written by education expert Krista Kafer and released today, analyzes the proposal and concludes it is regulatory overreach, "unnecessary and unacceptable."

As Kafer explains in the introduction: "The Education Department is set to mandate more government control over a private-sector accreditation process that has served higher education well. To what purpose? The new regulations offer little benefit to these institutions, their students, or the taxpayers. Abuses by a few unethical, for-profit colleges do not justify a power grab against 6,000 nonprofit schools. If states politicize their authorization process, colleges may face the choice of compromising their mission or closing their doors. In a nation founded on the free exchange of ideas, that's wrong. Policymakers should withdraw the proposed regulations."

No Political Oversight for Private Colleges

by Krista Kafer, 20 Sept 2010

<http://www.ccu.edu/centennial/blog/file.axd?file=2010%2f9%2fCentennial+Policy+Brief+No.+2010-1.pdf>

Academic Freedom: Obama Edition

by Cal Thomas, 23 Sept 2010

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/thomas092310.php3>

Education Department folderol is scary

by Jay Ambrose, 23 Sept 2010

<http://scrippsnews.com/content/ambrose-education-department-folderol-scary?page=1>

Politics Versus Gold

by Thomas Sowell, 28 Sept 2010

Even though there is currently very little inflation, purchases of gold have nevertheless skyrocketed. Ordinarily, most gold is bought for producing jewelry or for various industrial purposes, more so than as an investment. But, at times within the past two years, most gold has been bought by investors.

What that suggests is that increasing numbers of people don't trust this administration's economic policies, especially their huge and growing deficits, which add up to a record-breaking national debt.

When a national debt reaches an unsustainable amount, there is always a temptation to pay it off with inflated dollars. There is the same temptation when the Social Security system starts paying out more money to baby boom retirees than it is taking in from current workers.

Whether gold is a good investment for individuals, and whether the gold standard is the right system for a country, are much more complicated questions than can be answered here. But what is clear is that the Obama administration sees people's freedom to buy and sell gold as something that can limit what the government can do.

Indeed, freedom in general cramps the government's style. Those on the left may not be against freedom in general. But, at every turn, they find the freedoms granted by the Constitution of the United States hampering the left's agenda of imposing their superior wisdom and virtue on the rest of us.

The desire to restrain or control the buying and selling of gold is just one of the many signs of the inherent conflict between the freedom of the individual and the left's attempts to control our lives.

Read it all: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/247930/politics-vs-gold-thomas-sowell>

Mr. Hannan is a "Conservative" member of the European Parliament. He backed Obama in 2008, disdains Sarah Palin's so-called "big hair," and has called Geert Wilders an ass. Yet even he has come to realize that Obamaism is poison (at least, until he has sold enough copies of his new book).

Americans! Don't Copy Europe!

by Daniel Hannan, 27 Sept 2010

...I'm not saying that everything in the US is good and everything in the EU is bad, far from it. It's just that the aspects of Euro-politics which your rulers seem most intent on copying are those which have demonstrably failed: the centralisation of power, higher state spending, welfare dependency, excessive regulation.

Why does this model fail? Why does the current administration seem so drawn to it? Is there still time to turn aside? Can US conservatives get their act together? Will the Tea Party succeed? Is there such a thing as American exceptionalism? Why does the success of the US matter to Britain?...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100055602/americans-dont-copy-europe/>

The makings of a trade war with China

by Robert Samuelson, 27 Sept 2010

...If China won't revalue, the alternative is retaliation. This might start a trade war, because China might respond in kind, perhaps buying fewer Boeings and more Airbuses and substituting Brazilian soybeans for American. One proposal by Reps. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, and Tim Murphy, R-Penn., would classify currency manipulation—which China clearly practices—as an export subsidy eligible for "countervailing duties" (tariffs offsetting the subsidy). This makes economic sense but might be ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization. A House committee last week approved this approach; the full House could pass it this week. Ideally, congressional action would convince China to negotiate a significant RMB revaluation.

Less ideally and more realistically would be a replay of Smoot-Hawley, just when the wobbly world economy doesn't need a fight between its two largest members. Economic nationalism, once unleashed here and there, might prove hard to control. But there's a big difference between then and now. Smoot-Hawley was blatantly protectionist. Dozens of tariffs increased; many countries retaliated. By contrast, American action today would aim at curbing Chinese protectionism...

The rest: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/09/27/the-makings-of-a-trade-war-with-china.html>

Election boosts Venezuela's opposition

by Frank Jack Daniel and Patricia Rondon, 27 Sept 2010, 5:45pm EDT

CARACAS—Venezuela's rejuvenated opposition celebrated on Monday after reducing President Hugo Chavez's majority in parliament and set their sights on defeating him at the next presidential election in 2012. "It's a clear message—we don't want the government's radical path," one leader, Julio Borges, told Reuters after the Democratic Unity umbrella group won a third of seats and claimed a majority of the popular vote from Sunday's ballot. "Today, Chavez is in a minority."

With six parliament seats left to be counted, the ruling Socialist Party had 94, and Democratic Unity 62. Other parties had three. The opposition had boycotted the last election in 2005, giving Chavez complete control of parliament. The result left the government just shy of the 99 seats—or three-fifths—it would need for parliament to give special decree powers to Chavez if he wants to ignore the body. The Socialist Party did retain an overall majority in the 165-seat National Assembly, however, and still has a formidable overall control of the South American OPEC member nation's political structures and oil revenues...

More: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2723244220100927>

The Tax Hikes Cometh

Grab your wallet.

by Matthew Continetti, 25 Sept 2010 (Oct. 4 issue)

Let's examine what the 111th Congress has accomplished so far. There was a \$1 trillion stimulus bill that failed to jumpstart the economy. There was a \$1 trillion health care overhaul that the public did not want. There was a financial bill that gave huge amounts of power to unelected regulators. And now, for their final trick, the Democrats who run Congress have decided to leave Washington without doing anything to prevent the largest tax increase in history. God only knows what they are planning for an encore.

In a little more than 90 days, taxes on incomes, capital gains, dividends, and estates are going to rise. Not just for some families. For every family. And the Democrats haven't lifted a finger to stop it. They haven't even written a bill. They have not found the time, in the twenty months they've controlled Congress, ever actually to try to block the tax hikes. It's amazing: The Democrats have no problem passing unpopular legislation. But when they are charged with doing something that the public actually wants, such as preventing the coming tax hike, they turn to jelly...

Continue: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/tax-hikes-cometh>

Mr. Bennett is not the most elegant stylist. Still, this is an utterly fascinating look at how socialist policies have waxed and waned in a number of English-speaking countries. It's important history to know.

The Great U-Turn

by James C. Bennett, 27 Sept 2010

Admirers and detractors of the United States agree on one point: This country is unusually resistant to the social consensus and set of structures broadly known as "social democracy" or "progressivism." (Social democracy leans more toward state ownership, progressivism toward state regulation.) Various versions of such schemes have prevailed in Western Europe and Japan, and to a lesser degree in Britain, Canada, and Australia. The characteristics include a wider scope and role for the state, centralization of decision-making in a national bureaucracy, monopolization of power by a set of large institutions, including state-champion corporations and labor unions, and a wide variety of social entitlements for all citizens. This was the classic progressive economic program; since the 1960s, it has also included certain social characteristics, such as official multiculturalism.

Most of these measures were characteristic of some parts of Continental Western Europe from the late 19th century

onward, and became generally prevalent there after the Second World War. The English-speaking countries lagged well behind; Britain began to adopt welfarist policies and admit labor unions to the domestic power system before the First World War, but moved to full entitlement systems and substantial state control of the economy only after 1945. Australia and New Zealand adopted entitlement systems early, using their agricultural and mineral export earnings as petro-states now use oil wealth, but remained socially conservative in many other ways. Canada was essentially similar to the U.S. in its domestic systems (despite some greater public ownership, mostly in transportation) until the 1960s. But by the end of the 1970s, America stood virtually alone in a world of seemingly universal consensus for a strong managerial state...

4,000 words: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/247822>

Obama Again Omits 'Creator' When Speaking of 'Inalienable Rights' Cited in Declaration of Independence

by Terence P. Jeffrey, 27 Sept 2010

Just seven days after he sparked controversy by omitting the word "Creator" when he closely paraphrased the passage from the Declaration of Independence that says all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights," President Barack Obama again omitted the Creator when speaking about the "inalienable rights" that "everybody is endowed with."...

More: <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/75843>

"Tonight, we are returning this decree to the trash bin"

Likud MK Dannon asks settlers' forgiveness for treatment like "second class citizens," as building freeze ends.

by Tovah Lazaroff, 26 Sept 2010

..."Starting tomorrow morning, we will resume building," said Danon. "I want to send a message to [US President Barack] Obama. We have a lot of respect for the American president and for the American people, but we ask you to respect our democracy and the rights of the Jewish people to build their homes in the Land of Israel."

With its live music and the large waving flags brought by many participants, including the national flags of Israel, China, the US and Canada, Sunday afternoon's event seemed like an outdoor party. But settlers leaders and MKs who spoke at the rally struck a somber note and reminded the participants that the settlement enterprise was still in danger...

...MK Tzipi Hotovely (Likud) said that at midnight, the government would be tested to see if it plans to follow in the path of former prime minister Ariel Sharon, who gave away Gaza, or it intends to keep to the platform of the Likud Party.

"We won't support any diplomatic process that destroys the Zionist enterprise in Judea and Samaria," said Hotovely. She warned that the negotiations for a two-state solution and not the moratorium was the true danger to the State of Israel and the settlement movement. "What is the point of building a thousand more homes if in two months the prime minister intends to give up parts of Judea and Samaria? What is it worth if a Palestinian state is created?" Hotovely asked.

She said she opposed such a Palestinian state and that she did not believe the Likud had been voted into power to bring about its creation. "The Likud was chosen to lead the government because of its commitment to guard the land," she said...

More, including 3:14 video; firebrand MK Hotovely is prominent: <http://www.jpost.com/VideoArticles/Article.aspx?id=189308>

Danish Free Press Society's Sappho Award

13 Sept 2010

Eva Agnete Selsing's presentation: <http://www.sappho.dk/eva-agnete-selsings-tale-til-mark-steyn.htm>

Mark Steyn's acceptance: <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/2595371/posts>

audio of both: <http://snaphanen.dk/2010/09/13/steyn-in-scandinavia/>

"These men are supposed to be the defenders of liberal, pluralist, free societies. And instead, they sound like they're competing to see who can be Islam's most submissive prison bitch. It is a disgrace."

How B.H. Obama (and G.W. Bush) used the cheap linguistic tricks of René Descartes, Immanuel Kant, and Bertrand Russell to bamboozle the credulous.

The Quietus of Reason

by Larrey Anderson, 26 Sept 2010

Fascinating: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/09/the_quietus_of_reason.html

This column may seem old news. But I just discovered it, and was shocked (yes, really) to learn about what happened with Rev. Jones' mortgage, his insurance, his website, and his appalling treatment on PMSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Burned for Being American

by Diana West, 17 Sept 2010

...Even with the Constitution on his side, Jones was in effect stripped of equal standing in the eyes of his fellow citizens. Little wonder, then, that his bank actually called in his church's mortgage; his insurance company actually canceled his church's policy; and his Internet server actually pulled the plug on his website—all repercussions of his planned 9/11 demonstration. Inside of a week, Jones achieved a state on nonpersonhood that exceeds that of most convicted criminals, despite the fact that the only law he contemplated breaking was Islam's.

Jones' state of disgrace was perhaps never more apparent than during a live appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Co-host Mika Brzezinski, worked up over the "blood" Jones personally, as she believed, would have on his hands, cued panelist Jon Meacham to deliver to Jones, standing by live, an honest-to-goodness New Testament homily on forgiveness—an MSNBC first?—and to appeal to him as a "fellow Christian" to drop his plans. Jones' reply? He was never permitted to open his mouth.

"Well said, Jon Meacham," said Mika Brzezinski as Meacham's sermon ended. "And Pastor Terry Jones, we appeal to you to listen to that. And we don't really need to hear anything else, so thanks."

So thanks? Talk about potted palms. The irony here is that as Jones-the-person was increasingly objectified as a dangerous "nut," Koran-the-object that commands jihad was increasingly enlivened with a uniquely inviolate status...

Read the rest: <http://www.dianawest.net/Home/tabid/36/EntryId/1520/Burned-for-Being-American.aspx>

Destroying King Dollar Is Not the Solution

by Larry Kudlow, 23 Sept 2010

Fed head Ben Bernanke and the FOMC dropped a new policy bomb at their meeting this week. Now they say inflation is too low. That's the real problem. And the solution? Punch up the money supply and punch down the dollar—or what I used to call King Dollar. No more.

In the 24 hours following the Fed announcement, gold rocketed up toward \$1,300, a new record high. And the dollar plunged. It's a big vote against the central bank and its constant tinkering and fine-tuning.

The Fed actually has opened the door even *wider* for more money-creating, balance-sheet-expanding, Treasury-bond-buying actions at its next scheduled meeting, which will come the day after the midterm elections on Nov. 3. That's when QE2 may sail. "Quantitative easing" is what they call it. I call it dollar whack-a-mole.

Here's a currency-trader quote from The Wall Street Journal: "Quantitative easing is broadly viewed to be corrosive to a currency's value." Right on, brother. Even though Bernanke doesn't get it, the weaker dollar will rev up inflation mighty fast...

