

Left unprepared for ObamaCare ruling

by Jennifer Rubin, 31 Jan 2011, 6:32pm EST

Liberal pundits who have consulted [liberal law professors](#) about liberals' great achievement—ObamaCare—are pronouncing the ruling by Judge Roger Vinson to be much to do about nothing. The ruling is . . . um. . . thinking of a case liberals hate. . . um. . . **just like *Bush v. Gore*!** (Except it has nothing to do with the Equal Protection Clause or any other aspect of that case.) **It is, we are told,** "curious," "odd," or "unconventional."

These are complaints, not legal arguments. And they suggest that the left was totally unprepared for the constitutional attack on their beloved handiwork. After all, the recent mocking by the left of conservatives' reverence for the Constitution suggests they are mystified that a 200-year old document could get in the way of their historic achievement. They are truly nonplussed, and so they vamp, not with reasoned analysis but with an outpouring of adjectives.

Liberals are particularly perturbed by Judge Vinson's ruling on severability, the determination as to whether the individual mandate is so central to the law as to make the law unrecognizable and unenforceable without it. But here, the left has only the administration and the Democratic Congress to blame.

More: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/right-turn/2011/01/left_unreasoned_and_unprepared.html

Florida judge strikes down *entirety* of Obamacare

by Daniel Foster, 31 Jan 2011, 3:17pm EST

Federal District Court judge Roger Vinson has ruled that the entire Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional. The ruling does not — as some hoped — halt the implementation of the law, but it is the widest invalidation of Obamacare to yet emerge from the courts.

The ruling is [here](#). More as I—and far abler minds—read it.

...UPDATE: Vinson's opinion is a summary judgment, meaning there are no disputes on matters of fact between the states and individuals comprising the plaintiffs and the federal government. At issue are pure matters of law: the constitutionality of the individual mandate under the Commerce Clause, and of the unfunded Medicaid expansion under the Spending Clause, Ninth, and Tenth Amendments. Indeed, early in the decision Vinson signals he sees the case as one about federalism...

...UPDATE III: The one question I've been getting most is why the ruling didn't enjoin the ACA altogether. Simply put, Vinson assumes the good faith of the government in enforcing the law as it is read by the court, making separate injunction "unnecessary."...

...Whether that faith is misplaced remains to be seen.

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/258484/florida-judge-strikes-down-entirety-obamacare-daniel-foster>

Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Leader: "Prepare for War with Israel"

by Pamela Geller, 31 Jan 2011

The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt calls for war with the tiny Jewish state. What better way to unify the ummah than with tried-and-true, religiously mandated Islamic anti-semitism?

For all of those quisling clowns desperately trying to scrub the Muslim Brotherhood, here is a good hard slap in the face. Further, it's interesting how the Muslim Brotherhood blames Israel for Mubarak's regime. Not the \$300 billion the US has pumped into Egypt. The peace accord (no matter how cold) was a good thing. Now we hear that Obama's would-be peace partners, Muslim Brotherhood's Hamas, are going to destroy the accord. But they want peace with the Jews; get it? Me neither.

Obama has been secretly supporting this revolution for three years. Why? He ignored the people of Iran marching against the annihilationist mullahcracy of Iran. He gave his tacit support to mass slaughter where millions took to the streets.

Anyone who sees this as a good thing secretly dreams of the annihilation of Israel. Big media is not giving you the story. Instead they have the Muslim Brotherhood's US group on, CAIR, calling in from Egypt (and mis-identifying Ahmed Rehab of CAIR as a "democracy activist"). And that was FOX. It's that bad.

Obama's hard left operatives, like frequent White House visitor CODE PINK, are in Egypt now. Coincidence? Methinks not. I don't believe Obama "lost Egypt"; I believe he kicked it to the curb...

More: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/01/egyptian-muslim-brotherhood-leader-prepare-for-war-with-israel-1.html

America and the Middle East food riots

by Steve McCann, 31 Jan 2011

Perhaps the most over used but most accurate term used to describe the policies and ideology of the American Left is the "Law of Unintended Consequences." There is virtually nothing that these people espouse that once put in place has not had detrimental effects on either the people of the United States or the world.

Today there is a global food shortage and sky-rocketing prices. This has become the underlying factor in the riots in Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, where up to 56% of a person's income is dedicated to the acquisition of food. These riots are now leading to the upheaval of governments and the very real possibility of the ascendancy of the radical elements into control.

While bad weather in various parts of the world is an element of the accelerating food prices there are two other factors directly related to the United States and its policies...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/america_and_the_middle_east_fo.html

Watching Egypt

by David Warren, 29 Jan 2011

...From what I can make out, in Egypt and elsewhere, the people on the streets are the "accredited"—the bourgeoisie. They are the ones who could most benefit from western-style constitutional government and would suffer most if the government falls into the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood. They are, in terms of "class," the same people who have revolted in Iran—haplessly against the Islamist regime of the ayatollahs.

We'd like to think they are simply "the people," and I should admit that on a couple of occasions I have fallen into this conceit myself. The rhetoric of the Bush administration took them in this way, fondly hoping that with the passage of time, "modern" attitudes would keep spreading, as they once did in Europe, and have done more recently in countries of the Pacific Rim. The "neo-conservatives" sincerely believed that once constitutional democracy is implanted, it will grow, until it can be sustained by habit. India, "the world's largest democracy," is the standard example of this sort of miracle.

By contrast, the Obama administration has no idea what is happening or what it is doing, and Hillary Clinton is actually overrated as a secretary of state. This means that American influence—potentially decisive until quite recently—can now be fully discounted...

More: <http://www.davidwarrenonline.com/index.php?id=1240>

Fear the Muslim Brotherhood

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 31 Jan 2011

At the Daily Beast, Bruce Riedel has posted an essay called "Don't fear Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood," the classic, conventional-wisdom response to the crisis in Egypt. The Muslim Brotherhood is just fine, he'd have you believe, no need to worry. After all, the Brothers have even renounced violence!

One might wonder how an organization can be thought to have renounced violence when it has inspired more jihadists than any other, and when its Palestinian branch, the Islamic Resistance Movement, is probably more familiar to you by the name Hamas — a terrorist organization committed by charter to the violent destruction of Israel. Indeed, in recent years, the Brotherhood (a.k.a., the Ikhwan) has enthusiastically praised jihad and even applauded — albeit in more muted tones — Osama bin Laden. None of that, though, is an obstacle for Mr. Riedel, a former CIA officer who is now a Brookings scholar and Obama administration national-security adviser. Following the template the progressive (and bipartisan) foreign-policy establishment has been sculpting for years, his "no worries" conclusion is woven from a laughably incomplete history of the Ikhwan...

Read the rest: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/258419>

Why is Jim Wallis polishing the windows on his glass house?

by Peter Wehner, 31 Jan 2011

...Perhaps the deeper thing to take away from this is that civility is difficult to achieve unless we gain some mental and emotional distance from political disputes. People on both sides of the divide employ double standards to advance their cause. What a reasonable person would consider an ad hominem attack is, for an ideologue, considered a self-evident truth. If you're a person on the hard left, as Wallis is, accusing Rumsfeld, Cheney, a conservative journalist and the Tea Party Movement of being liars, corrupt, war criminals, and racists is giving expression to what you consider to be a self-evident truth. Wallis even goes so far as to portray himself as a force moving us to a "kinder and gentler public square." This is self-deception of a high order.

Those on the right are susceptible to the same temptations. They can accuse Barack Obama of hating white people and of being committed to destroying the country while also believing no lines have been crossed, that the charges are themselves incontestable.

This doesn't mean that harsh judgments are never called for. Some people are knaves, while others are fools...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/388511#more-388511>

Will Charter Schools Cure America's Blues?

by Walter Russell Mead, 26 Jan 2011

...So I don't say charter schools are on the cutting edge because they are going to turn our inner city kids into Singapore-style math whizzes anytime soon. But they are doing at least as well as the schools we have — and they are pointing the way to the kind of political and social transformation that can take us past the stagnant and dysfunctional world of Big Blue Bureaucracy into something more sustainable and more hopeful.

The first thing they've done is to open the first serious debate among Blacks about the deficiencies in the blue social model. The weakness at the heart of blue politics today is not the divide between people who love government services and those who want the government to shrink. That reaction is a problem for the blues, but it doesn't split the blue coalition. The widening gap, however, between the interests of the consumers of government services and the producers of those services has the potential to split Blue America down the middle.

The public sector unions and the many other interest groups tightly clustered around the modern state want us to think that the interests of the consumers and the producers of government services are identical: that if we want good government services we have to pay their price. If you care about education you have to pay for whatever the teachers' union defines that to mean. If you care about universities and affordable college education you have to ask the university presidents how much they want — and fork over however many billions they tell you it takes. If you care about better trash removal or mass transit, you must pump more and more money into the existing, unionized machine without asking any questions about how that machine is organized. Work rules aren't the problem; unsustainable pensions promised by irresponsibly demagogic politicians aren't the problem; gold plated health programs and early retirement have nothing to do with it. The problem is a shortage of money, and the only possible cure for any problem with government services is an increase in taxpayer funds...

More: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/01/26/will-charter-schools-cure-americas-blues/>

An actual videotape of three dinosaurs wondering what a meteor is

unearthed by P.J. Salvatore, 29 Jan 2011

Watch it [here](#), or [here](#).

The worst of Times

by Michael Goodwin, 30 Jan 2011

The *New York Times* today offers what it calls the backstory on its publication of the stolen WikiLeaks documents. It includes the intriguing fact that the White House didn't try very hard to deter publication, but the report by executive editor Bill Keller mostly reads like house propaganda and a Pulitzer application. There is a laugh-out-loud moment. It comes when Keller writes that "it is our aim to be impartial in our presentation of the news." It's hard to imagine he believes that. Certainly nobody else does.

The upshot of Keller's piece, which appears in the magazine section and an e-book, is that you'll have to look elsewhere if you want truth or honest introspection. For that, I recommend *Gray Lady Down*, a book that gives the backstory of what has gone wrong at the *Times* itself...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/the_worst_of_times_qq3CxZl5hkiLq2t27jq00

Waivers for Favors: Big Labor's ObamaCare escape hatch

by Michelle Malkin, 28 Jan 2011

...At the end of last year, the Department of Health and Human Services had granted some 222 temporary waivers to businesses small and large, insurers, labor and other organizations that offer affordable health insurance or prescription drug coverage with limited benefits. On Wednesday, the agency quietly updated its online list, which now reveals a whopping total of 729 Obamacare escapees—in addition to four states, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee—who collectively cover about 2.1 million enrollees...

...Most noteworthy: One-fourth of all the waivers (182) so far have gone to Big Labor groups across the country.

The Teamsters Union, which hailed Obama last March for "enacting historic health care reform"...

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which celebrated the passage of Obamacare...

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers—which exulted after the health care law's passage...

The Communications Workers of America, which sent its workers to lobby for Obamacare on Capitol Hill...

The Service Employees International Union, which poured \$60 million into Democratic/Obama coffers in 2008 and millions more into the campaign for the federal health care takeover...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/michelle-malkin/waivers-for-favors-big-labor-s-obamacare-escape-hatch.html>

Uncle Sam in the driver's seat

by George F. Will, 30 Jan 2011

Disregard Barack Obama's rhetorical cotton candy about aspiring to be transformative. He is just another practitioner of reactionary liberalism and champion of a government unchastened by its multiplying failures...

...The day after Obama told the nation that the key to prosperity is creativity defined by this government and propelled by more government spending ("investment"), the Congressional Budget Office said that this year's budget gap is widening to \$1.5 trillion, making the national debt 70 percent of gross domestic product, up from 40 percent in 2008.

But Michigan's Levin brothers remain faithful to Obamanomics, which holds that prosperity is just around the corner—if government spends more on innovations it imagines. Sen. Carl Levin and Rep. Sander Levin have a combined 60 years of Capitol Hill tenure, and an innovation.

Like most liberals' new ideas, theirs is to make an old idea more expensive. The day of the CBO's dark forecast, the Levins said that the government should double the scope of its program to bribe people to buy a kind of car the government likes much more than do buyers of cars...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/28/AR2011012805175.html>

Rebellion in the Land of the Pharaohs

by Fouad Ajami, 29 Jan 2011

"When Ramses II was over eighty he celebrated his rejuvenation at the feast of Set, repeating it yearly until he was ninety and more, and displaying his power of rejuvenation to the Gods above in the Obelisks he regularly erected as a memorial, which the aged Pharaoh decorated with electrum at the top so that their brightness should pour over lands of Egypt when the sun was mirrored in them."

This is from a classic account of this ancient and ordered land, *The Nile in Egypt*, by Emil Ludwig (1937). Hosni Mubarak, the military officer who became Pharaoh in his own right, is well over 80. His is the third-longest reign since Ramses, who ruled for 67 years. The second-longest had belonged to a remarkable soldier of fortune, Muhammad Ali, an Albanian by birth and the creator of modern Egypt, who conquered the country in the opening years of the 19th century and ruled for five decades. His dynasty was to govern Egypt until the middle years of the 20th century.

In the received image of it, Egypt is the most stable of nations, a place of continuity on the banks of a sanguine river. Egyptians, the chronicles tell us, never killed their pharaohs. Anwar al-Sadat had been the first. But this received image conceals a good deal of tumult. The submission to the will of Gods and rulers has been punctured by ferocious rebellions...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703956604576110131980631472.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Evil-Man Economics

National Review editorial, 28 Jan 2011

Chairman Phil Angelides and the Democratic majority on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission have released their report, a textbook-worthy example of the "Evil Man School of Economics." Something went wrong, and a villain must be identified. This is tediously familiar territory for those who have followed the political establishment's years-long attempt to evade responsibility for the crisis of which it was a cause...

Bitng commentary: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/258239>

How do you shut down the Internet in a whole country?

by Natalie Wolchover, 28 Jan 2011

...In Egypt's case, the government owns the main service provider (Telecom Egypt), according to William Lehr, another Internet expert at MIT. "[This allows the Egyptian state to wage] significant control over the international telecom interconnection facilities that provide the physical transport for the international Internet connections," Lehr wrote to Life's Little Mysteries. "Shutting off those circuits effectively shuts off the traffic from Egypt to the rest of the world that occurs over those circuits."

Whether or not other governments—for example, the U.S. government—are able to shut down the Internet is "a regulatory question," said Clark. "In a time of crisis, does a government have the powers to compel the ISPs to take such an action?" In the U.S., the answer is noh—not only does President Barack Obama, or any president, not have access to a physical "switch" that turns off the Internet, he also has no control over ISPs.

That could change, however, if the "Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset" bill, introduced in the Senate last summer, ever passes. The bill would effectively give the president an Internet kill-switch to be used in cases of national cyber-emergency, which presumably would stall the operation of this country's ISPs. Rather than blocking free-speech, the bill is intended to protect the economic infrastructure from cyberterrorists; still, it has many free-speech advocates worried—especially in light of the recent turn of events in Egypt.

Lehr explained that even in Egypt, "there are likely to be leaky ways to bypass..."

More: <http://www.lifesslittlemysteries.com/how-do-you-shut-down-the-internet-whole-country-1281/>

Mead's 2700-word article is worth reading. And this column by Chantrill is a good answer to it.

Blacks and the Blue Social Model

by Christopher Chantrill, 24 Jan 2011

Scholar Walter Russell Mead is advancing the idea of the failed "blue social model" to symbolize the political contest now in progress. Conservatives believe that the blue social model of Big Units, life-time employment in big corporations for blue-collar and white-collar employees, has broken down, and has been breaking down ever since its hey-day in 1970.

But hey, he writes, in "**Black and Blue**," there's a big problem with the collapse of the blue social model. Blacks are going to suffer disproportionately, because they are overrepresented in government jobs that will be cut in the coming years when governments run out of money and cut spending. Worst of all, there is a whole cohort of blacks about to retire from government service...

More: <http://roadtothemiddleclass.blogspot.com/2011/01/blacks-and-blue-social-model.html>

The members of Jewish Funds for Justice are radical Alinskyite haters of capitalism, America, Western culture, and white people. The group has received more than \$350,000 from George Soros.

Attack on Glenn Beck shames the rabbinical profession and desecrates God's name

by Jeff Dunetz, 27 Jan 2011

As the Torah says "Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people" (Lev. 19:16). The ancient Jewish Sages took that passage and said that there are three transgressions that would cause a man to lose his place in the world to come: murder, adultery, and idol worship, and that loshon hora (evil speech) is equivalent to all three (Bab. Erchin 15b). Jews believe that the harm done by telling tales about people is worse than the harm done by something like theft because one can repay stolen money, but harm done by speech can never be repaired.

In today's *Wall Street Journal*, 400 Rabbis joined with a socialist Jewish organization called Jewish Funds for

Justice (JFJ) to bring shame upon themselves, their holy profession and the entire Jewish people, and even worse have committed a Chillul Hashem (desecration of God's name) with an open letter to Fox News against Glenn Beck (the full ad is embedded below)...

More: <http://www.newsrealblog.com/2011/01/27/attack-on-glenn-beck-shames-the-rabbinical-profession-and-desecrates-gods-name/>

Mark Steyn on Godwin's Law, olive pits, and Brian Williams' quest to pick the GOP nominee in 2012

Hugh Hewitt Show, 27 Jan 2011

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=21b3f41a-5885-4d59-b585-db2d87124ff9>

Cold truths about electric cars' cold-weather shortcomings

by Charles Lane, 28 Jan 2011

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/27/AR2011012706170.html>

A region in ferment

Jerusalem Post editorial, 28 Jan 2011

In a rather prescient speech that has particular resonance as unrest now sweeps the Middle East from Sanaa to Cairo to Beirut, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Arab regimes earlier this month that they would have to initiate democratic reforms before it was "too late."

