

Here's the only chart you need to see to understand why the US is screwed

by *Henry Blodget, 28 Feb 2011*

...This is the "income statement" of the United States in 2010. "Revenue" is on the left. "Expenses" are on the right...

The chart, and more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-only-chart-you-need-to-see-to-understand-why-the-us-is-screwed-2011-2>

Andy Choudary rides again

by *Pat Condell, 28 Feb 2011*

"Britain's favorite hate-preaching Islamist buffoon."

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=BP9QXId4AtU

Leaked "Fundraiser" for Child Terror Camps

by *blogspotKitmanTV, 26 Feb 2011*

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqojzI8NiSc>

Walker responds to Obama

by *Lee Bergquist, 28 Feb 2011*

Gov. Scott Walker on Monday afternoon responded to comments President Barack Obama made earlier in the day about the protests in Madison. Walker's office issued this statement:

"I'm sure the President knows that most federal employees do not have collective bargaining for wages and benefits while our plan allows it for base pay. And I'm sure the President knows that the average federal worker pays twice as much for health insurance as what we are asking for in Wisconsin. At least I would hope he knows these facts. "Furthermore, I'm sure the President knows that we have repeatedly praised the more than 300,000 government workers who come to work every day in Wisconsin.

"I'm sure that President Obama simply misunderstands the issues in Wisconsin, and isn't acting like the union bosses in saying one thing and doing another."

<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/117101638.html>

Middle East chaos demands U.S. oil production

by *Deroy Murdock, 25 Feb 2011*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/260684/middle-east-chaos-demands-us-oil-production-deroy-murdock?page=1>

What is it about Chris Christie?

by *Jennifer Rubin, 28 Feb 2011*

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) appeared on *Face the Nation* yesterday. He turned in another gripping performance, following his recent speech at the American Enterprise Institute.

He is—no doubt a consequence of his years as a prosecutor—entirely fluid in his delivery. He maintains good cheer even when dismantling the question. And he makes even the toughest position sound like nothing more than common sense...

More: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/right-turn/2011/02/what_is_it_about_chris_christi.html

Bernard Nathanson: a life transformed by truth

A man who made a career of death and lies became a hero for life and truth.

by *Robert P. George, 27 Feb 2011*

...Few people, if any, did more than Bernard Nathanson to undermine the right to life of unborn children by turning abortion from an unspeakable crime into a constitutionally protected liberty. Someday, when our law is reformed to honor the dignity and protect the right to life of every member of the human family, including children in the womb, historians will observe that few people did more than Bernard Nathanson to achieve that reversal.

Dr. Nathanson, the son of a distinguished medical practitioner and professor who specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, had his first involvement with abortion as a medical student at McGill University in Montreal. Having impregnated a girlfriend, he arranged and paid for her illegal abortion. Many years later, he would mark this episode as his "introductory excursion into the satanic world of abortion."

In the meantime, however, Nathanson would become a nearly monomaniacal crusader for abortion and campaigner for its legalization. And he would himself become an abortionist...

Saul, Saul...<http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2011/02/2806>

Public Unions & the Socialist Utopia

by Robert Tracinski, 27 Feb 2011

..There is something deeper here than just favor-selling and vote-buying. There is something that almost amounts to a twisted idealism in the Democrats' crusade. They are fighting, not just to preserve their special privileges, but to preserve a social ideal. Or rather, they are fighting to maintain the illusion that their ideal system is benevolent and sustainable.

Unionized public-sector employment is the distilled essence of the left's moral ideal. No one has to worry about making a profit. Generous health-care and retirement benefits are provided to everyone by the government. Comfortable pay is mandated by legislative fiat. The work rules are militantly egalitarian: pay, promotion, and job security are almost totally independent of actual job performance. And because everyone works for the government, they never have to worry that their employer will go out of business.

In short, public employment is an idealized socialist economy in miniature, including its political aspect: the grateful recipients of government largesse provide money and organizational support to re-elect the politicians who shower them with all of these benefits.

Put it all together, and you have the Democrats' version of utopia. In the larger American culture of Tea Parties, bond vigilantes, and rugged individualists, Democrats feel they are constantly on the defensive. But within the little subculture of unionized government employees, all is right with the world, and everything seems to work the way it is supposed to...

More: http://www.realeclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/02/27/public_unions__the_socialist_utopia_109046.html

Nation could use more governors like Christie and Walker

by Ruben Navarrette, 27 Feb 2011

Who put the hot sauce in the Republican governors' oatmeal? And where do we get more of it?

In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker is winning fans and making waves—as good leaders tend to do—by standing up to public-employee unions and forcing voters to confront unpleasant realities...

Continue: <http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2011/02/27/opinion/mj4161997.txt>

Teach for America: Letting the cream rise

by George F. Will, 27 Feb 2011

...Speaking of leadership, someone in Congress should invest some on TFA's behalf. Government funding—federal, state, local—is just 30 percent of TFA's budget. Last year's federal allocation, \$21 million, would be a rounding error in the General Motors bailout. And Kopp says that every federal dollar leverages six non-federal dollars. All that money might, however, be lost because even when Washington does something right, it does it wrong.

It has obtusely defined "earmark" to include "any named program," so TFA has been declared an earmark and sentenced to death. If Congress cannot understand how nonsensical this is, it should be sent back to school for remedial instruction from some of TFA's exemplary young people.

Read it all: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/25/AR2011022506991.html>

LA Times op-ed shows liberals' muddled thinking on Wisconsin

by Ed Lasky, 26 Feb 2011

The Los Angeles Times has an opinion column that slams Wisconsin Governor Walker for his decision to take on public unions in his state. The column is an illustration of how the "wise men and women" who run the editorial boards of many newspapers can tie themselves up in knots to support liberal policies—sometimes, as in this case, failing to follow their own logic.

The column states that "it's no fault of Wisconsin's teachers and other state workers that past administrations have awarded overly generous contracts;" but then contradicts its own statement when it later admits that "all too often union representatives are negotiating with politicians who owe their jobs to union backing and who are spending money that isn't theirs."...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/02/la_times_oped_shows_liberals_m.html

Even FDR understood: no collective bargaining for public servants

by Peter Ferrara, 23 Feb 2011

Public servants — meaning government employees — don't work for greedy miscreants exploiting them for personal profit. They work for democratically elected officials representing the will of the people. This is just one reason why there is no legitimate role for government unions, and there should be no collective bargaining rights for public servants.

Since public servants work for the people, their wages, benefits, and working conditions are set in accordance with the will of the people, as determined by the democratic process. This is why it is not legitimate to ask the people to compromise with public servants in collective bargaining. And this is why the pay, benefits, and working conditions for federal workers are set by acts of Congress, not through collective bargaining.

If public servants do not like the pay, benefits, and working conditions offered to them by the people as determined through the democratic process, nothing requires them to be public servants. This is why public servants are not slaves without collective bargaining, as soon-to-be-unemployed collective bargaining agents have suggested.

Since public servants work for the people, any strike by them would be a strike against the people. The government cannot allow the essential public services it provides to be shut down while it negotiates the pay, benefits, and working conditions for public servants through collective bargaining...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/even-fdr-understood-no-collective-bargaining-for-public-servants/?singlepage=true>

Virginia's novel approach to ending abortion

by Joseph Ashby, 26 Feb 2011

...The regulations will require abortion clinics to retrofit their operations. The retrofit could mean everything from widening hallways to additional employee training, according to the Associated Press. The *Dispatch* reports that most of the state's abortion clinics will be forced to close because of the "lengthy and costly certification process that most clinics could not afford."...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/02/virginias_novel_approach_to_en.html

Has anyone told Ambassador Rice there's a crisis in Libya?

by Claudia Rosett, 26 Feb 2011

...Where's Susan Rice, the cabinet rank ambassador of the free world's superpower? On the day Hosni Mubarak stepped down as dictator of Egypt, Feb. 11, she was visiting Oregon to give a talk on "Why America Needs the United Nations." This week, as Libyans escalated their uprising against more than 41 years of Gaddafi's totalitarian, terror-based reign, Rice sent her deputy to an emergency Security Council meeting on Libya on Tuesday, and took off for a two-day meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

What was so urgent about this this meeting in Cape Town? Did it have anything to do with the droves of Libyan diplomats, from New York to Geneva to Cairo, now renouncing the Gaddafi regime? Did it have anything to do with the warning of Libya's deputy ambassador to the UN that Gaddafi, with his threats of house-to-house assaults, was launching

a genocide against Libyans who defied him? Did it have anything to do with mass rebellion roiling North Africa and the Middle East, and sending tremors as far as China and North Korea?

Nope. This was a two-day meeting of — what else? — the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability...

Read the rest: <http://pajamasmedia.com/claudiarosett/has-anyone-told-ambassador-rice-theres-a-crisis-in-libya/>

The moonbat NYT reporter is Isabel Kirshner. Sounds like a self-loather, if ever there was one!

NY Times uses rescued Chilean Miners' pilgrimage to Holy Land to score points against Israel

by Leo Rennert, 26 Feb 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/ny_times_uses_rescued_chilean.html

What happens after we stop watching these revolutions?

by Charles Moore, 25 Feb 2011

...It is right that the Western media should reflect some of the natural delight most people feel when the powerless come together and protest against their corrupt rulers. We are all touched to see these human yearnings for greater justice.

But as our famous reporters move on to new scenes of action, other players in the drama, to whom we pay scant attention, move in. As they left Tunisia for Egypt, in from London (incredible how often it is our own dear capital which supplies these characters) came Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the Tunisian version of the Muslim Brotherhood. Since then, Islamist mobs have attacked prostitutes in Tunis, and a Polish Catholic priest has been murdered.

No sooner had the John Simpsons and George Alagiahs left the excited nights in Tahrir Square in Cairo, than a vast crowd, almost unreported in the West, turned out there to hear Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi, who had just flown in from Qatar after years of exile...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/charlesmoore/8348516/Libya-What-happens-after-we-stop-watching-these-revolutions-against-Col-Gaddafi.html#>

Dr. Hanson is a teacher—and also a farmer.

On Teachers and Others

by Victor Davis Hanson, 25 Feb 2011

...Out in the fields, wear and tear did not result from rude deans and abusive colleagues, but arose from rather provocative characters who were willing to resort to fists, knives, or guns if one complained about how poorly they had tied down a load of fruit pallets, or how they had botched pruning a peach tree, or wired a pump wrongly. At school I had to navigate away from a vengeful colleague who tried to sabotage my classics program; on the farm I was once almost run over by the speeding Buick of a drug-soaked and armed disgruntled worker whom I had caught stealing tools from the barn. The one arena was stressful, the other life-threatening.