Read on: <http://kudlowsmoneypolitics.blogspot.com/2010/09/destroying-king-dollar-is-not-solution.html>

For Republicans, the Moment for Reform Has Arrived

by Sen. Tom Coburn, 24 Sept 2010

...Paying for new spending instead of borrowing is a potent economic and political argument that is at the heart of the tea party movement. The American people understand that the debate about spending is about national survival. It's time for Republicans to get serious about cutting wasteful Washington spending and ending the establishment's fetish for borrowing.

We should boldly argue that in today's economy, restraint is stimulus. Research by economists Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff suggests the size of our debt may already slowing our economy by one point of Gross Domestic Product each year. In 2009, Obama economic advisers Christina Romer and Jared Bernstein told Congress "that a one

percent increase in GDP corresponds to an increase in employment of approximately one million jobs ... [t]his has been the rough correspondence over history." In other words, not growing the GDP by one point because of our debt means one million jobs will not be created. Everyone knows this problem will grow much worse as the unfunded liabilities of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security pile up.

The current majority had a chance to demonstrate restraint but their pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) mechanism, which was supposed to pay new spending with cuts or tax increases, has been a joke. The Senate has made a mockery of its own rules, waiving PAYGO six times since it was adopted in February in order to add more than \$266 billion to the debt. Republicans now have a historic opportunity to step up and get serious about living within our means...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/09/24/for_republicans_the_moment_for_reform_has_arrived_107297.html

The Trouble with Public Sector Unions

by Daniel DiSalvo, Fall 2010

...Even President Franklin Roosevelt, a friend of private-sector unionism, drew a line when it came to government workers: "Meticulous attention," the president insisted in 1937, "should be paid to the special relations and obligations of public servants to the public itself and to the Government....The process of collective bargaining, as usually understood, cannot be transplanted into the public service."

The reason? F.D.R. believed that "[a] strike of public employees manifests nothing less than an intent on their part to obstruct the operations of government until their demands are satisfied. Such action looking toward the paralysis of government by those who have sworn to support it is unthinkable and intolerable." Roosevelt was hardly alone in holding these views, even among the champions of organized labor. Indeed, the first president of the AFL-CIO, George Meany, believed it was "impossible to bargain collectively with the government." ...

6,400 words: <http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-trouble-with-public-sector-unions>

Lies, Damned Lies—Obamacare 6 Months Later

It's time to take back the 20!

by Sarah Palin, 23 Sept 2010

...Remember when the president said, "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor"? Not true... Remember the Obama administration's promise that Obamacare would cut a typical family's premium "by up to \$2500 a year"? Not true.... Remember when the president said in his address to Congress that "no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions"? That turned out to be yet another one of those "You lie!" moments... Remember the promise that Obamacare would "strengthen small businesses"? Not true either... Remember the president's promise that his bill would ensure "everyone [has] some basic security"? False again... Once it passed, they admitted there was going to be rationing after all. There has to be...

...By the way, when the administration was talking about that independent board that has the statutory power to decide which categories of treatment are worthy of funding based on efficiency calculations (that, again, sounded to me like a panel of faceless bureaucrats making life and death decisions about your loved ones—which, again, is what I referred to as a "death panel"), it was another opportunity for Americans to hear the truth about Obamacare's intentions... So, yes, those rationing "death panels" are there, and so are the tax increases that the president also promised were "absolutely not" in his bill. (Aren't you tiring of the untruths coming from this White House and the liberals in Congress?)...

...But perhaps the most ridiculous promise of all was the president's assurance that Obamacare will lead to "bending the curve" on health care spending. Yes, rationing is a part of the new system, and yes, Obamacare does raise taxes. But because the new government managed system is so incredibly complicated and expensive to run, health care spending will actually rise instead of fall. Don't believe me? Then take a look at the Congressional Budget Office's admittance that the CBO's original estimate of the total costs of the bill were off by around \$115 billion...

...Next time he comes to us with another one of his harebrained proposals for a budget-busting federal power grab, let's make sure we remember the president's admission that he was lying all along when he told us his health care plan was going to cut costs. He is increasing costs. He admits it now. Period.

Higher costs and worse care—is it any wonder why people are overwhelmingly in favor of repealing and replacing Obamacare?...

There's lots more, and she provides links to support every statement:

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/sarah-palin/lies-damned-lies-obamacare-6-months-later-its-time-to-take-back-the-20/433315368434>

Fair Pay Isn't Always Equal Pay

by Christina Hoff Sommers, 21 Sept 2010

Among the top items left on the Senate's to-do list before the November elections is a "paycheck fairness" bill, which would make it easier for women to file class-action, punitive-damages suits against employers they accuse of sex-based pay discrimination.

The bill's passage is hardly certain, but it has received strong support from women's rights groups, professional organizations and even President Obama, who has called it "a common-sense bill."

But the bill isn't as commonsensical as it might seem. It overlooks mountains of research showing that discrimination plays little role in pay disparities between men and women, and it threatens to impose onerous requirements on employers to correct gaps over which they have little control...

Continue: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/22/opinion/22Sommers.html?_r=2&ref=opinion

Obamacare is even worse than critics thought

Washington Examiner editorial, 22 Sept 2010

Six months ago, President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi rammed Obamacare down the throats of an unwilling American public. Half a year removed from the unprecedented legislative chicanery and backroom dealing that characterized the bill's passage, we know much more about the bill than we did then. A few of the revelations...

And weep: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Obamacare-is-even-worse-than-critics-thought-960772-103571664.html>

Chris Coons: Volunteer for Liberation Theology

O'Donnell opponent aided advocates of James Cone, Jeremiah Wright Marxist doctrines.

by Jeffrey Lord, 20 Sept 2010

...Liberals have committed what in the world of sports is called an "unforced error": they made Christine O'Donnell's twenties an issue in this critical campaign year.

Why was this a mistake?

Because now it has directed attention to *exactly* what Chris Coons *was* doing in his twenties. And what he was doing was "volunteering"—which is to say he was actively, quite deliberately aiding socialist Africans who believed in the liberation theology philosophy that is now at the very center of the controversy surrounding the Obama administration's policies. There can be little doubt based on Coons volunteer work in Africa that if he ever got the chance to take Obama Vice President Joe Biden's Senate seat from Delaware, he would instantly start voting with Barack Obama and the vision behind liberation theology that Coons found so dazzling during that 1980s sojourn to Africa.

It is exactly the same socialist vision of wealth redistribution preached by Jeremiah Wright in Barack Obama's Trinity Church for twenty years while the future president sat in those pews. It is exactly the vision behind the policy and personnel of the Obama administration—from Van Jones the now-departed self-described Communist and White House Green Jobs czar to Mark Lloyd the Hugo Chavez-admiring FCC diversity czar to Anita Dunn the Mao-quoting ex-White House aide to Ron Bloom the SEIU negotiator turned "manufacturing czar" to Carol Browner, a leader in the climate-change division of the "Socialist International" turned Obama global warming czar to the nationalized health care admiring Medicare administrator Donald Berwick to the social justice-promoting consumer activist Elizabeth Warren and on and on—right into the Oval Office and President Barack Obama himself...

Much more: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/20/chris-coons-volunteer-for-libe>

Mr. Clausen could have pointed out the similarities that do exist, alongside the differences, in the Judeo-Christian and Muslim views of God's omnipotence. Still, it's a very useful explanation of how Muslims got this way.

Found it: The Islamic Golden Age!

An essay on Robert R. Reilly's *The Closing of the Muslim Mind*

by Henrik R. Clausen, 19 Sept 2010

One of the more interesting memes regarding Islam is that of a so-called "Golden Age", a historical period when

the Islamic world was affluent, progressive and a great place to live. As a historical, physical fact, that meme has been proven false. However, in the secluded area of philosophy, things are somewhat different. As the introduction states:

This book is about one of the greatest intellectual dramas in human history. Its landscape is the Muslim mind.

How man regards his powers of reason has been a decisive influence on the shape and destiny of civilizations, including the Islamic one. How could it be otherwise, when these rational powers affect how reality is perceived, how revelation is perceived, what can be known, and how to discern the meaning of the known?...

Fascinating: <http://europenews.dk/en/node/35549>

And while we're on the subject, listen to this classic:

It's in the Koran

<http://markhumphrys.com/in.the.koran.html>

The Battle for the Future

by John Stossel, 22 Sept 2010

...Progressives use the word "we" too often. When I argued that "we" and "government" are not the same, he said, "We always talk about the government like it's this monster in the hills that comes down and hands things out and takes our tax money."

Well, yes.

Those are "libertarian fairytales," Hill says. "In real life, the government is us."

Government is not "us." Well, it's us in the sense that we pay the bills. But it ain't us. It's them, the policy elite and their patrons.

What percent of the economy does Hill think government should be? "For me, housing, health care and education, in addition to national defense, are things that the government must provide for people. So if that means 20 percent, I'm OK with it. If it means 30 percent, I'm OK with it. I don't think it'll ever get that big."

Give me a break. It's already at 40 percent! All that spending is taken from your and my pockets—some in taxes, much in sneakier ways like government borrowing. The national debt—now \$13 trillion—simply represents future taxes or the erosion of the dollar.

Yet progressives want us to pay more. One woman activist told our camera, "It costs to live in a civilized society, and we all need to pay our fair share."

Our "fair share" sounds good. Progressives say taking from the rich to help the poor is simply fair. I put that to Arthur Brooks, who heads the American Enterprise Institute.

"No, the fairest system is the one that rewards the makers in society as opposed to rewarding the takers in society."...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0910/stossel092210.php3>

Mourning in America (:60)

CitizensfortheRep, 20 Sept 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YXqf_6ug54

Dale Peterson for America: It's Time To Roll! (1:44)

Dale Peterson, 19 Sept 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBAShu7PKcI&feature=player_embedded

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Ronald Reagan on Capitalism and Socialism (6:32)

Two radio clips from 1979. The first is about Brad, a college student and a member of YAF, who has a clever conversation with an attractive and well-meaning liberal student. The second is the classic story of the Little Red Hen, with a twist.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gIxuOabGBE&feature=related>

More on Molly Norris

Two critiques by Baron Bodissey, 20-21 Sept 2010. A steadfast anti-Islamist himself, he says she's actually a publicity seeker, and—since she did apologize to some Muslims for her cartoon—a squishy liberal.

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/09/elusive-molly-norris.html>

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/09/mother-of-all-silence-from-fever-swamps.html#more>

Wellesley, Massachusetts Public School Students Learn to Pray to Allah

Apeacet, 15 Sept 2010

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7-I9Qp3d4Y>

Hey Kids! Who Wants to Pray for Global Jihad?

Massachusetts school children proselytized during mosque field trip.

by Stacy Webber, 21 Sept 2010

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/09/21/hey-kids-who-wants-to-pray-for-global-jihad-massachusetts-school-children-proselytized-during-mosque-field-trip/>

Soros's Anti-Human-Rights Agenda

by Anne Bayefsky, 20 Sept 2010

...So Soros's acquisition of Human Rights Watch, coupled with his legendary support of the Democratic party and the United Nations, creates the perfect storm. He has brought together the unelected, unaccountable NGO claiming to represent "civil society," the Democratic party and its sitting president, and the world's chief global organization, each supportive of the others in a plethora of financial and personal interrelationships, and all sharing common goals: diminishing American power and mothballing the idea of unadulterated universal values.

Soros makes no attempt to hide his agenda. As he wrote in *The Bubble of American Supremacy*: "People have different views and . . . nobody is in possession of the ultimate truth . . . [P]eople are supposed to decide for themselves what they mean by freedom and democracy. . . . What goes on within individual states can be of vital interest to the rest of the world, but the principle of sovereignty militates against interfering in their internal affairs." The same speech has been made by China and Cuba and thugs the world over.

Soros's view is the antithesis of human-rights protection. It directly contradicts the vision of common, inviolable rights and freedoms, which the visionaries who founded America, the United Nations, and Human Rights Watch understood. It is high time to launch an equally well-endowed human-rights organization not beholden to the rapacious relativism and anti-Americanism of George Soros.

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/247022/george-soros-s-anti-human-rights-agenda-anne-bayefsky>

The Electronic Pearl Harbor

by Ryan Mauro, 20 Sept 2010

Presages about the defeat or even the destruction of the U.S. by terrorists and rogue leaders are usually dismissed as bombastic rhetoric or self-induced illusions. The West's enemies, however, are working towards the means to make their prophecies come true. Electro-Magnetic Pulse attacks with nuclear weapons detonated at high altitude and cyber warfare can enable ostensibly weak adversaries to deliver a crippling blow far greater than 9/11.

The discussion about nuclear terrorism generally focuses on the potential for a bomb to be set off on the ground or at low-altitude with a ballistic missile. Such an event would kill hundreds of thousands of people and cause trillions in damage, but would not paralyze the country. However, detonating a nuclear weapon at high-altitude can do much greater damage. The explosion at a high-altitude sets off what is called an Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP) that can fry all electronic devices for hundreds or thousands of miles depending upon where it happens...

Read on: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/09/20/the-electronic-pearl-harbor/>

A Victory for Sverigedemokraterna

by Baron Bodissey, 19 Sept 2010

The official count for the Swedish general election won't be issued until tomorrow, but preliminary results — based, if I understand it correctly, on government-sponsored exit polls — show that Sverigedemokraterna (the Sweden Democrats) garnered an amazing 5.8% of the vote, and will send about twenty representatives to Parliament. One of the new MPs will be Kent Ekeröth, who is well-known to Gates of Vienna readers as a leading activist of the Counterjihad.