Speaking at a conference on democracy in Doha, Qatar, on January 13, days before the Jasmine Revolution ousted Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and inspired similar popular uprisings across the region, Clinton blasted Arab governments for stalled political change.

"Those who cling to the status quo may be able to hold back the full impact of their countries' problems for a little while, but not forever," she predicted. "While some countries have made great strides in governance, in many others, people have grown tired of corrupt institutions and a stagnant political order."

Just how tired grew increasingly apparent this week, as protesters across the region—emboldened by the Tunisian precedent, which showed that an assertion of people power could accomplish what once seemed impossible—took to the streets in demonstrations against the abject failure of corrupt authoritarian regimes to meet their citizens' basic needs...

More: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Editorials/Article.aspx?id=205555&R=R6>

Obama channeling Reagan? Hardly.

Gipper to O-Force: There you go again.

Washington Times editorial, 28 Jan 2011

One of the least credible tales to come out of President Obama's recent ideological makeover is the story that he is modeling his presidency on Ronald Reagan's. Time Magazine asserted this week that "there is no mistaking Obama's increasing reliance on [Mr. Reagan's] career as a helpful template for his own." Just to keep this preposterous public relations ploy in perspective, we have compiled a handy list to remind people how little these two men have in common...

Truth in humor: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/28/editorial-obama-channeling-reagan-hardly/print/>

The Challenger disaster and President Reagan's gift to a grieving nation

by Carl Cannon, 28 Jan 2011

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2011/01/27/the-challenger-disaster-and-president-reagans-gift-to-a-grievi/>

Measuring America's Foes

by Paul Johnson, 27 Jan 2011

...There are two vital tests of China's intentions. Will it abandon its efforts to secure control over Taiwan by threat or the use of force? Will it cooperate with other powers in the region, including the U.S., to restrain North Korea? Until we get affirmative answers to these questions we cannot count on China's goodwill toward the world or its willingness to work for peace. We have to treat China with reserve—not habitual hostility. But above all the U.S. must keep ahead of China in the development of military technology, especially on the seas and in the air.

Looking ahead to the midcentury we can foresee certain welcome adjustments. By 2050 China's population, while expected to be around 1.4 billion, will probably be dropping and have an aging profile. The U.S. population will be more than 400 million, be steadily rising and have a more youthful profile. It's possible, though unlikely, that by then China's GNP will be larger than America's, but in every other respect the U.S. economy will be well ahead, especially in high tech.

China would be more likely to become an economic—as opposed to a military—threat to the U.S. if it embraced democracy and freedom. Therein lies the paradox, for a truly free and democratic China—and thus an increasingly prosperous and friendly one—must be a welcome phenomenon.

Another factor to consider is India. China has chosen to expand its economy via traditional smokestack industries and cheap, mass-produced exports. In contrast, India is moving more rapidly into high tech. For the time being this means a less showy performance than China's. But in the long run this offers India a much more promising future, which by 2050 may be apparent.

What is clear today is that India, as a working democracy, a respecter of the rule of law and a potentially hightech superpower, will be an immensely valuable U.S. ally. Therefore, a cardinal object of American policy must be to cultivate India's friendship and cooperation in every sphere...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2011/0214/opinions-paul-johnson-current-events-americas-foes.html>

Why today is 1979, not 1995

by Peter Ferrara, 26 Jan 2011

In 1979, of course, Jimmy Carter was the incumbent President, and no sophisticated, intelligent person in Washington thought Ronald Reagan had a serious chance of beating him. The RNC was convinced Reagan would be another Goldwater, and its entire focus was to deny him the 1980 nomination. You know what happened.

In 1995, President Clinton had just suffered a shocking, historic defeat in the midterms, with the Republicans taking both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years. At first, he seemed to be on the same trajectory as Carter. But he pivoted to embrace the policies of the new Republican Congress, while still managing to play off them to hold his Democrat party base. The Republicans nominated the clueless Bob Dole in 1996, and you know what happened.

Hence the question, is today 1979, or 1995? You can't answer that question by looking at where we are today. You have to look at the underlying trends to gauge where we are going to be in the fall of 2012...

Read on: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/26/why-today-is-1979-not-1995>

The Loud Passing of the Old Order

by Victor Davis Hanson, 27 Jan 2011

American reality has been turned upside down in just 20 years...

...In response to this topsy-turvy world, the traditional media, tenured professors, well-paid public employees, rigid ethnic and racial lobbies, unions, organized retirees, open-borders advocates and entrenched politicians all are understandably claiming that we live in an uncivil age.

We well may, but we also are seeing the waning of an old established order. And the resulting furor suggests that the old beneficiaries are not going quietly into that good night.

Read it all: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0111/hanson.php3>

The worst is yet to come in Illinois

by Dennis Byrne, 25 Jan 2011

Illinois, the worst is yet to come. All you state retirees: Do you really believe that your pension was in any way

secured by those blow-off-the-roof income tax increases? All you hospitals and social services that are owed billions: Think that check will arrive soon?

Should we think that tax increases will halt the torrent of state borrowing that put us so deep in debt in the first place? Will it drag the state's credit rating from off the floor?

Truth is, you've been chumped. None of that is happening. Let's do the simple math: The new revenues will produce \$6.5 billion. That amount has to cover a \$15 billion budget deficit. Failing a miracle of loaves and fishes, it won't work.

Billions in delinquent bills will remain unpaid. New borrowing of \$8.75 billion was supposed to take care of that, but even Democrats didn't have the stomach to swallow that one. Gov. Pat Quinn's office said that the new taxes would "address" the backlog, which is bureaucrat-speak for "we don't have a clue."...

More: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-01-25/news/ct-oped-0125-byrne-20110125_1_pension-funds-tax-increases-new-taxes

New *Silicon Graffiti* video: 'Steer the Coverage'

by Ed Driscoll, 27 Jan 2011

From Kennedy to Katrina, the prefab media template that accompanied the shooting of Gabrielle Giffords was far from the first time the MSM bent the facts like a pretzel to build a narrative around an emotionally-charged event... We try to place the MSM's response to the Giffords shooting with some earlier attempts by the MSM to force the facts like a pretzel to fit an existing storyline...

Watch here: <http://pajamasmedia.com/eddriscoll/2011/01/27/steer-the-coverage/>

Or here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DIty-W8xmE>

How Obama's speech muddled the budget debate

by Robert Samuelson, 27 Jan 2011

It was a teachable moment—and Barack Obama didn't teach. Unless public opinion changes, we won't end our budget deadlock... We cannot have a useful debate on the role of government—what it should do, for whom and at whose expense—if Americans are highly misinformed. Obama should have dispelled some common budgetary myths. Consider three...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/26/AR2011012605730.html>

State of the Future

by Claudia Rosett, 26 Jan 2011

...OK, here's the good news. I happened to be eating a hot dog this afternoon in the cafeteria of one of the congressional office buildings, and at a nearby table, a young man was telling his dining companion that he had just been reading Milton Friedman's *Free to Choose*. I came home and had a look on Amazon — *Free to Choose* ranks #4,890 on the Amazon sales list. For a book first published in 1980, that's not bad. Obama's *The Audacity of Hope* currently ranks #2,945. I then took a look at F.A. Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*. Its Amazon sales rank is #324. Whether that portends anything for the future, I don't know. But it gives me a lot more hope than any amount of presidential talk right now about rebuilding America with cars run on "sunlight and water."

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/claudiarosett/state-of-the-future/?singlepage=true>

Obama's tribute to big government

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 27 Jan 2011

...If you don't remember Presidents Carter or Reagan or Clinton bragging about the initiatives of their administrations that would one day bear the fruit of global social networks like Facebook, handheld communication devices like BlackBerrys, and the mobility revolution of Wi-Fi, it's because they didn't.

Government didn't bring us any of those things; the private sector did. Does anyone really believe the federal government — which can't find, let alone police, the 13 million-plus illegal aliens within our borders — can find and finance entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs while they are in the embryonic stages of their careers and make

them successes?...

...Has it not occurred to the president that rather than applauding the idea that he should straighten out whether it's the Commerce Department or the Interior Department that sets salmon policy, maybe the federal government has no business having a salmon policy at all? That maybe humanity can function without governments directing them regarding any fish — salmon, tuna, halibut, or mahi-mahi?...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=561085&p=1>

Moscow's Silent War Explodes

by Austin Bay, 26 Jan 2011

The Jan. 24 terrorist attack on Moscow's Domodedovo Airport left some three dozen dead and nearly 200 wounded. Russian investigators have yet to identify the perpetrators, but the attack is all too similar to prior strikes by Islamist militant organizations based in Russia's troubled Caucasus region. The Russians have good reasons to suspect a Chechen militant Islamist group commanded by Doku Umarov is involved...

More: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/austin-bay/2011/01/26/moscows-silent-war-explodes/>

Will Christie be Republicans' pudgy presidential Valentine?

by Noemie Emery, 25 Jan 2011

Different men are made for different moments in life, and Chris Christie's moment is here. Or, rather, it will be here a year from now, when he gives in to public demand and to destiny and decides to, yes, run for president...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/01/will-christie-be-republicans-pudgy-presidential-valentine>

Nazis & Communists: ideological bedfellows

by Bruce Walker, 18 Aug 2010

...Yet Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, claims: "The terms *extreme right* or *ultra right* are used by some scholars to discuss only those right-wing political groups that step outside the boundaries of traditional electoral politics. This generally includes the revolutionary right, militant racial supremacists and religious extremists, neo-fascists, neo-Nazis and Klansmen. In this usage, the " terms are distinct from other forms of right-wing politics such as the less-militant sectors of the far right, right-wing populists."

Though this definition, which includes fascists and Nazis, is accepted and promulgated by media and educators, how does this fit into any rational system of understanding political ideology? It does not, of course, but whenever any group displays any activity that does not adhere to a politically correct agenda, and can be pronounced by liberals as being racist, sexist, bigoted, or intolerant — whether this description is accurate or not — the group is deemed "right-wing."

Such a definition of "right-wing" would lead one to believe that two of the vilest totalitarian regimes of the 20th century — Bolshevism and Nazism — were mortal enemies at opposite ends of a political spectrum. If such a contention is true, an argument could be made that neither a right-wing, "conservative," limited-government ideology nor a left-wing, "liberal," big-government one is more fundamentally sound than the other; therefore, there is no reason not to try to create an enlightened, all-powerful government.

But if Nazis and Bolsheviks were not mortal enemies, but were instead identical twins, then the whole argument of collectivists disintegrates. If moving in the direction of Barack Obama's policies, for example, meant moving in the direction of both Stalin and Hitler, then only a madman or a monster would ever want what Obama wants for America. If embracing the small-government philosophy of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and other early American patriots always led away from Stalin and Hitler, then serious Americans would begin to cherish more deeply the legacy of our Founding Fathers...

The actual history: <http://antioligarch.wordpress.com/2010/08/18/nazis-communists-ideological-bedfellows/>

Obama gives a speech we can't take seriously

by Kyle Wingfield, 26 Jan 2011

How do you take seriously a speech in which the president says we will spend more money on educating students, rebuilding our infrastructure and funding research for innovation in alternative energy sources — all while saying we're not going to spend more money?

How do you take seriously a speech in which the only budgetary dollar figure the president gives is a made-up one — a reduction in spending (even as spending is frozen, remember) as compared only to hypothetical future budgets?

How do you take seriously a speech in which the president claims the mantle of fiscal restraint — while essentially bidding to make permanent the supposedly temporary, stimulus-inflated levels of spending we've seen the last two years?

...

More: http://blogs.ajc.com/kyle-wingfield/2011/01/26/obama-gives-a-speech-we-cant-take-seriously/?cxntfid=blogs_kyle_wingfield

Can-Do Collectivism

National Review editorial, 26 Jan 2011

...He says that the government cannot pick the industries of the future — moments before explaining how it is going to create jobs in renewable energy. His proposal to improve the nation's infrastructure centers on the faddish boondoggle of high-speed rail, which is wholly unsuitable for a country with our population density. He favors increased subsidies for higher education that are more likely to increase college tuitions than to prepare our work force for the challenges of tomorrow. His plan for Social Security must consist entirely of tax increases, since he has ruled out every other expedient. He is unwilling to rethink a health-care plan that is likely to add to the country's economic burdens: increasing insurance premiums, reducing wages, raising taxes, and adding to the national debt. Obama's economic strategy is a high-speed train to nowhere...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/258013>

What Crisis?

by Yuval Levin, 25 Jan 2011

...This is not 1996 or 2006. Clinton had a strong economy to lean on, and was basically just trying to stay out of his own way. Bush allowed himself to advance some inane "State of the Union in a box" ideas in 2006...

But what is the Obama team's excuse? This speech certainly didn't focus on foreign policy or the war on terror. This is certainly not a time when the economy is strong or steady, or when the public's concerns are elsewhere. It is certainly not a moment for business as usual.

The Obama White House tonight seemed to be betting that the public thinks it is such a moment; that everything is basically fine again, and it is safe to go back to the usual kind of Clintonian chatter about solar panels; indeed, that doing so (as opposed to creating more massive new entitlements and taking over more car companies) would be seen as moderate; that we should be careful to learn nothing from the past three years, and from the glimpse they have given us of what a debt crisis might look like. But the result was a speech wholly and oddly divorced from the moment. That is not what a move to the center would look like *today*.

It not only offered no concession to the strong public mood evident in the last election, it evinced no awareness— not even in passing, for rhetorical effect—of the economic facts and pressures underlying that mood and defining this time in our nation's life. The president merely notified us that he had appointed a commission to look at the deficit, he noted that we ought to think about entitlements, he mentioned the terms "Medicare" and "Medicaid." But he proposed to do nothing about any of it...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/258016>

Republican response to State of the Union Address

by Rep. Paul Ryan, 25 Jan 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/congress/2011/01/transcript-paul-ryans-republican-response-state-union-address>

Fact check: Obama and his imbalanced ledger

by Calvin Woodward, Associated Press, 25 Jan 2011

The ledger did not appear to be adding up Tuesday night when President Barack Obama urged more spending on one hand and a spending freeze on the other.

Obama spoke ambitiously of putting money into roads, research, education, efficient cars, high-speed rail and other initiatives in his State of the Union speech. He pointed to the transportation and construction projects of the last two years and proposed "we redouble these efforts." He coupled this with a call to "freeze annual domestic spending for the next five years."

But Obama offered far more examples of where he would spend than where he would cut, and some of the areas he identified for savings are not certain to yield much if anything.

For example, he said he wants to eliminate "billions in taxpayer dollars we currently give to oil companies." Yet he made a similar proposal last year that went nowhere...

More: <http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cId=app&sParam=35631691.story>

Response to President Obama's State of the Union address

by Rep. Michele Bachmann, 25 Jan 2011

...For two years President Obama made promises just like the ones we heard him make tonight. Yet still we have high unemployment, devalued housing prices and the cost of gasoline is skyrocketing.

Here are a few suggestions for fixing our economy:

The President could stop the EPA from imposing a job-destroying cap-and-trade system.

The President could support a Balanced Budget Amendment.

The President could agree to an energy policy that increases American energy production and reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

The President could also turn back some of the 132 regulations put in place in the last two years, many of which will cost our economy \$100 million or more.

And the President should repeal ObamaCare and support free market solutions like medical malpractice reform and allow all Americans to buy any healthcare policy they like anywhere in the United States.

We need to start making things again in this country, and we can do that by reducing the tax and regulatory burdens on job creators. America will have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. Look no further to see why jobs are moving overseas.

But thanks to you, there's reason to hope that real spending cuts are coming. Last November you went to the polls and voted out big-spending politicians and you put in their place men and women with a commitment to follow the Constitution and cut the size of government. I believe that we are in the early days of a history-making turn...

More: <http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2011/01/25/bachmanns-response-to-state-of-the-union/>

Our So-Called 'Centrist' President

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 25 Jan 2011

Will the man who conned the public into believing he was a moderate, but who has governed as the most immoderate leftist in the country's history, now try to pull the same con so he can be elected again?

How naive does he think we are? Well, pretty darn naive, given the polls that everyone is bending over backward to cite. They show President Obama's approval rating turning up in large part because he didn't let the Bush tax cuts expire, enlisted cronies to help him appear more "business friendly" and paid lip service to regulatory reform.

Such moves, according to the spinmeisters, are part of a grand "repositioning" of the president as a "centrist" who "got the message from the November election" and who is now less hostile to the free-enterprise system he's been trashing for more than two years. Give us a break...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=560754&p=1>

Obama's pro-business optics are an illusion

by Caroline Baum, 24 Jan 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-25/obama-s-pro-business-optics-are-an-illusion-commentary-by-caroline-baum.html>

Sarah Palin and the Battle for Feminism

The ex-governor and her Mama Grizzlies argue that the real women's issue is our country's fiscal future.

by Kay S. Hymowitz, 21 Jan 2011

...Actually, maternal feminism is nothing new. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, temperance fighters—and, to a lesser extent, suffragettes—viewed their role as wives and mothers as the source of their moral authority in public debates. But something important sets today's maternal feminism apart from the earlier strain: it casts budgeting and governance as maternal issues. "From first-hand experience, [women] know you cannot spend your way out of debt at home and they know that philosophy translates to businesses and to the government," Martin told Politico. Palin put her fiscal conservatism in the homey rhetoric of a PTA president: "I think a whole lot of moms . . . are concerned about government handing our kids the bill."...

How are liberal feminists to understand the kind of *soi-disant* feminist who would vote against a Paycheck Fairness Act? Gloria Steinem has tried this hoary explanation: "Any group of people that has been subordinate absorbs the idea of their own subordination . . . and comes to think that the only way to survive is to identify with the powerful." That charge is so thoroughly inadequate for describing women like Michelle Moore and Sarah Palin that it only makes Steinem look clueless. But there were liberal feminists who understood that the Grizzlies' arrival confronted them with a question that they needed to take seriously: What is feminism?...