My purpose in relating the divide is not to suggest that the brutality of farming bears much resemblance to the private-sector office or that a university professorship is at all comparable to the much more arduous duties of an inner-city middle- or high-school teacher. But all that said, I think that we forget how fortunate teachers are in the 21st century, in terms of compensation, hours spent at work, and the general absence of physical danger, at least in comparison to the lineman, the garbage collector, or the interstate trucker. I have met hundreds of teachers who have had only one steady job: teaching. I have seldom met a land-leveler, company field man, or tractor mechanic who had not worked at a half-dozen jobs over his career — and rarely by choice.

There is a reason why our state capitols are not usually flooded by cash-strapped farmers on tractors ditching their work when the price of wheat crashes. During a power outage, electric-company linemen do not often call in sick. Those who walk nimbly between IEDs in the Hindu Kush or who braved RPGs in Fallujah did not *in mediis rebus* pause to suggest that they had gotten a raw deal on their far too frequent deployments. Very few corporals and privates ask medics to write false medical excuses...

Read the rest: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/260659/teachers-and-others-victor-davis-hanson>

Egypt: Allahu FUBAR—Muslims Fire on Christian Monasteries

Oh yes, it's all about freedom, democracy and liberty for all: except Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Sikhs, apostates, and everyone except Muslims.

Pamela Geller, 25 Feb 2011

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/02/egypt-allahu-fubar-muslims-fire-on-christian-monasteries.html

Islamic Supremacists Crush Free Speech in Canada: Srdja Trifkovic, author of *Sword of the Prophet*, barred from Canada

Pamela Geller, 25 Feb 2011

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/02/islamic-supremacists-crush-free-speech-in-canada-.html

Go to the link below, and support Pamela by voting NO in the poll.

Southern Poverty Law Center lists anti-Islamic NYC blogger Pamela Geller, followers a hate group

by Corky Siemaszko, 25 Feb 2011

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/02/25/2011-02-25_southern_poverty_law_center_lists_antiislamic_nyc_blogger_pamela_geller_follower.html

Do you think Stop the Islamization of America is a hate group?

Yes, the group's message is disturbing.	37%
No, that's just another attack from the left. ●	62%
I don't know.	1%

Wisconsin Myths and Facts

Rent-seeking spin vs. the truth.

by Matthew Shaffer, 24 Feb 2011

With all the interests, political grandstanding, and cheap punditry surrounding the union demonstrations in Wisconsin, it's no surprise that a mythology has developed around Gov. Scott Walker's proposals. Here are some of the most common myths being propagated, and the countervailing facts.

MYTH: Wisconsin is not actually facing a deficit. Rachel Maddow on her February 17 show said, "Despite what you may have heard about Wisconsin's finances, the state is on track to have a budget surplus this year. I am not kidding."

FACT: Maddow wasn't kidding, but she was wrong. She evidently derived her conclusion by reading to page 2 of a poorly structured **report** from the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau. Page 2 does indeed show a \$57 million net balance for Wisconsin on June 30 of this year. But that doesn't account for several **other commitments**, including Medicaid shortfalls, unpaid bills, and debts to Minnesota, which are spelled out later in the document. The governor of Wisconsin accounted for these in deriving his deficit figures...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/260629/wisconsin-myths-and-facts-matthew-shaffer>

The misadventures and malfeasances of past governors—Republican as well as Democrat.

The view from Wisconsin

by Frank Burke, 23 Feb 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/the_view_from_wisconsin.html

Hate-A-Rama: the vulgar, sexist, racist, homophobic rage of the Left

It is not the tea partiers who lack civility.

by Michelle Malkin, 25 Feb 2011

...Sexual vulgarity is a common theme in the Left's self-styled "solidarity" movement. Among the Madison pro-union signs the national media chose not to show you: "**Buttholes for Billionaires**" (complete with a photo of Walker's

head placed in the middle of a graphic photo of someone's posterior) and "If teabaggers are as hot as their Fox News anchors, then I'm here for the gang bang!!!"...

...Liberal WTDY radio host John "Sly" Sylvester accused GOP lieutenant governor Rebecca Kleefisch of performing "fellatio on all the talk-show hosts in Milwaukee."...At an AFSCME rally in Providence, R.I., on Tuesday, an unhinged pro-union supporter picked an unprovoked fight with a citizen journalist taping the event for public-access TV. His eyes bulging, the brawler yelled: "I'll f**k you in the a**, you faggot!"...

...In Columbus, Ohio, supporters of GOP governor John Kasich's fiscal reforms were confronted with a fulminating union demonstrator who railed: "The Tea Party is a bunch of d**k-sucking corporate butt-lickers who want to crush the working people of this country."...In Denver, Colo., Leland Robinson, a gay, black tea-party activist and entrepreneur who criticized teachers' unions at a capitol rally, was told by white labor supporters to "get behind that fence where you belong." They called the 52-year-old limousine driver "son" and subjected him to this ugly, racially charged taunt: "Do you have any children? That you claim?"...

...Tea-party favorite and former Godfather's Pizza president Herman Cain is another outspoken black conservative businessman who has earned the civility mob's lash. Two weeks ago, a cowardly liberal writer derided Cain as a "monkey in the window," a "garbage pail kid," and a "minstrel" who performs for his "masters." Monkey. Parrot. Puppet. Lawn jockey. Uncle Tom. Aunt Thomasina. Oreo. Coconut. Banana. We minority conservatives have heard it all....

More: <http://michellemalkin.com/2011/02/25/hate-a-rama-the-vulgar-racist-sexist-homophobic-rage-of-the-left/>

Jack Cashill's *Deconstructing Obama*

by Jack Kerwick, 25 Feb 2011

...Not only was Obama not a professional writer, he wasn't much of a writer at all. That is to say, he wrote remarkably little during his college and graduate school years, and the quality of what he *did* write pales in comparison to what lies between the covers of *Dreams*.

Cashill examines two essays that Obama penned, "Breaking the War Mentality" and "Why Organize?" The first was written while Obama was a senior at Columbia University, the second five years later while he was about to attend law school. While the second displays an admittedly "modest improvement" on the first, Cashill spares no ink to demonstrate that, not unlike its predecessor, "Why Organize?" suffers from "many of the same problems—awkward sentence structure, inappropriate word choice, a weakness for clichés," and "the continued failure to get verbs and nouns to agree." As if things weren't bad enough for "the Obama faithful," this essay—composed but two short years before he would be elected president of the *Harvard Law Review* and only five years before the completion of the book that would put him on the map—has "not a hint of the grace and sophistication of *Dreams*."

Indeed, considering that in addition to marrying, Obama undertook a variety of other tasks that held up the completion of *Dreams* for roughly three years, the official account of Obama the gifted author is beyond a little difficult to accept. Alluding to Obama's biographer, David Remnick, Cashill writes:

"Remnick expects the public to take an awful lot on faith: specifically, that a slow writer and sluggish student who had nothing in print save for a couple of 'muddled' essays, who blew a huge contract after nearly three futile years, who turned in bloated drafts when he did start writing, who had gotten married, and who had taken on an absurdly busy schedule somehow suddenly found his mojo and turned in a minor masterpiece."

He adds: "Obama fans believe this to a person. No one else could."

If Obama didn't write *Dreams*, then who did?...

The answer, and more: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/jack_cashills_deconstructing_o.html

Throwing in the towel on the Constitution

by Jonah Goldberg, 25 Feb 2011

Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires that each new president take the following oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

President Obama announced this week that he will violate that oath...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/260680/throwing-towel-constitution-jonah-goldberg>

Rubicon: A river in Wisconsin

by Charles Krauthammer, 25 Feb 2011

The magnificent turmoil now gripping statehouses in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and soon others marks an epic political moment. The nation faces a fiscal crisis of historic proportions and, remarkably, our muddled, gridlocked, **allegedly broken politics** have yielded singular clarity.

At the federal level, **President Obama's budget** makes clear that Democrats are determined to do nothing about the debt crisis, while House Republicans have announced that beyond their proposed cuts in discretionary spending, their April budget will actually propose real entitlement reform. Simultaneously, in Wisconsin and other states, Republican governors are taking on unsustainable, fiscally ruinous pension and health-care obligations, while Democrats are full-throated in support of the public-employee unions crying, "Hell, no."...

Read on: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/24/AR2011022406520.html>

Useless U.N.: Another Joke

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review editorial, 24 Feb 2011

The joke that is the United Nations could not be on more stark display: Amid the slaughter of civilians in Libya's streets, what pressing business preoccupied the U.N. before declaring an emergency session of its Security Council? Why, another condemnation of Israel, of course...

More: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_724299.html

Psst. No shutdown during a 'government shutdown'

by Andrew Taylor, Associated Press, 24 Feb 2011

Social Security checks would still go out. Troops would remain at their posts. Furloughed federal workers probably would get paid, though not until later. And virtually every essential government agency, like the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, would remain open.

That's the little-known truth about a government shutdown. The government doesn't shut down. And it won't on March 5, even if the combatants on Capitol Hill can't resolve enough differences to pass a stopgap spending bill to fund the government while they hash out legislation to cover the last seven months of the budget year...

More: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110224/ap_on_re_us/us_what_shutdown

China's Secret Weakness

by Paul Johnson, 23 Feb 2011 (March 14 issue)

...China's new prosperity is already producing a rapid expansion of the country's international gambling class, not to mention an appreciable increase in the number of drug addicts...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2011/0314/opinions-paul-johnson-current-events-secret-weakness.html>

Where is the MSM?

Union thugs assault woman, arbitrate 'badness' of Jews, berate black man

by Lori Ziganto, 24 Feb 2011

<http://bigjournalism.com/lziganto/2011/02/24/where-is-the-msm-union-thugs-assault-woman-arbitrate-badness-of-jews-berate-black-man/>

As heard on **Dana Loesch's** show.

A rapid-fire trip through America's political and economic trends from about 1865 to the present day. Lord Black is a little too easy on FDR's economic policies and Nixon's indiscretions. But it's well worth reading, if only for the undeniable flair of passages like the ones below.

The Decline of Liberalism

by Conrad Black, Feb 2011 issue

...In this heady atmosphere, while there was labor unrest, individualism and pure capitalism reigned, and American exceptionalism had little time for what was generally considered proletarian, foreign-originated sniveling on behalf of the self-pitying indolent...