SD received more votes today than either the Christian Democrats or the Left Party, and are now within shouting distance of the Liberals and the Center Party. This makes them the fifth-largest party in Parliament.

Their staunch opposition to mass immigration and their determination to resist the Islamization of their country have earned Sweden Democrats the ire of the self-anointed transnationalists who run Sweden. The situation is thus similar to that of the PVV in the Netherlands — albeit on a smaller scale — in that SD have been shunned and demonized by all the other parties. Instead of negotiating a role in a broad right-wing coalition — which would be the expected outcome in a sane, normal parliamentary system — they have been declared apostates and made untouchable by the entire Swedish political class...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/09/victory-for-sverigedemokraterna.html>

The Forgotten Man

painting by Jon McNaughton, unveiled 14 Sept 2010

The artist is 42 years old, and hails from Spanish Fork, Utah. On the website below, you can scroll over the various figures in the painting. Each one's name will appear, and in a column to the right of the painting, information about that person will be displayed.

View it here: http://www.mcnaughtonart.com/artwork/view_zoom/?artpiece_id=379

There's also a similar page for a painting titled **One Nation Under God:**

http://www.mcnaughtonart.com/artwork/view_zoom/?artpiece_id=353

Even Obama hasn't dared to propose this! And the Prime Minister is supposedly a Conservative!

No Lessons Learned in Land of Orwell

by Kim Khan, 20 Sept 2010

While the Tea Party movement in America is benefitting from a groundswell of opinion that the government has too much influence in people's lives, the UK's tax collection body is floating a proposal that the government become the largest payroll operator in the world. The plan calls for all employers to send paychecks to the state first, which would then deduct tax and later pay the workers.

From the country that was home to George Orwell the Big Brother implications of such a plan are staggering. It even has the Newspeak-like name of "centralized deductions."...

More: <http://www.cnn.com/id/39270252>

52% of Voters Say Their Views Are More Like Palin's Than Obama's

20 Sept 2010

Fifty-two percent (52%) of Likely U.S. Voters say their own views are closer to Sarah Palin's than they are to President Obama's, according to a new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey.

Just 40% say their views are closer to the president's than to those of the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential candidate. Among the Political Class, however, 68% say their views are more like Obama's, while 63% of Mainstream voters describe their views as more like Palin's.

More:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/september_2010/52_of_voters_say_their_views_are_more_like_palin_s_than_obama_s
see also:

Palin and the Left's Status-Anxiety

by Shannon Love, 10 Sept 2010

<http://chicagoboyz.net/archives/15616.html>

(Hat tip: Ann Marie)

She's a liberal, but sometimes she gets things just right.

Why Corvettes Cost Less Than College

by *Froma Harrop*, 16 Sept 2010

That was a pleasant stroll across the Ivy League campus of Brown University, in Providence, R.I. I saw the gardening crews, the maintenance trucks, the pricey restoration work on Faunce Arch. I passed the skating rink, the president's mansion and the new Department of Facilities Management building.

As I surveyed the handsome spread (tax-exempt, sadly), I wondered, "Is all this really necessary—I mean—for the education of these students?"...

Continue: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/froma-harrop/why-corvettes-cost-less-than-college.html>

3,953 of the most elegant and inspiring political words I've read in a long time.

Hillsdale College Speech on the Presidency

by *Rep. Mike Pence*, 20 Sept 2010

...The presidency has run off the rails. It begs a new clarity, a new discipline, and a new president.

The president is not our teacher, our tutor, our guide or ruler. He does not command us, we command him. We serve neither him nor his vision. It is not his job or his prerogative to redefine custom, law and beliefs; to appropriate industries; to seize the country, as it were, by the shoulders or by the throat so as to impose by force of theatrical charisma his justice upon 300 million others. It is neither his job nor his prerogative to shift the power of decision away from them, and to him and the acolytes of his choosing.

Is my characterization of unprecedented presumption incorrect? I defer to the judgment of the people, which they will make with their own eyes, and ears. Listen to the exact words of the leader of President Obama's transition team and perhaps his next chief-of-staff: "It's important that President-Elect Obama is prepared to really take power and begin to rule day one." Or, more recently, from the words of the latest presidential appointment to avoid confirmation by the Senate, the new head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau wrote last Friday, "President Obama understands the importance of leveling the playing field again."

"Take power... Rule... Leveling." Though it is now, this has never been and should never again be the model of the presidency or the character of the American president. No one can say this too strongly and no one can say it enough until it is remedied. We are not subjects, we are citizens. We fought a war so that we do not have to treat even kings like kings, and—if I may remind you—we won that war. Since then, the principle of royalty has, in this country, been inoperative. Who is better suited or more required to exemplify this conviction, in word and deed, than the President of the United States?

The powers of the presidency are extraordinary and necessarily great, and great presidents treat them sparingly. For example, it is not the president's job to manipulate the nation's youth for the sake of his agenda or his party...

The whole speech: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/20/hillsdale-speech-on-the-presid>

The Krug is still trying to exonerate Fanny and Freddie for the Crash of 2008.

Many Are the Errors

Perhaps Paul Krugman believes that by labeling other economists as politically extreme, he can undercut their credibility. But his is badly weakened by the myriad errors he makes.

by *Raghuram Rajan*, 19 Sept 2010

<http://american.com/archive/2010/september/many-are-the-errors>

Among the fascists trying to jam climate hysteria down the throats of formerly free citizens are John Holdren (Obama's climate commissar), David Cameron (Britain's "Conservative" Prime Minister), Professor Paul Hoggett, and something called the Climate Change Advisory Group.

Global warming is dead. Long live, er, 'Global climate disruption'!

by *James Delingpole*, 17 Sept 2010

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100054012/global-warming-is-dead-long-live-er-global-climate-disruption/>

Mr. Obama, Here's My Resume, Where's My Job?

by Caroline Baum, 19 Sept 2010

...Starting a business entails coming up with an idea for a product or service, making sure costs are less than revenue, and figuring out how to address competition, Kling says. "The decision to hire depends on how management evaluates the potential gain from adding new capabilities against the risks of carrying additional costs," he says. That's why the idea for a temporary payroll tax holiday to spur hiring, which at one point was being considered by the Obama administration, is such a non-starter.

Why would a company assume a long-term obligation—a permanent employee, who needs training and qualifies for health-care benefits—in exchange for a temporary tax cut? It makes no sense and doesn't comport with how businesses have behaved historically in response to short-term measures.

What we know is that lower taxes on income and capital provide more of an incentive to take risks and start a new business. If Kling is right and that's what the country needs to create jobs, then by all means the president and the Congress should do everything in their power to ensure taxes stay low. Instead, like the bureaucrats in Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, they keep promising to unveil yet another plan...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-20/mr-president-here-s-my-resume-where-s-my-job-caroline-baum.html>

The Stakes in Venezuela's Vote

by Alvaro Vargas Llosa, 15 Sept 2010

In any dictatorship that holds an election, opposition movements face a dilemma—to participate or not to participate. If they do, they could legitimize an electoral charade. If they don't, they will cede all the institutional space to the dictator.

Five years ago, the Venezuelan opposition boycotted National Assembly elections. Their case was morally sound: Everything pointed to a rigged vote and any collaboration with Hugo Chavez's farce would openly help him. But the result was a legislature that has overwhelmingly acted as Chavez's mouthpiece. When those elections took place, Chavez was well beyond the point at which public opinion mattered.

Which is why Venezuela's opposition Coalition for Democratic Unity has made the right decision by participating in the Sept. 26 elections to renew the National Assembly...

Read on: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/09/15/the_stakes_in_venezuelas_vote_107158.html

Even at their height in the 1960s, American trade unions never stooped to anything like the atrocities routinely—and enthusiastically—committed by their British cousins.

The nightmare of union power is back again

The TUC conference shows that the dark days of the 1970s are not as distant as we might have hoped.

by Janet Daley, 18 Sept 2010

...Yes, children, that was what it was like to live under the happy People's Republic of trade union dominion. This was why the fight to the death between a democratically elected government and the power of the unions that consumed this country in the 1980s brought politics to life in a way that has not been seen since. And why, whatever the privations and anxieties which that struggle produced, the voters stood by the Tory government of the 1980s no matter how much it was traduced by the infantile Leftists of the BBC, academia and the arts.

I was not alone in my generation in shifting my political allegiance from Left to Right. No amount of ideological hogwash could cancel out the ugly encounters with actual people who held your family's well-being in their hands: the train drivers who did not give a toss about our need to make a living, the power workers who shut off our lighting and heat when we had brought a new baby home from hospital, the council officials who locked our children out of school for six weeks in solidarity with striking caretakers.

In the 1980s, as now, the justification for nihilistic persecution of the innocent citizen was The Cuts: the diabolical reductions in spending which the Tory government was reputedly making to public services. Except that it wasn't. For all the determined rhetoric, the Thatcher government never succeeded in reducing public spending. Funding for the NHS—which became, in the language of the spinners, a "toxic" issue for the Conservatives—increased in real terms every year under the Tories.

What produced (or facilitated) the mythology of "Tory cuts" was the capping of local council rates: in order to curb the robber baron antics of Loony Left councils, whose escalation of the rates was killing whole swaths of urban Britain by driving out businesses and property owners, the Conservatives placed a limit on what we now call council tax. The consequence of this was that local councils had to make cuts in services. In the great spirit of Left-wing social conscience, the Labour ones made sure to cut the most high-profile, front-line services in order to milk the public outrage that would do maximum political damage to the government. So it wasn't the gender equality outreach officers who were first to go: it was Meals on Wheels...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/janetdaley/8010988/The-nightmare-of-union-power-is-back-again.html>
[N.B.: Don John has belonged to, and been very active in, several unions.]

'There Is No More Molly'

Does Obama believe in the First Amendment for anyone other than Muslims?

by James Taranto, 17 Sept 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703904304575497912316992160.html#printMode>

Molly Norris's cartoon is shown below. And Don John would like to take this opportunity to

- (1) wish Ms. Norris the best of luck with her new life in hiding, and
- (2) say "Fuck Islam, Fuck Mohammed, and Fuck the false 'god' Allah."



A 47-page PDF debunking the received wisdom of the green fanatics.

Recycling Myths Revisited

by Daniel Benjamin, 2010

<http://www.perc.org/files/ps47.pdf>

The Remora Economy

by Doctor Zero, 8 Sept 2010

...Think about the economic disruption caused by the presence of an aggressive, activist government in our markets. It's like a great white shark, prowling through a sea of much smaller corporate and individual fish. It obeys none of the rules binding the other players in the market. It can suck virtually unlimited funding from private entities... at least, until this suction causes the rest of the economy to implode. This allows it to shrug off financial wounds that would kill any other fish in the sea, and makes it almost completely blind to the signals of pain that would cause private industries to change their behavior.

The government can rewrite the law to suit itself, or ignore laws it finds inconvenient. It can rig the marketplace to punish competitors, as the Obama Administration has been doing with the health insurance industry. It can shape media coverage to smooth over errors in judgment that would be public-relations disasters for any corporation...

...How should private-sector fish deal with this massive predator cruising among them? The very smallest fish might initially hope to avoid its notice, but there is simply no way to escape broad national mandates like ObamaCare, Card Check, or cap-and-trade legislation. The best way to avoid the gaping jaws of the government shark is to stay agile and keep a low profile. The last thing any small-business owner wants is to grow large enough to draw the direct attention of this Administration. They can only hope political expedience doesn't place their industry on the target list for taxation, regulation, or demonization.

For larger companies, invisibility is not an option. The smart play is to become like remora fish, attaching themselves to the State and feeding on the scraps it leaves behind. The flavor of socialism practiced by contemporary Democrats *relies* upon this behavior...

More: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/09/08/>

This is mostly about the **true story** of the Vietnam War era. And it is marvelous.

Newspaper's last gasp?

On the future of old media.

by Conrad Black, Sept 2010

...My considered and carefully researched opinion is that the national media—in particular the major newspapers led by The Washington Post and The New York Times—that turned against official Vietnam policy, led the lynch mob against Richard Nixon, published the Pentagon Papers, and, then, after the destruction of the Nixon presidency and the defeat of the United States in Vietnam, showered themselves with awards and claimed the salvation of constitutional democracy and the shining hour of a free and fearless investigative press, suffered a mortal wound in the nation's trust of them. It is a national intuition, and relatively few members of the public would volunteer this explanation for the rise of conservative opinion media and the erosion of the credibility of the old pundits and anchormen...

...But I believe that millions of Americans, if walked fairly through the relevant sequence of questions, would confirm that the national media's treatment of Vietnam and Watergate, far from being the triumph the liberal national media has endlessly celebrated, was a self-inflicted assault from which the country will only fully recover when the national media confess at least the possibility of their mistakes and injustices and comprehensively repent what they have never ceased to claim as their greatest moral victory and national service. The objective, relevant, and now undisputed facts, succinctly stated, are laid out below...

Fascinating and inspiring: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Newspaper-s-last-gasp--6270>

Mr. McKelway actually seems like that *rara avis*: a mainstream journalist who is honest.

WJLA-TV fires veteran anchor Doug McKelway, cites insubordination, misconduct

by Paul Farhi, 17 Sept 2010

...Amid the ongoing BP oil spill in July, McKelway covered a Capitol Hill demonstration by environmental groups protesting the influence of oil-industry contributions to members of Congress.