...But the Palinites have drawn big question marks around language like this. What does "equality" mean? Is it equal opportunity, as the newcomers would probably say? Or equal results, as many feminists appear to believe? Does it mean women's choosing how to run their lives, just as men do? (Grizzlies.) Or does it refer to absolute parity between men and women? (Liberals.) How can both sides claim the feminist mantle with such different understandings of government's function and of women's progress?...

2700 words: http://city-journal.com/2011/21_1_palin.html

He thinks gay marriage and marijuana are OK. Other than that, he's completely conservative. He's also an atheist; but unlike most atheists he's got an open mind and a great sense of humor about it. He also uses a lot of swear-words: in 245 pages, there must be 1,000 to 2,000 of them.

In Fifty Years We'll All Be Chicks by Adam Carolla; published 2 Nov 2010

http://www.amazon.com/Fifty-Years-Well-All-Chicks/dp/0307717372/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1295930975&sr=8-1

(Hat tip: Tom H.)

Preserving States' Rights and the Constitution

by Bruce Walker, 19 Jan 2011

...Why were Americans so concerned with states' rights? States made the American Republic a marketplace of governments. If states are preeminent in the governance of the nation, then when one state slides towards tyranny, people can leave and move to another state. When groups want to find a place to live in peace, like Mormons in Utah or Jews in New York, strong states ensure that they can do so.

It is a grim fact of history that strong central governments have gone hand in hand with horror. Nazis, very quickly, essentially ended the system of strong state governments in Germany. The Soviet Union was also ruled with an iron hand from Moscow, and the destruction of whole peoples followed its central policies. The closer people are to the elected officials governing them, the more freedom flourishes. The more remote the government, the less citizens feel like equals and the more they seem like cattle. That is why the Founding Fathers considered states' rights as absolutely indispensable to the purposes of our nation...

...The disintegration of states is the gravest problem we face. The omnipresent federal government means that Americans can no longer run from tyranny by leaving one state and moving to another. The transfer of power from state government to some nebulous "people" means that we have democracy, a very unhappy form of government.

What can be done? Well, states can propose constitutional amendments without going through Congress. Two-thirds of state legislatures may call a constitutional convention. Although many conservatives fear this approach to amendment, if the terms of the resolution provided that members of the various legislatures themselves were the members of any constitutional convention and limited the action of that convention to approval or disapproval of a single amendment, then the chances of true restoration of states' rights would be solid.

What short and clear amendment would restore states' rights? Perhaps something like this: "When a majority of the

legislatures of the several states resolve that any officer of Executive or Judiciary of the United States has acted in denigration of the sovereign rights of the several states, then said officer shall be removed from office. When the legislature of any state determines that a member of Congress from that state has voted in denigration of the sovereign rights of the several states, then that member shall be removed and an election held as soon as practicable to replace that member." This would place the power of interpreting the constitutional prerogatives of the states back where it belongs: with the sovereign states themselves. No member of Congress, no federal judge, no member of the executive branch, including even the president, could ignore the rights of the states...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/preserving_states_rights_and_t.html

Passing ObamaCare was theater, and repealing is the reality show

by Star Parker, 23 Jan 2011

Democrats who are calling the House's decisively passed repeal of ObamaCare theater are hallucinating. Perhaps it was theatrical to include in the name of the repeal act "job killing," though that is what it is. But I prefer melodrama to dishonesty. Calling ObamaCare—government mandates, subsidies, price controls, taxes and rationed care—the "Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care" act is the height of dishonesty...

...I challenge any sitting Democrat who continues to push socialized medicine on us to move into any of our inner cities and find out firsthand about life on the government plantation.

Twelve percent of the nation's population is black, but 30 percent of the 60 million on Medicaid are black. They live under the hallucination perpetuated by Washington that they have health coverage. Yet, 40 percent of our doctors refuse Medicaid patients because they are not adequately reimbursed. And study after study shows that the health care they do get is substandard. That Medicaid patients are, for instance, far more likely to not survive an operation, compared with someone with private insurance.

ObamaCare's answer to this is to expand the income level qualifying for Medicaid and put another 20 million on it, with the same pretense about being "covered." At the same time, as Dennis Smith, former director of Medicaid at the Health and Human Services Department, points out, the new qualifying structure of Medicaid has the same characteristics as did welfare that led to wholesale breakdown of black families...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/01/passing-obamacare-was-theater-and-repealing-reality-show>

About Those Death Panels...

The very real threat of government health care rationing.

by Wesley J. Smith, 23 Jan 2011 (January 31 issue)

...The real lesson here is that "single payer" and "death panels" go together like "Sees" and "candy."...

More: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/about-those-death-panels_536874.html

America's Economy: The Ninth-Freest

The numbers are in: Our lost economic liberty is being noticed.

by Deroy Murdock, 21 Jan 2011

We're No. 9!

America has slipped one spot since last year — from earth's eighth-freest economy in 2010, according to the 2011 *Index of Economic Freedom*. This 17th annual report, jointly published by the Heritage Foundation and the *Wall Street Journal*, sifts through the wreckage caused by government's turbocharged acceleration during the Bush-Obama years. America's slump in the rankings (we're down from No. 5 in 2008) confirms the urgent need for Washington to revitalize free markets and restrain government intervention.

Among the 179 countries examined in the *Index*, Hong Kong is ranked first, followed by Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Ireland, and Denmark. These nations all outscored the U.S. across ten categories, including taxes, free trade, regulation, monetary policy, and corruption.

America barely made the top ten. Bahrain was tenth, with 77.7 points, one decimal point behind America's 77.8 score. Chile reached No. 11 with 77.4, just 0.4 points behind the United States.

Even worse, with a score below 80, the U.S. is spending its second year as a "mostly free" economy. As it departed the family of "free" nations in 2010, it led the "mostly free" category. Even within this less-than-illustrious group, America now lags behind Ireland and Denmark. How did our once-unassailable country wind up so winded?

"The national government's role in the economy has expanded sharply in the past two years, and the federal budget deficit is extremely large, with gross public debt approaching 100 percent of GDP"...

Read on: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/257616/america-s-economy-ninth-freest-deroy-murdock>

'Countdown' finally runs out for Keith Olbermann

by *Howie Carr*, 23 Jan 2011

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/columnists/view.bg?articleid=1311318>

Call the health vote

Chicago Tribune editorial, 22 Jan 2011

...A couple of weeks ago, a National Public Radio anchor asked Reid: "If you have the votes, why not let it come to a vote?" Reid's answer: "Because I think it's important that people understand that we do not think we got perfection with this legislation. We want to try to improve it. We don't want to try to destroy it."

Translation: Election? What election?

Allowing a repeal vote would let citizens — many of whom abhor this exorbitantly expensive health care entitlement — to see who in Washington follows their wishes. And who doesn't...

...Reid ignored public opinion in the rush to pass this massive expansion. Now he's repeating the same grievous mistake. Come on, Sen. Reid. Call the vote. What are you afraid of?

More: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-senate-20110122,0,4301338.story>

Laughter as the cure for Liberalism

by *Joe Hatton*, 22 Jan 2011

"Liberal" and "unfunny" are perhaps the two best words to describe most political cartoons. But a rare conservative series is helping to change this.

Diversity Lane is a political cartoon series that follows the exploits of a hyper-liberal family and their eight-year-old conservative daughter. Since 2008, *Diversity Lane* has been the only conservative cartoon series that continually and convincingly skewers the PC left. It has been praised by Brent Bozell and Laura Ingraham and has been featured on such sites as Politico, FrontPage Magazine, The American Thinker, and World Net Daily. It is currently available on the web and at various conservative websites, where it has a growing cult following...

More, including some cartoons: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/laughter_as_the_cure_for_liber.html

Obama's Sleight of Hand on Regulation

Washington Examiner editorial, 21 Jan 2011

...President George W. Bush's entire eight-year presidency added a net \$70 billion to the existing \$1.1 trillion burden placed on businesses by the 150,000-plus-page Code of Federal Regulations. At Obama's current pace, he would add \$212 billion in eight years. And unfortunately, Obama will not keep his current pace; he will accelerate it despite his much-touted executive order. Last year's health care and financial reform bills will unleash a torrent of new regulations, making 2011 another record-breaking year. Obama has already issued new and burdensome regulations governing everything from runoff water at construction sites to lead paint to toy testing...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2011/01/obamas-sleight-hand-regulation>

Backdoor Big Government

by *Steven Malanga*, 21 Jan 2011

...The union-friendly Obama labor department did, however, get rid of one significant regulation: a Bush-administration rule that unions file disclosure statements on how they spend their members' money. The disclosure rule had helped prompt a number of investigations of abuses, including a *Los Angeles Times* series that resulted in the removal of the head of a Service Employees International Union local for misallocating hundreds of thousands of dollars of members' money. The Obama administration considered the transparency requirement an excessive burden on unions.

Other new Obama regulations cover everything from transportation to classrooms. The Department of Transportation, for example, issued a new rule requiring train operators to install systems that monitor and control train movements, known as "positive train controls." Estimated cost to the industry: \$10 billion. The energy department, meanwhile, has issued new, higher standards for efficient energy use for everything from washing machines to water heaters. The department even redefined what constitutes a showerhead in order to regulate more stringently the new multi-nozzle shower fixtures that, the Obama administration argues, waste water. The Department of Education has discussed applying the gender quotas of Title IX to college courses in math and science in an effort to force colleges to recruit more women as majors in these subjects.

And the administration may just be getting started. The president said last week that he was ordering a review of regulations throughout the federal bureaucracy. But his administration's regulatory agenda identifies some 4,000 rules under development...

More: http://city-journal.com/2011/21_1_snd-big-government.html

The damage has already begun

by Sally C. Pipes, 19 Jan 2011

...So construction halted at 45 hospitals as the New Year arrived. Work on countless others will never start, having been effectively banned by ObamaCare. This will limit competition in the health-care marketplace, driving up costs for patients.

Of course, patients may have trouble finding not just a hospital, but a *doctor*. A Physician's Foundation survey revealed that 40 percent of doctors plan to "drop out of patient care in the next one to three years." Sixty percent said ObamaCare will "compel them to close or significantly restrict their practices to certain categories of patients"—typically those on Medicare or Medicaid...

...New rules requiring insurers in the individual and small-group markets to spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on medical claims are intended to ensure that consumers get good value for their money. Instead, they'll push many plans out of existence. And with fewer competitors to keep them honest, the insurers that survive will have an easier time raising rates...

...People can no longer use tax-free Health Savings Accounts on basic over-the-counter drugs. Instead, they must pay for a doctor's appointment—and then get a prescription for a pricier pharmacist-dispensed drug. Consider the case of Claritin, an allergy medication that recently was approved for OTC use. A report from the National Center for Policy Analysis found that longtime users of the drug saw their daily costs fall 80 percent, from about \$2.50 to just 50 cents. ObamaCare reverses this trend by encouraging people to opt for higher-priced prescription drugs when a cheaper OTC medication would work just as well...

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_damage_has_already_begun_pzcq1MmzRb3O626H6Q7PqI

Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court's dumbest decision

by Michael Filozof, 22 Jan 2011

...The way to most grievously undermine *Roe's* status as a precedent is to actually *read* it. The opinion, written by the late Justice Blackmun, is little more than page after page of *obiter dicta*—which, loosely translated, means "extraneous B.S."...

...*Roe* is so bad it makes other controversial decisions—like *Plessy v. Ferguson* or *Dred Scott*—look like models of Solomonic wisdom by comparison. In those cases, the Court was clearly biased, but it at least made an attempt to pay lip service to the Constitution.

What *Roe* revealed about our modern political elites is this: they simply do not give a damn what the Constitution does or does not say, and they know they can get away with ignoring it. The specious type of "reasoning" in *Roe* ultimately leads to Nancy Pelosi snarling incredulously, "Are you serious? Are you *serious*?" when asked by a reporter how the Constitution justifies ObamaCare; it leads to Justice Kennedy citing the European Court of Human Rights when declaring that the Constitution guarantees the right to anal sex; and it leads to Justice Breyer quoting the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe.

When our courts fail to heed the actual text of the Constitution they are supposedly applying and replace it with inane drivel about "the Ephesian, Soranos" and with foreign law, one is forced to conclude that we no longer live in a constitutional republic, but in a dictatorship of the judiciary—where reading the "supreme Law of the Land" on the floor of the House is a controversial event...

He really takes it apart: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/roe_v_wade_the_supreme_courts.html

The Philadelphia Horror

How mass murder gets a pass.

by *Michelle Malkin*, 21 Jan 2011

...Already, left-wing journalists and activists have rushed to explain that these abortion atrocities ignored for four decades by abortion radicals and rationalizers are not really about abortion. A *Time* magazine writer argued that the Philadelphia Horror was "about poverty, not *Roe v. Wade*." A University of Minnesota professor declared: "This is not about abortion."

But the grand jury itself pointed out that loosened oversight of abortion clinics enacted under pro-choice former GOP Gov. Tom Ridge enabled Gosnell's criminal enterprise—and led to the heartless execution of hundreds of babies. Mass murder got a pass in the name of expanding "access" and appeasing abortion lobbyists.

As the report made clear: "With the change of administration from (pro-life Democratic) Gov. Casey to Gov. Ridge," government health officials "concluded that inspections would be 'putting a barrier up to women' seeking abortions. Better to leave clinics to do as they pleased, even though, as Gosnell proved, that meant both women and babies would pay."

Deadly indifference to protecting life isn't tangential to the abortion industry's existence—it's at the core of it. The Philadelphia Horror is no anomaly. It's the logical, bloodcurdling consequence of an evil, eugenics-rooted enterprise wrapped in feminist clothing.

Read it all: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/michelle-malkin/the-philadelphia-horror-how-mass-murder-gets-a-pass.html>

China's Coming Fall

Like the Soviet Union before it, much of China's supposed boom is illusory — and just as likely to come crashing down.

by *Lawrence Solomon*, 22 Jan 2011

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/01/22/lawrence-solomon-china%E2%80%99s-fall/>

The State Against Blacks

'The welfare state has done to black Americans what slavery couldn't do. And that is to destroy the black family.'

a profile of Dr. Walter E. Williams, by *Jason L. Riley*, 22 Jan 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704881304576094221050061598.html>

Brother of Harry Potter star jailed for attack after she met non-Muslim man

by *Paul Cheston*, 21 Jan 2011

The brother of a Harry Potter star was jailed for six months today for a "prolonged and nasty" attack in which she was beaten and branded a "slag" for dating a non-Muslim.

Afshan Azad, 21, who played Padma Patil, a classmate of the teenage wizard, in the blockbuster Hollywood films based on JK Rowling's children's books, feared for her life during the three-hour ordeal, Manchester Crown Court heard...

More: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23916098-brother-of-harry-potter-star-sentenced-for-attack-after-she-met-non-muslim-man.do>

Can't reduce federal spending? Here's a plan to cut \$2.5 trillion by 2021

by *Sen. Jim DeMint*, *Rep. Jim Jordan*, and *Rep. Scott Garrett*, 20 Jan 2011

If immediate measures are not taken, the national debt will soon be equal to the entire U.S. economy. At this moment, American opportunity threatens to be overwhelmed by our debt, and that's a race we can't afford to lose.

This dangerous dynamic has been steadily building up for decades, but Washington worsened the problem in recent years with a spending binge of costly bailouts, massive omnibus bills, and failed stimulus.

As a result, the debt burden has grown to previously unimaginable levels. When Nancy Pelosi became speaker of the House in January 2007, it stood at \$8.6 trillion. Today, Americans must shoulder a national debt weighing in at a whopping \$14 trillion, and the mountain grows larger every day. By the end of this decade, President Obama's budget projections show the national debt nearly doubling its current size to \$26 trillion.

These sobering numbers represent the path to bankruptcy, draconian tax increases, and economic stagnation. We refuse such a fate. Instead, we are offering a step-by-step plan to reduce spending and put the United States on course to renewed financial stability...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2011/01/cant-reduce-federal-spending-heres-plan-cut-25-trillion-2021>

The radical reform that California needs

by Troy Senik, 1 Jan 2011 (Winter issue)

...On contentious social issues, referenda and initiatives may be beneficial, but on more technical aspects of government, oversimplified ballot language tends to obscure more than it clarifies. The most telling examples are those spending initiatives—often totaling billions of dollars at a time—that promise improvements in emotionally appealing areas like education, health care, and social welfare. Under current rules, these initiatives aren't required to establish funding sources, so voters are essentially being asked if they'd like to feel socially virtuous free of charge...

...Californians already labor under sales-tax rates usually reserved for states without income taxes (at 8.25 percent, the nation's highest) and sharply progressive income-tax rates usually reserved for states without sales taxes (the state's top rate is 10.55 percent, and it doesn't allow you to deduct your federal taxes, as some states with income taxes do). These taxes, in turn, are a big reason that residents are fleeing the state; in 2008, 135,000 more people left California than moved there. If California keeps raising taxes, it can expect the migration of its tax base to continue unabated...

...By Laffer's estimates, if California abandoned its current, highly progressive income-tax system in favor of a statewide flat tax of no more than 6 percent on personal income and net business sales, it could completely abolish all property taxes, state gas taxes, and state payroll taxes, as well as all current state and local sales taxes, without losing revenue. And that's without factoring in the increased economic activity that such a dramatic change to the tax code would almost certainly generate. This change would once again require the support of a two-thirds majority in the legislature, but its appeal just might be broad enough to attract such a coalition.

No matter how California taxes or spends, its heavy regulatory burden will hamper the state in rediscovering its former economic dynamism. The state should create a commission to subject its regulations to rigorous cost-benefit analyses...