...The great watershed of modern American politics was the tawdry Watergate affair. Historians will long debate whether Nixon actually committed crimes or whether, as he claimed, he committed "mistakes unworthy of a president" but not crimes. Certainly, the impeachment counts presented to the House Judiciary Committee were outrages of partisan hysteria, and liberals in the Congress and the national media grossly exaggerated the significance of what was uncovered. Assisted by Nixon's inexplicable mismanagement of the affair, they hounded Nixon from office, diminished the presidency as an institution, and then, for good measure, cut off all aid to South Vietnam, ensuring that that country would fall to the Communists, that the United States would be completely humiliated, and, although they would not precisely have foreseen this, that millions would die in the killing fields of Cambodia, and drown when forced to flee Vietnam as boat people.

And for Watergate and the debacle in Vietnam, the liberal political and media establishment took a decades-long bow and claimed the status of redeemers of American democracy and integrity in government...

3,900 words: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/02/21/the-decline-of-liberalism>

Radical Suits and their Suckers

by Christopher Chantrill, 23 Feb 2011

...It's one thing to play community organizers in the back yard when you are a kid. It's another thing when real lives are at stake, as in Wisconsin.

A better name for "community organizer" is "radical suit," because community organizers are really the lefty version of the corporate suits that fly in to the plant in their executive jets, issue just enough ridiculous orders to prove that they haven't a clue, and then head back to the FBO and the next gig.

The definitive word on radical suits came out in 1885 in Zola's *Germinal*. It tells the story of the radical suit Etienne Lantier, who hikes into town to organize the coal miners of northern France in their strike against the mine owners over wage cuts. By the time Etienne's done helping, he's provoked the miners into violence and death, and their wages get cut anyway. At the end of the novel, Etienne heads back to Paris for his next gig after watching the miners return, defeated, back to work. It's a beautiful spring day, and he is dreaming revolutionary dreams, of "men springing up, a black avenging host... [that] would crack the earth asunder." If you want to read the official history of the radical suits then Howard Zinn's hagiography, *A People's History of the United States* is the book for you.

For the best part of two centuries the radical suits have been playing the workers for suckers and it's about time they got called on it. Let us look at three ways in which the radical suits lead their followers on a road to nowhere...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/radical_suits_and_their_sucker.html

Rumsfeld vs. Me on the Freedom Agenda

by Peter Wehner, 23 Feb 2011

In his [interview](#) with Hugh Hewitt yesterday, former secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld was asked how much the desire to spread democracy in the Arab world was on President Bush's mind before the Iraq war began versus how much of that was a "make good" when weapons of mass destruction weren't found. Rumsfeld responded by saying: "That's hard to answer. I don't recall the idea of bringing democracy to Iraq as being part of the discussions in the National Security Council during the period with a build-up towards the conflict with Iraq."...

...This argument is a somewhat gentler version of one often made by those on the left who say that the so-called Freedom Agenda was a postwar *casus belli* invoked to rationalize a conflict whose justification (WMDs) had crumbled...

...In fact, President Bush was talking about the Freedom Agenda as early as his January 29, 2002, State of the Union [address](#), delivered months after the Afghanistan war had begun and more than a year before the Iraq war. He spoke about it during his June 1, 2002, commencement [address](#) at West Point. And he spoke about it during his June 24, 2002, Rose Garden [speech](#), with Donald Rumsfeld standing by his side...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/02/23/rumsfeld-vs-me-on-the-freedom-agenda/>

Obama's devastatingly mixed signals

by *Caroline Glick*, 22 Feb 2011

...The administration adopted a policy it openly hated and then condemned its own behavior. In so doing, it sent four deeply problematic messages to the region. First, it signaled that it is deeply unserious. Second, it signaled to the Palestinians that, while blocked by popular US support for Israel from joining them, the administration supports the PA's political war against Israel. That is, **Obama told the Palestinians to continue this war against Israel.**

Third, the administration told Israel—and all its other allies—that in the era of Obama, the US is not a credible ally. Not only does this message weaken America's allies, it emboldens the likes of Iran and Syria and the Muslim Brotherhood who are increasingly convinced that the US will not stand by its allies in a pinch.

Finally, by standing by as Abbas pushed forward with the resolution despite Obama's repeatedly stated opposition, the president showed all actors in the region that there is no price to be paid for defying the US. Obama did not announce that he is ending US financial support for Fatah. He did not state that the US is ending its training of the Fatah forces. Instead, he sent Rice before the cameras to tell the world that he agrees with the Palestinians, who just slapped him in the face.

The question is why is the administration behaving this way? The obvious answer is that it really does side with the Arabs against Israel. Pushing this view is the fact that since taking office, Obama has been consistently hostile to Israel and its strategic interests.

There is another possible explanation, however: **That the administration is simply too incompetent to understand the significance of its actions.** This explanation appears increasingly credible in light of the US's ham-fisted handling of the revolutions raging throughout the Arab world...

A devastating analysis: <http://www.carolineglick.com/e/2011/02/obamas-devastatingly-mixed-sig.php?pf=yes>

Public unions must go

by *Jonah Goldberg*, 23 Feb 2011

The protesting public school teachers with fake doctor's notes swarming the Capitol building in Madison, Wis., insist that Gov. Scott Walker is hell-bent on "union busting" in their state. Walker denies that his effort to reform public sector unions in Wisconsin is anything more than an honest attempt at balancing the state's books. I hope the protesters are right. Public unions have been a 50-year mistake. A crucial distinction has been lost in the debate over Walker's proposals: Government unions are not the same thing as private sector unions...

Here's why: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-goldberg-wisconsin-20110222,0,4678423.column>

Rewriting Black History Month

by *Alfonzo*, 9 Feb 2011

Zo takes serious issue with black history month and is not afraid to say why. For example, why is it that you never hear about black Republicans? Zo thinks it is time to wrest control of the educational system from the Democratic party and set history free.

Video: <http://www.pjtv.com/?cmd=mpg&mpid=84&load=4853>

(Hat tip: *Scott A.*)

The city wanted a strongman — and it got one

by *John Kass*, 23 Feb 2011

Chicago, meet your new boss: The Rahmfather...

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-met-kass-0223-20110223,0,7000822,full.column>

ObamaCare is already damaging health care

Many of its changes don't kick in until 2014.

But the law is forcing dramatic consolidation and reducing choice in the industry.

by *Lloyd M. Krieger*, 23 Feb 2011

The Republicans who now control the House of Representatives hope to repeal or defund ObamaCare, but the law has already yielded profound, destructive changes that will not be undone by repeal or defunding alone. Active steps and new laws will be needed to repair the damage...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704635704575604751500803046.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

"Shared sacrifice" is stupid

Rush Limbaugh Show, 22 Feb 2011

http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_022211/content/01125109.guest.html

People are having a tizzy over this, saying Daniels is a wimp, a milquetoast, even a RINO—and that any presidential aspirations he may have harbored are now finished. Maybe they're right. But maybe they're wrong. Consider the few pro-Daniels comments below.

Daniels won't fight for right-to-work legislation

by Katrina Trinko, 22 Feb 2011

Gov. Mitch Daniels made it clear in a press conference today that he was not prepared to fight for the passage of right-to-work legislation, which is being pushed by GOP state lawmakers. Today most Indiana Democrat assembly members left the state in order to ensure there would not be a quorum...

"For reasons I've explained more than once, I thought there was a better time and place to have this very important and legitimate issue raised," said Daniels...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/260419/daniels-won-t-fight-right-work-legislation-katrina-trinko>

COMMENTS defending Governor Daniels

wotan 02/22/11 17:08 This is about right-to-work vs forced unionization. He's not saying (at least in this article) that he opposed right-to-work, just that he thinks now is not the right time for it. Presumably, if the State of Indiana is in a budget crunch (I certainly can't keep track of 50 states, hundreds of cities, counties, etc, federal government, and my own family's budget) then they should be working on that. Nothing in this story indicates that the state's Republicans are trying to end unionization of state employees. If they are, then the story should be updated to reflect that.

Apparently, Mr. Daniels thinks that Indiana has more pressing concerns for its legislature at this time. This is not about manners or civility. This is about priorities, and apparently Daniels thinks there other things his Republican majority should be working on. He isn't going to expend political capital fighting for something that was not a campaign issue, and is apparently not something he views as critical this year.

Blackadder 02/22/11 17:19 The education bill Daniels wants to pass contains restrictions on the teachers unions. The right to work bill does not.

Blackadder 02/22/11 17:38 Daniels' education reform plan includes school vouchers for low income kids and more charter schools. It also would limit teachers unions to collectively bargaining for wages. Ironically people are condemning Daniels for not following Wisconsin when in reality this is precisely what he is trying to do.

LAD 02/22/11 17:41 Daniels de-certified Indiana's public employee unions in 2005. He is way ahead of Wisconsin on this issue.

iceonfloor 02/22/11 21:18 Here is the bottom line: RTW is a secondary fiscal issue. It effects the overall economy of the state by slightly changing one variable in the labor market. The school reform bill is a direct fiscal issue that effects state and local budget bottom lines. It directly effects taxpayers' liability to their government. Mitch is famous for saying that a dollar taken by government is a dollar less freedom for the people. It IS more important to stop wasting the peoples' freedom than to tinker with a labor market.

Nelson 02/24/11 16:49 Did any of you jokers watch this man's CPAC speech? He was calm, modest, gently ironic and wise. He was not combative, bombastic or demagogic. He pointed out that we may elect a great GOP president but he will only be truly effective if he has a big congressional majority; he said that in order to achieve that goal average, non-ideological people ought to first like us. He has a clear sense of the nation's top priority, which is getting our fiscal/economic house in order for the long haul. Honestly, some of my fellow NRO readers sound like they are pining for a candidate who will provide some kind of rapturous emotional catharsis and magically vanquish our political enemies. That's not Daniels, that is for sure. But that impulse is not sensible politics, either: it's wishing for a Nuremberg rally. Which is why I support Daniels. I will take a guy who quietly and systematically gets the job done over Conan the Barbarian any day.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/260419/daniels-won-t-fight-right-work-legislation-katrina-trinko#comment-81629>

Wgray 02/24/11 19:45 I'm a conservative and embarrassed to read these knee-jerk anti-Daniels responses. Many don't even seem to understand there is a big difference between Walker's attempt to rein in the public union sector and the Indiana legislators' proposal to change the state to right to work (i.e. public and private sectors). And not one response that I saw acknowledged the possible relevance of Daniels statement the proposal was never raised on the campaign trail. Imagine, a political leader who recognizes he works for the voters. If the Republicans will settle only for a far right zealot, we will lose in 2012 and get 4 more years of Obama. Daniels is one of the very few with the perspective of what actually is important to save

the country right now and the executive ability to be an effective president.
<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/260419/daniels-won-t-fight-right-work-legislation-katrina-trinko#comment-81761>

Our fathers were part of The Greatest Generation...we are now living amongst The Worst Generation *(Hat tip: Richard D.)*

Hero's unwelcome: Wounded Iraq vet jeered at Columbia.

by Annie Karni, 20 Feb 2011

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/hero_unwelcome_Zi3u1fwtRpo87vXAiAQfSN

This Fox News report has video comments by some sane students:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/02/22/columbia-university-students-heckle-iraq-war-veteran/#>

Paul Krugman epitomizes the current liberal divorce from reality

by Timothy P. Carney, 21 Feb 2011

In his column today, Krugman describes the unions as a "counterweight to the political power of big money." But the unions *are* big money. Five of **the top ten contributors** to congressional and presidential campaigns since 1989 are labor unions according to the Center for Responsive Politics. In the last election, 10 of **the top 20 PACs** were union PACs.