In his piece, McKelway said the sparsely attended event attracted protesters "largely representing far-left environmental groups." He went on to say the protest "may be a risky strategy because the one man who has more campaign contributions from BP than anybody else in history is now sitting in the Oval Office, President Barack Obama, who accepted \$77,051 in campaign contributions from BP."

After a brief taped segment updating efforts to cap the BP well, McKelway added that the Senate was unlikely to pass "cap-and-trade" legislation this year, because "the Democrats are looking at the potential for huge losses in

Congress come the midterm elections. And the last thing they want to do is propose a huge escalation in your electric bill, your utility bill, before then."...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/16/AR2010091606645.html>

The Palin Card

by Doctor Zero, 18 Sept 2010

...I hope the White House takes Ambinder's advice, because it would be *suicidal*. His crack about Palin's "reveling in the culture wars" betrays his ignorance. He is confused by the details of her biography, and the sincere affection she earns from her admirers. His Palin Card is drawn from the wrong suit. She's the Queen of Diamonds, not the Queen of Hearts. Her most impressive statements over the last two years have been on matters of economics, policy, and politics. She has shredded the Administration over health care, the Gulf oil spill, and unrestrained government spending. She's endorsed dozens of primary candidates, with something like a 70% success rate. Her most notable clashes with "culture" have involved asking it to stop making rape jokes about her daughters...

...Obama would be making a deadly mistake by calling out Sarah Palin for a political cage match. Let me put this bluntly: **virtually no one in America gives a damn what Barack Obama says about anything at this point.** What could be more predictable, and less interesting, than Obama's opinion on any given subject? Who wants to contemplate the economic wisdom of a guy who looted the Treasury for a trillion dollars, with less benefit than we could have achieved by stuffing hundred dollar bills into random cereal boxes? Who's excited to hear about the next plan to convert taxpayer dollars into Democrat campaign funds? Who's hungry for another hour of tedious excuses about permanently broken markets and the titanic dead hand of George W. Bush? Who wants a lecture on ethical business practices from the titular head of the party that gave us Charlie Rangel and Maxine Waters? What use is another hollow foreign-policy speech from a man who sees no global adversary to rival the menace of Arizona?...
The full column: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/09/the-palin-card/>

Apparently, not all modern Jesuits are Pope-hating Communist turds.

The curious metaphysics of Dr. Stephen Hawking

by Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., 3 Sept 2010

Why would a preeminent physicist make the claim that "the universe can come from nothing?" This is precisely what Dr. Stephen Hawking has done in his new book, *The Grand Design*, when he notes, "Because there is a law such as gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the Universe exists, why we exist."

This statement betrays Hawking's fundamental assumption about the universe, namely that it came from nothing. But why would a preeminent physicist assume that the universe came from nothing? Presumably, because he believes that there are reasons for thinking that the universe had a beginning.

Let me put it in reverse: If one believes that there is significant evidence for a beginning of the universe then one is confronted with the question, "what was the universe before the beginning?" If the beginning is truly a point at which the universe came into existence then one is confronted by the fact that prior to the beginning, the whole physical universe was nothing.

What's my point? If Dr. Hawking does not believe that there is any reason to think that the universe had a beginning (from physics or philosophy), then why does he even bother to speculate about how the universe could spontaneously create itself from nothing? I am left to assume that Dr. Hawking does believe there are reasons for thinking the universe had a beginning—otherwise his contention about "the universe coming from nothing" makes no sense...

Continue: <http://www.magisreasonfaith.org/blog/?p=39>

Stephen Hawking's Creation Confusion

Scientists have begun to doubt whether there was a "Big Bang." But in claiming that this disproves the existence of a Creator, they confuse temporal beginnings with origins.

by William E. Carroll, 8 Sept 2010

...In *The Grand Design*, Hawking grants a near omniscience to the natural sciences and writes: "Because there is a law such as gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing." But there would be no gravity, indeed there would be nothing at all, were God not creating all that is as it is. God's creative power is exercised throughout the

entire course of cosmic history, in whatever ways that history has unfolded. God creates a universe in which things have their own causal agency, their own true self-sufficiency: a nature which is susceptible to scientific analysis. Still, no explanation of cosmological or biological change, no matter how radically random or contingent such an explanation claims to be, challenges the metaphysical account of creation, that is, of the dependence of the existence of all things upon God as cause. When some thinkers deny creation on the basis of theories in the natural sciences, they misunderstand creation or the natural sciences, or both.

Read the rest: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2010/09/1571>

Shariah: The Threat to America

Center for Security Policy, 13 Sept 2010

This study is the result of months of analysis, discussion and drafting by a group of top security policy experts concerned with the preeminent totalitarian threat of our time: the legal-political-military doctrine known within Islam as "shariah." It is designed to provide a comprehensive and articulate "second opinion" on the official characterizations and assessments of this threat as put forth by the United States government.

The authors, under the sponsorship of the Center for Security Policy, have modeled this work on an earlier "exercise in competitive analysis" which came to be known as the "Team B" Report. That 1976 document challenged the then-prevailing official U.S. government intelligence estimates of the intentions and offensive capabilities of the Soviet Union and the policy known as "détente" that such estimates ostensibly justified.

As with the original Team B analysis, however, this study challenges the assumptions underpinning the official line in the conflict with today's totalitarian threat, which is currently euphemistically described as "violent extremism," and the policies of co-existence, accommodation and submission that are rooted in those assumptions.

The report runs to 177 pages, but this PDF version makes it easy to browse and search at will:

[http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/upload/wysiwyg/article_pdfs/Shariah - The Threat to America \(Team B Report\) 09142010.pdf](http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/upload/wysiwyg/article_pdfs/Shariah - The Threat to America (Team B Report) 09142010.pdf)

Obama's henchmen persist in their cluelessness.

Congressmen Weiner and Waxman Set Gold Hearing

by Ira Stoll, 16 Sept 2010

Just as the government is trying to prevent people from investing in anything other than T-Bills by **raising taxes** on taxable interest and dividends to confiscatory levels, it's also trying to prevent you from parking your wealth in assets, like gold, that compete with the paper dollars issued by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury. A press release from Rep. Anthony Weiner, Democrat of New York, not yet (as of this instant) posted on Mr. Weiner's Web site, announces that a September 23 hearing of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection (a subcommittee of Rep. Henry Waxman's Commerce Committee) will focus on "legislation that would regulate gold-selling companies, an industry who's [sic] relentless advertising is now staple of cable television."

From the press release: "Under Rep. Weiner's bill, companies like Goldline would be required to disclose the reasonable resale value of items being sold." That's great. Are Mr. Weiner and Chairman Bernanke also going to agree to print on every dollar the reasonable expectation that its value will be eroded by inflation?

Gold investors (or speculators) are already punished by the federal government by having their investment, even in a gold exchange-traded-fund, taxed at the higher rates that apply to collectibles rather than long term capital gains.

Not to mention the fact that Mr. Weiner's regulatory push seems as much aimed at conservative journalists as at the gold-dealers...

More: <http://seekingalpha.com/article/225579-congressmen-weiner-and-waxman-set-gold-hearing>

Less Could Be More

by Tom Coburn, Sept 2010 issue

When Thomas Jefferson famously said, "The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases," he wasn't merely talking about the politics of his day, but the politics of human behavior across generations and across continents...

...Government today is so big it is almost impossible to measure how wasteful and incompetent it has become. The defense budget is such a mess it is impossible to audit. In almost every area of government there is a tremendous amount

of duplication and waste and barely any metrics or measurements for success.

For instance, we have 70 different sets of bureaucracies in at least six agencies to help feed hungry people without any way to measure success. There are at least 105 different programs across nine agencies to encourage our young people to go into math, science, and engineering with no way to measure success. We have 78 job training programs outside the Department of Labor that also have no measurement for success. If these are legitimate federal roles and a good use of billions of taxpayer dollars, why not have one or two programs to perform each function instead of 100?

We also have a government that traps children in failing schools, entices low-income families into mortgages they can't afford, offers access to government health care *programs* but not *health care* (Medicaid has a 40 percent denial rate), and takes away private property through eminent domain and other land grabs.

With the explosive growth in government this is an important moment in our history to revisit Jefferson and ask: Has all of this well-intentioned government made us more prosperous and free? Are we twice as prosperous when government doubles in size?...

Read the rest: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/14/less-could-be-more>

Lessons of the Koran's non-burning

by Jeff Jacoby, 15 Sept 2010

Terry Jones's 15 minutes of fame have run out, the foreign media have left Gainesville, and we aren't likely to hear much more about the fringe Florida preacher and his abandoned plan to burn copies of the Koran on Sept. 11. But there are some lessons worth taking away from the episode. Here are three...

Continue: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/09/15/lessons_of_the_korans_non_burning/

The Bridge: Bob Dylan, the 'Ruling Class,' and the 'Country Class'

How Bob Dylan checked out of the culture war.

by Brendan Bernhard, 15 Sept 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-bridge-bob-dylan-the-ruling-class-and-the-country-class/>

The article includes some "right on" quotes from Mr. Dylan:

"Where's the global warming? It's freezing here." "The world owes us nothing. Not one single thing." "Human nature really hasn't changed in 3,000 years...It's not meant to change. It cannot change. It's not made to change."

Friendly Persuasion

by Mark Steyn, 1 Sept 2010

"I think it is kids' preference to pair up and have that one best friend. As adults—teachers and counselors—we try to encourage them not to do that."

Thus, Christine Laycob, "director of counseling" at Mary Institute and St Louis Country Day School in Missouri, speaking to *The New York Times* the other day about why "best friends" are a bad thing. "Parents sometimes say Johnny needs that one special friend. We say he doesn't need a best friend."

By "we", she means the expert opinion of "educators". Granted that "educators" seem to have minimal interest in education, and that therefore it would be unreasonable to expect them to regard, say, American students' under-performance in everything from math to music as a priority, one is still impressed by their ability to conjure hitherto unknown crises to obsess over. The tone of the *Times* piece is faintly creepy—not least in its acceptance of the totalitarian proposition that it's appropriate for "experts" to re-engineer one of the most building blocks of our humanity: the right to choose our friends.

If the report reads like something out of The Stepford Kindergarten PTA, it is no more than the logical endpoint of the educational establishment's preference for collectivized mediocrity over individual achievement: A child should no longer have best friends, and close friends, and people he's happy to hang around with, and folks he doesn't much care for. Instead, he should just be friends with the collective, with the commune, all the same...

...Much of the contemporary scene owes its origins to silly little fads among "educators" that seemed too laughable to credit only the day before yesterday...

It gets better (of course): <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3477/>

Steve Wynn Takes On Washington

CNBC, 28 May 2010

Steve Wynn, a casino resort/real-estate developer who has been credited with spearheading the dramatic resurgence and expansion of the Las Vegas Strip, talks about the Fall of America. He says, *inter alia*, that the business climate in China is better than in America, because at least it's stable, and you don't have to worry about what the next crazy idea from the government will be.

Watch the first video: http://www.cnb.com/id/37392344/Steve_Wynn_Takes_on_Washington_Vegas_EBITDA

(Hat tip: Rosemary V.)

Good Show to All That

Brief Lives: An Intimate and Very Personal Portrait of the Twentieth Century,

by Paul Johnson (UK: Huchison, 304 pages, £20)

reviewed by Mark Falcoff, Sept 2010 issue

...Some of Johnson's judgments of people may surprise. He describes Richard Nixon, our 36th president, in these terms: "I have rarely met a man so anxious, right to the end, to acquire knowledge. He was much more interested in learning than in talking about himself...He lacked the ego obsession characteristic of the professional politician." He speaks well of the late Labour leader Aneurin Bevan, of former U.S. secretary of state John Foster Dulles, of Lauren Bacall ("always," she told him, "give people, visually, a little less than they want of you"), of Hubert Humphrey ("the jolliest politician I ever met"-this was, of course, before his terminal humiliation by his patron, Lyndon Johnson), and (to my astonishment) of Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Less surprising is his favorable portrait of David Ben-Gurion, who thumped the desk while urging Johnson to read the Bible—"The Bible is a fact. [Bang.] A record and a prophecy. [Bang.] It is all there, Mr. Johnson. Read your Bible, understand your Bible, and you won't go wrong about the Jews. [Final bang.]"

But most of the portraits are penned in acid, and a delightful liquid it is...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/14/good-show-to-all-that>

Pax Americana (1949-2010)

by James Lewis, 14 Sept 2010

...With Obama, Pax Americana seems ready to crumble. You can't be a halfway superpower in the world; you either are one or you aren't. Military strength is not just the ability to project force, but the visible will to use it under a clear set of conditions. American power and will have been used in defense of good and decent causes, like defeating Hitler and containing Stalin. For the last six decades, we have kept the peace among the hungry jackals of the world by wielding a credible U.S. deterrent at very great expense. We fought bloody proxy wars in Korea, Vietnam, and twice in Iraq. Our will and our capacity have kept the world's crazies at bay. But now it seems we've lost our way...

...Russia has always been Europe's buffer against Mongol and Muslim invaders, barbarians from the South and East. Putin has absolutely no hesitation in putting down radical Muslims of any stripe in his own territory. But Europe (and half the United States) have lost the will to live as nations. The U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence were the most successful political products of the Western Enlightenment. Europe itself has forgotten those values and has fallen into brute decadence.