The full article: http://city-journal.org/2011/21_1_california-reform.html

Hubris heading for a fall

by George F. Will, 20 Jan 2011

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song, and in a recent speech that seemed like Larry Summers's swan song, the president's now-departed economic adviser warned that America is "at risk of a profound demoralization with respect to government." He fears a future in which "an inadequately resourced government performs badly, leading to further demands that it be cut back, exacerbating performance problems, deepening the backlash, and creating a vicious cycle."

The idea that America's problem of governance is one of inadequate resources misses this lesson of the last half-century: No amount of resources can prevent government from performing poorly when it tries to perform too many tasks, or particular tasks for which it is inherently unsuited...

...James Q. Wilson, America's preeminent social scientist, has noted that until relatively recently, "politics was about only a few things; today, it is about nearly everything." Until the 1930s, or perhaps the 1960s, there was a "legitimacy barrier" to federal government activism: When new policies were proposed, the first debate was about whether the federal government could properly act at all on the subject. Today, there is no barrier to the promiscuous multiplication of programs, because no program is really new. Rather, it is an extension, modification or enlargement of something government is already doing.

The vicious cycle that should worry Summers is the reverse of the one he imagines. It is not government being "cut back" because of disappointments that reinforce themselves. Rather, it is government squandering its limited resources, including the resource of competence, in reckless expansions of its scope...

Really great: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/19/AR2011011905000.html>

Milton Friedman on JFK's inaugural speech

via Philip Klein, 20 Jan 2011

"...To the free man, the country is the collection of individuals who compose it, not something over and above them. He is proud of a common heritage and loyal to common traditions. But he regards government as a means, an instrumentality, neither a grantor of favors and gifts, nor a master or god to be blindly worshipped and served. He recognizes no national goal except as it is the consensus of the goals that the citizens severally serve. He recognizes no national purpose except as it is the consensus of the purposes for which the citizens severally strive.

"The free man will ask neither what his country can do for him nor what he can do for his country. He will ask rather 'What can I and my compatriots do through government' to help us discharge our individual responsibilities, to achieve our several goals and purposes, and above all, to protect our freedom?..."

More: <http://spectator.org/blog/2011/01/20/milton-friedman-on-jfks-innaug>
(Hat tip: Richard L.)

Chinese tiger ate US dove for lunch

by Charles Hurt, 21 Jan 2011

Who did you think would come out on top if you put a tiger and a dove in the same room together to work out their differences? Yes, those were white bird feathers sticking out of the tiger's mouth at the lavish state dinner hosted by President Obama at the White House this week.

President Hu Jintao is a Tiger Leader. That's kind of like a Tiger Mother, only less nurturing and more demanding. President Obama is a Dove Leader. He speaks endlessly and carries no stick. And he likes to do a lot of bowing and scraping. Kind of like the way Hu Jintao likes to do a lot of not smiling. If you see all that together in one room, bet on the Tiger.

But even a Dove like Obama will manage to emerge with something. In this case, he escaped with his vocal chords unscathed. And he is still talking. He is talking all about what a great deal he got us while doing his little humble shtick...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/chinese_tiger_ate_us_dove_for_lunch_7Ro396zi1n6vZrCwLsp05M

How to combat an arrogant China?

by Larry Kudlow, 18 Jan 2011

...Surely the J-20 flight was a snub to Washington. Surely China's whole military buildup is aimed directly at us. And surely China is of no particular help when it comes to the nuclear operations of North Korea and Iran.

Then, of course, are the numerous trade violations being committed by China. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke wants a level playing field on trade. As a strong free-trader myself, I recognize the many benefits free and open trade offers both China and the United States. But like many others, my free-trade patience with China is wearing thin. They're stealing our technology, violating all sorts of patent-protection laws, hacking into Google and infringing on intellectual-property rights. In fact, 80 percent of Chinese software is reportedly pirated from American companies.

A new Chinese requirement for joint ventures with the U.S.—where China gets 51 percent, and our companies only 49 percent—looks like another attempt to snake our technology. Chinese local-content prescriptions prevent our firms from doing business with China's state and local governments. The China curb on rare-earth materials, important both for U.S. technology and defense security, is yet another free-trade violation...

A lesson from Reagan: <http://www.nationalreview.com/author/483/latest>

President Obama promises to adopt only good regulations

by Ronald Bailey, 20 Jan 2011

Earlier this week, President Barack Obama issued a new executive order commanding the federal bureaucracy to eliminate bad regulations and adopt only good ones...But as usual with the president, what he gives with his right hand, he takes back with his left. While damning the effects of burdensome regulations, the president had to take credit for imposing new good regulations...

...In fact, the only regulation that the president cited in his op/ed as being "just plain dumb" was an Environmental Protection Agency requirement that companies treat saccharin like a dangerous chemical. And as for federal regulations being cost-effective, is it any wonder that by some miracle most of them are found to be OK since generally those

analyses are done by federal agencies themselves or by contractors hired for the purpose?...

...President Obama has mastered the art of vacuously promising to consider all "good ideas." The problem is that he thinks that he already has all the good ideas and most of them entail ever more government intrusion into the lives of Americans.

Read the rest: <http://reason.com/blog/2011/01/20/president-obama-adopt-only-goo>

The wakeup call on abortion from West Philadelphia

by Christine M. Flowers, 21 Jan 2011

...There is no word to adequately describe what Gosnell is accused of. But the grand jury came up with a good approximation: murder.

That might make the choice crowd a bit uncomfortable as they celebrate *Roe v. Wade*, possibly the most specious Supreme Court decision of our lifetime. After all, they're not used to such blunt talk when it comes to their treasured "fundamental right." Years of linguistic gymnastics used by abortion-rights supporters have made us opponents cautious when throwing around the word "murder."

We in the pro-life camp have been told to adopt a more conciliatory tone if we want to persuade people that abortion is wrong. And most of us got the message to be more civil. But the indictment handed up by the grand jury this week shows that the emperor lost his clothes a long time ago, that abortion in the 21st century may be legal—but it's certainly neither as safe nor as rare as many of its proponents frequently claim...

...We'll probably be told not to blame the whole community of abortion providers for one man's behavior, and warned that this is what happens when you criminalize the procedure. That's what always happens when the seamier side of even legal abortion seeps into the mainstream.

For years we've been fed a sanitized version of the procedure, even to the extent of trying to make the late-term variety (don't dare call it partial birth!) into a health issue for the mother. At least on that count, abortion-rights supporters haven't been successful. Madison Avenue can influence the way we think about a lot of things, but no PR person on Earth can make the crushing of an almost full-term infant's skull palatable...

More: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/opinion/20110121_Christine_M_Flowers_The_wakeup_call_on_abortion_from_West_Philadelphia.html

House GOP begins long drive to dismantle ObamaCare

by Byron York, 20 Jan 2011

Everyone knows House Republicans (along with three Democrats) voted Wednesday to repeal ObamaCare. But fewer people know what those same House Republicans—this time, with 14 Democrats—did Thursday.

By a vote of 253 to 175, the GOP directed key House committees to report on ways to lower health care premiums, allow patients to keep their current health plans, increase access to coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, and decrease the price of medical liability lawsuits. In other words, the committees are beginning work on replacing the House-repealed ObamaCare with Republican health policies...

Continue: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/01/house-gop-begins-long-slog-dismantle-obamacare>

Muslim adults firing rockets in the streets of Malmo, Sweden.

Full war in Rosengard

18 Jan 2011

video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ1W9OvCbBc>

story: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/01/malmo-police-targeted-in-new-outbreak.html>

Who should worry about Tunisia fallout, really?

by Thomas P.M. Barnett, 16 Jan 2011

...With any such revolution (color this one green — as in money, despite all the Iran-esque web chatter), there is the temptation to read into it all sorts of larger meaning. This time around, I think the best route is simply to note which parties — outside of Tunisia — should be made supremely nervous by the unfolding events...

Quite a number of regimes: <http://www.esquire.com/blogs/politics/tunisia-revolution-4924024>

Die Freiheit: An open letter to the Left

by Marc Doll and René Stadtkewitz, 12 Jan 2011

in English: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/01/die-freiheit-open-letter-to-left.html#more>

in German: <http://www.pi-news.net/2011/01/freiheit-offener-brief-an-die-politische-linke/#more-171810>

Three things we've learned from Repeal

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 20 Jan 2011

This wasn't the way the Democrats saw things playing out. After ObamaCare was passed (so we could find out what was in it), people were supposed to learn to love it. The House of Representatives certainly wasn't supposed to pass a bill to repeal it — especially not less than ten months after that glorious day in March when the Democrats effectively told the American people that, when they wanted their opinion, they'd ask for it. Yet all of this has now happened.

The repeal vote confirmed — if there was still any room for doubt — that Republicans and Democrats alike should stop believing the Democrats and their allies when they confidently assert that ObamaCare is here to stay; that statism can only advance, not recede; that, regardless of what the people think they want, there's nothing that anybody can do about this. The vote also conveyed at least three other things...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/critical-condition/257539/three-things-weve-learned-repeal-jeffrey-h-anderson>

Everything starts with Repeal

by Charles Krauthammer, 21 Jan 2011

Suppose someone—say, the president of United States—proposed the following: We are drowning in debt. More than \$14 trillion right now. I've got a great idea for deficit reduction. It will yield a savings of \$230 billion over the next 10 years: We increase spending by \$540 billion while we increase taxes by \$770 billion.

He'd be laughed out of town. And yet, this is precisely what the Democrats are claiming as a virtue of ObamaCare...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/20/AR2011012003687.html>

Robin is "a recovering liberal and a psychotherapist in Berkeley."

Why the Left hates Sarah Palin

by Robin of Berkeley, 19 Jan 2011

When I was ten years old, I participated in an act of unadulterated group evil. It happened at a sleep-away camp in the Catskill Mountains. Starting in third grade, I was shipped off to this summer camp for three months at a time. Although I was in no way ready to be so far from home, my parents wanted the summers free and clear—so I was whisked away, like hundreds of other Camp Tawonga kids.

I lived in a bunk with a gaggle of other girls, with two teenagers to oversee us. Since our counselors were more absorbed in the male staff than in us, we girls had the run of the house.

One day, my bunkmates decided to punish Barbara, a popular and confident child. The masterminds held Barb down while a few others stripped off her clothes. Barbara struggled and screamed as the rest of us watched, transfixed. The details are blessedly murky, but they involve mocking Barbara and grabbing at her body...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/why_the_left_hates_sarah_palin.html

The myth of 'post-American globalization'

by Terence Corcoran, 18 Jan 2011

If you follow the cosmic realignment of global group-think on the state of the world, you will know that it is now firmly established that the ideological planets have realigned. Market-dominated democratic liberalism, long represented by America, is in decline, while Chinese illiberal authoritarianism is on the rise. Free markets and private enterprise, property rights and individual liberty are said to have lost their appeal and are being trumped by state enterprise,

regulatory corporatism and heavy doses of social repression...

...When it comes to such cosmic global group-think, nobody gets to the punch bowl faster than the *Financial Times*. The paper's famous 2009 collective effort — titled "The Future of Capitalism" and inspired by encyclicals from lead columnist Martin Wolfe — announced the death of capitalism with apparent glee. "Another ideological god has failed," declared Mr. Wolfe in March of 2009.

On Tuesday, the *FT* unleashed the next theme in its global re-alignment assessment. In a new series titled "CHINA SHAPES THE WORLD," writers of varying stripes portray China's growing role in world affairs as a direct threat to and even a repudiation of the United States, market economics and the West in general...

More: <http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/01/18/terence-corcoran-the-myth-of-%E2%80%98post-american-globalization%E2%80%99/>

How to freeze the debt ceiling without risking default

Next year, the government will have 10 times more income than it needs to honor its interest obligations.

by Sen. Pat Toomey, 19 Jan 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703954004576089963912388314.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

O Summons Journos

by Cindy Adams, 16 Jan 2011

http://www.nypost.com/p/pagesix/cindy_adams/summons_journos_T9vxUrKMRevi0uxjHEtPvN#ixzz1BJGrjIVz

Do you have a 'right' to a job, home, or health care?

by Mark W. Hendrickson, 19 Jan 2011

Americans have always been passionate about their rights. Whether conservative or liberal, we vigorously assert and defend them when we debate national policies like health-care reform or extending unemployment benefits.

Unfortunately, the concept of "rights" is often poorly understood across the ideological spectrum. Some conflate rights with responsibilities. Others label any benefit they think people should have—from food stamps to mortgage relief—as a right. Both are dangerous tendencies, because they reverse the American understanding of the relationship between citizens and government...

More: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2011/0118/Do-you-have-a-right-to-a-job-home-or-health-care>

Castro in State of Confusion

by Carlos Alberto Montaner, 11 Jan 2011

...They build egalitarian societies based on the collective property of the means of production, where they suppress liberties and subject the whole of society to the torture of the "dictatorship of the proletariat," administered by incompetent fanatics.

The "legitimization" of that atrocious model of organizing society is the fact that it guarantees everyone a symbolic wage and certain basic goods, scant and bad though they may be, because quality, comfort and progress are not part of the objective of collectivist states, as shown by the communist experience in Europe or China during Maoism. It's a miserable little life, without any hopes of improvement, but at least you don't have to "earn it." It's imposed upon you.

After emphatically repeating, for the umpteenth time, that he is not renouncing socialism, Raúl Castro has nevertheless turned to the capitalist methods to produce goods and services, as if in Cuba there existed a market economy based on competition. This has led him to adopt the worst of both worlds: a socialism without social benefits or subsidies, added to a capitalism without competition, without freedom to produce, and without a market, watched closely by the political police because hoarding and inequalities will not be permitted.

That's like trying to cure cancer with cough syrup. This confusion between means and ends, between methods and the objectives of basically different systems will soon reveal its shortcomings...

More: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/11/2009954/castro-in-state-of-confusion.html#>

Cricket and Political Correctness

by Tom Bethell, 13 Jan 2011

This is a story about cricket and government schools. You may not care much about cricket, but what it tells us about the latest developments in England's state funded schools may be of interest to all...

This is heartening: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/13/cricket-and-political-correctn>

Budget Crisis Rhetoric

Bankruptcy reveals what bailouts conceal.

by Thomas Sowell, 18 Jan 2011

...Bankruptcy conveys the plain facts that political rhetoric tries to conceal. It tells people who depended on the bankrupt government that they can no longer depend on that bankrupt government. It tells the voters who elected that bankrupt government, with its big spending promises, that they made a bad mistake that they would be wise to avoid making again in the future.

Legally, bankruptcy wipes out commitments made to public sector unions, whose extravagant pay and pension contracts are bleeding municipal and state governments dry. Is putting an end to political irresponsibility and legalized union racketeering dropping dead?

Politics being what it is, we are sure to hear all sorts of doomsday rhetoric at the thought of cutbacks in government spending. The poor will be starving in the streets, to hear the politicians and the media tell it. But the amount of money it would take to keep the poor from starving in the streets is chump change compared to how much it would take to keep on feeding unions, subsidized businesses and other special interests who are robbing the taxpayers blind.

Letting armies of government employees retire in their fifties, to live for decades on pensions larger than they were making when they were working, costs a lot more than keeping the poor from starving in the streets. Pouring the taxpayers' money down a thousand bottomless pits of public and private boondoggles costs a lot more than keeping the poor from starving in the streets.

Bankruptcy says: "We just don't have the money." End of discussion. Bailouts say: "Give the taxpayers a little rhetoric, and a little smoke and mirrors with the book-keeping, and we can keep the party rolling."...

Read the rest: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/257303/budget-crisis-rhetoric-thomas-sowell>

How Boehner, House GOP can win showdown on ObamaCare, EPA and spending

by Hugh Hewitt, 15 Jan 2011

"Selective shutdown" is a term the Republicans need to embrace and the public needs to understand. Within a few weeks, the vast gap between President Obama's spending objectives and the House Republicans' agenda of fiscal restraint will become obvious. Compromise between the two will not really be possible...

...The GOP can defund ObamaCare and the EPA's power grab simply by refusing to appropriate money for either effort. The House can indeed "just say no."

The president will try and save his priorities from the chopping block by holding the rest of the federal government hostage. Thus, Boehner and his three key allies—House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rodgers—need to lay out now and explain in detail exactly what will happen over the next nine months...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/01/hugh-hewitt-how-boehner-house-gop-can-win-showdown-obamacare-epa-and-spen>

Are You There God? It's Me, Michelle.

by Cripes Suzette, 13 Jan 2011

<http://cripessuzette.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/are-you-there-god-its-me-michelle/>

Liberals and Political Kitsch

by Christopher Chantrill, 16 Jan 2011

...When liberals aren't kitschifying politics at political conventions with Al Gore's famous kiss or Barack Obama's Styrofoam Greek temple, they are desecrating our cultural memory by removing crosses from military cemeteries and taking God out of the public square.

But their great crime is that their political kitsch trivializes the sacrifice of Everyman in the Great Migration from farm to factory to office over the last two hundred years. It is the most astonishing story in the long story of *homo sapiens*: how tens of millions left the brutal world of subsistence farming and traveled, on a hope and a prayer, to the city on a hill. There, despite the challenges and the cruelties and excruciating setbacks, those millions thrived. What a story! What a movie!

Only, the way liberals tell it, the story was all about the legislation liberals passed to save helpless victims from a fate worse than death.

In my determined effort to escape the cloying kitsch of liberal politics, I have been reading the lady novelists of the 19th century, writers like George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell. What was life like, I wanted to know, before liberals got their noses into everything, and what did women think about it?...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/liberals_and_political_kitsch.html

Spirit Level Week

by Christopher Chantrill, January 4-7, 2011

Part 1: Equality Without Context

...Our lefty friends have, over the last two hundred years, been repeatedly scandalized by the messy facts of reality. First they were appalled by the chaos of the industrial revolution. Well, just how would this unprecedented change in human society from agriculture to industry occur without wrenching difficulties? In the early years of the industrial revolution, the migration was at least within the countries industrializing. But soon, with the advent of steam navigation, the great migration became trans-Atlantic. Now of course the Chinese people are migrating at a rate of 15 million a year into the burgeoning cities. The idea that a compassionate political elite could manage this migration, the greatest migration in human history and the greatest increase in human population in history, without severe problems is laughable.