More importantly, it's not as if Big Labor is balancing out the rest of "big money." Does Krugman know that all of the top ten industries contributing to the 2010 elections gave more money to Democrats than to Republicans?...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/beltway-confidential/2011/02/paul-krugman-epitomizes-current-liberal-divorce-reality#>

Battle of Wisconsin: proxy civil war

by Michael A. Walsh, 22 Feb 2011

Let's be clear about what's at stake in Wisconsin, where the battle between Gov. Scott Walker and the public-employees' unions is now well and truly joined. It's not just about balancing the state budget, nor simply about collective bargaining. It's not even about the future of the labor movement. It's about the future of the country and who is to be master—the voters or the "public servants."...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/proxy_civil_war_woLyWhdfuuJlohBp9zaDUL

This Presidents Day, a lesson in greatness

by Michael Ramirez, 19 Feb 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/563686/201102181848/This-Presidents-Day-A-Lesson-In-Greatness.htm>

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

Farewell Address to the Army 2 Nov 1783

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

First Inaugural Address 30 April 1789

...Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author

of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either...

Farewell Address 17 Sept 1796

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

Mark Twain on George Washington Three stories.

US must be removed from Islamic world: Khamenei

20 Feb 2011

http://www.thenewage.co.za/10953-1020-53-US_must_be_removed_from_Islamic_world_Khamenei

How about first removing the Islamists from the American world?

Why does the Vienna Criminal Court care about Mohammed's sex life?

by Christian Ortner, 18 Feb 2011

With courage and determination, the Egyptians have finally fought for and won the right to express their opinion free of state repression. In Austria, we have not come that far.

For hundreds of years the Islamic world had sighed for this moment. Millions of pious Muslims had to linger in awful uncertainty. Even the cleverest scholars could never agree on a universally agreed solution. But on Monday of this week, it was at that point...

Continue: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/02/whose-law-rules-in-austria.html>

The case of the part-time pedophile

by Mark Steyn, 19 Feb 2011

...So, although Mohammed deflowered Aisha when she was nine, it is "factually incorrect" to call him a pedophile because he was still hot for her when she was in her late teens? As a point of law, it's not where you start, it's where you finish—and you're gonna finish on top! Does this judicial ruling apply to all Austrians partial to a piece of underage totty? For example, **Wolfgang Priklopil**:

"The Austrian girl who was kidnapped at the age of ten and imprisoned for eight years in a dungeon-like basement room by a pedophile predator who committed suicide when she escaped last week..."

Whoa, whoa, hold up there. How can you say Herr Priklopil was a "pedophile" when he was still having sex with her when she was 18? And so were **all his friends**:

"A dormant investigation into one of Austria's most notorious kidnap cases is likely to be reopened after suggestions that Natascha Kampusch, the schoolgirl who vanished for eight years, was not held in a cellar throughout her ordeal as had been widely believed and may have been the victim of a paedophile ring rather than of a lone perpetrator."

Hey, don't worry, says an Austrian judge. It's not a "pedophile ring" if she still turns you on a week after she reaches the age of consent.

Or does this dispensation only apply to the Prophet (peace and get-out-of-jail-free cards be upon him)?

More: <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3743/128/>

See also:

I fought the thought police, and I won, by Mark Steyn, 1 Feb 2011

Debt-limit remedy gives fiscal hawks leverage

by Daniel J. Mitchell, 18 Feb 2011

...If the Toomey legislation is adopted, fiscal reformers will have a powerful weapon at their disposal. Secure in the knowledge that default no longer is a possibility, they can be much tougher in their negotiations with the politicians who favor the status quo.

This explains the attacks against the Toomey plan. Some even argue that the law requires the government to pay

Chinese bondholders (gasp!) before it pays Social Security recipients. This is demagoguery. The federal government will collect more than enough revenue to finance the majority of budgeted outlays. Social Security checks will be disbursed, unless the Treasury secretary decides otherwise.

In any event, the attack is rather hollow since it's almost always made by people who say that default would be a cataclysmic event. What they really mean, it seems, is that deficits, debt and default are bad, and only higher taxes are the solution.

That's what this debate is all about. We have a fiscal crisis caused by too much spending, not too little taxes. Restraining the size and scope of government is contrary to the interests of the iron quadrangle of politicians, interest groups, lobbyists and bureaucrats who benefit from ever-expanding government. That's exactly why the Toomey bill is a good idea...

More: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=12801

Tea Party Rocks Madison: seven great posts by Gateway Pundit

Amazing!... Tea Party Movement Brings in 15,000 Protesters to Madison With 24 Hour Notice Embarrassing Left

Jim Hoft, 19 Feb 2011, 10:16 PM

Your Tax Dollars at Work... Busing Truant Union Members to Wisconsin Capitol to Protest

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 9:18 AM

Outrage! CORRUPT MEDIA Refuses to Report on the Left's Vile Racist-Hitler Signs in Madison

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 9:54 AM

Stunner!... Union Protester Arrested for Trying to Sabotage Madison Tea Party Sound System (Video)

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 11:26 AM

Andrew Breitbart Comes Down With "Walker Pneumonia" at Madison Leftist Rally

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 11:56 AM

NY Times Shows **Photo of MASSIVE RALLY in Wisconsin... It Was a **Tea Party Shot****

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 12:22 PM

Jim Hoft Addresses MASSIVE Tea Party Rally in Madison, Wisconsin (Video)

Jim Hoft, 20 Feb 2011, 3:15 PM

Lara Logan and Media Rules

Identity politics are nothing more than socially acceptable bigotry.

by Caroline Glick, 18 Feb 2011

...Rosen's hateful politics have brought him book contracts, prestigious fellowships, interviews on influential television shows and even a request to give testimony before the US Senate. His work has been published in elite magazines and newspapers.

No one batted a lash when he called for Israel to be destroyed or supported the Taliban—whose treatment of women and girls is among the most brutal in history. But for attacking Logan, he was excommunicated from polite society...

Outstanding: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=208754>

This Bush-hating moonbat is siding with conservatives! And Obama's **approval rating** has crashed from minus 9 (minus 2) to minus 18 (minus 10) since the day he sided with the protesters. "It is no accident, comrade!"

Wisconsin: The Hemlock Revolution

by Joe Klein, 18 Feb 2011

Revolutions everywhere—in the middle east, in the middle west. But there is a difference: in the middle east, the protesters are marching for democracy; in the middle west, they're protesting against it... An election was held in Wisconsin last November. The Republicans won. In a democracy, there are consequences to elections and no one, not even the public employees unions, are exempt from that. There are no guarantees that labor contracts, including contracts

governing the most basic rights of unions, can't be renegotiated, or terminated for that matter. We hold elections to decide those basic parameters. And it seems to me that Governor Scott Walker's basic requests are modest ones...

More: <http://swampland.blogs.time.com/2011/02/18/wisconsin-the-hemlock-revolution/>

Madison Madness

The unions are in an uproar in Wisconsin, but taxpayers just won't stand for it anymore.

by *Larry Kudlow, 18 Feb 2011*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/260135/madison-madness-larry-kudlow>

Has Britain lost the values that drew me here?

by *Mihir Bose, The Mail on Sunday, 6 Feb 2011*

...Back in the late Eighties, a judge in a case sentencing a Pakistani immigrant ordered him to learn English. His remarks caused an outrage. When I wrote an article praising the judge, I was showered with abuse. To me it was a no-brainer. After all if you do not want to speak English and be part of this society, then why come here?

That was the choice I made more than 40 years ago. I grew up in India which had just won its freedom from Britain. I was part of the first generation of free Indians for centuries. We were brought up to revere Mahatma Gandhi, the man who had made Indians believe they could look anyone in the eye. But we also accepted the good the British had left behind.

For me Britain was a land of magical symbols. I grew up dreaming of scoring a century at Lord's and a Cup Final goal at Wembley, and with Just William, Biggles, Sherlock Holmes, Somerset Maugham, P. G. Wodehouse, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. You could say I was part of a small minority of the English-educated Indian elite that was taught to believe that a news item was true only if it had been broadcast by the BBC World Service.

But it says much for a country that can generate such a belief, so much so that Rajiv Gandhi, in 1984, only accepted his mother Indira had been assassinated when he heard the broadcast of Mark Tully, the BBC's legendary man in Delhi.

My migrant's road was different from that of most. I did not come here fleeing oppression, nor to seek my fortune. I decided to make my home here because I believed that this was a fairer society where I could achieve my goal of becoming a writer more easily than in India. I have never regretted my decision.

The tragedy with modern Britain is that it seems not to care any longer for the qualities that make it so special and that drew me and many others to this country...

More: <http://www.mihirbose.com/index.php/has-britain-lost-the-values-that-drew-me-here/>

Obama's plainly unserious budget

The president is trying to force massive tax increases.

by *James C. Capretta, 17 Feb 2011*

...Starting with the bottom line, according to the administration's own numbers, the 2012 budget would push debt (held by the public, not government trust funds) up to nearly \$12 trillion at the end of 2012. That's up from \$5.8 trillion at the end of 2008. So the federal government will have borrowed as much during President Obama's four-year term in office as it had during the previous two-century-plus history since the Republic was founded in 1789.