Islamic imperialism today looks to the Russians just like all the other waves of Muslim conquest. They remember their history, and they've seen it before. The whole sucker-play of the Ground Zero Mosque would never see the light of day in Moscow. Only Americans are so profoundly ignorant of history to fall for that one. We've been lucky in our history by never having to face a Muslim invasion, but most of the Old World has already been invaded by the Muslims twice over, all the way from Austria to France, Spain, Greece, North Africa, the Levant, Russia, and China.

In Russia, the Orthodox Church and Putin don't believe in that airy-fairy multiculti nonsense. If Russia comes to dominate the feckless Europeans, it will give them the backbone they need right now. To be sure, Moscow will exact a price from its Western provinces, the way it always has. But forced to choose between Shar'iah tyranny and Russian authoritarianism, what would you choose? It took the Soviets only seventy years to figure out they had a disastrous

ideology on their hands, and to let it crumble. The Saudis have not yet figured it out after thirteen centuries of the Dark Ages...

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/09/pax_americana_19492010.html

The Prosecution of Nancy Pelosi

by Jeffrey Lord, 14 Sept 2010

It's time. Past time.

Should House Speaker Nancy Pelosi be prosecuted on a Bill of Attainder? Should the House of Representatives consider legislation that begins by saying it is:

"A Bill of Attainder to deprive Nancy Pelosi and other persons of liberty and property without further process of law for having violated the following ex-post facto law barring the setting of mandates on American citizens requiring them to buy health insurance. This case shall be exempt from all judicial review as previously provided by Article 3, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States."

Say what? You mean such a thing is flatly forbidden by the Constitution? That Bills of Attainder and prosecution of citizens for ex post facto laws (statutes criminalizing an action retroactively) are prohibited by the Constitution? Really? Well, as Speaker Pelosi said in response to a question that challenged the constitutional authority of Congress to mandate Americans to buy health insurance: "Are you kidding? Are you kidding?"...

A fascinating exercise: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/14/the-prosecution-of-nancy-pelosi>

Mitch Daniels IRSC Intro Video

This is the video that introduced Governor Mitch Daniels as the keynote speaker at the 2010 Indiana Republican State Convention. He'd make an excellent President of the United States.

21 June 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HVBxIarL2w>

Obama's Delusions of Competence

by Mona Charen, 14 Sept 2010

...We've seen President Obama's delusions of expertise on display before. Without any trial period, demonstration project, or peer-reviewed study, the federal government dictated that medical records be digitalized and extracted \$19 billion from taxpayers to fund the transition. The new systems, the president insisted, would prevent errors, reduce costs, and improve patient care. But as the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "a 2009 study in the *American Journal of Medicine* found that hospitals with more-advanced electronic systems fared no better than other hospitals on measures of administrative costs. . . . Meanwhile, many doctors and nurses say they're frustrated with the technology. While some say electronic records have improved the way they practice medicine, many others say the systems are time-consuming distractions that take away from patient care."

Digitalized medical records would certainly have evolved with time — just as paper books and newspapers are rapidly losing ground to their electronic competitors. But without government intrusion, the programs would have developed organically, adjusting to user feedback and actual experience — and costing the taxpayers nothing.

At his September 10 press conference, the president announced another "common sense" idea: We must stop "giving tax breaks to companies that are shipping jobs overseas." A familiar trope from the 2008 campaign, this "idea" is really another tax increase...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/246393/obama-s-delusions-competence-mona-charen>

The Size of Government and the Choice This Fall

In polls, Americans overwhelmingly prefer small government and low taxes to the alternative. Yet they've been given big government, one program at a time.

by Arthur C. Brooks and Rep. Paul Ryan, 13 Sept 2010

...Data support the proposition that Americans like generous government programs and don't want to lose them. So while 70% of Americans told pollsters at the Pew Research Center in 2009 they agreed that "people are better off in a

free market economy, even though there may be severe ups and downs from time to time," large majorities favor keeping our social insurance programs intact. This leads conventional thinkers to claim that a welfare state is what we truly want, regardless of whether or not we mouth platitudes about "freedom" and "entrepreneurship."

But these claims miss the point. What we must choose is our aspiration, not whether we want to zero out the state. Nobody wants to privatize the Army or take away Grandma's Social Security check. Even Friedrich Hayek in his famous book, *The Road to Serfdom*, reminded us that the state has legitimate—and critical—functions, from rectifying market failures to securing some minimum standard of living.

However, finding the right level of government for Americans is simply impossible unless we decide which ideal we prefer: a free enterprise society with a solid but limited safety net, or a cradle-to-grave, redistributive welfare state. Most Americans believe in assisting those temporarily down on their luck and those who cannot help themselves, as well as a public-private system of pensions for a secure retirement. But a clear majority believes that income redistribution and government care should be the exception and not the rule...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704358904575478141708959932.html>

A small-business owner and former Iraq war combat medic explains why he's challenging the new health-care law's requirement that everyone buy insurance.

Health-care reform: Why I'm suing to get back my freedom

by Matt Sissel, 13 Sept 2010

...I proudly served our country in the Iowa Army National Guard as a combat medic, spending two years in Iraq and eventually being awarded the Bronze Star. I mention that experience in order to drive home this point: While I am proud to have served my state and my country as a volunteer, I object to being conscripted into a federal health-care program that is at odds with basic constitutional principles of individual rights and limited government.

I see my lawsuit as a battle for my liberty—my freedom to live out my life to the fullest without costly, one-size-fits-all dictates from the government. I am fighting the command-and-control health-care plan in order to safeguard the health of our Constitution and the freedoms it protects for me and for all Americans.

More: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0913/Health-care-reform-Why-I-m-suing-to-get-back-my-freedom>

Venezuela on the Brink

by James Glassman, 13 Sept 2010

Venezuela goes to the polls on Sept. 26 in a parliamentary election that opponents of President Hugo Chavez see as "a chance to turn the tide," as Reuters news service puts it. Chavez may be taking on more authoritarian powers, but he also has to defend what the latest data show is the worst economy in the world...

...Venezuela's stagflation is all the more remarkable because, as the No. 8 oil-producing nation in the world, the country should be benefiting handsomely from high oil prices. These results, however, should come as no surprise. Venezuela is suffering from serious economic mismanagement as the central government takes control of more and more sectors. Over the last three years, Chavez has nationalized firms in such industries as cement, steel, agribusiness, banking, tourism, oil, communications, and electricity.

Chavez has another problem: violent crime. Caracas, the capital, has nine times the homicides per 100,000 people as Bogota and 15 times the rate of Sao Paulo. Overall, according to *Newsweek*, Venezuela has "the worst murder rate in the hemisphere," and it has helped push "President Chávez's approval ratings off a cliff." Indeed. In a survey last month, Consultores 21 found that only 36 percent of Venezuelans approved of Chavez's performance, a seven-year low.

Chavez has responded to these ills by shutting down media



Chavez's pal Barack Obama would like to do the same to America.

outlets, restricting economic freedom, blaming his critics, and throwing political opponents and businessmen in jail...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/venezuela-on-the-brink-15528>

Who's Being Reckless?

by *Ralph Reiland, 13 Sept 2010*

With 15 million workers unemployed and another 11 million underemployed, President Obama decided last week that the answer was to increase the amount of anti-rich red meat that he's throwing around...

...Mr. Obama also declared that "anyone who thinks we can move this economy forward with a few doing well at the top, hoping it'll trickle down to working folks running faster and faster just to keep up—they just haven't studied our history."

In fact, the history of the 1960s and 1980s shows that the benefits of cuts in top marginal income tax rates clearly trickled down to help "working folks" in the form of more jobs, less unemployment, less poverty, less inflation and higher wage growth...

Read how much the JFK, Reagan, and Bush tax cuts helped the poor and the middle class:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_698931.html

Conservatism does not equal racism. So why do many liberals assume it does?

by *Gerard Alexander, 12 Sept 2010*

...The narrative usually begins with Barry Goldwater opposing provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and with Richard Nixon scheming to win the presidency through a "Southern strategy"—appealing to the racial prejudice of working-class whites in the South to pry them away from the Democratic coalition assembled by Franklin Roosevelt. In this telling, bigoted Southerners were the electoral mountain to which the Republican Moses had to come, the key to the GOP winning the White House. Wooing them entailed much more than shifting the party slightly away from Democrats on racial issues; in return for political power, Republicans had to move their politics and policies to where bigots wanted them to be. This alliance supposedly laid the foundation for a new American politics...

...This reading of the conservative movement presents problems of logic and history, relying on assumptions that fall apart on close examination. First, it assumes that Republicans depended on white Southerners to become politically competitive in the 1960s. Second, it assumes that Republican presidents from Nixon forward swayed these voters by giving them the policies they wanted. Third, it assumes that the modern conservative policy agenda is best seen as racially motivated. Finally, it assumes that conservative positions on recent controversies are just new forms of that same white-heartland bigotry.

These assumptions are badly flawed...

The facts: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/10/AR2010091002679.html>

Sebelius Has a List

Political thuggery from HHS.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 13 Sept 2010

...Witness Kathleen Sebelius's Thursday letter to America's Health Insurance Plans, the industry trade group—a thuggish message even by her standards. The Health and Human Services secretary wrote that some insurers have been attributing part of their 2011 premium increases to ObamaCare and warned that "there will be zero tolerance for this type of misinformation and unjustified rate increases."

Zero tolerance for expressing an opinion, or offering an explanation to policyholders? They're more subtle than this in Caracas. What Ms. Sebelius really means is that the government will prohibit insurers from doing business if reality is not politically convenient for Democrats...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703597204575483900330728436.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

see also:

Gangster Government Stifles Criticism of Obamacare

by *Michael Barone, 10 Sept 2010*

One Imam, Multiple Messages

The truth about the main figure behind the Ground Zero mosque.

by Ibn Warraq, 13 Sept 2010

Journalist and author Fareed Zakaria has made some grave accusations against those who oppose the building of the Islamic center near Ground Zero, and has predicated his own approval of the project on the moderateness of Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. Zakaria wrote that Abdul Rauf "has said one or two things about American foreign policy that strike me as overly critical — but it's stuff you could read on The Huffington Post any day."

Yes, indeed — you are likely to read similar "stuff" on the *Huffington Post*, since Rauf has written there. But how can that possibly constitute a convincing defense of Rauf? Many *Huffington Post* writers are anti-American, and believe that the U.S. had 9/11 "coming to it." They still have not learned that 9/11 had nothing to do with U.S. foreign policy.

Rauf evidently has not learned that lesson either. On Sept. 30, 2001, *60 Minutes* host Ed Bradley asked him if he thought the U.S. deserved the 9/11 attacks. Rauf replied, "I wouldn't say that the United States deserved what happened, but the United States' policies were an accessory to the crime that happened... We have 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."

More appalling quotes: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/246268>

Mr. McCarthy, as you may know, is the former chief assistant U.S. attorney who led the 1995 terrorism prosecution against Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and eleven others involved in the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center. He explains the deceitful methods Nicholas von Hoffman and Barack Obama learned from Saul Alinsky.

"Organized" crime

by Andrew C. McCarthy, Sept 2010

...Alinsky studied Machiavelli and produced what he saw as the antithesis of *The Prince*. The former, he posited, "was written for the Haves on how to hold power. *Rules for Radicals* is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away." What they might do when they get it is not explained. Alinsky radicals do not know what they want, except that it will be "Change," and it will be perfect. Contrasted to this utopia, no real human society, no matter how decent, stands a chance. It has to be destroyed.

Alinsky also stole voraciously from Marx. The contention that he did no such thing, that he was no Marxist, is another example of the organizer's pose—designed by the master and played to pitch-perfection by the student, Obama. The feint is that Marxism is dogma, whereas the organizer rejects all dogma. Unmoored from rigid principles of any kind, he is merely engaged, we are to understand, in "a pragmatic attack on the system"—a non-ideological quest to give voice to the voiceless. Von Hoffman thus scoffs at conservatives who have purportedly imagined Marx into *Rules*...

...It's all a fable, though, just as when Obama brays, "How dare you call me a socialist!" all the while directing attention away from Van Jones behind the curtain. The organizer is not a freelancing pragmatist. He is pragmatic only within the self-imposed, carefully unstated confines of an immovable framework: the Marxist schema of society as a class struggle. Until the Have-Nots overcome the Haves (the endgame of "change"), there is no justice...

Read it all: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/-Organized--crime-6271>

Resisting a Voracious State

by David Warren, 8 Sept 2010

...The closest thing I can see to hope is currently invested in the tea party movement of the U.S. Notwithstanding the slanders heaped upon it, this movement is good-willed, riot-free, indeed situationally non-urban, and under the leadership of basically sane people. Of course, there is no guarantee that any movement devoted to genuine political change can remain so, under the inevitable provocations.

But something must be done, and here is the closest thing, anywhere in the West, to a political movement committed to the only measure that can possibly save us from riding over that cliff. Merely slowing down won't do it.

That measure is, quite frankly, the complete dismantlement of the Nanny State, and the restoration of the status quo ante—governments focused on the provision of national defence, and domestically on the machinery of law and order. Full stop...

Read the rest: http://www.ottawacitizen.com/story_print.html?id=3492205&sponsor=

More Like Hoover Than FDR

by Jonah Goldberg, 10 Sept 2010

...On liberals' own terms, to argue that we need something like another New Deal or Great Society is to argue that these institutions either don't exist or don't work. But few, if any, liberals say anything like that. Instead, they change the subject. They talk about the Bush years as if they were a cross between a libertarian fantasy and an anarchist dystopia à la Mad Max.