Of course, when an actual left-wing activist was in charge of China's adaption to the modern world, the result was that tens of millions of Chinese starved to death in the Great Leap Forward. Same thing in Russia, where about ten million people starved in the 1930s. At no time in the industrial development of the UK and the US was there famine...

Part 2: Who's To Blame?

...I'll tell you what you'd get in a non-monetized economy. Status and hierarchy; who you know, not what you know. The miracle of the money economy is that it is no respecter of persons. A product is a product; a service is a service. Remove money from the equation and you get people-to-people. Status not contract.

The big question in the years ahead is what to do about the monster state we have created over the last century. How are we going to reform it? How *can* we reform it? Wilkinson and Pickett do not address the question of government reform. Well, they wouldn't...

Part 3: What About Equality?

...You can see what is going on here. Wilkinson and Pickett are proposing a return to a hunter-gatherer social system, where competition and innovation is self-consciously directed at combining "acceptable living standards with a sustainable economy".

Never mind whether this vision is desirable. Is it possible? If modern society is governed in order to return it to the steady state of the hunter-gatherer era, can we survive and thrive? On Marx's view of the productive forces, we are bound to wonder. And, to apply the Precautionary Principle, we would have to suggest that the burden of proof is on the egalitarians to prove that their egalitarian future will actually work.

One thing to keep in mind: the egalitarian countries admired by Wilkinson and Pickett are often countries with a very low total fertility rate. Germany reports 1.36 children per woman and Japan reports 1.26 children per woman. However Sweden is up at 1.80. Maybe the problem will be solved when the egalitarian countries cease to exist...

Part 4: The Bourbon Left

...All things being equal, everyone wants a less unequal society. But the question is: how? The answer running through *The Spirit Level* is more of the same, more liberal top-down centralizing, social-science based programs. If you read through *The Spirit Level* there is no attempt at discussion about the effectiveness of the usual liberal nostrums. Anything that liberals like is good. The one thing that Wilkinson and Pickett do not discuss is the possibility that it is welfare state policies that create inequality...

Another Memo from Leni Riefenstahl

by *Clarice Feldman*, 16 Jan 2011

...It's been two years since I last wrote. Then it was about the Invesco Field Rally in Denver. Now it's about that rally in Tucson. If you don't mind a few harsh words from someone seasoned in such things, no matter that you tried hard, the tragic incident in Tucson was no Reichstag Fire, and while you made as much of it as you could, you need to hone your shtick a bit better in future. I keep writing to you out of admiration for your political inclinations and skills, of course. I want only for you to succeed, and I hope you take my words to heart...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/clarices_pieces_another_memo_f.html

State Budget Bunk

A taxonomy of fiscal gimmicks, evasions, and ploys.

by *Steven Malanga*, *Winter 2011 issue*

In a 2009 segment on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, host Jon Stewart told viewers that many recession-hammered states had turned to unusual methods to raise money. "Are any of these ideas actually stupid?" Stewart wondered. Cut to *Daily Show* correspondent Jason Jones, who described Arizona's plans to sell its state government buildings for \$735 million, lease them back, and keep on using them. Quickly discerning the problem with such a maneuver, Jones confronted Arizona state senator Linda Lopez: "So you've got \$735 million for this year. What happens next year, when you don't have that and you've got to pay rent?" Lopez's awkward response: "That's always the problem, but we gotta get through this year."

Arizona is hardly alone in straining budget credibility to the breaking point. Facing scary revenue drops that left their budgets dangerously unbalanced after years of runaway spending, states have employed an unprecedented number of fiscal gimmicks over the last two years to try to make up the difference. They have swiped revenues dedicated to maintaining roads or enhancing emergency medical systems; sold future lottery proceeds for cash today; grabbed unclaimed money in personal bank accounts; and redefined taxes as fees to get around constitutional limits on tax hikes. And they've justified these moves by claiming that voters are in no mood for the spending cuts or explicit tax hikes necessary to shrink deficits legitimately—even though the tricks often circumvent budget restrictions that the voters themselves enacted.

These deceptions may be fodder for TV comedians, but they are likely to have very serious consequences...

3,500 words: http://city-journal.org/2011/21_1_state-budget-gimmicks.html

Wasting no time in the Land of Enchantment

New Mexico's new Gov. Susana Martinez means business.

by *Paul Chesser*, 13 Jan 2011

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/13/wasting-no-time-in-the-land-of>

And this former astronaut and U.S. Senator is New Mexico's new Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources.

We'd better be right on climate science

by *Harrison H. Schmitt, PhD*, 7 May 2009

http://www.heartland.org/environmentandclimate-news.org/article/25282/Wed_Better_Be_Right_On_Climate_Science.html

A Congress that reasserts its power

by *George F. Will*, 16 Jan 2011

...Unlike most of the 111 that preceded it, the 112th Congress must begin the process of restoring the national regime and civic culture the Founders bequeathed. This will require reviving the rule of law, reasserting the relevance of the Constitution and affirming the reality of American exceptionalism.

Many congressional Republicans, and surely some Democrats with institutional pride, think Congress is being derogated and marginalized by two developments. One is the apotheosis of the presidency as the mainspring of the

government and the custodian of the nation's soul. The second is the growing autonomy of the regulatory state, an apparatus responsive to presidents.

The eclipse of Congress by the executive branch and other agencies is Congress's fault. It is the result of lazy legislating and lax oversight. Too many "laws" actually are little more than pious sentiments endorsing social goals—environmental, educational, etc.—the meanings of which are later defined by executive-branch rule-making. In creating faux laws, the national legislature often creates legislators in the executive branch, making a mockery of the separation of powers. And Congress makes a mockery of itself when the Federal Register, a compilation of the regulatory state's activities, is a more important guide to governance than the Congressional Record...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/14/AR2011011404663.html>

Rethinking Obama's political performance in Tucson

by Byron York, 15 Jan 2011

...By the time he spoke in Tucson, Obama had let four days pass while some of the angriest voices in the media—his supporters—either blamed Republicans directly for the killings or blamed the GOP for creating the atmosphere in which the violence took place. During those four days, the president could have cooled the conversation by urging everyone to avoid jumping to conclusions, as he did the day after the November 2009 massacre at Ft. Hood, Texas. But he didn't. Only after Loughner's insanity had been indisputably established did Obama concede that politics was not to blame for the shooting.

By then, however, the president's supporters had tied the killings to the issue of political rhetoric. In Tucson, Obama played good cop to their bad cop by assuring everyone that rhetoric had not motivated the violence. But he still brought up the topic because, he said, it had "been discussed in recent days." Of course, it would not have been discussed in recent days had his supporters not made so many unfair accusations.

Some Democratic strategists hope Obama can capitalize on Tucson the way Bill Clinton capitalized on Oklahoma City. Perhaps he'll be able to, and perhaps he won't. But he's already trying.

The full column: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/01/rethinking-obamas-political-performance-tucson>

Stuxnet: It's Bush's fault!

by James Lewis, 16 Jan 2011

It's called "an admission against interest" in legal circles. Example: When the *New York Times* says something good about George W. Bush. It was George W. Bush's fault, the NYT just confessed, that the Stuxnet computer worm ended up destroying 984 Iranian uranium centrifuges over the last year or so. Bush got the Stuxnet program started in cooperation with Israel and other countries in the last years of his presidency.

Of course the Times buries the truth half-way down its long story on Stuxnet computer worm, instantly saying that when Obama found out about it he made the program speed up. But no matter. It's a confession from the *New York Times*, which is not prone to confessions. In fact, it was the *New York Times* that denied the Iranian nuclear threat for years and years during Bush's tenure. It is the *New York Times* that published and promoted the plainly false National Intelligence Estimate of 2006, dumped by the intelligence bureaucracy to undermine George W. Bush. The left, as represented by the NYT and WaPo, the *Guardian* and *Der Spiegel*, has a lot on its tiny little conscience...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/stuxnet_its_bushs_fault.html

Quite the Opposite

by Jay D. Homnick, 12 Jan 2011

...Think about it. Limbaugh has been on the air for twenty-two years. He has been espousing a point of view with passion and emphasis to millions of people five days a week. He has been frank in exposing the shortcomings of the opposing view. Yet not one single act of violence during that time has ever been attributed to a person identified as one of his regular listeners. NOT ONE SINGLE ACT!

This was a period that included the Oklahoma City bombings, the Olympic bombings, Columbine (Colorado), the Unabomber, the anthrax mailings, the Virginia Tech shootings, the Capitol Police attack, the Arizona train derailment, Paducah (Kentucky), the Amish killing rampage, Pearl (Mississippi), Fort Hood, the Arkansas military recruiter, Springfield (Oregon), the abortionist killed in Wichita, the abortionist killed in Buffalo, the Haley-Bopp Comet cult, the

fire at Freddie's, the Crown Heights riots, the D.C. sniper, the IRS kamikaze plane, etc. The list goes on and on.

Many of these murderers were discovered to have materials from Karl Marx. Al Gore, Al Sharpton and a whole array of fringe characters. Yet never once has one of these explosive acts of violence been traced to a Rush Limbaugh listener. That is a stunning fact in its own right, almost miraculous really. One could hardly fault him if here or there a fevered acolyte pursued his impetus beyond equipoise. But no... never even one single solitary time in twenty-two years!

The pro-Constitution, pro-liberty voices on the air do not promote upheaval. They promote a vision of liberty to pursue dreams. Healthy dreams, my friends, not twisted fantasies; ballots, not bullets.

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/12/quite-the-opposite>

Has Massachusetts experience put ObamaCare on a path to repeal?

by Sally C. Pipes, 12 Jan 2011

The new GOP majority plans to introduce a bill to repeal ObamaCare soon. What the Republicans are trying to prevent is what is already happening in Massachusetts, where a similar health care bill was enacted in April 2006. It is already imploding. Unless ObamaCare is repealed, we're on a path to Massachusetts' future...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=559597&p=1>

A Priest and an Altar Boy, Hah, Ha, Ha

by Randall Hoven, 16 Jan 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/a_priest_and_an_altar_boy_hah.html

Verbal hodgepodge of hate at 'nonpartisan' Oakland vigil for Tucson victims

At the Tatler: Video and transcript of an emotional moment destroyed by political venom.

by Zombie, 12 Jan 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/tatler/2011/01/12/word-salad-of-hate-at-oakland-vigil-for-tucson-victims/>

Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution

by Mona Eltahawy, 15 Jan 2011

...Their rage at political and economic disenfranchisement spilled over last month with the desperate act of an unemployed man. Mohammed Bouazizi, 26, distraught when police confiscated his unlicensed produce stand, set himself on fire on Dec. 17 and died on Jan. 3. Soon, several other unemployed youth tried to commit suicide, and at least one of them did. Is there a more poignant portrayal of what ails the Arab world than images of its young people killing themselves as their leaders get older and richer?

Human rights groups say more than 60 people have died in clashes with Ben Ali's security forces since Dec. 17, but Bouazizi's self-immolation has come to symbolize what many are calling the Jasmine Revolution...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/14/AR2011011405084.html>

Civility is the New Censorship

Rush Limbaugh Show, 13 Jan 2011

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_011311/content/01125108.guest.html

Comprehensive list of tax hikes in ObamaCare

by Ryan Ellis, 14 Jan 2011

Next week, the U.S. House of Representatives will be voting on an historic repeal of the ObamaCare law. While

there are many reasons to oppose this flawed government health insurance law, it is important to remember that ObamaCare is also one of the largest tax increases in American history. Below is a comprehensive list of the two dozen new or higher taxes that pay for Obamacare's expansion of government spending and interference between doctors and patients...

More: <http://www.atr.org/comprehensive-list-tax-hikes-obamacare-a5758#>

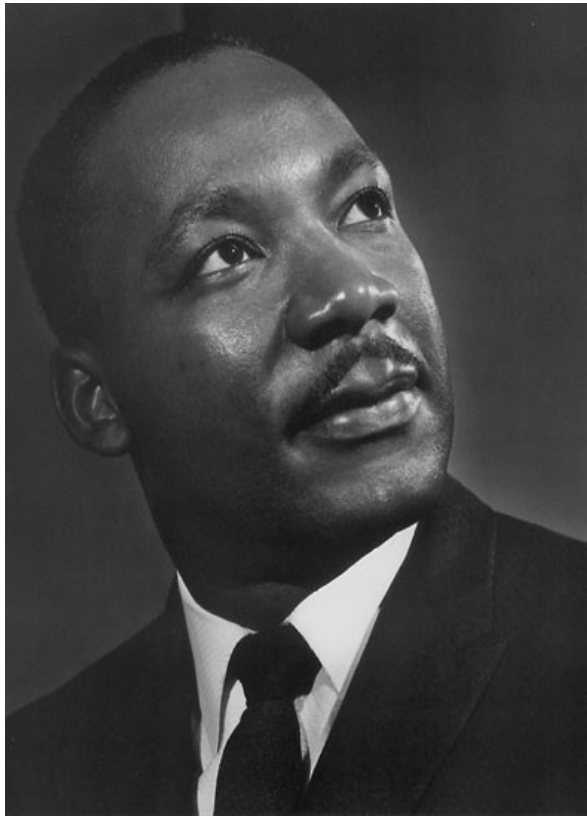
Pizza Guy for President!

by Bryan Curtis, 13 Jan 2011

Finally, the 2012 presidential race can begin. Herman Cain has gone to Iowa.

On Saturday, Cain was at Tish's restaurant in Council Bluffs, a city in southwestern Iowa across the river from Omaha. Fifty or so GOP activists, Tea Party irregulars, and locals had gathered. Most of them had apparently heard of Herman Cain. When he entered, they gave him a standing ovation...

He'd be great: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-01-13/herman-cain-for-president-maybe/full/>



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929—April 4, 1968)

Letter from Birmingham Jail *Martin Luther King Jr., 1 Apr 1963*

I Have A Dream *Martin Luther King Jr., 28 Aug 1963*

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

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

Martin Luther King's Conservative Legacy *Carolyn Garris 12 Jan 2006*

WaPo distorts history to libel Israel

by Leo Rennert, 13 Jan 2011

...The article reports that "The situation could destabilize this key Middle Eastern nation and perhaps spill over into a regional sectarian conflict. In 2006, Israel waged a devastating war in Lebanon, leveling much of the southern part of

the country and the southern suburbs of Beirut."

Why would Israel do this? There is no explanation whatever of what might have prompted Israel to deliver such a devastating blow. None whatsoever. According to the Post, Israel went ahead in 2006 and waged a devastating war in Lebanon. Period...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/01/wapo_distorts_history_to_libel.html

For Pete's Sake

by Richard Kantro, 13 Jan 2011

...Congressman Peter King's ill-advised and horribly rushed-before-the-TV-cameras proposal to ban all guns within a thousand feet of any event which might be happen to be attended by an unworkably compendious roster of public officials. Can such a bill be the product of reasoned thought and reflection?...

...Moving, soap-bubble zones of transient illegality. Slippery and untrackable. It seems much more likely that such bubbles will simply waft over and engulf unwitting citizens who happen to be armed than that armed citizens will, with malice aforethought, actively seek to breach such bubbles. Mr. King: who in blazes is Hizzoner Bloomberg to be introducing federal legislation? East-coast, big-city mayors now helping to bully Montanans? If you tried, you couldn't pick another public figure more subservient than this one to the president and his entire America-last agenda—or more beholden to him for what to say and what to think. Maybe Sheriff Dupnik would like to be another co-sponsor...

...Pete, illegal guns are already illegal. You're on the illegal guns committee; stick to that. It's *already* illegal to bring an illegal gun anywhere. We're decriminalizing *illegal* aliens, and now, your bill would criminalize *legal* guns. Fair is foul, and foul is fair. Forget the minds of lunatics for a minute; what's wrong with this picture, and with *our* minds? And Pete, were you absent from school the year they taught Logic 101?...

Out of the park: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/for_petes_sake.html

Welcome to Personal Responsibility 101

by Mike Adams, 10 Jan 2011

Back in 2002, I decided to join the fight against campus speech codes because I considered them to be the principal threat against liberty in the 21st Century. I was also concerned that Abraham Lincoln was right when he said that looking at our schools today is a good way to see what the nation will look like in twenty years. I knew that speech codes had to be defeated in order to avoid a situation in which citizens were easily deprived of their rights because they were never aware of them in the first place.

At the time I joined this fight, it seemed like every public university had an unconstitutional speech code. Today, that number is more like 67%. One of the main reasons for the improvement is the efforts of a group called the [Foundation for Individual Rights in Education](#), or FIRE. And now, FIRE has crafted an ingenious plan that promises to build on its momentum and make unconstitutional speech codes the exception, rather than the rule, at America's public universities...

The good news: http://townhall.com/columnists/MikeAdams/2011/01/10/welcome_to_personal_responsibility_101/page/full/

Branding the Tucson massacre: "Together We Thrive" in white and blue

Updated:

Liveblogging the bizarre pep rally;

Gov. Brewer booed;

in sum: right speech, too late, boneheaded venue (WOOT!)

by Michelle Malkin, 12 Jan 2011, 6:21 PM

<http://michellemalkin.com/2011/01/12/branding-the-tuscon-massacre-together-we-thrive-in-white-and-blue/>

Arbitration's intolerable bind

by Jeff Jacoby, 12 Jan 2011

If there were a hall of fame for ideas that sound great in theory but are disastrous in real life, "binding arbitration" for government labor contracts would be a major exhibit.

When contract talks between a union representing public employees and the state or local government they work for are deadlocked, many states require that the disagreement be referred to an outside arbitrator for a binding decision. Since strikes by public employees are intolerable — no one wants firefighters, teachers, or trash collectors walking off the job — letting a neutral third party hear both sides out and settle the issue can sound like a fair and practical way to resolve thorny issues.