And that's before the entitlement-spending explosion associated with the Baby Boom retirement hits with full force. Over the coming decade, spending on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare's new entitlements will soar, from \$1.6 trillion in 2011 to \$3.0 trillion in 2021, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

With the costs of entitlements rising rapidly, what does the Obama budget plan to do to head off a crisis? Nothing. As a result, by their own numbers, the budget would run deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the next ten years, pushing the nation's accumulated debt to an astounding \$19 trillion in 2021, or nearly 80 percent of GDP.

And that's the rosy scenario based on the administration's numerous gimmicks...

...If the president really wanted to work toward a bipartisan deal on the budget, his submission to Congress would have looked very different, with the inclusion of pro-growth tax proposals and market-oriented efforts to slow the growth of rising health costs. Instead, what he submitted is a thinly disguised plan to force, by delay and neglect, a massive tax increase to avoid fiscal meltdown.

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/259788/obama-budgets-magic-asterisks-brian-riedl>

A subscriber to *Commentary*, I read this wonderful piece about three weeks ago, when the February issue was delivered to my door. But at that time, the internet link to it was not yet open to the general public. It is now.

How to think about the Tea Party

by Paul A. Rahe, 1 Feb 2010

...Consider what Barack Obama and the Democrats did over the past two years—with their so-called stimulus, health-care reform, and reform of financial regulation. Each initiative involved the passage of a bill more than a thousand pages in length that virtually no one voting on could have read, and no one but those who framed it could have understood. Each involved a massive expansion of the federal government and massive payoffs to favored constituencies. And each was part of a much larger project openly pursued by self-styled progressives in the course of the last century and aimed at concentrating in the hands of "a small group" of putative experts "an almost complete control over other people's property, other people's money, other people's labor—other people's lives." Without quite knowing whom they are evoking, Tea Partiers are inclined to say, as FDR said in 1936, that if they do not put a stop to what is going on, "for too many of us life" will be "no longer free" and "liberty no longer real"—for otherwise the bureaucratic busybodies ensconced in Washington will deprive us of the means by which to "follow the pursuit of happiness" as we see fit.

The only difference is that FDR's assertions demonizing the "economic royalists" were demonstrably false, and when the Tea Partiers make comparable claims today, they are, alas, telling the truth.

American liberty is more fragile than we are inclined to suppose...

3,600 words: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/how-to-think-about-the-tea-party/>

Lost: the common good

Chicago Tribune editorial, 18 Feb 2011

...Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has demanded that state workers contribute roughly 5.8 percent of their wages toward their retirement. He wants them to pay for 12 percent of their health-care premiums. Those modest employee contributions would be the envy of many workers in the private sector.

Walker wants government officials to have authority to reshape public-employee benefits without collective bargaining. Walker wouldn't remove the right of unions to bargain for wages.

No, he is not seeking to eliminate unions, though you might get that impression from the heated rhetoric of the employees and even from President Barack Obama, who called this an "assault on unions."

Walker is trying to give Wisconsin a reality check. In response, public workers have interrupted the Legislature. Madison and many neighboring public schools have closed because so many teachers called in sick and left to join the protest. Democratic lawmakers disappeared on Thursday to stall a vote on the budget measures. Apparently some of them fled to ... Illinois.

Public sentiment is changing. There is a growing sense that public-sector unions are not battling for better, safer workplaces. They're not battling unscrupulous employers. They're battling the common good...

More: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-union-20110217,0,7977108.story>

Mister "Inordinate Fear of Communism" has always been ready to believe just about any lie—as long as it comes from America's enemies.

The Jimmy Carter Chronicles

by Paul Kengor, 18 Feb 2011

...That brings us up-to-date and full circle, from the USSR to North Korea and back to the Middle East. Carter's comments on Hamas sound eerily similar to what he said this week about the Muslim Brotherhood—not to mention Brezhnev, Kim, and others who overwhelmed Carter with their charm. When Carter assured the college kids and faculty that "the Muslim Brotherhood is not anything to be afraid of," he noted that he had met members of the Muslim Brotherhood during his time in Egypt.

Yes, precisely. And that's supposed to be reassuring?

Not if it comes from Jimmy Carter. For anyone who hoped that fears over the Muslim Brotherhood's influence in Egypt were maybe overdone, a bit hysterical, you have reason to be afraid now—very, very afraid.

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/02/18/the-jimmy-carter-chronicles>

Galileo and the scientific pose of the Left

by Robert Tracinski, 17 Feb 2011

...Hertsgaard's article is partly a cautionary tale about one of the occupational vices of the political polemicist: using historical examples and symbols to score rhetorical points, without really understanding them. Perhaps Godwin's Law should be extended to cover Galileo and the Inquisition.

But it is also an example of the way the left uses science, not as a vital thinking method, but as a political pose. They drag out science as a prop, without understanding the basic method and attitude of science.

Part of the reason why Galileo is remembered as one of the fathers of modern science is his thoroughgoing rejection of this subordination to authority. His achievement is reflected in the motto of Britain's Royal Society: *nullius in verba*, "on no one's word." The idea is that even if a Galileo or a Newton were to present a new theory, his prestige should count for nothing. He still has to show his data and prove it.

The same goes for climate scientists, environmentalist activists, and hack political writers.

Read it all: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/02/17/galileo_and_the_scientific_pose_of_the_left_108934.html

Wisconsin governor to fugitive Dems: Do your job, chumps;

Video: Tea partier confronts runaway Dem

by Allahpundit, 17 Feb 2011, 7:54pm EST

Incorporating three important videos:

Wisconsin Governor to Dem Senators: Do your job.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpU7jT_eFdk

Remarks and Q & A with reporters on the Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) strike

President Ronald Reagan, 1981

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3ZTCPJ39LA>

Wisconsin Senators found in Illinois

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxKk3DSW6Sk>

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/02/17/wisconsin-governor-to-fugitive-dems-do-your-job-chumps/>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Nets champion Wisconsin public employees 'rising up' in 'mutiny' against 'extreme cuts'

by Brent Baker, 18 Feb 2011

ABC on Thursday night championed a "mutiny in America" by public employees in Wisconsin whom NBC's Brian Williams trumpeted for "rising up and saying no to some of the most extreme cuts in the nation." ABC's Diane Sawyer teased: "Tonight on *World News*, a mutiny in America. Public workers take to the streets as governors try to cut their pay and perks." Sawyer framed coverage from the grievance of the unionized workers...

More: <http://www.mrc.org/biasalert/2011/20110218092322.aspx>

Rhetoric vs. Reality: liberal protest of Gov. Walker's budget repair plan

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71gsnLfsbbM>

The historical illiteracy of Wisconsin teachers

by Ed Morrissey, 17 Feb 2011

Godwin's Law states that any political argument, carried on long enough, will eventually provoke a Nazi reference. My own personal corollary to Godwin's Law is that the first side to invoke it invariably loses, mainly because Nazis and Adolf Hitler are simply not analogous to normal politics in American democracy, unless one is discussing *actual* neo-Nazis. It exposes a clear lack of historical literacy about the Nazis and the history between the two World Wars of the last century. It's the kind of argument favored by the relatively uneducated...

Lots of photos like the one below: <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/02/17/the-historical-illiteracy-of-wisconsin-teachers/>
(Hat tip: Jim D.)



Civility, liberal style

Major Hasan, 'Star Officer'

Every branch of the military issued a final report on the Fort Hood massacre. Not a single one mentioned radical Islam.
by Dorothy Rabinowitz, 16 Feb 2011

...The same Hasan who set off silent alarms in his supervisors—the Psychiatric Residency Program Director at Walter Reed was one of them—would garner only plaudits in the official written evaluations at the time. He was commended in these as a "star officer," one focused on "illuminating the role of culture and Islamic faith within the Global War on Terrorism." One supervisor testified, "His unique interests have captured the interest and attention of peers and mentors alike." No single word of criticism or doubt about Hasan ever made its way into any of his evaluations.

Some of those enthusiastic testaments strongly suggested that the writers were themselves at least partly persuaded of their reasoning. In magical thinking, safety and good come to those who obey taboos, and in the multiculturalist world, there is no taboo more powerful than the one that forbids acknowledgment of realities not in keeping with the progressive vision. In the world of the politically correct—which can apparently include places where psychiatrists are taught—magical thinking reigns.

A resident who didn't represent the diversity value that Hasan did as a Muslim would have faced serious consequences had he behaved half as disturbingly. Here was a world in which Hasan was untouchable, in which all that was grim and disturbing in him was transformed. He was a consistently mediocre performer, ranking in the lowest 25% of his class, but to his evaluators, he was an officer of unique talents.

He was a star not simply because he was a Muslim, but because he was a special kind—the sort who posed, in his flaunting of jihadist sympathies, the most extreme test of liberal toleration. Exactly the kind the progressive heart finds irresistible...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704409004576146001069880040.html>

About the Wisconsin Muslim Brotherhood Teachers Union

"The process of collective bargaining, as usually understood, cannot be transplanted into the public service."

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Liberals are always play-acting that they are under some monstrous attack from the right wing as they insouciantly place all Americans in danger. Their default position is umbrage, bordering on high dudgeon."

Unions want to overturn election result

by Patrick McIlheran, 16 Feb 2011

Say you generally liked Gov. Scott Walker's move to rein in government labor costs but had a few doubts on his method. The last few days should have cleared that up nicely.

The public-sector union tantrums, meant to make lawmakers wobble, have an inadvertent message for the rest of us: Voters can vote all they want. We can elect a cheapskate governor and a Legislature to match. But come the moment, unions *will* have the last, loudest word...

...They insist this is the end of unionization in government...But they miss a bedrock difference. Unions in the private sector are a way of organizing private interests, those of employees, against other private interests, those of a company's owners, for economic gain and for protection against unfairness. In government, workers are already protected against unfairness by civil service laws, and **Walker has supported expanding those**. Economically, government unions pit a private interest, that of employees, against the public's interest, that of taxpayers and voters.

We see the result. Walker's moves are prompted by the state's vast deficit. The alternative, he says, is to lay off thousands. Nonsense, charge the marchers: Just raise taxes. Unions and allies have for years been demanding more sales taxes, new business taxes and higher taxes on other people's incomes, all to keep the state flush and generous. We're taxed enough already, said a voting majority in November. Not yet, insist the unions that have become the largest players in Wisconsin politics precisely to counter any such voter sentiment...

More: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/116355379.html>

He was actually the second-greatest president of the 20th century.

Silenced Cal

Rethinking the legacy of Calvin Coolidge.

by Amity Shlaes, Feb 2011 issue

...When the time came to run for a second elected term in the 1928 contest, Coolidge declined with an admonition that could have been written by Lord Acton: "the chances of having wise and faithful public service are increased by a change in the presidential office after a moderate length of time."