Here's Obama in his Cleveland speech Wednesday, describing the philosophy that defined the Bush years: "Cut taxes, especially for millionaires and billionaires. Cut regulations for special interests. Cut trade deals even if they didn't benefit our workers. Cut back on investments in our people and our future—in education and clean energy, in research and technology. The idea was that if we had blind faith in the market, if we let corporations play by their own rules, if we left everyone else to fend for themselves, America would grow and prosper."

What movie was he watching? At best this is a Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robot battle between delusion and dishonesty. Rhetorically, Bush never advocated anything like any of this. Indeed, Bush the compassionate conservative described his philosophy thus: "When somebody hurts, government has got to move." More concretely, under Bush we had massive spending increases on education, alternative energy, the National Institutes of Health, and health care...

More: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/jonah-goldberg/2010/09/10/the-next-hoover/>

Crimes Against Liberty: An Indictment of President Barack Obama

by David Limbaugh (2010)

http://www.amazon.com/Crimes-Against-Liberty-Indictment-President/dp/1596986247/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1284036508&sr=8-1

At last, hero of ongoing war is alive to receive Medal of Honor

by Larry Shaughnessy, 10 Sept 2010

Medals of Honor have been rare since the end of the Vietnam war. And not one of the recipients from the Somalia, Iraq or Afghanistan deployments have been alive to have the iconic blue ribbon with the gold star draped around his neck. Until now.

The White House Friday announced that **Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta**, 25, of Hiawatha, Iowa, will be awarded the nation's highest medal for valor for his actions in Afghanistan, and he will come to the White House to receive the medal himself. A date for the ceremony has not been announced.

Giunta was a specialist serving with the Airborne 503rd Infantry Regiment on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when his unit was attacked on the night of October 25, 2007...

What happened next: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/09/10/medal.of.honor.recipient/>

Seven Empty Promises About Obamacare

by Peter Suderman, 9 Sept 2010

...Here are seven empty promises made about ObamaCare:

1. If you like your plan, you can keep your plan.
2. It will put Medicare on better fiscal footing.
3. It will cost around \$900 billion.
4. It won't cut Medicare benefits.
5. It will be paid for "mostly" by shifting around money that we're already spending.
6. It will give consumers more access and greater choice.

7. It will bring down the price of insurance...

Details: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/09/09/seven-empty-promises-about>

Never forget. Never forgive.

9/11 Jumpers

mdlestwe4get

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d3K0QuXL24>

(HT: Steve C.)

Man trying to climb down the face of building

tributes4wtcNews

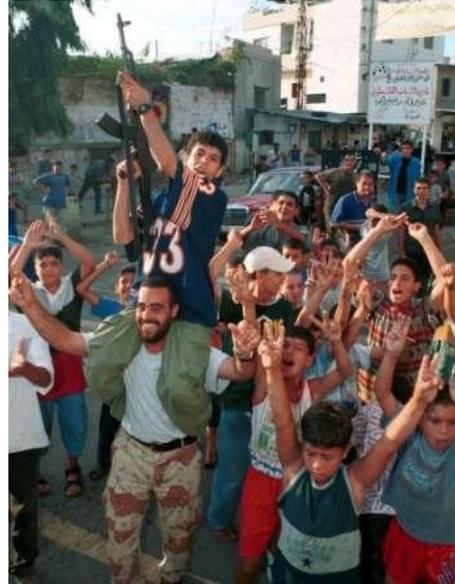
Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFmNCslvCFA&feature=related>

Everyone who rejoiced on 9/11 should be killed.

We've made a start:



But there are millions more:



9/11 and the 9-Year War

by George Friedman, 8 Sept 2010

It has now been nine years since al Qaeda attacked the United States. It has been nine years in which the primary focus of the United States has been on the Islamic world. In addition to a massive investment in homeland security, the United States has engaged in two multi-year, multi-divisional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, inserted forces in other countries in smaller operations and conducted a global covert campaign against al Qaeda and other radical jihadist groups.

In order to understand the last nine years you must understand the first 24 hours of the war—and recall your own feelings in those 24 hours. First, the attack was a shock, its audaciousness frightening. Second, we did not know what was coming next. The attack had destroyed the right to complacent assumptions...

More: http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100907_911_and_9_year_war?utm_source=digg&utm_medium=official&utm_campaign=gweekly

Let's hope he's right. America needs Mitch Daniels.

All the signs point to a Daniels bid for president

by Matthew Tully, 10 Sept 2010

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100910/NEWS08/9100340/Tully-All-signs-say-Daniels-running-for-president>

Your Move, Mr. Abbas

by Charles Krauthammer, 10 Sept 2010

...What will Abbas do? Unable and/or unwilling to make peace, he will exploit President Obama's tactical blunder, the settlement freeze imposed on Israel despite the fact that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations had gone on without such a precondition for 16 years prior. Abbas will walk out if the freeze is not renewed on Sept. 26. You don't need to be prescient to see that coming. Abbas has already announced that is what he'll do.

That would solve all of Abbas's problems. It would obviate signing on to a final settlement, fend off Hamas and make Israel the fall guy.

The trifecta. Why not walk out? The world, which already condemns Israel even for self-defense, will be only too eager to blame Israel for the negotiation breakdown. And there is growing pressure to create a Palestinian state even if the talks fail—i.e., even if the Palestinians make no concessions at all. So why make any?

The talks are well designed. Unfortunately, Abbas knows perfectly well how to undermine them.

More: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/09/AR2010090904999_pf.html

Governor Christie Responds To Teacher During Town Hall

8 Sept 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkuTm-ON904>

The Founding Fathers' First Amendment

by George Neumayr, 9 Sept 2010

...The truth is that the First Amendment protects neither the Ground Zero mosque nor Jones's burning of copies of the Koran. How do we know this? Because under the real First Amendment, the one written by the Founding Fathers, local communities within states were perfectly free to pass laws prohibiting the construction of particular religious buildings or pass laws that banned book burnings.

Six of the thirteen states that signed the Constitution *ran established churches*. It is a historical fact that the First Amendment was written not to suppress those state churches but to protect them. Those six states would have never signed the Constitution otherwise. They insisted on the language, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," to make clear that the federal government had no right to establish its own religion and *disestablish* theirs. The wall of separation in the Constitution is not between government and religion but between the federal government and the states' religious activities...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/09/the-founding-fathers-first-ame>

The truth about the American economy of "the last decade."

The Good Old Days

by Randall Hoven, 9 Sept 2010

When he was running for President in 2008, Barack Obama frequently used the phrase "the last eight years." Now that he's president and it's two years later, he often uses the phrase "the last decade." The standard Democrat story is that our current troubles are simply the result of some bad trend set into motion the very second George W. Bush stole the 2000 election—that we've had a full decade of horror and decline...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/09/the_good_old_days.html

The truth about who pays most of the taxes in America.

Fire Obama

by Peter Ferrara, 8 Sept 2010

...Those on whom President Obama wants to increase taxes, earning more than \$200,000 a year, constitute just

3% of taxpayers. Yet, that 3% already pays more in income taxes than the bottom 97% combined.

Moreover, in regard to the working folks, in 2007, again before President Obama was even elected, the bottom 40% of income earners as a group paid no federal income taxes. Instead, they received net payments from the income tax system equal to 3.8% of all federal income taxes. In other words, they paid negative 3.8% of federal income taxes. The middle 20% of income earners, the actual middle class, paid 4.7% of all federal income taxes.

This is the result of Reagan Republican supply side economics that began with Reagan and Jack Kemp in the 1970s and 1980s, continued through Newt Gingrich and his Contract with America, and further played out with the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003. Reagan and his Republicans abolished federal income taxes on the poor and working class. Moreover, they almost abolished federal income taxes on the actual middle class (the middle 20%).

It was, in fact, Ronald Reagan who first proposed in the 1970s the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), his alternative to welfare, which has done so much to reduce income tax liabilities for lower income people. As President, he cut federal income tax rates across the board for *all* taxpayers by 25%...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/09/08/fire-obama>

This is such a brilliant article that excerpts would be detrimental. Just read it all.

How Obama Thinks

by Dinesh D'Souza, 8 Sept 2010 (Sept 27 issue)

http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2010/0927/politics-socialism-capitalism-private-enterprises-obama-business-problem_print.html

Wrong vs. Rights

On the "Ground Zero Mosque" controversy & the nature of Islam.

by Roger Kimball and Hilton Kramer, Sept 2010 issue

...A spokesman for the mosque project responded, "If you won't consider the sensibilities of Muslims you're not going to build dialogue." Right. And how about considering the sensibilities of Americans who regard building an Islamic community center next to Ground Zero a provocative slap in the face? How is that for building "dialogue"?

The bottom line is this: Islam is a proselytizing, intolerant religion. Its aim is to institute Sharia as the "sole reference point for...ordering the life of the Muslim family, individual, community...and state." That is the end. The means are multifarious. Steering commercial aircraft into American skyscrapers is only one tactic. Using and abusing liberal democratic freedoms in order to promulgate an ideology that is neither liberal nor democratic is less ostentatious but may in the end be more effective precisely because it is less dramatic. This is the lasting significance of the case of the Ground Zero Mosque. It represents another step on the march to Islamize the West.

More: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Wrong-vs--Rights-6273>

Eisenhower Warns Against Planned Burning of *Mein Kampf*

LONDON, June 19, 1944 — The top American commander in Normandy has warned that plans by a small Florida church to burn copies of *Mein Kampf* on Tuesday, the anniversary of the Nazi invasion of Russia, could play into the hands of the very extremists at whom the church says it is directing that message.

Burning copies of *Mein Kampf*, the founding document of Nazism, "would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Germany — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence," the commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said in a telegram to The Associated Press on Tuesday...

Read more in Fear of the Nazi Street, by Baron Bodissey, 7 Sept 2010:

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/09/fear-of-nazi-street.html#readfurther>

The Second Coming of 1994, by the Numbers

by William Galston, 7 Sept 2010

National surveys dominated today's political news, and they made unhappy reading for Democrats. Some of the most interesting findings didn't get widely reported, however. Here they are, with my comments in italics...

Continue: <http://www.tnr.com/blog/77509/the-second-coming-1994-the-numbers>

A Matter of Propriety, Not Rights

by Thomas Sowell, 7 Sept 2010

...It takes a high IQ to evade the obvious, so it is not surprising that the intelligentsia are out in force, decrying those who criticize this calculated insult... There is no question that Muslims have a right to build a mosque where they chose to. The real question is why they chose that particular location, in a country that covers more than 3 million square miles...

...If we all did everything that we have a legal right to do, we could not even survive as individuals, much less as a society. So the question is whether those who are planning a ground zero mosque want to be part of American society or just to see how much they can get away with in American society?

Can anyone in his right mind believe that this was intended to show solidarity with Americans, rather than solidarity with those who attacked America? Does anyone imagine that the Middle East nations, including Iran, from whom financial contributions will be solicited, want to promote reconciliation between Americans and Muslims?...

...There are people for whom moral preening has become a way of life. They are out in force denouncing critics of the ground zero mosque. There are others for whom a citizen of the world affectation puts them one-up on those of us who are grateful to be Americans, and to enjoy a freedom that is all too rare in other countries around the world, even at this late date in human history. They think the United States is somehow on trial and needs to prove itself to others by bending over backward. But bending over backward does not win friends. It loses respect, including self-respect.

Full column:

<http://unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=A+matter+of+propriety%2c+not+rights&articleId=bca9d5be-167c-4f4b-ba95-0f879e2f0512>

Self-Loathing and Dhimmitude in Hartford

City Council Meetings to Begin with Muslim Prayers

by Bob Connors, 8 Sept 2010

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local-beat/Council-Meetings-to-Begin-with-Muslim-Prayers-102387499.html>

Just take one minute to imagine the moaning, weeping, and gnashing of teeth from every liberal in America, if city councils were to make a habit of saying Jewish or Christian prayers!

Bad Medicine Begets Bad Economy

by Steve Forbes, 7 Sept 2010 (September 13 issue)

...A still unindicted culprit in our current woes is Washington's weak-dollar policy. This began under George W. Bush's watch but has worsened under the Obama Administration. In the early part of the last decade the Fed created too much money. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and successor Ben Bernanke were largely blind to their folly because consumer prices didn't soar as they had when the Fed last went on a bender in the 1970s.

They and most other economists suffer from the mistaken belief that if price indexes aren't shooting up or plunging down then there is no inflation or deflation. They don't understand that undermining a currency's intrinsic value doesn't always create uniform symptoms. In the early 1930s, for example, Franklin Roosevelt flippantly devalued the dollar vis-à-vis gold by 40%. Because economic conditions were still depressed, there wasn't a big spike in prices. Nonetheless, the move was damaging and a factor in preventing the kind of sustained, strong and vibrant recovery one would expect after such a precipitous collapse.

Inflation severely damages wealth creation, which keeps the standard of living from rising. The sharp deterioration in the intrinsic value of the dollar since 2003 is a critical reason most people ended up economically treading water or falling back. The same is true for financial markets...

...When people can't trust a currency's stability, they either clutch their money in fear or direct it to hard assets in an effort to preserve its value. In the 1970s capital disproportionately flowed into energy, commercial real estate, farmland and housing. This time, fueled by government policies to "increase the rate of home ownership," housing benefited even more than in the Seventies. Over a brief period of time Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae gave implied federal government guarantees to \$1.5 trillion in junk paper. Thanks to high-tech financial engineering, Wall Street was able to conjure up instruments to fan the flames even more...