In fact, it's anything but. Mandatory arbitration has turned out to be a rigged game — rigged in favor of government employees, and against the taxpayers who supply their wages and benefits...

Here's how: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/01/12/arbitrations_intolerable_bind/

Gender discrimination in science is a myth

Statistics show that women are treated fairly in technical fields.

by Alex B. Berezow, 12 Jan 2011

In the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, my fellow University of Washington graduate, Dr. Jennifer Rohn, recently accused the entire scientific community of being "inherently sexist." Her evidence? There are not enough female scientific "pundits" in the mainstream media. Instead of supporting her case with facts or statistics, she relied entirely on unpersuasive anecdotes about timid, defenseless women being bullied in a world full of big, scary men.

Anyone who has spent enough time in academic circles has heard this argument repeated ad nauseam. The viewpoint is so widely held and sacrosanct that even hinting that it might be exaggerated can cause a person serious trouble. On sensitive issues such as gender discrimination, facts have been replaced by emotion; science has been replaced by myth. No longer should this be tolerated. Let us reassess the "gender gap" in academia...

Continue: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/256816/gender-discrimination-science-myth-alex-b-berezow>

While media indict conservative speech, left's lunacy is ignored

by Rich Noyes, 11 Jan 2011

Three days after a mentally-deranged man — whose backyard in Arizona featured a bizarre shrine decorated with a human skull and rotted oranges — killed six people and severely wounded Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the liberal media continue to cynically link Sarah Palin, the Tea Party and mainstream conservatives with the crime.

There is, of course, absolutely no evidence that "heated rhetoric" in any way motivated Jared Loughner's shooting spree, but the media's repeated association of political speech with the attack suggests an attempt to exploit the tragedy to discredit mainstream conservatives by smearing them as somehow culpable...

More, including video and audio clips:

<http://www.mediaresearch.org/realitycheck/realitycheck/2011/20110111020540.aspx>

The President's Speech

by Paul Mirengoff, 12 Jan 2011

Tonight, in my estimation, President Obama delivered a brilliant, spellbinding, and fitting speech about the Tucson shootings. This was the best speech I've ever heard him give...

...Obama's call for civility may bother some, but I don't think it should. Again, Obama got it just right—insufficiently civil discourse had nothing to do with these shootings, but greater civility would be desirable nonetheless, and a fitting tribute to the nine-year old victim who was becoming so engaged in American politics. Obama's call for a politics closer to what this little girl imagined our politics to be was pretty compelling rhetoric.

Unfortunately, this is probably all it was. Calls for more civility in our politics are, as I have suggested, a bit like calls for better weather. If the tone of our politics is going to change, the change will have to start at the top. You can't have "civil" politics if the U.S. president is constantly taking cheap shots and employing overly harsh rhetoric...

More: <http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2011/01/028126.php>

The progressive 'climate of hate': An illustrated primer, 2000-2010

by Michelle Malkin, 10 Jan 2011

The Tucson massacre ghouls who are now trying to criminalize conservatism have **forced** our hand.

They need to be reminded. You need to be reminded.

Confront them. Don't be cowed into silence.

And don't let the media whitewash the sins of the hypocritical Left in their **naked attempt** to **suppress** the law-abiding, constitutionally-protected, peaceful, **vigorous political speech** of the Right.

They want to play *tu quoque* in the middle of a **national tragedy**? They asked for it. They got it.

The progressive climate of hate: A comprehensive illustrated primer in 8 parts:

I. PALIN HATE

II. BUSH HATE

III. MISC. TEA PARTY/GOP/ANTI-TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE HATE

IV. ANTI-CONSERVATIVE FEMALE HATE

V. LEFT-WING MOB HATE: campus, anti-war radicals, ACORN, eco-extremists, & unions

VI. OPEN-BORDERS HATE

VII. ANTI-MILITARY HATE

VIII. HATE: CRIMES: the ever-growing Unhinged Mugshot Collection

More: <http://michellemalkin.com/2011/01/10/the-progressive-climate-of-hate-an-illustrated-primer-2000-2010/>

The Lone Gunman Theory of Legislation

The perils of letting armed lunatics drive public policy.

by Jacob Sullum, 12 Jan 2011

...After the shocking attack—which killed six people, including U.S. District Judge John Roll and 9-year-old Christina Green, and wounded 14, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.)—there was no shortage of knee-jerk proposals for preventing future outbursts of senseless violence. Most of them would sacrifice Americans' freedom in a vain attempt to protect us from armed lunatics...

...The urge to do *something* in the wake of such a horrible crime is understandable but dangerous, as the grieving father of Christina Green suggested in a *Today* show interview. "In a free society," he said, "we're going to be subject to people like this. I prefer this to the alternative."

Read it all: <http://reason.com/archives/2011/01/12/the-lone-gunman-theory-of-legi>

Massacre, followed by libel

by Charles Krauthammer, 12 Jan 2011

...This is not political behavior. These are the signs of a clinical thought disorder—ideas disconnected from each other, incoherent, delusional, detached from reality.

These are all the hallmarks of a paranoid schizophrenic. And a dangerous one. A classmate found him so terrifyingly mentally disturbed that, she e-mailed friends and family, she expected to find his picture on TV after his perpetrating a mass murder. This was no idle speculation: In class "I sit by the door with my purse handy" so that she could get out fast when the shooting began.

Furthermore, the available evidence dates Loughner's fixation on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to at least 2007, when he attended a town hall of hers and felt slighted by her response. In 2007, no one had heard of Sarah Palin. Glenn Beck was still toiling on *Headline News*. There was no Tea Party or health-care reform. The only climate of hate was the pervasive post-Iraq campaign of vilification of George W. Bush, nicely captured by a *New Republic* editor who had begun an article thus: "I hate President George W. Bush. There, I said it."...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/11/AR2011011106068.html>

Another stupid idea from the Donkey side of the aisle

by Roger Kimball, 10 Jan 2011

Should someone send Rep. Robert Brady a copy of the First Amendment?

According to The Hill, the Democratic lawmaker "plans to introduce legislation that would make it a federal crime to use language or symbols that could be perceived as threatening or inciting violence against a federal official or member of Congress."...

...I'd say this was simply pathetic and that someone should send this bozo a copy of the First Amendment. But I suspect he knows exactly what he is doing. He is trying to "shut down" your right to engage in vigorous political debate, which also means vigorous political criticism. That's why he should be targeted by Pennsylvanians in 2012: they should get him in their crosshairs and the voters should turn out en masse and score a bull's eye by unseating this embarrassing enemy of free speech.

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerkimball/2011/01/10/another-stupid-idea-from-the-donkey-side-of-the-aisle/?singlepage=true>

The extreme rhetoric about extreme rhetoric (with bonus fake Sinclair Lewis fascism quote!)

by Michael C. Moynihan, 11 Jan 2011

...To veterans of the 1990s culture wars, such obfuscations recall campus debates on the postmodern perception of "truth" (always in quotes); that academic slip clause allowing one to evade discussions of factual inaccuracies by shifting discussion to tedious debates over the very *meaning* of truth. Indeed, *The Economist* is right to **argue** that Jared Loughner's rants about mind-control seem more Foucault than Bachmann...

...Thankfully, Neiwert's book footnotes **the quote**, attributing it to Lewis's 1935 novel *It Can't Happen Here*, though he curiously fails to provide a page number. This is because Neiwert is bluffing, fudging the citation—the (rather unimpressive) line can't be found in *It Can't Happen Here* because Lewis never uttered or committed it to paper. It is, in fact, an Internet quotation; one spread far and wide by the dumb and partisan, despite an obviously murky provenance.

The phony Lewis quote also shows up in liberal journalist Joe Conason's book (titled, of course, *It Can Happen Here*) on the coming of fascism in the United States—a threat that vanished, apparently, after the peaceful transition from Bush to Obama. And for those keeping score at home, Chris Matthews, in a recent conversation about Sarah Palin on *Hardball*, told guest Richard Wolffe that "Huey Long wasn't the most sane guy in the world, Richard, but he said that when fascism comes to America, it will call itself anti-fascism." As you might have already guessed, the Long quote is also fake...

Fascinating: <http://reason.com/blog/2011/01/11/the-extreme-rhetoric-about-ext>

The NYT really seems to love him. Nonetheless, he'd still make a good President.

NY Times flips its Whig over Gov. Mitch Daniels (R-Ind.)

by Nick Gillespie, 5 Jan 2011

<http://reason.com/blog/2011/01/05/ny-times-flips-its-whig-over-g>

I've got your "inflammatory rhetoric" right here

by Stephanie Herman, 11 Jan 2011

If you were logged in to Facebook on Saturday after the shooting in Arizona, you may have noticed a trend in your newsfeed. I did, anyway. Many of my leftist Facebook friends were collectively engaged in assuming and articulating the Tea Party's culpability. More specifically, they blamed, as the media eventually did as well, the "inflammatory rhetoric" of the right wing...

...Eventually, the argument pinning the blame for the shooting on the Tea Party was capped off with this confident claim: Leaders on the Left just don't regularly engage in this type of violent, inflammatory rhetoric.

Not inflammatory rhetoric on its own, but it did get me to thinking.

And so, I listed on my Facebook wall the following links, each prefaced with a simple question. One after the other. You can decide for yourself if leaders on the Left would ever engage in such inflammatory rhetoric. That is, if we can agree on what "inflammatory rhetoric" actually is. Apparently, if leaders on the Left have expressed this rhetoric, but claims are made insisting it doesn't happen, then there is some doubt as to its inflammatory nature...

17 examples of inflammatory liberal rhetoric: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/10/ive-got-your-inflammatory-rhet>

The dismissal of Sarah Palin

by Aaron Goldstein, 11 Jan 2011

...So does Olbermann think the Democratic Leadership Council should be dismissed from politics? Surely Olbermann believes the DLC should repudiate its part in amplifying violence and violent imagery in politics after it, on behalf of John Kerry in 2004, put bull's-eye targets on nine states won by President Bush in 2000. After all, the DLC did **describe** these nine states as being situated "behind enemy lines."

Does Olbermann think President Obama should be dismissed from politics? Surely Olbermann believes Obama should repudiate his own part in amplifying violence and violent imagery in politics after he **said** a Republican Congress would mean hand-to-hand combat.

Does Olbermann think Vice President Biden should be dismissed from politics? Surely Olbermann believes Biden should repudiate his own part in amplifying violence and violent imagery in politics after he **said** he wanted to strangle the next Republican who talked about balancing the budget.

Does Olbermann think Joe Manchin, West Virginia's newly elected Democratic Senator, should be dismissed from politics? Surely Olbermann believes Manchin should repudiate his own part in amplifying violence and violent imagery in politics after firing a bullet into the cap-and-trade bill in one of his television ads.

As far as Olbermann is concerned, President Obama, Vice President Biden, Senator Manchin, and the DLC are free to do what they please. Oh, he might have an unkind word for them now and again. But make no mistake. Olbermann knows who keeps his bread buttered and has no intention subjecting them to the impossible standards he reserves for Palin...

...In the crazy world of Keith Olbermann, Sarah Palin must be dismissed from politics. She must be excised from our public discourse. Her thoughts have been deemed impure and thus they cannot be heard in polite society. This is at the heart of Olbermann's real agenda. The same can be said for Paul Krugman and Jane Fonda. So devoted are they to banishing Sarah Palin from the public square that they are willing to say anything, no matter how untrue, to make it happen. The end justifies the means. So it doesn't matter if Gabrielle Giffords was shot by a deranged man who was **angry with her before** Palin became a national public figure. It is still Palin's fault. If liberals could they would blame Palin for the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/01/11/the-dismissal-of-sarah-palin>

The Constitution did not condone slavery

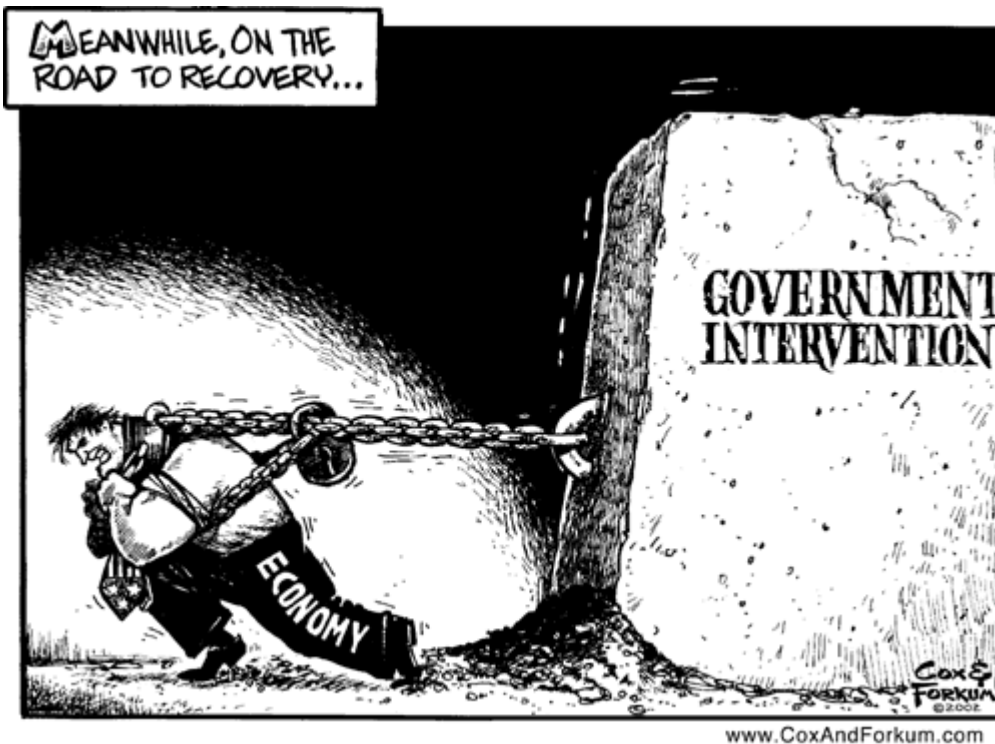
by J. Kenneth Blackwell and Robert Morrison, 10 Jan 2011

...Then, there's the Post's ritual repeating of the falsehood that the Founders viewed black people as "three fifths of a person." That is a wholly tendentious misreading of the Three-Fifths Clause. Don Fehrenbacher is a leading authority on this. In his penetrating study, *The Slaveholding Republic*, he writes: "[The] fraction 'three-fifths' had no racial meaning. It did not represent a perception of blacks as three-fifths human..." It was a compromise on methods of levying taxes and apportioning representation in Congress.

Further, the Three-Fifths Compromise reduced the power in Congress of slaveholding states while giving an electoral bonus to any state that voluntarily emancipated its slaves. When seven of the original thirteen states abolished slavery, they were allowed to count free black people in the census for purposes of representation in Congress.

It is especially galling to have liberals attack Republican Members on these matters. They forget that it was Republicans who gave us the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments—those great guarantees of civil rights. Every vote cast against those amendments was cast by a Democrat. It was Republicans who passed the first anti-lynching bill in the House—in 1922. Those bills were routinely killed by Senate Democrats until 1957...

Read it all: http://townhall.com/columnists/KenBlackwell/2011/01/10/the_constitution_did_not_condone_slavery/page/full/



Some manure, please, so I can 'grow the economy'

by Caroline Baum, 10 Jan 2011

... The idea that the government can grow the economy is seriously flawed. The economy grows on its own unless there are obstacles placed in the way. The best thing the government can do is remove those impediments, such as the high corporate tax rate, and allow the economy to send out new roots and green shoots. Water it periodically. Fertilize occasionally with organic material. And don't overfeed.

"Grow the economy" conjures up images of bureaucrats sitting around a table distributing tax incentives to ethanol producers; doling out grants to private companies to advertise overseas; pouring money into pointless infrastructure projects, such as bike paths, pedestrian trails and critter crossings.

Oh, wait. The government does that already.

How does the economy know how to grow without anyone telling it what to do? It starts with individuals wanting to earn money to pay for their basic needs and accumulate savings. In our infinite wisdom, we—at least entrepreneurs—figure out how to produce or provide a good or service the public wants to buy at a price it's willing to pay...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-10/some-manure-please-to-grow-the-economy-commentary-by-caroline-baum.html>

Señor Rubio Goes to Washington

by Kathryn Jean Lopez, 10 Jan 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/256700>

Radical chic

by Jonah Goldberg, 9 Jan 2011

For years we've been hearing about how the peaceful religion of Islam has been hijacked by extremists. What if it's the other way around? Worse, what if the peaceful hijackers are losing their bid to take over the religion?

That certainly seems to be the case in Pakistan. Salman Taseer, a popular Pakistani governor, was assassinated this week because he was critical of Pakistan's blasphemy law...

...And what of the reaction to the assassination? Many columnists and commentators denounced the murder, but the public's reaction was often celebratory. A Facebook fan page for Qadri had to be taken down even as it was drawing thousands of followers.

And what of the country's official guardians of the faith? A group of more than 500 leading Muslim scholars, representing what The Associated Press describes as a "moderate school of Islam" and the British Guardian calls the

"mainstream religious organizations" in Pakistan, not only celebrated the murder but warned that no Muslim should mourn Taseer's murder or pray for him. They even went so far as to warn government officials and journalists that the "supporter is as equally guilty as one who committed blasphemy," and so therefore they should all take "a lesson from the exemplary death" of Salman Taseer.