Coolidge practiced humility in his dealings with other men. He revered the contract. He cared much about civility, about mutual respect. *The Nation* might attack him, but it is hard to find in all Coolidge's work an ad hominem attack anywhere. He also showed humility before his God. He believed that there were some areas where the spiritual had authority that should not be assailed.

Teachers and documentaries often repeat that Coolidge quotation "The business of America is business," at the cost of giving a complete picture. **Coolidge followed that famous line with "the ideal of America is idealism."** He repeatedly made clear that there were precincts government and positive law could not enter. This was captured in remarks at the naming of a statue of Bishop Francis Asbury in October 1924. Coolidge said, "the government of a country never gets ahead of the religion of a country. There is no way by which we can substitute the authority of law for the virtue of man."

Once you realize this, the hostility toward Coolidge demonstrates a painful logic. President Coolidge's Progressive contemporaries wanted to ensure that the tag of liberalism, which was at the time still associated with Republicans as well, would, in future, belong only to themselves. They wanted to claim the label of liberalism and give it a different meaning. You can hear it very clearly in the words of *The Nation's* commentary...

3,000 words: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Silenced-Cal-6929>

In *Bush v. Obama*, Bush wins in a rout

The economic urban legend carefully created by Barack Obama is breaking apart.

by Peter Wehner, 16 Aug 2010

The facts: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/in--i-bush-v--obama-i--bush-wins-in-a-rout-15497>

Written in the Eternal Constitution

by Selwyn Duke, 14 Apr 2008

...Think about the task of raising a child. We are born savages, acting on impulse, screaming out when sad, striking out when angry. Left to his own devices, a child might drink detergent or put his hand on a hot stove, and he certainly wouldn't brush his teeth or clean his bottom. He is incapable of "self-government." So his parents must micromanage his life, watch his every move—hence baby monitors and the use of cribs or gates or harnesses to limit his movements—and do for him what he cannot do for himself, which is a lot. They must be his "nanny state."

As he grows, however, many rules and restrictions can be eliminated. His parents may still have to ensure he does his homework and takes a bath, but over time even this will be unnecessary. As he matures morally and increasingly starts to impose proper rules and standards on himself, the need for a parent to impose them diminishes proportionately. Then, finally, if his parents have succeeded, he can enjoy the full freedoms of adulthood. He will actually choose to eat his vegetables.

But what happens when his parents don't do a good job? Or when, despite their efforts, outside influences corrupt the child?...

More: <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Written+in+the+Eternal+Constitution%3A+the+eternal+constitution+of...-a0178348145>

Just read it. You'll be glad you did!

Liberty vs. benevolence

An introduction to "Limited government in an age of uncertainty."

by Roger Kimball, Feb 2011 issue

...It doesn't matter that the welfare state actually creates *more* of the poverty and dependence it was instituted to abolish: the intentions behind it are benevolent. Which is one of the reasons it is so seductive. It flatters the vanity of those who espouse it even as it nourishes the egalitarian ambitions that have always been at the center of Enlightened thought. This is why Stove describes benevolence as "the heroin of the Enlightened." It is intoxicating, addictive, expensive, and ultimately ruinous.

The intoxicating effects of benevolence help to explain the growing appeal of politically correct attitudes about everything from "the environment" to the fate of the Third World. Why does the consistent failure of statist policies not disabuse their advocates of the statist agenda? One reason is that statist policies have the sanction of benevolence. They are "against poverty," "against war," "against oppression," "for the environment." And why shouldn't they be? Where else are the pleasures of smug self-righteousness to be had at so little cost?

The intoxicating effects of benevolence also help to explain why unanchored benevolence is inherently expansionist. The party of benevolence is *always* the party of big government. The imperatives of benevolence are intrinsically opposed to the pragmatism that underlies the allegiance to limited government...

3,715 words: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Liberty-vs--benevolence-6927>

Must be those damned, uncivil Tea Party activists again!

CBS News' Lara Logan assaulted during Egypt protests

15 Feb 2011

On Friday, Feb. 11, the day Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down, CBS chief foreign correspondent Lara Logan was covering the jubilation in Tahrir Square for a "60 Minutes" story when she and her team and their security were surrounded by a dangerous element amidst the celebration. It was a mob of more than 200 people whipped into frenzy.

In the crush of the mob, she was separated from her crew. She was surrounded and suffered a brutal and sustained sexual assault and beating before being saved by a group of women and an estimated 20 Egyptian soldiers. She reconnected with the CBS team, returned to her hotel and returned to the United States on the first flight the next morning. She is currently in the hospital recovering.

There will be no further comment from CBS News and correspondent Logan and her family respectfully request privacy at this time.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/02/15/60minutes/main20032070.shtml?tag=exclsv>

Life and Truth

by Robert P. George, 15 Feb 2011

<http://mirrorofjustice.blogs.com/mirrorofjustice/2011/02/the-on-line-journal-public-discourse-under-the-brilliant-editorship-of-ryan-anderson-has-become-a-key-site-for-people-inter.html>

Dr. George is a good and principled man, and some of his essays are linked here at Standing On The Deck. He says that it's always wrong to lie—even when people like Lila Rose and her wonderful Live Action group engage in "stings" against baby-murdering outfits like Planned Parenthood. This stance is as pointless and self-indulgent as the Byzantines who were arguing about how many angels can fit on the head of a pin—even as the Moslem hordes were amassing outside the city walls, preparing to conquer them. Without lying, we might never have defeated the Germans, the Japs, and the Soviets. I'm glad the good guys lied and won.

—Don John

'Social Justice' is a complex concept

by Father Robert Sirico, 15 Feb 2011

A column by Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, a Catholic writer for the *Washington Post*, makes the claim that "Catholic social justice demands a redistribution of wealth." He went on to say that "there can be no disagreement" that unions, the government and private charities should all have a role in fighting a trend that has "concentrated" money into the hands of the few. In this conjecture Stevens-Arroyo confused the ends with potential means.

What Stevens-Arroyo is promoting is an attenuated and truncated vision of "social justice" that has fostered a great deal of injustice throughout the world. This path, he should know, has been decisively repudiated by the Church...

More: <http://detnews.com/article/20110215/OPINION03/102150319/1008/OPINION01/%E2%80%98Social-Justice%E2%80%99-is-a-complex-concept>

If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times: social justice makes me puke. —Don John

Mitch Daniels, the anti-panderer

by Rich Lowry, 15 Feb 2011

Indiana governor Mitch Daniels did not get the memo about CPAC, the annual gathering of conservatives in Washington. The etiquette is that presidential wannabes should hew to a narrow band of harsh and harsher denunciations of liberalism, or anything suspected of having a liberal taint...

...Daniels, in contrast, seems temperamentally incapable of unseriousness; he is the anti-panderer. He gave a speech at CPAC that was characteristically thoughtful, standing out in his willingness to tell hard truths about the nation's fiscal condition and to challenge his audience.

Daniels spoke in favor of principled compromise—"should the best way be blocked," he argued, "then someone will need to find the second-best way." He called for reaching beyond the conservative base to voters "who surf past C-SPAN to get to SportsCenter." He said the Right "should distinguish carefully skepticism about Big Government from contempt for all government." He plugged civility.

This was not a typical CPAC speech, in fact not a typical speech for any politician anywhere...

More: <http://jewishworldreview.com/0211/lowry021411.php3>

The Cee Lo Green Budget

The cynical and unrealistic White House budget.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 15 Feb 2011

...Hosni Mubarak was more in touch with reality last Thursday night... No wonder the commission's Democratic co-chairman, Erskine Bowles, said Monday that this budget goes "nowhere near where they will have to go to resolve our fiscal nightmare." And he's an ally.

How unserious is this budget? Although the White House trumpets \$2.18 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade, those savings are so far off in the magical "out years" that you can barely see them from here. More than 95% of the savings would happen after Mr. Obama's first term in the White House is over, and almost two-thirds of the promised deficit reduction would arrive after 2016. Pretending to cut deficits by pushing all real cuts into the future is Budget Flimflam 101.

From hard experience, we know that what matters are the cuts and reforms a White House is willing to make now. The Obama budget doesn't cut a penny from the deficit in the last seven months of fiscal 2011. Over the next three years—through 2013—the spending reductions in this budget add up to a paltry \$20 billion net, out of a projected \$3.5 trillion deficit. That's a 0.57% reduction in red ink and less than what the feds spend every two days...

Scathing: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703584804576144461982648424.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

Obama's budget ducks tough choices

USA Today editorial, 15 Feb 2011

President Obama likes to talk about those "Sputnik moments" when the nation rises to difficult challenges like the one posed by the Soviet space program in the 1950s. On Monday, he had a chance to turn his federal budget proposal into his own such moment. He whiffed...

More: http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2011-02-15-editorial15_ST_N.htm

The Budget

by Yuval Levin, 14 Feb 2011

...People know we've got a major fiscal problem that will get worse as more of the baby boomers retire, and while obviously no one wants to make avoidable sacrifices, Americans do seem increasingly to understand that some change of course will be required. But that's hard to say, and maybe the Obama team is right about the politics.

Whether they're right or not, however, the substantive result of their political premise is a willful blindness that makes for a budget that is completely detached from reality. No entitlement reform, no tax reform, no significant spending reform, indeed no meaningful change of direction of any sort—the budget does nothing to lessen the burdens with which we now stand to saddle the rising generation, and which will stifle growth and prosperity along the way....

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/259706/budget-yuval-levin>

Goodness! Even state-run media has adopted a conservative mantra!

Obama's Media Machine: State Run Media 2.0?

White House hones online messaging operation ahead of 2012 campaign.

by Devin Dwyer, 15 Feb 2011

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/president-obama-white-house-media-operation-state-run/story?id=12913319>

The Polygamists make their move

Once the trail has been forged by homosexuality activists, polygamy is nothing but the next logical step.

by Peter Heck, 14 Feb 2011

...The Kinsey cause morphed into the free love movement of the 1960s with its focus on breaking down societal barriers against almost any sexual expression. And ever since, we have experienced a relentless campaign from these forces of sexual anarchy to normalize previously forbidden recreational sex. When Kinsey started the fire, most resisted the idea that sex should be entertainment, until pop culture normalized it. Even then, most resisted the idea that divorce should be easily attainable, until pop culture normalized it. Even then, most resisted the idea that promiscuity should be celebrated, until pop culture normalized it. Even then, most resisted the idea that homosexuality and cross-dressing should be accepted, and now pop culture is normalizing it.