...Bernanke, this Treasury Department and the Obama White House will never understand that cheap money severely hampers economic growth by inhibiting productive investment and encouraging speculation in commodities and currencies. Think of it this way: You want to hire somebody at \$30 an hour, but you have a problem because you don't know how long an hour is. We think of an hour as having 60 minutes. But if the number of minutes in an hour fluctuated—as with the value of a dollar—you wouldn't know whether that \$30 is buying a 60-minute hour, a 90-minute hour or a 20-minute hour. You'll think twice about the hiring...

Read the rest. It's GREAT:

<http://www.forbes.com/global/2010/0913/opinions-steve-forbes-fact-comment-bad-medicine-bad-economy.html>

Back To School

by *Walter Russell Mead, 31 Aug 2010*

The anxious emails from students are hitting my in-boxes once again: What time are office hours? Are places in the seminar still available? Where can they get advance copies of the syllabus? I don't have answers to these questions yet; by this time next week I will.

Another school year is ready to begin, and for the first time in decades I will be teaching full-time. Unfortunately, I'm returning to a profession in crisis...

Continue: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/08/31/back-to-school/>

It's a very good essay about the "bubble" in U.S. higher education. And it has lots of good advice for students. But my favorite part is this exchange in the Comments:

Lea Luke said:

"Your advice sounds about right for the gifted few. But for all of us in the middle of the gene pool another strategy is required. Remember when Kennedy said, "A rising tide lifts all boats."? That was true for the generation after WWII. To get there again we will have to do the same things our country did before. That means

- (a) going to a shorter standard work week (30 instead of 40) with time and a half for overtime.
- (b) a general moratorium on immigration without regard to race, religion, or national origin.
- (c) a stiff tariff on imports from a certain 800 pound gorilla (assuming we cannot find a fair and efficient way to redistribute income).

If we did those three things most people wouldn't need a college degree, and wouldn't be strapped with the costs of getting one."

Holy mackerel! A person couldn't come up with a worse prescription, or a more certain route to national serfdom, than this one! A modicum of study of the last 200 years of economic history would demonstrate the folly of restricting trade, the benefits of immigration, and the unintended ill effects of having the state dictate workers's work schedules and/or wages. What intuitively may appear to be a good idea, when examined in light of careful economic analysis shows its true nature. All those ideas involve increasing the scope and power of government—a sure path to economic decline. If the government would get out of the way, and quit making enterprise so difficult and costly, free people would find all sorts of new ways to be productive and achieve their particular ends. You are proposing the government as the solution to what ails us; the truth is that it is the government that ails us. The policies you propose would not have the effects you intend.

Comment by Jim – September 2, 2010 @ 12:04 am

Who is responsible for Warmabomber's violent agenda?

by *Glenn Harlan Reynolds, 5 Sept 2010*

...There are plenty of nuts out there. There are also a lot of scientists. So far, we've been pretty lucky that there aren't more scientists who are also nuts. Though the "mad scientist" is a staple of literature, they're fortunately pretty rare in real life.

But biotechnology is getting more common and—thanks to folks ranging from Paul Ehrlich (Holdren's coauthor) to Al Gore—so are apocalyptic environmental views that treat humans as a cancer upon the earth. How common are these views? I typed "Humanity is a" into Google and the top three suggestions were "Humanity is a virus," "Humanity is a disease," and "Humanity is a cancer."

With such views spreading, and with technology making it steadily easier for individual or small groups to try creating their own viruses or diseases to, in their mind, level the score, perhaps we need to hold the environmental movement responsible for its frequent use of eliminationist rhetoric.

Policing the science is likely to prove difficult. But policing the rhetoric—as American society has long done with expressions of racial hatred or genocidal sentiment—seems well within reach.

In contemporary America, no respectable person would advocate, say, the involuntary sterilization of blacks or Jews. Why, then, should it be any more respectable to advocate the involuntary sterilization of *everyone*? Or even of those who cause "social deterioration?" Likewise, references to particular ethnic or religious groups as "viruses" or "cancers" in need of extirpation are socially unacceptable, triggering immediate thoughts of genocide and mass murder. Why, then, should it be acceptable to refer to all humanity in this fashion? Does widening the circle of eliminationist rhetoric somehow make it better?

I don't see why it should, and I don't see why we should pretend—or allow others to pretend—that hate-filled rhetoric is somehow more acceptable when it's delivered by those wearing green shirts instead of brown...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/102252214.html>

Obama's China Apology Tour

by Gordon G. Chang, 5 Sept 2010

...Obama's good-hearted initiative had backfired, apparently encouraging the very behavior he sought to prevent. Yet what is the president doing now? He is sending even more officials to Beijing. The Chinese will see this as the Apology Tour, the Sequel. The White House is just not learning from its mistakes.

Now would be a good time for the Obama administration to change course. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Sander Levin will begin hearings on China's exchange rate on September 15. The early betting is that he will report out the Tim Ryan bill, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has made it clear she wants legislation soon. In the Senate, Chuck Schumer's legislative proposals have attracted bipartisan support with as perhaps as many as 70 of his colleagues on his side.

Beijing needs to be concerned that a weakened Obama will be in no position to veto legislation targeting the renminbi. China is increasing its dependence on the American market—last year 115.7% of its overall trade surplus related to sales to us, up from 90.1% in 2008. Currency legislation, in short, could add to the woes of the weakening Chinese economy.

And on Iran, it seems much of the international community is lining up behind U.S. sanctions. Reports that the "atomic ayatollahs" are close to weaponizing their uranium is, naturally, drawing the world against the Islamic Republic. Iran and its allies—Beijing is now Tehran's primary backer—look like they might get run over by the global momentum. So, at this moment the Chinese have many more reasons to come talk to us than we have to go see them.

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-09-05/economic-advisor-larry-summers-shouldnt-go-to-china/>

Hypocrisy Is Big Labor's Big Problem

Labor unions don't play by the same rules they try to impose on everyone else.

by Deroy Murdock, 6 Sept 2010

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/245531/hypocrisy-big-labor-s-big-problem-deroy-murdock>

N.B. Don John is a member of several unions.

Victims on the Road to 'Peace'

by Jeff Jacoby, 5 Sept 2010

Talia and Yitzhak Ames met as students at Moscow University. They got married in 1985, and had two children by the time they emigrated to Israel in 1991. Four more children followed in the next 19 years, and Talia was nine months' pregnant with their seventh when she and Yitzhak were murdered by Palestinian terrorists last week.

The killers ambushed them as they were driving home Tuesday night, heading south on Highway 60 toward Beit Haggai in the Hebron Hills. With Talia and Yitzhak in the car when the killers opened fire were two other residents of Beit Haggai: Avishai Schindler, a newly married yeshiva student, and Kochava Even-Haim, a nursery school teacher and the mother of an 8-year-old daughter. All of the victims were shot repeatedly at close range, and the car was riddled with dozens of bullets.

Hamas, a terrorist organization whose charter extols the murder of Jews, promptly claimed responsibility for the massacre...

Read on: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/09/05/victims_on_the_road_to_peace/

Two "useful idiot" columns

America's History of Fear

by Nicholas Kristof, 5 Sept 2010

...Screeds against Catholics from the 19th century sounded just like the invective today against the Not-at-Ground-Zero Mosque. The starting point isn't hatred but fear: an alarm among patriots that newcomers don't share their values, don't believe in democracy, and may harm innocent Americans.

Followers of these movements against Irish, Germans, Italians, Chinese and other immigrants were mostly decent, well-meaning people trying to protect their country. But they were manipulated by demagogues playing upon their fears — the 19th- and 20th-century equivalents of Glenn Beck...

More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/05/opinion/05kristof.html?ref=opinion>

Mr. Kristof is willfully ignorant of Islam's unique nature. Unlike the other groups he says Americans used to fear, Muslims are in thrall to what is clearly a warlike and intolerant religion, as demonstrated in its holy texts, *and* in the countries it controls, *and* in its treatment of 'infidels' throughout the nearly 1400 years of its existence. Most people who oppose the Ground Zero Mosque are tolerant of people who happen to be Muslim; but we are not inclined to be tolerant of institutions that are intolerant of us. That way lie defeat and slavery.

—Don John

What America Has Lost

It's clear we overreacted to 9/11.

by Fareed Zakaria, 4 Sept 2010

Nine years after 9/11, can anyone doubt that Al Qaeda is simply not that deadly a threat? Since that gruesome day in 2001, once governments everywhere began serious countermeasures, Osama bin Laden's terror network has been unable to launch a single major attack on high-value targets in the United States and Europe...

More: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/09/04/zakaria-why-america-overreacted-to-9-11.html>

After crediting those "serious countermeasures" with preventing a major attack, Mr. Zakaria then goes on to complain that most of them were an overreaction. His cluelessness is breathtaking, on a par with this copy read by ABC's Peter Jennings on *World News Tonight*, 27 May 2004: "Today the government said that America's prison population grew 2.9 percent last year to nearly 2.1 million. That's a record number of people in jail and prison. One out of every 75 American men was incarcerated. The number went up even though the crime rate continued to fall."

—Don John

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Useful_idiot

Testing Chávez

by Roger Noriega, 3 Sept 2010

Public opinion polls leading up to September 26 elections in Venezuela show that leftist President Hugo Chávez may have to resort to blatant fraud in order to deny the democratic opposition substantial gains in the national assembly. Presidential palace insiders are so panicked by recent polls that they have muzzled Chávez, lest his incendiary rhetoric energize the growing opposition vote. His closest advisors are scrambling to be able to blame their bombastic leader for bad news on election day. The very public death Tuesday of hunger striker Franklin Brito, a 49-year-old farmer protesting the regime's expropriation of his family's land, will do even more to rally the opposition and put Chávez on the defensive.

Chávez has stacked the deck against the opposition—denying them fair access to the media, using state resources to fund official candidates, and imposing a formula that gives disproportionate representation to states where he is strongest. Despite these unfair advantages, recent polls suggest that the regime will have to resort to brazen manipulation to undercount opposition votes and to steal assembly seats.

Although Chávez handily won election in 1998, a decade of mismanagement, notorious food shortages, spiraling crime rates, electricity blackouts, economic chaos, and human rights violations have taken a drastic toll on his approval ratings. Although most opposition leaders know that Chávez will stop at nothing to retain power, they are buoyed by public polls giving them a double-digit lead over Chávez's United Socialist Party of Venezuela...

More: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/september/testing-chavez>

Internationalism Run Amok

by Claudia Rosett, 3 Sept 2010

...If this sounds like an exercise in universal justice, it is anything but. This setup ignores crucial differences between free and unfree countries. Unfree countries have no reliable mechanisms for policing their own human rights violations. Their citizens are at the mercy of governments which rule not by consent, but by force. It was to address that problem that the U.N. originally set up a human rights body, which—sadly but predictably, given the U.N. system—has been repeatedly captured and corrupted by the violators.

Genuinely free and democratic countries, notably the U.S., have built-in mechanisms for policing themselves. It does their citizens no service to officially involve in that process a U.N. club of foreign governments, especially when that club brings with it the agendas of such states as Libya, Saudi Arabia, China, Russia or Cuba. For that matter, under U.N. rules, any U.N. member state may weigh in on these "human rights" reports, whether a member of the Human Rights Council or not. Iran, for instance, is not a member of the Human Rights Council. Nonetheless, while murdering its own dissidents, executing homosexuals, and calling for a second Holocaust, Iran's government has weighed in on U.N. "human rights" reviews of countries such as Norway and the Netherlands, advising them to combat xenophobia and strengthen their rules against Islamophobia (advice which a U.N. database shows has been, in both cases, meekly "accepted.")...

Read the rest: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/09/03/barack-obama-united-nations-human-rights-opinions-columnists-claudia-rosett.html>

Two views of Martin Luther King's political beliefs

Why Martin Luther King Was Republican *by Frances Rice, 16 Aug 2006*

A Legend Fit for a King *by Matt Purple, 3 Sept 2010*

'Fear not, Sheriff Joe – The sheriffs of America stand by you,'

says Arizona Sheriff Babeu

by Penny Starr, 3 Sept 2010

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/72236>

Why we love Geert Wilders, Part 83

Scumbag jihadis who radicalize children and blame rape victims want him dead.

Muslim cleric calls for beheading of Dutch politician

by Ben Berkowitz, 3 Sept 2010

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100903/wl_nm/us_dutch_wilders

Queering Education

by Mary Grabar, 3 Sept 2010

The recent court rulings against students Jennifer Keeton in Georgia and Julea Ward in Michigan reveal the power amassed by the cabal of radicals in academia who have pushed the gay agenda into education. In both cases, judges upheld the right of counseling departments at public universities to expel Christian students who refused to counsel homosexuals in a manner that affirmed their homosexuality...

...The gay-positive lifestyle is being promoted aggressively in K-12 schools, often under the cover of anti-bullying efforts, under the leadership of Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools. Before his federal appointment, Jennings founded and ran GLSEN, (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network). Under Jennings' direction, GLSEN was involved in activities that affirmed homosexuality to children with explicit materials.

Jennings also wrote the foreword to a book titled *Queering Elementary Education*.

GLSEN, which in the 2008-2009 year enjoyed a \$157,500 contribution from the NEA, the largest teachers union in the country, pitches its materials and training services to schools. It targets not only high school students, but *middle school* students. For example, the video and teachers guide for *Out of the Past*, about a 17-year-old who begins a gay-straight alliance group in her public school, is targeted for grades 7 through 12.