If that's what counts for religious moderation in Pakistan, I think it's a little late to be talking about extremists hijacking the religion. The religion has long since been hijacked, and it's now moving on to even bigger things...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/radical_chic_PUya0FzJCY624wP11gO3BM

James Taranto: Sheriff Dupnik is distracting public from looking at his contacts with Killer Loughner (video)

Jim Hoft, 10 Jan 2011, 9:27 PM

<http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/01/james-taranto-sheriff-dupnik-is-distracting-public-from-looking-at-his-contacts-with-killer-loughner-video/>

Sorry leftist hacks...

when you've lost the libs on *The View* you've lost the argument (video)

Jim Hoft, 10 Jan 2011, 9:01 PM

<http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/01/sorry-leftist-hacks-when-you-lost-the-libs-on-the-view-youve-lost-the-argument-video/>

Hanoi Jane and Jared

by Jeannie DeAngelis, 11 Jan 2011

...Couple Fonda's inappropriate placing of blame with the liberal media endlessly expressing outrage over the loss of life in Arizona while continuing to shill for abortion rights, and you have another prime example of the politicization of misfortune.

What CNN and Jane Fonda have failed to mention is that, à la Bill Ayers, an obviously disturbed Jared desecrated an American flag on **YouTube** and cited his favorite reading material as Hitler's manifesto on the control of government, industry, and health care, *Mein Kampf*, and Karl Marx's collectivism handbook, *The Communist Manifesto*. Caitlin Parker, Jared's high school friend, claims that the Tucson shooter leans left. If that's true, then the deaths of six are certainly a drop in the bucket when compared to the millions of deaths advocated for since the inception of *Roe v. Wade* by others who lean left.

Even Jane Fonda now admits that her decision to "encourage" North Vietnamese troops was a "betrayal." Suddenly, a woman whose behavior contributed to the deaths of American soldiers is expressing public indignation over the injustice of premature death. Thus, there is no more qualified a representative than Jane Fonda to stand for liberal absurdity. Jane epitomizes the hypocrisy of the left, because a left-winger expressing shock over loss of innocent life is like Osama bin Laden voicing opposition to terrorism, or Hanoi Jane herself mourning at a military funeral...

...There is no denying that the heartbreak in Tucson calls for a sobering acknowledgment that America's culture of death has saturated our society and, even in the most innocuous of situations, threatens all our lives. Even so, *the last people who possess* the credibility to lecture or blame anyone for cruelty or carnage *are liberals*, like Jane Fonda, who denounce the appalling death and injury of a small group of victims murdered by a madman after spending the last 38 years heartily applauding the slaughter of **1.3 million** helpless babies a year.

Read the rest: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/hanoi_jane_and_jared.html

The Climate of Krugman

by John Hayward, 10 Jan 2011

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?print=yes&id=41087>

Political Vultures

The sick art of turning insanity into politics.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 10 Jan 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/256697>

Murder in Tucson

Jared Loughner's sickness is not the product of politics.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 10 Jan 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703667904576071943007100666.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

The Most Cynical Campaign

National Review editorial, 10 Jan 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/256698>

Journalists urged caution after Ft. Hood, now race to blame Palin after Arizona shootings

by Byron York, 9 Jan 2011

... "We can't jump to conclusions," Army Gen. George Casey said on CNN November 8. The next day, political analyst Mark Halperin urged a "transparent" investigation into the shootings "so the American people don't jump to conclusions." And when Republican Rep. Pete Hoekstra, then the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, suggested that the Ft. Hood attack was terrorism, CNN's John Roberts was quick to intervene. "Now, President Obama has asked people to be very cautious here and to not jump to conclusions," Roberts said to Hoekstra. "By saying that you believe this is an act of terror, are you jumping to a conclusion?"

Fast forward a little more than a year, to January 8, 2011. In Tucson, Arizona, a 22 year-old man named Jared Lee Loughner opened fire at a political event, gravely wounding Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, killing a federal judge and five others, and wounding 18. In the hours after the attack, little was known about Loughner beyond some bizarre and largely incomprehensible YouTube postings that, if anything, suggested he was mentally ill. Yet the network that had shown such caution in discussing the Ft. Hood shootings openly discussed the possibility that Loughner was inspired to violence by Sarah Palin. Although there is no evidence that Loughner was in any way influenced by Palin, CNN was filled with speculation about the former Alaska governor...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/beltway-confidential/2011/01/journalists-urged-caution-after-ft-hood-now-race-blame-palin-aft>

Let's not make this something it isn't

by Steve Kornacki, 9 Jan 2011

... But I also can't help detecting a desire to make Saturday's shooting something that it doesn't seem to be—a chance to say, "See, we told you" to Palin and the Tea Party crowd... This seems unfair. At best, the connection between Palin's behavior and Saturday's tragedy is abstract. If anything, the shooting reinforces a point that James Fallows has made: The motives of political assassins rarely have anything to do with mainstream political debate and rhetoric. For now, at least, this seems to be the case with Loughner...

More: http://www.salon.com/news/gabrielle_giffords/index.html?story=/politics/war_room/2011/01/09/loughner_not_though

Fighting public-sector unions

by Jeff Jacoby, 9 Jan 2011

As resistance to public-sector unionism has intensified, many of the noisiest confrontations have been on the coasts. In New Jersey, freshman Governor Chris Christie has been locked in a battle royale with his state's powerful teachers unions. In California, Oakland's new mayor began her first full day in office by demanding that unionized police officers, who pay nothing toward their pensions, be required to contribute 9 percent of their salaries. In New York, federal prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into whether Sanitation Department workers purposely paralyzed the city with a work slowdown during last month's blizzard. In Massachusetts, Governor Deval Patrick infuriated public-safety unions by replacing costly police details with civilian flaggers at many construction and repair sites.

Now the Midwest is poised to become a major theater in the war against insatiable government unions...

More: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/01/09/fighting_public_sector_unions/

The Blair Hitch Project

Since leaving 10 Downing Street, Tony Blair has faced continuing public condemnation for leading the U.K. into Iraq, converted to Catholicism, and plunged into the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Debating Blair in Toronto, the author finds the former Prime Minister battered but unapologetic.

by *Christopher Hitchens*, 6 Jan 2011 (*February issue*)

<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2011/02/hitchens-201102>

The unseemly rush to blame Sarah Palin, the Tea Party and Republicans for murder in Arizona

by *Toby Harnden*, 9 Jan 2011

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/tobyharnden/100071004/the-unseemly-rush-to-blame-sarah-palin-the-tea-party-and-republicans-for-murder-in-arizona/#dsq-content>

The Media & The Shooter

by *Eric Erickson*, 9 Jan 2011

<http://www.redstate.com/erick/2011/01/09/the-media-the-shooter/>

Why Zora Neale Hurston was a conservative

The acclaimed author was skeptical of Democrats, special favors for blacks, and the idea of taking racial pride in the achievements of individuals.

by *John McWhorter*, 4 Jan 2011

<http://www.theroot.com/views/why-zora-neale-hurston-was-conservative?page=0,0>

Flower power in Gloucester

A British equivalent to the Tea Party?

by *Roger Kimball and Hilton Kramer*, 1 Jan 2011

It is the Tea Party in the United States. Will it be flower power in England? Dating from 1089, Gloucester Cathedral is a sprawling jewel of stately Christian architecture, its agglomeration of spires, balustrades, stained glass, and fan vaulting bespeaking a settled, ancient respectability. But who knows what evil lurks behind that seemingly staid exterior? That's what worried the Dean of the Cathedral. So, bending to bureaucratic pressure from London—really, its from the statist Zeitgeist—he has insisted that everyone who volunteers to work in the cathedral undergo a criminal background check courtesy of the Criminal Records Bureau...

Annabel Hayter et al. still have "what made Britain Great":

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Flower-power-in-Gloucester-6750>

Worshipping the Constitution

Only one governing principle is compatible with freedom.

by *John Hayward*, 6 Jan 2011

Democrats are howling about the new Republican majority's decision to read the Constitution in its entirety on Thursday. Representative Jerrold Nadler of New York told the *Washington Post* it would be a "ritualistic reading" that treated the Constitution like "a sacred text" for "propaganda" purposes. "You're not supposed to worship your Constitution," Nadler huffed. "You are supposed to govern your government by it." On her Headline News TV host Joy Behar wondered if "this Constitution loving is getting out of hand."

Of course, it's hard to govern our ungovernable government with the Constitution if we don't know what it says. There is little evidence the Democrats are familiar with it, except as an obstacle to be worked around...

...Each of these alternative principles becomes an object of worship, far more than the Constitution is revered by even the most ardent Tea Party member. Trillion-dollar takeovers are an act of transcendent faith in the power of government, and therefore a renunciation of faith in her citizens. The Obama Administration reveres its own wisdom so much that it hands out waivers from the system meant to impose "fairness" upon health care for the rest of us. The environmental religion has its own rituals, priesthood, and holy days. What has the most dedicated constitutionalist said about our founding documents to compare with these acts of worship?

There is only one governing principle that properly respects the freedom of all citizens: ironclad obedience to a clear and concise document that identifies their inherent rights, and forbids the State from compromising them, under *any* circumstances. The Constitution does not "give" you those rights. It *recognizes* them. You had them before you could read or understand a single word. Every human being throughout history had them, even those who lived before any of the Founding Fathers were born. In reading the Constitution aloud, the 112th Congress will acknowledge those rights... and read an arrest warrant to an out-of-control government...

Doctor Zero nails it again: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41017#>

There's been a lot of comment recently in the mainstream media about the omission of slavery clauses from Congress's recent ceremonial reading of the Constitution. Nearly all of this comment has harped on slavery as "America's original sin," and preened with moral superiority over many of the Founding Fathers. Here are some rebuttals to that ignorant pomposity.

Twisted History

by Thomas Sowell, 26 Dec 2003

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell121703.asp>

"Never Forget: They Kept Lots of Slaves"

by Michael Knox Beran, 29 Dec 2003

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

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

by Jeff Jacoby, 4 July 2010

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

No, Paul Krugman, Texas is not broke

by Kevin D. Williamson, 7 Jan 2011

In terms of harbingers of the apocalypse, it isn't exactly dogs and cats living together or John Bolton exchanging facial-hair-grooming tips over sugary mint tea with ayatollahs, but, brace yourselves: Texas is facing a projected budget deficit. I know, I know: horrors, right?

Paul Krugman is practically rubbing his hands together with glee like some thin-mustached and top-hatted melodrama villain: *Bwahahaha! If Texas goes down, conservative economics goes down with it! I shall rule the world!* Look for the usual liberal snots to be talking up the story: *Texas is finished, baby!*

Keep your pants on, professor. Texas is *not* going to have a budget shortfall...

The actual facts: <http://www.nationalreview.com/exchequer/256614/no-paul-krugman-texas-not-broke>

But the Land of Lincoln is:

Illinois Taxes: How Blue Can You Get?

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 8 Jan 2011

...Americans for Tax Reform compared the states gaining and losing congressional seats and found that "states gaining seats had significantly lower taxes, less government spending and were more likely to have 'Right to Work' laws in place."

ATR found the average personal income-tax rate in states losing seats was a high 6.05%. That average rate in states gaining seats was a more modest 2.8%. Per capita government spending is also lower: \$4,008 for states gaining congressional seats vs. \$5,117 for those that aren't.

Undaunted by this information, Illinois lawmakers are considering raising their state's income tax rate to 5.74% from 3%. This increase, Illinois taxpayers are being told, will be only temporary, lasting four years, when the rate will fall back to 3.75%.

Temporary tax hikes are like unicorns — they exist only in legend. Even if this promise is kept, four years is long enough to drive out more businesses and workers and accelerate Illinois' death spiral into bankruptcy...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=559259&p=1>

A nation choking on endless laws

by Michael A. Walsh, 7 Jan 2011

Heading back to work this week, Americans were greeted not only by a new year but also by a whole slew of new laws—31,000 of them at the state level—covering everything from guns to 100-watt light bulbs to, of course, "health care." As usual, most of these laws tell us what *we* can't do: texting while driving (duh), cyberbullying, and smoking in bars.

In the near future, everyone will be a criminal for at least 15 minutes, whether they know it or not.

But aside from some laws easing state restrictions on lawful gun ownership, precious few of them tell the government what *it* can't do. To the ruling class, there is almost nothing the government, at some level, can't do—not only via legislation, but regulation as well. Two recent examples come to mind...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/nation_choking_on_endless_laws_1ciy9o0eG96ukjunzbaz1L

American paradox: Political correctness coexists with extreme vulgarity

by Ron Smith, 6 Jan 2011

Our society has pulled off quite the paradoxical feat, being at once tolerant of rampant, base vulgarity and sensitive to the slightest slur. It's much like the Orwellian "doublethink," wherein one can hold two opposing ideas at the same time, believing both to be true...

This is good: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-smith-20110106,0,5743.column>

Buckle Up for Round 2

by David Brooks, 6 Jan 2011

The health care reform law was signed 10 months ago, and what's striking now is how vulnerable it looks. Several threats have emerged — some of them scarcely discussed before passage — that together or alone could seriously endanger the new system. These include...

Continue: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/07/opinion/07brooks.html?_r=1

Mayor Bloomberg: An Abject Failure

by Pamela Geller, 7 Jan 2011

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg continues to confound and betray the very constituency that elected this increasingly dangerous apologist and tool of the global jihad.

You can take the measure of a mayor by how he handles difficulty...like, say, snow. In New York City, it's how we judge our mayor. Clean the streets, keep us moving. And based on that simple test, Michael Bloomberg is an abject failure. Union thugs held the city hostage and **killed people** (including a newborn) during the snowstorm, and the sidewalks are still teeming with mountains of garbage. And our taxes are obscene.

While our Ground Zero mosque-obsessed mayor has been toiling to facilitate, expedite, and erect a victory mosque on the hallowed ground of Ground Zero, the city falls into chaos, disrepair, and bankruptcy.

The New York snowstorm exhibited what a bloody failure this quisling is, bullied by organized labor *and unions that did nothing the first 24 hours*. What a **difference a schmuck makes**.

This would never have happened under Bloomberg's predecessor, Rudolph Giuliani. Mayor Mosqueteer Gloomberg is weak and garners no respect, and we the people have to pay for his ineptitude...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/mayor_bloomberg_an_abject_fail.html

Restoring the Social Order

Twenty momentous years of conservative policy success in cities.

by Heather Mac Donald, 6 Jan 2011

Conservative ideas are responsible for the two great urban-policy successes of the last quarter-century: the breathtaking drops in crime and in welfare dependency since the early 1990s. You'd never know it from members of the opinion elite, however, who have rarely recognized these successes, much less their provenance...

...Liberal urban policy was based on several core assumptions. Number One: multigenerational poverty was the result of structural forces—above all, of rapacious capitalism and racism. It could never be the result of bad decision-making or a deficit of personal responsibility. Number Two: though men were still, alas, required for conceiving a child, they were purely optional for raising one. (Corollary: the role of illegitimacy in creating and perpetuating poverty could never be acknowledged.) Number Three: low-wage work was demeaning and pointless. It was better to receive a monthly welfare check than to labor at an entry-level job. Number Four: crime was an understandable and inevitable reaction to economic injustice and discrimination. (Corollary: the police could not lower crime; only government social programs and wealth-redistribution schemes could.) Together, these four conceits composed the most dangerous idea of all: that the bourgeois values of order, self-discipline, and respect for the law were decorative afterthoughts to prosperity, rather than its very precondition...

...But fissures in the dominant ideology were already appearing. In the 1980s, states had started making sure that criminals actually served most of their sentences. And the realization that work was a better corrective to poverty than government handouts made federal welfare reform look more and more likely. As this prospect loomed, the poverty-industrial complex erupted in rage, using the very dysfunction and disorder that its policies had produced as an argument against changing the status quo. Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, the architects of the welfare-rights revolution, railed against the idea of asking welfare mothers to work. Those mothers already had a full-time job, they said, simply trying to care for their children under the "jungle-like conditions of urban poverty." Memo to all professors: that jungle is exactly what you get when you dismiss the necessity of the two-parent family, work, and respect for the law...

Read the rest: <http://www.city-journal.org/2011/eon0106hm.html>

Constitutionalism

by Charles Krauthammer, 7 Jan 2011

...Americans are in the midst of a great national debate over the power, scope and reach of the government established by that document. The debate was sparked by the current administration's bold push for government expansion—a massive fiscal stimulus, ObamaCare, financial regulation and various attempts at controlling the energy economy. This engendered a popular reaction, identified with the Tea Party but in reality far more widespread, calling for a more restrictive vision of government more consistent with the Founders' intent.

Call it constitutionalism. In essence, constitutionalism is the intellectual counterpart and spiritual progeny of the "originalism" movement in jurisprudence. Judicial "originalists" (led by Antonin Scalia and other notable conservative jurists) insist that legal interpretation be bound by the text of the Constitution as understood by those who wrote it and their contemporaries. Originalism has grown to become the major challenger to the liberal "living Constitution" school, under which high courts are channelers of the spirit of the age, free to create new constitutional principles accordingly.

What originalism is to jurisprudence, constitutionalism is to governance: a call for restraint rooted in constitutional text. Constitutionalism as a *political* philosophy represents a reformed, self-regulating conservatism that bases its call for minimalist government—for reining in the willfulness of presidents and legislatures—in the words and meaning of the Constitution.

Hence that highly symbolic moment on Thursday when the 112th House of Representatives opened with a reading of the Constitution. Remarkably, this had never been done before—perhaps because it had never been so needed...

More: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/06/AR2011010604379_pf.html

Chuckleheaded new edition of *Huckleberry Finn* tries to correct classic by eliminating the N-word

6 Jan 2011

Obama's Oil War

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 5 Jan 2011

...Oil prices are surging to levels that will soon crimp economic growth. And what's our government doing about it? Just making it worse...