If my assessment is accurate, we should be seeing the next stage in the crusade for sexual anarchy beginning to take shape. And right on cue, a **news story** emerges from the Salt Lake Tribune to validate as much...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/the_polygamists_make_their_mov.html

Rush said, Mitch said

Don John, 14 Feb 2011

Today, in the first hour of his program, Rush Limbaugh did something he rarely does. He **over-reacted wildly** to a perceived slight which, in truth, wasn't a slight at all. Here are some of the things he said about Gov. Mitch Daniels'

speech at CPAC on February 11.

"...We had Mitch Daniels saying 'We need to move beyond the audiences of Rush and Sean,' and so forth and the C-SPAN viewers, we need to move beyond that. There was this constant drumbeat that came from a lot of people, from Jeb Bush, from Mitch Daniels, a lot of people, 'We gotta do something about these social conservatives. We gotta dump this'...

"...When a would-be candidate says put aside the social issues, what does this mean? Is the left putting aside the social issues? The left right now, they are in federal court demanding that judges impose an agenda on the nation that was voted down at the ballot box. What do we do in response to that, ignore it? We have a health care bill here that's unconstitutional, could have been a huge rallying point. Instead, we got the latest ruling-class drumbeat that we put aside the social issues, more important things on the agenda than the social issues right now...

"...I didn't take personally Mitch Daniels saying we need to move beyond the audiences of people on talk radio. It's in fact smart but in the process of doing so, you don't diss the people who are already audiences of those shows, you don't say that they're irrelevant or unnecessary, who won elections for your party year after year after year, and all this, of course, done to impress the mainstream media...

"...the Republican Party establishment group is really not thrilled with talk radio. They're not thrilled with the Tea Party. They don't like it. They're trying to find ways around it, and so these allusions to, 'Yeah, what we got's fine but we're not gonna win with what we got. We need to get even bigger. That means we need to reach out to traditional nonconservatives.' It's the same old message. We can't win just being conservative. We're gonna have to go out and have a message for people who aren't conservative that says, 'Yes, we're supporting you, too.' Rather than try to build upon this conservative ascendancy which because of Obama is building on its own, we're not having to really teach it, we're just having to be true to it..."

All that Mitch Daniels **actually** said on those topics was the following:

"...Here I wish to be very plainspoken: It is up to us to show, specifically, the best way back to greatness, and to argue for it with all the passion of our patriotism. But, should the best way be blocked, while the enemy draws nearer, then someone will need to find the second best way. Or the third, because the nation's survival requires it.

"Purity in martyrdom is for suicide bombers. King Pyrrhus is remembered, but his nation disappeared. Winston Churchill set aside his lifetime loathing of Communism in order to fight World War II. Challenged as a hypocrite, he said that when the safety of Britain was at stake, his 'conscience became a good girl.' We are at such a moment. I for one have no interest in standing in the wreckage of our Republic saying 'I told you so' or 'You should've done it my way.'

"We must be the vanguard of recovery, but we cannot do it alone. We have learned in Indiana, big change requires big majorities. We will need people who never tune in to Rush or Glenn or Laura or Sean. Who surf past C-SPAN to get to SportsCenter. Who, if they'd ever heard of CPAC, would assume it was a cruise ship accessory..."

Unlike Rush, Mitch Daniels actually **worked for** President Reagan (for two years, as his chief political advisor). Also, unlike Rush, Mitch Daniels is currently "**the man who is actually in the arena**": he's been governor of Indiana for six years, has brought fiscal sanity to its government, and a **market-based health care system** to its employees.

He's also one of the only people who can defeat Obama next year.

And his CPAC speech was a marvelous call to conservatism.

Read it here: <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/02/11/video-mitch-danielss-speech-at-cpac/>

And watch it here: <http://cspan.org/Events/Top-Republicans-Headline-Todays-CPAC/10737419537-2/>

Why Worship Democracy?

by Bruce Walker, 14 Feb 2011

...The problem with democracy worship is that the "Will of the People" has no special moral authority. The Founding Fathers knew that well. The purpose—the only true purpose—of government is to preserve the rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When any government fails in that single moral purpose, it loses all legitimate authority. The Declaration of Independence was not based upon a plebiscite. Indeed, probably a majority of Americans did not support the revolution. No matter: if the goal of liberty could be won best by the rough tool of democracy, then that tool was useful.

Those who want "Power to the People!" never want power to the person. They think like Marxists or Nazis or some other incarnation of wickedness which cannot persuade free people to buy whatever they are selling. From this moral positioning come "People's Courts" run by "People's Prosecutors" which consign untamed consciences and minds to a hateful, dreary gulag. We see this clearly enough when the physical costume is worn by the sadistic thug governing at our notional behest...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/why_worship_democracy.html

A tipping point is nearing

by Jeff T. Allen, 14 Feb 2011

We are facing a tipping point. There will soon be a crisis affecting US citizens beyond any experienced since the Great Depression. And it may happen within the year. This past week three awful developments put a dagger into the

hope for a growth-led recovery, which held promise of possibly averting a debt and currency implosion crushing the American economy...

Be very afraid: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/a_tipping_point_is_nearing.html

And also read these Comments: <http://comments.americanthinker.com/read/42323/767725.html>

Cedarhill, Feb 14, 5:57am

MichiganSilverback, Feb 14, 6:05am

Questioning, Feb 14, 6:13am

Teach, Feb 14, 9:25am

Lonestarm3, Feb 14, 9:44am

Bullwinkle, Feb 14, 10:24am

Tsuchino1, Feb 14, 12:09pm

What could you do with \$3.73 Trillion?

by Julia Edwards and Lindsey Boerma, 14 Feb 2011

The budget President Obama is proposing today will allocate a total of \$3.73 trillion into federal programs. That's not an easy number to get your head around. We take a look at just how big \$3.73 trillion really is...

With photos: <http://www.nationaljournal.com/what-could-you-do-with-3-73-trillion--20110214?print=true>

Ferguson is actually a leftist. You think not? Read "[The Year the World Really Changed](#)" (30 Oct 09). It's the apotheosis of Tom Friedmansque twaddle. But he's got some good points in the article below.

Wanted: A Grand Strategy for America

Obama's Egypt debacle and the vacuum it exposes.

by Niall Ferguson, 14 Feb 2011

...In each case, the president faced stark alternatives. He could try to catch the wave, Bismarck style, by lending his support to the youthful revolutionaries and trying to ride it in a direction advantageous to American interests. Or he could do nothing and let the forces of reaction prevail. In the case of Iran, he did nothing, and the thugs of the Islamic Republic ruthlessly crushed the demonstrations. This time around, in Egypt, it was worse. He did both—some days exhorting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to leave, other days drawing back and recommending an "orderly transition."

The result has been a foreign-policy debacle. The president has alienated everybody: not only Mubarak's cronies in the military, but also the youthful crowds in the streets of Cairo. Whoever ultimately wins, Obama loses. And the alienation doesn't end there. America's two closest friends in the region—Israel and Saudi Arabia—are both disgusted. The Saudis, who dread all manifestations of revolution, are appalled at Washington's failure to resolutely prop up Mubarak. The Israelis, meanwhile, are dismayed by the administration's apparent cluelessness...

...I can think of no more damning indictment of the administration's strategic thinking than this: it never once considered a scenario in which Mubarak faced a popular revolt. Yet the very essence of rigorous strategic thinking is to devise such a scenario and to think through the best responses to them, preferably two or three moves ahead of actual or potential adversaries. It is only by doing these things—ranking priorities and gaming scenarios—that a coherent foreign policy can be made. The Israelis have been hard at work doing this. All the president and his NSC team seem to have done is to draft touchy-feely speeches like the one he delivered in Cairo early in his presidency...

More: <http://www.newsweek.com/2011/02/13/wanted-a-grand-strategy-for-america.html>

The Superpower as Spectator

by Mark Steyn, 11 Feb 2011

...Meanwhile, James Clapper, the worthless buffoon who serves as the hyperpower's Director of "Intelligence," goes before Congress to tell the world that the Muslim Brotherhood is a "secular" organization. Americans ought to take to the streets to demand Clapper vacate whatever presidential palace in DC he's holed up in.

Amidst all this flowering of democracy, you'll notice that it's only the pro-American dictatorships on the ropes: In Libya and Syria, Gaddafi and Assad sleep soundly in their beds. On the other hand, if you were either of the two King Abdullahs, in Jordan or Saudi Arabia, and you looked at the Obama Administration's very public abandonment of their Cairo strongman, what would you conclude about the value of being an American ally? For the last three weeks, the superpower has sent the consistent message to the world that (as Bernard Lewis feared some years ago) America is harmless as an enemy and treacherous as a friend.

More: <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3716/28>

Do Western authorities care more about hamsters than about Europeans?

by Fjordman, 11 Feb 2011

In **January 2011**, the EU Observer stated that France stands to lose a case at the European Court of Justice over its neglect of the Great Hamster of Alsace, a species facing extinction. Sweden was about to be taken to court by the European Commission for allowing wolf hunting. Paris stands to be slapped with a multi-million euro fine for not protecting hamsters.

Notice how the EU worries more about hamsters than about the native peoples of an entire continent, the cradle of the most creative and innovative civilization in the history of mankind. We are worth less than dust. I cannot recall having seen a single report from the European Union, or for that matter the US Government, about the wave of racist violence against whites in major cities caused by the mass immigration of alien peoples that is actively promoted by Western authorities. Yet we now have one about hamsters...

...Personally, I can live with China being the world's largest economy. I cannot and will not accept, however, not having a single major Western city where my daughter can go without being verbally, physically and perhaps sexually harassed because of the color of her skin, eyes and hair...

A great column: <http://europenews.dk/en/node/40090>

Photographs from English Defence League Luton demonstration on 5 February 2011

by Aeneas, 6 Feb 2011

<http://www.libertiesalliance.org/2011/02/06/photographs-from-english-defence-league-luton-demonstration-on-5-february-2011-2/>

Could it be someone whose first name begins M-I-T ? And if so, which one?

Who Won CPAC?

by Mark McKinnon, 12 Feb 2011

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-02-12/cpac-winners-and-losers-from-romney-to-pawlenty/?cid=hp:mainpromo2>

High-speed rail is a waste of money

\$53 billion to lose even more is bad government.

by Robert Samuelson, 14 Feb 2011

...It's a triumph of fancy over fact. Even if ridership increased fifteenfold over Amtrak levels, the effects on congestion, national fuel consumption and emissions would still be trivial. Land use patterns would change modestly, if at all; cutting 20 minutes off travel times between New York and Philadelphia wouldn't much alter real estate development in either. Nor is high-speed rail a technology where the United States would likely lead; European and Asian firms already dominate the market.