But this spring, the Eagle Forum reported that the American College of Pediatricians urged all 14,800 U.S. school district superintendents to avoid prematurely labeling children as homosexual. The College president cited studies showing that most adolescents who experience same-sex attraction no longer do so by age 25.

Such studies are ignored by the organizations that put out a brochure titled "Just the Facts about Sexual Development of Youth." These organizations include not only the two largest teachers' unions, but also the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association. Who else is on the list? Why the American Counseling Association, the very group that provides the "professional" standards for the public universities where Ward and Keeton studied...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/09/queering_education.html

The truth about that dishonest *Vanity Fair* Palin story, from one who was there

by Dr. Gina Loudon, 3 Sept 2010

...Reading his tripe was excruciating. Some 90% of the hard accusations are attributed to anonymous "sources"...

...I have read a lot of MSM slime over the years, but never, ever have I felt subjected to a more jealous, petty, sophomoric, disturbed piece of ragslime than I do after reading this latest on Sarah Palin...

...As I stood backstage with the Palins I remember a reporter asking me if I were "Trig's Nanny" with a hint of something I didn't trust in his eyes. I coldly retorted, "no, I am Samuel's mother." He looked confused, and had more questions to follow. In his *VF* story, he said that no one is willing to speak about Sarah "on the record" unless they are paid by her, or afraid. I was one of the people you interviewed, Mr. Gross. I am not paid, or afraid. But since you opted not to print what I told you, here is the rest of the story: Since the first time the Governor saw my son Samuel (who also has Down syndrome), she bolts across the room to greet him every time she sees him. She nuzzles him like a mother who loves children with Down syndrome does. I remember commenting to my husband that she always "does the mama smell" of Samuel, that only moms understand.

All of the Palin children circle around Samuel the moment they can get close, but Piper, in particular, cannot seem to get enough of him. She literally plays with him (Gross does say she played with "the children" in his story) from the moment she sees him, until the moment she is pressed to let go of him. It is so sweet, and it speaks to the parenting in her life. She has obviously been taught a real, tangible love for "special children" by her parents, and it shines when she lights up at the sight of a baby with Down syndrome. This is not an ordinary reaction in children. Most children step away, look curious, or frightened, or confused. Not the Palin children, and especially not little Piper...

Read the rest: <http://bigjournalism.com/gloudon/2010/09/03/the-truth-about-that-dishonest-vanity-fair-palin-story-from-one-who-was-there/>

More mosque revelations

New York Post editorial, 3 Sept 2010

...It was reported last night that Hisham Elzanaty—an Egyptian-born businessman from Long Island—provided a big chunk of the \$4.8 million needed to buy the building that will be demolished to make way for the mosque. Among other things, Elzanaty runs a Bronx-based medicinal supply company that had to refund more than \$300,000 in Medicaid payments in 2004-2005. In 1999, he donated thousands to the Holy Land Foundation, later shuttered by the feds because of its Hamas ties...

...Rauf, who's due back in New York this weekend after a long trip abroad, has plenty of explaining to do to the people he's been thumbing in the eye for weeks.

First there is Elzanaty's role, of course. Then there's the elephant in the room: Whence the \$100 million needed for the mosque? And then there is this: At a forum in Dubai on Tuesday, Rauf appeared to call the 71 percent of New Yorkers who oppose his project religious "extremists"...

The rest: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/editorials/more_mosque_revelations_yMtNnRzphiKKAGJQksoQN

Times to City: Drop Dead

Heedless editors in thoughtless attack on New Yorkers.

by James Taranto, 3 Sept 2010

...The snooty tone is bad enough, but to take the full measure of the Times's boorishness, you have to consider the full context. The reason we know that two-thirds of New Yorkers oppose the Ground Zero mosque is that *the New York Times* asked them. Some of those who answered are quoted by name in the news story...

...At the very least, the Times owes Marilyn Fisher, Richard Merton and Maria Missetzis an apology. These people did not seek out the controversy. They were minding their own business when the Times came to them and asked their opinions, only to hold those opinions up for derision.

Which, come to think of it, is a synecdoche for the entire mosque debate. The developers pitch the idea as a symbol of reconciliation. No thank you, say most Americans, a mosque at that location makes us uneasy. Now the liberal media and political elites, always certain that they know best, are determined to harangue the country—and the city—into submission...

Ebert vs. Nadler

...*Fahrenheit 9/11* made charges against Bush that actually *were* slanderous, unlike the false but benign claim that Obama is Muslim. That didn't bother Ebert, who gave this crouckumentary 3½ thumbs up.

What a difference a change of party makes. Today Ebert complains of the "thoughtlessness and credulity" of citizens "who have been infected" by falsehoods about the president. In 2004, when he called Michael Moore a "rabble-rouser," he meant it as a compliment. Ebert should stick to movies, for his political pronouncements carry no moral weight...

More of both: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703946504575469603863768286.html#printMode>

'Clunkers,' a classic government folly

by Jeff Jacoby, 1 Sept 2010

In the market for a used car? Good luck finding a bargain: The price of "pre-owned" vehicles has climbed considerably over the past year. According to Edmunds.com, a website for car buyers, a three-year-old automobile today will set you back, on average, close to \$20,000 — a spike of more than 10 percent since last summer. For some popular models, the increase has been much steeper. In July, a used Cadillac Escalade was going for around \$35,000, or nearly 36 percent over last July's price.

Why are used-car prices rocketing?...

More: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/09/01/clunkers_a_classic_government_folly/

Couldn't be due to clueless government meddling, could it?

Versions of this have been on the Web since at least 2006. But people keep on sending it and posting it, because it's so damned good that it bears repeating.

Win-Win Solutions

Everyone concentrates on the problems we're having in our country lately: Illegal immigration, hurricane recovery, alligators attacking people in Florida. Not me—I concentrate on solutions for the problems.

It's a win-win situation. Dig a moat the length of the Mexican border. Send the dirt to New Orleans to raise the level of the levees. And put the Florida alligators in the moat along the Mexican border.

Any other problems you would like for me to solve today? How about these: Cows; the Constitution; and the Ten Commandments.

COWS: Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that during the mad cow epidemic our government could track a single cow, born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she slept in the state of Washington? And, they tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow.

THE CONSTITUTION: They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it has worked for over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS: The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this—you cannot post 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' and 'Thou Shall Not Lie' in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.

(Hat tip: Carl A.)

Where's My Congressman?

HeritageForAmerica, 23 Aug 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?roi=echo3-6843613793-4579598-49505d24d0f41a3a7397f91f491bd44b&UA-16902633-1&v=4T9iQyKKoSQ>

This is the fault of Obama's fellow-fascist friend and mentor, Dictator Hugo Chavez

Venezuela hunger striker dies

Farmer in land dispute with government; human rights violations charged.

by Ian James, 31 Aug 2010

A farmer who held repeated hunger strikes in a land dispute with Venezuela's government has died in a military hospital where he had been taken against his will.

For opponents of President Hugo Chavez, Franklin Brito's emaciated figure became a symbol of government highhandedness, and they joined the family Tuesday in accusing the government of violating his rights...

...The 49-year-old farmer began his protests in 2004, blaming the government for the seizure of a portion of his 716 acres (290 hectares) by other farmers who invaded his property. The squatters moved onto land where Brito grew cassava, watermelons and cantaloupes after the government gave permission to others to work adjacent lands — eventually cutting off his access to the farm.

Such conflicts have played out across Venezuela as Chavez's socialist-oriented government has backed seizures of farms that it deems unproductive and has awarded supporters with plots to cultivate.

More: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38943180/ns/world_news-americas

also:

Franklin Brito Dies After Several Hunger Strikes *by Silvia Viñas, 31 Aug 2010*

Venezuela hunger striker's death angers Chavez foes *by Andrew Cawthorne, 31 Aug 2010*

Life, liberty and property *by P.G., 31 Aug 2010*

Duncan's Invitation Just the Start of the Problem

by Neal McCluskey, 31 Aug 2010

So U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan invited every Education Department employee to attend Rev. Al Sharpton's Glenn Beck counter-rally. As David Boaz [explained in the *Examiner*](#), it was a "highly inappropriate" thing to do, pushing people who are supposed to serve all Americans to support one side of a "political debate." But that's just the most obvious problem with Duncan's weekend doings...

Continue: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/duncans-invitation-just-the-start-of-the-problem/>

Simpson and the Sacred Cow

The reaction to the former senator's comments on Social Security shows he's right.

by Jacob Sullum, 1 Sept 2010

Alan Simpson violated a taboo last week when he [likened](#) Social Security to "a milk cow with 310 million tits." But contrary to the dictionary-deprived [critics](#) who accused him of sexist vulgarity, the former Wyoming senator's transgression had nothing to do with his use of a perfectly [acceptable](#) synonym for *teat*. Simpson's real sin was "belittling a bedrock program," as the AARP [put it](#)—i.e., showing insufficient reverence for a sacred cow.

To Simpson's detractors, it is self-evident that a man who supports entitlement reform has no business serving on, let alone co-chairing, a presidential [commission](#) devoted to fiscal responsibility. But anyone who takes an honest look at the federal budget can see how crazy that position is...

Read on: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/09/01/simpson-and-the-sacred-cow>

Dear Patients: Vote to Repeal ObamaCare

Don't believe Democrats who promise to fix the bill once they're re-elected.

by Dr. Hal Scherz, 1 Sept 2010

...To counter this election-year ruse, my colleagues and I at Docs4PatientCare are enlisting thousands of doctors in an unorthodox and unprecedented action. Our patients have always expected a certain standard of care from their doctors, which includes providing them with pertinent information that may affect their quality of life. Because the issue this election is so stark—literally life and death for millions of Americans in the years ahead—we are this week posting a "Dear Patient" letter in our waiting rooms. The letter states in unambiguous language what the new law means:

"Dear Patient: Section 1311 of the new health care legislation gives the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and her appointees the power to establish care guidelines that your doctor must abide by or face penalties and fines. In making doctors answerable in the federal bureaucracy this bill effectively makes them government employees and means that you and your doctor are no longer in charge of your health care decisions. This new law politicizes medicine and in my opinion destroys the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship that makes the American health care system the best in the world."

Our doctor's letter points out that, in addition to "badly exacerbating the current doctor shortage," ObamaCare will bring "major cost increases, rising insurance premiums, higher taxes, a decline in new medical techniques, a fall-off in the development of miracle drugs as well as rationing by government panels and by bureaucrats like passionate rationing advocate Donald Berwick that will force delays of months or sometimes years for hospitalization or surgery."

We cite the brute facts of ObamaCare's passage...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703369704575461840575037482.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

All you need to know about James J. Lee

Don John, 1 Sept 2010

He was an eco-lunatic and global warming hysteric, heavily influenced by Al Gore's movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. His website, Savetheplanetprotest.com, contained demands that the Discovery Channel air programing urging people to stop having babies, which he said was leading to the overpopulation of the planet: "Civilization must be exposed for the filth it is...Saving the Planet means saving what's left of the non-human Wildlife by decreasing the Human population. That means stopping the human race from breeding any more disgusting human babies!"

On 1 Sept 2010, he took three people hostage, waving a gun and apparently fitted out with explosives, in the headquarters of the Discovery Channel in Silver Spring MD. When he pointed his gun at a hostage, a policeman shot him dead. And a good thing, too. He was just a waste of our precious natural resources.

We Miss Bush!

by Jennifer Rubin, 1 Sept 2010

This, from Democratic pollster Tom Jensen of Public Policy Polling, caused quite a stir yesterday: "By a 50-42 margin voters [in Ohio] say they'd rather have George W. Bush in the White House right now than Barack Obama. Independents hold that view by a 44-37 margin and there are more Democrats who would take Bush back (11%) than there are Republicans who think Obama's preferable (3%)."...

...Obama has, for his entire candidacy and presidency, blamed Bush for practically everything. He has contorted his predecessor's policy decisions — including downplaying all talk of democracy promotion and reversing a reasonable approach to terrorist prosecutions — in order to be the not-Bush president. But now, *the public likes Bush better*. Think of that. Recall how reviled — unfairly, very unfairly, I would submit — Bush was at the end of his term. And in a mere 18 months, the public has decided that for all his shortcomings, he was a better president than the guy who is there now...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/351216>

Obama tells the U.N. how great he is

Washington Examiner editorial, 30 Aug 2010

President Obama's administration recently submitted a report to the United Nations on human rights in America. The 29-page report shows the nation badly flawed but fortunate to have a Nobel Prize winner as its leader. The report is billed as "a partial snapshot of the current human rights situation in the United States, including some of the areas where

problems persist in our society."...

...This is a self-serving political document that portrays Obama policies as great leaps forward, and things he opposes as steps backward. In the Bush years, America ignored the UN High Commission on Human Rights because the panel too often gave voice and sometimes positions of leadership to such human rights beacons as Cuba and China. Now, under Obama, our government is producing propaganda for world consumption at the expense of the American people. In other words, Obama has not merely joined Cuba and China on the commission, he is imitating their leaders' tactics, too.

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Obama-tells-the-U_N_-how-great-he-is-653947-101822078.html

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

Disabled American Veterans

Our Military

Be sure to read these superb pieces:

The Descent of Liberalism *by Michael Knox Beran*

The State Despotism *by Mark Steyn*

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

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

Just Make Stuff Up *by Victor Davis Hanson*

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

Health Care Mythology *by Clifford Asness*

And here's what a trillion dollars looks like.