...More than mere incompetence is at work here. It's becoming more and more obvious that Obama's energy policy is meant to raise prices by making fossil fuels harder to produce and use. Indeed, the White House has followed a deliberate policy of attacking Americans' use of energy, turning it into something of a moral crusade. In just two years, as Steve Everley of the American Solutions blog has noted, the Obama administration has:

Virtually shut down oil drilling in the Gulf...Put hundreds of billions of barrels of offshore oil and gas off-limits to exploration and production. By executive order, the administration has taken much of the energy-rich Outer Continental Shelf out of play...Canceled 77 existing drilling leases in Utah...proposed new taxes on energy, including the cap-and-trade fiasco, that have had a chilling effect on new investment in energy...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/558879/201101052036/Obamas-Oil-War.htm>

Playing the Violence Card

by Christopher Chantrill, 4 Jan 2011

Our lefty friends have just come off a pretty good century playing the blame game on conservatives for "violence." Whether it was corporate goons whacking union organizers at the Battle of the Overpass or racist Southern cops turning the fire hoses on civil-rights marchers or Chicago cops attacking the "kids" in 1968, you knew who the good guys were.

Somehow the story of union thugs attacking Tea Party folks, or Reverend Al Sharpton inciting anti-Korean riots, or anti-WTO anarchists vandalizing downtown Seattle didn't have quite the same resonance with the American people. So our lefty friends play the right-wing violence card every chance they get.

In part, the reason for this is that black civil rights really was a big deal—the issue of America's original sin. But a lot of the difference comes down to whose story gets told in the media. Back in the good old days, "objective" journalists told the story, and that meant the liberal line got handed down to posterity. In consequence, lefty bombers like Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn get to pal around with future presidents; right-wing militia members and their ilk don't.

Despite a century of good press, the veiled or not-so-veiled threat of violence sits right at the center of left-wing politics. The very word "demonstration" is a euphemism for "show of force."...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/playing_the_violence_card.html

The New Sophists

The technocracy's ignorance is showing.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 6 Jan 2011

In classical Athens, public life became dominated by clever and smart-sounding sophists. These mellifluous "really wise guys" made money and gained influence by their rhetorical boasts to "prove" the most amazing "thinkery" that belied common sense.

We are living in a new age of sophism—but without a modern equivalent of Socrates to remind the public just how silly our highly credentialed and privileged new rhetoricians can often sound...

Continue: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/256445/new-sophists-victor-davis-hanson>

Congress Rediscovered the Constitution

by Roger Pilon, 4 Jan 2011

If the new Congress to be sworn in on Wednesday is the tea party's cardinal achievement so far, its most symbolic achievement will come on Thursday, when the first order of business in the House will be a reading, aloud, of the

Constitution. That event alone will not bring us any closer to limited government. But it will help get a debate going that for too long has been dormant.

Already, House Democrats are lining up to ridicule a closely related rule that the Republican majority has said it will adopt, requiring members to cite the specific constitutional authority for any bill they introduce. "It's an air kiss they're blowing to the tea party," says Barney Frank, outgoing chairman of the House Financial Services Committee...

Why it's important: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703384504576055632235572362.html>

No one in Congress knows more about blowing than Barney Frank.

Our creed

Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial, 2 Jan 2011

...We believe in truth, facts and objectivity. In the 20th century, some fashionable philosophers took a turn toward incoherence — contending that objective truth and reality, if they even exist, are relative and unknowable (or ultimately different for different people). We reject this...

...We believe in right reason... We believe in moral absolutes... We believe in freedom — in liberty, the ultimate cause... We believe in the right to property...

...We believe in free enterprise. There is no such thing as the capitalist "system" — capitalism is but the sum of economic interactions occurring naturally among individuals pursuing their own prosperity... We believe in man's fallen nature...

...We believe in limited government. Because it relies at bottom on the threat of coercion, government should perform only those functions society cannot perform through other means...

...We believe in a strong national defense. Before a people can set the course of their country, they must secure its autonomy from outside predation. That is the chief purpose of the national government...

...We believe in fiscal conservatism... We believe in community. Individuals have the right to self-determination, but they can find self-fulfillment only through relationships with family, friends, neighborhoods, social groups and fellowships...

Read the details: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/editorials/2011/jan/02/tdopin01-our-creed-ar-746289/>

'Saving' the housing market

by Thomas Sowell, 4 Jan 2011

...We hear all sorts of sad stories about people whose homes are "under water" or who are facing foreclosure. But why should our attention be arbitrarily focused on these particular people, rather than on the many other people who would benefit from being able to buy those same houses, if the prices came down? The government is artificially keeping the prices up with subsidies and with pressures on lenders to accommodate the current occupants.

Can we not walk and chew gum at the same time? Is our attention span so limited that we can only think about one set of people that the media and the politicians have chosen to highlight? Do other people count for less just because the media don't put their pictures in the paper or on the TV screen? Or because politicians are ignoring them?

Sometimes we are more concerned about some people because they are especially deserving. But this cannot be said about those who borrowed money to buy homes that they could not afford, or who borrowed against the equity in their homes, and now find that what they owe is more than the home is worth. If anyone is especially deserving, it is those who had the common sense to avoid taking on bigger financial obligations than they could handle, but who are now expected to pay as taxpayers for other people's irresponsibility.

No doubt some people who are facing foreclosures might have been able to continue making their mortgage payments if they had not lost their jobs. But since when were we all guaranteed never to lose our jobs? People used to put money aside "for a rainy day." But now people who have spent like there are no rainy days are supposed to have the taxpayers pay to give them an umbrella...

More: <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=247089>

Prominent editor in Egypt: 'I Accuse!'

by James Lewis, 4 Jan 2011

On January 1, 2011, a hugely important terror attack took place in Egypt that you probably were not told about. A

terrorist bomb went off at the al-Qiddissin (Saints) Church in Alexandria, Egypt, killing innocent civilians in the usual ruthless and bloodthirsty manner. The Western media hardly noticed, but the shock waves rippled through the Muslim and Christian Orthodox world.

The Coptic Church in Egypt traces its origins back to the Apostle Mark in A.D. 42. It is one of the earliest churches with a continuous history from the beginnings of Christianity, which rose several centuries before Mohammed and Islam. In Egypt, the Coptic Church has survived as a symbol of coexistence between the major institutions of Christianity and Islam. The Coptic Church is identified not only with Egypt as a country, but also with the other Orthodox Churches, including the Greek, Armenian, Bulgarian, and Russian Churches.

Two days after the bombing, on January 3, Hani Shukrallah, the editor of the Cairo daily Al Ahram, who is a Copt by family origin, published an English-language editorial titled "J'Accuse!"—an echo of Emile Zola's famous pamphlet "I Accuse!" that triggered a political storm in France in the Dreyfus Case just before 1900.

This is an extremely important development. It is the enlightened half of Egyptian society finally speaking out loud against Islamic reactionary violence...

More, including the editorial: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/01/prominent_editor_in_egypt_i_ac.html

The New Criterion's co-editor introduces the annual blockbuster January issue.

The Anglosphere & the future of liberty: an introduction

by Roger Kimball, 1 Jan 2011

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/The-Anglosphere---the-future-of-liberty--an-introduction-6751>

One of that issue's best articles:

Dependence Day

On the erosion of personal liberty.

by Mark Steyn, 1 Jan 2011

If I am pessimistic about the future of liberty, it is because I am pessimistic about the strength of the English-speaking nations, which have, in profound ways, surrendered to forces at odds with their inheritance. "Declinism" is in the air, but some of us apocalyptic types are way beyond that. The United States is facing nothing so amiable and genteel as Continental-style "decline," but something more like sliding off a cliff.

In the days when I used to write for Fleet Street, a lot of readers and several of my editors accused me of being anti-British. I'm not. I'm extremely pro-British and, for that very reason, the present state of the United Kingdom is bound to cause distress. So, before I get to the bad stuff, let me just lay out the good...

Continue: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Dependence-Day-6753>

From Yale to the NFL: are we still The Home of the Brave?

by Dennis Prager, 4 Jan 2011

...Once the home of the brave, America is becoming the home of the risk-averse and the pain-avoiders. And when you are risk-averse, you are not only less brave, you are less free. With freedom comes pain, a price more and more Americans don't want to pay.

Read it all: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/dennis-prager/2011/01/04/from-yale-to-the-nfl-are-we-still-the-home-of-the-brave/>

This is the article Michael Barone quoted in his [January 1 column](#).

The inequality that matters

by Tyler Cowen, Jan-Feb 2011 issue

...The first factor driving high returns is sometimes called by practitioners "going short on volatility." Sometimes it is called "negative skewness." In plain English, this means that some investors opt for a strategy of betting against big, unexpected moves in market prices. Most of the time investors will do well by this strategy, since big, unexpected moves are outliers by definition. Traders will earn above-average returns in good times. In bad times they won't suffer fully when catastrophic returns come in, as sooner or later is bound to happen, because the downside of these bets is partly socialized onto the Treasury, the Federal Reserve and, of course, the taxpayers and the unemployed.

To understand how this strategy works, consider an example from sports betting. The NBA's Washington Wizards

are a perennially hapless team that rarely gets beyond the first round of the playoffs, if they make the playoffs at all. This year the odds of the Wizards winning the NBA title will likely clock in at longer than a hundred to one. I could, as a gambling strategy, bet against the Wizards and other low-quality teams each year. Most years I would earn a decent profit, and it would feel like I was earning money for virtually nothing. The Los Angeles Lakers or Boston Celtics or some other quality team would win the title again and I would collect some surplus from my bets. For many years I would earn excess returns relative to the market as a whole.

Yet such bets are not wise over the long run. Every now and then a surprise team does win the title and in those years I would lose a huge amount of money...

5,900 interesting words: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article-bd.cfm?piece=907>

'Civil Rights' Gone Wild

To the Civil Rights Division, pilgrimages and stiletto heels matter more than actual violations of the Civil Rights Act. by *Hans von Spakovsky*, 3 Jan 2011

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has no time to pursue voter-intimidation cases against black defendants. But it has plenty of time to pursue local school boards that make common-sense decisions about student dress codes and accommodations for teachers' religious practices...

...The bizarre enforcement policies of today's Civil Rights Division have nothing to do with ensuring real civil-rights protections. Instead, the division's radical lawyers seem determined to use the agency's power to impose their peculiar cultural and social views on the rest of us.

Oddly, one of those views is that discrimination by some racial groups is perfectly acceptable. This explains why the Justice Department dismissed the New Black Panther Party voter-intimidation case it had already won. It is why this administration is studiously *not* pursuing cases like the one filed against Southern Illinois University in 2006 for maintaining a paid fellowship program that categorically excluded white males from applying. It was the Bush administration's race-neutral enforcement policy in such cases that enraged the radical civil-rights organizations that dominate Washington and formed the basis for much of the unfair and misleading criticism of that administration's enforcement of civil-rights laws.

One can only hope that the public will soon take notice of the Obama administration's abuse of its civil-rights enforcement function. Otherwise, the division's "enlightened" erosion of our culture and our real civil rights will proceed apace.

Full story: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/255994/civil-rights-gone-wild-hans-von-spakovsky>

The appalling mistreatment of Miss Ashley Smithwick.

Model student, sports star suspended for paring knife mix-up (Updated: school press statement added)

Zero tolerance common sense.

by *Bryan Preston*, 29 Dec 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/model-student-sports-star-suspended-for-paring-knife-mix-up/?singlepage=true>

Constitutional Authority

Las Vegas Review-Journal editorial, 2 Jan 2011

...The idea is that the question of constitutional authority will restart the debate with each new bill. Republican leaders even distributed a five-page memo to lawmakers outlining how to determine a bill's constitutional authority, and hosted training sessions for legislative aides.

Sounds great. But those who continue to see an almost unlimited scope for federal action will, in all likelihood, simply append to the top of each bill some new boilerplate stating the Constitution gives Congress the authority to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper" to provide for the "general Welfare." Or, alternatively, that since everything either "moves in" or "affects" interstate commerce, anything can be regulated in any way desired under the "interstate commerce clause."

If a solid Republican majority rises from their seats, one by one, to say, "Nice try; but you haven't specified the clause in Article I, Section 8, 'The Powers of Congress,' that authorizes us to pass this law, and thus I must regretfully

vote 'No,' " well, then the sun might indeed rise in the West, and the federal budget be balanced in a year.
We shall see.

More: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/constitutional-authority-112768489.html>

This is another answer to Nicholas Kristof's idiot **column**.

Personal well-being overshadows income inequality

by Michael Barone, 1 Jan 2011

...Of course, not everyone is well off in a nation where unemployment has been 9.4 percent or higher for the last 19 months. And I suspect that most Americans would be thrilled to get a 13th month of pay. But they're not seething with envy at those who are better off.

So who does? One example is the cartoonist and author Garry Trudeau, a college classmate of George W. Bush, who has been spewing contempt for the Bushes for 40-some years. The strongest class envy in America, it turns out, may be the resentment of those who were one club above you at Yale.

Read the rest: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/01/personal-well-being-overshadows-income-inequality>

Let's get back to capitalism

by Sherman Frederick, 2 Jan 2011

May America find renewed faith in capitalism in 2011. Here's hoping we shake off the big-spending Congress of last year and replace it with one willing to start us on a path of fiscal responsibility. Out with the old members who sat in judgment of a perverted capitalist economy in which politicians, not the marketplace, picked winners and losers, and in with a return to sanity in the housing and mortgage sectors, the auto industry, the financial industry and, if it's not too late, the health care industry.

In other words, let's get back to the economic system that made us the greatest nation on Earth: unfiltered, poverty-erasing, job-creating capitalism. To get those righteous juices flowing, may I recommend two books for your mind and your soul...

Those books, and more: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/let-s-get-back-to-capitalism-112768504.html>

Apparently, liberals really believe this redistributionist mumbo-jumbo. They're wrong on two counts: (1) creating financial equality for everyone is a much longer shot than their squishy little brains can imagine, and (2) if they succeed, it will produce a society that is neither prosperous nor just. Look at East Germany, the Soviet Union, Maoist China, Castro's Cuba, Zimbabwe, and North Korea. What a bunch of lame-brained idiots! And they have the gall to call themselves "reality-based"! Their minds contain no rational thoughts—just infantile, feel-good emotions. If these people aren't stopped, civilization is doomed.

Equality, a True Soul Food

by Nicholas Kristof, 1 Jan 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/02/opinion/02kristof.html?_r=1&ref=opinion

P.S.: Mr. Kristof probably has more money than I do. I don't begrudge that in the least. He's probably conned the money, fair and square, from the pampered, guilt-ridden descendants of productive entrepreneurs. But if he'd really like to feel good today, he can give me half the difference of our two portfolios. I would promise to spend it in the free market.

As frustration grows, airports consider ditching TSA

by Derek Kravitz, 31 Dec 2010

...Some of the nation's biggest airports are responding to recent public outrage over security screening by weighing whether they should hire private firms such as Covenant to replace the Transportation Security Administration. Sixteen airports, including San Francisco and Kansas City International Airport, have made the switch since 2002. One Orlando airport has approved the change but needs to select a contractor, and several others are seriously considering it...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/30/AR2010123005225.html?hpid=topnews>

January 2 marks the last day of the "traditional" festival of Kwanzaa:

'Twas the night before Kwanzaa by Kathy Shaidle, 16 Dec 2003

<http://spectator.org/archives/2003/12/16/kwanza-komedy>

Kwanzaa: violent 60s radical invented fake holiday by Kathy Shaidle, 5 Dec 2008

<http://www.examiner.com/conservative-politics-in-national/kwanzaa-violent-60s-radical-invented-fake-holiday>

Happy Kwanzaa by Paul Mulshine, 26 Dec 2002

<http://archive.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=20535#>

The WikiLeaks War on America

by Jonathan Foreman, 1 Jan 2011

The indefinable international organization known as WikiLeaks was relatively unknown between its setting up in 2006 and the April 2010 premiere it staged at the National Press Club in Washington of the "Collateral Murder" video—a selection of stolen and decrypted gun-camera footage that purportedly shows the unlawful killing of Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalists by the crew of a U.S. Army Apache helicopter. Skillfully edited and promoted, and widely accepted by the mainstream media as proof of a U.S. war crime, the video won WikiLeaks fame and praise around the world and made its founder, a 39-year-old Australian named Julian Assange, an international celebrity...

... This brand of virulent anti-Americanism, common in Australian academic circles, seems to have curdled during the Vietnam War (in which Australian troops fought). But when probing Assange's writings for his politics, it is also worth noting that Australian leftism has long had a strong anarchist current, awash in nostalgic sympathy for the rebels and bandits who had been transported to the continent when it was a prison colony of the British Empire.

Assange seems to suffer from a more extreme version of a phenomenon common in anti-war circles in Britain and America: the absolute unquestioned certainty that American forces have been and are continuing to be guilty of terrible crimes because of their very nature. It is a form of knowledge that requires no evidence or certainly no confirmation by a court of law. And in Assange's case, it apparently means that the Americans are now and always have been the bad guys.

Certainly, when Assange told *Der Spiegel* in the course of an interview about the War Logs that "I enjoy crushing bastards," the bastards to whom he referred were not the Taliban, which kills women for learning to read; the Sunni insurgents who blow up packed Iraqi marketplaces and mosques; or the Shia militants who do Iran's murderous dirty work in Iraq and Lebanon....

... It would seem that, in Assange's worldview, the Taliban is the legitimate government of Afghanistan, resisting imperialist invaders...

... WikiLeaks itself functions like a private version of the intelligence organizations he hates and fears. And while he may see himself as a kind of cyber Robin Hood, and enjoyed being called a "James Bond of journalism" in Sweden, he more closely resembles one of those James Bond villains who runs a secret international criminal organization and has the desire if not the power to destroy a sovereign state he considers his enemy... The very fact that, despite the revelations before the April 2010 video, Assange remained alive and at liberty to continue and do even greater damage gives the lie to his paranoid fears of ruthless, hyper-powerful Western states capable of wiping out all truth and justice unless their actions are exposed by people like him...

The full article: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/special-january-preview--the-wikileaks-war-on-america-15611>

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.