Governing ought to be about making wise choices. What's disheartening about the Obama administration's embrace of high-speed rail is that it ignores history, evidence and logic. The case against it is overwhelming. The case in favor rests on fashionable platitudes. High-speed rail is not an "investment in the future"; it's mostly a waste of money...

The rest of the reasons: <http://www.dailymail.com/Opinion/rsamuelson/201102130679>

Berkeley Does Guantanamo

by Debra Saunders, 13 Feb 2011

On Feb. 15, on the recommendation of its Peace & Justice Commission, the Berkeley (Calif.) City Council is set to vote on a resolution to invite "one or two cleared" Guantanamo Bay detainees to resettle in Berkeley.

Peace & Justice Commissioner Rita Maran told me that the idea was to invite to Berkeley "the kind of people you'd

like to have living next door to you or dating your cousin."

While the resolution doesn't name the one or two detainees, her panel presented material that cites two—Russian-born Ravil Mingazov and Algerian-born Djamel Ameziane—whom it claims have been "cleared." The resolution also asserts that "cleared" detainees have been determined to "pose no threat to the United States." Where they got that information, I do not know...

Read on: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_debra_j_saunders/berkeley_does_guantanamo

Ideologically-driven strategic ineptitude

by Caroline B. Glick, 11 Feb 2011

...The Obama administration's ideologically-driven strategic ineptitude is evident everywhere. From its slavish devotion to appeasing Iran, its single-minded insistence on withdrawing from Iraq, its announced commitment to withdrawing from Afghanistan; to its tolerance of Hugo Chavez, and its infantile reset button diplomacy towards Russia, the Obama administration's foreign policy is on a collision course with reality.

But nowhere is its premeditated incompetence more evident than in its obsession with the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River...

..The Obama administration's singular obsession with coercing Israel to surrender still more land to the Palestinian Authority means that America's central Middle East policy involves demanding that Israel further strengthen the unmentionable forces of jihad at its own expense. This fact was underlined this week with the Jerusalem Post's Khaled Abu Toameh's revelation that most senior PA leaders have recently applied for Jordanian citizenship. Clearly the likes of Mahmoud Abbas believe they will not be the winners if their repressive regime in Judea and Samaria is seriously challenged by their popular jihadist rivals in Hamas.

Our leaders are doubtlessly tempted to simply take the path of least resistance and join Obama and his merry band of blind men as they move from lie to lie to defend their ideology from reality. But doing so will not protect us when the dangers sown by the US's strategic dementia provoke the next conflagration.

Israel's best option is to simply tell the truth as loudly and forcefully as it can and base our policies on it...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0211/glick021111.php3>

Closing speech at CPAC

by Rep. Allen West (R-FL-22), 12 Feb 2011; intro by David Keene

WATCH: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnwJDCK1rk8>

U.S. out of Afghanistan!

Why are our soldiers dying?

by Hal G.P. Colebatch, 11 Feb 2011

...It has recently been **reported** from Afghanistan that a one-legged Afghan Red Cross worker and physiotherapist, Said Musa, 45, is shortly to be hanged by the government, or what passes for the government, for having converted to Christianity.

No defense lawyer will represent him. Some were reported to have dropped the case after receiving death threats. He has been held for about eight months in Kabul prison and reportedly tortured.

He was arrested last May while trying to find sanctuary in the German Embassy following renewed waves of persecution of Christians. He is said to have been offered a reprieve if he denied Christianity but has refused to do this. All this has been known in the West for some time...

A great column: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/02/11/why-are-our-soldiers-dying>

Please pardon the expression, but **FUCK THESE PEOPLE**.
Let's just leave, and then bomb the place to rubble—including the mountains.
It's a damned good place for nuclear testing.

—*Don John*

This year-old interview includes photos of the graduating classes of 1959, 1978, 1995, and 2004. Mark Steyn mentioned them on the radio recently. The pictures speak chilling volumes; and Nonie Darwish, the daughter of an Egyptian general, tells how it came to pass.

How the Veil conquered Cairo University

Jamie Glazov interviews Nonie Darwish, 5 Feb 2010

<http://frontpagemag.com/2010/02/05/how-the-veil-conquered-cairo-university/>

The weather isn't getting weirder

The latest research belies the idea that storms are getting more extreme.

by Anne Jolis, 10 Feb 2011

...As it happens, the project's initial findings, published last month, show no evidence of an intensifying weather trend. "In the climate models, the extremes get more extreme as we move into a doubled CO2 world in 100 years," atmospheric scientist Gilbert Compo, one of the researchers on the project, tells me from his office at the University of Colorado, Boulder. "So we were surprised that none of the three major indices of climate variability that we used show a trend of increased circulation going back to 1871."

In other words, researchers have yet to find evidence of more-extreme weather patterns over the period, contrary to what the models predict. "There's no data-driven answer yet to the question of how human activity has affected extreme weather," adds Roger Pielke Jr., another University of Colorado climate researcher...

...Global-warming alarmists insist that economic activity is the problem, when the available evidence show it to be part of the solution...

Here's why: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704422204576130300992126630.html>

Mitch Daniels's speech at CPAC

11 Feb 2011

Text:

<http://hotair.com/archives/2011/02/11/video-mitch-danielss-speech-at-cpac/>

Video, including a good intro by George Will:

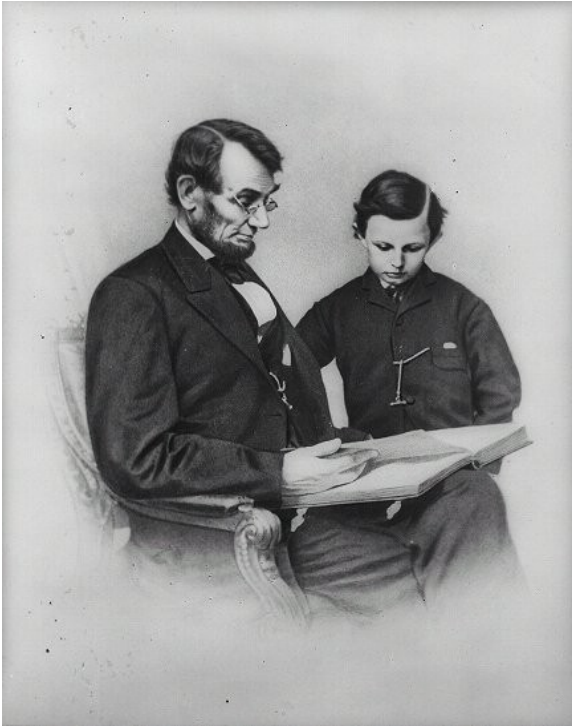
<http://cspan.org/Events/Top-Republicans-Headline-Todays-CPAC/10737419537-2/>

Dubunking the leading Obamacare litigation myths

by Cory L. Andrews, 11 Feb 2011

In recent days, much ink has been spilled and a great deal of hot air expended by ObamaCare apologists seeking to defend the constitutionality of the radical overhaul of Americans' healthcare delivery system. In the process, a lot of misinformation has been disseminated. Here are some of the most common myths being peddled in defense of ObamaCare...

Continue: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2011/02/dubunking-leading-obamacare-litigation-myths>



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

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

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

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

Proclamation of Thanksgiving 3 Oct 1863

Gettysburg Address 19 Nov 1863

Second Inaugural Address 4 March 1865

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

The Long Recall

The Civil War in real time, 150 years later. Actual newspaper stories and other documents, every single day.

Herman Melville's poem *The Conflict of Convictions* explains the name of the blog.

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/civilwar/>

Mubarak Steps Down

by Thomas Lifson, 11 Feb 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/02/mubarak_steps_down.html

Democracy: Egypt and the Eternal Constitution

by Selwyn Duke, 11 Feb 2011

...While longtime American ally Hosni Mubarak clings to power, some Americans risk Iranian revolution redux as they cling to a dream. Thoroughly democracy, they believe that democracy, a means to an end, is the end itself; they sometimes even behave as if it's a cure-all. For example, I've actually heard liberals say, "You conservatives are hypocritical; you only believe in democracy until it yields an outcome you don't like. If the Egyptian people vote for the Muslim Brotherhood, we have to accept it." Ah, what principle. What consistency. What bunk.

You see, I seem to remember something called Proposition 8, that marriage-protection amendment passed by the people of California. Now, perhaps my memory fails me, but I don't quite recall liberals passing the bong and saying, "Well, the people voted for the measure, so we have to accept it, dude." But I do recall the gnashing of teeth, acerbic vitriol, and violent protests against the people's democratically rendered decision.

The point is that only the most pathetic sheep accept a decision—whether made democratically or not—they consider immoral. Poison is poison, whether inflicted or chosen; consensus cannot make a bad politician or policy good. Yet the belief in democracy as panacea is widespread, so we need to explore the matter more deeply...

...Most everyone wants freedom. So does an animal. Yet civilization cannot be safe when animals roam free, which is why the beasts within it are generally leashed, penned in or imprisoned in a zoo. For wanting and acquiring are very different things. (And being able to manage something is different still.) Everyone wants health, but many still eat, drink and smoke themselves to death. Everyone wants wealth, but many still lack the discipline to apply themselves to a skill or hold down a job. And everyone wants good government, but some still glom onto demagogues who promise bread and circuses...

...When Benjamin Franklin emerged from the Constitutional Convention and was asked by a woman what kind of government he and the other founders had given us, his reply was, "A republic, madam, if you can keep it." If you can keep it. Franklin understood that virtue in the people is worth ten thousand laws and vice ten thousand usurpations.

The boys in *Lord of the Flies* couldn't keep their democracy for long. And all over the West modern man descends into moral relativism—which leads to moral primitiveness—and thus moral juvenility. As a result, we are losing our republics. We are increasingly being treated as children, controlled more every year with burgeoning laws, mandates and regulations...

A marvelous essay: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/democracy_egypt_and_the_eterna.html

Altruism is Obama's new jobs plan

by Nolan Finley, 10 Feb 2011

...Invoking JFK, the president urged executives to "ask yourself what you can do for America." His ask: Take the \$2 trillion sitting on their sidelines and add workers to their payrolls. The response was described as polite, which is a nice way of saying they thought him clueless.

The businesspeople know what they've done for America — they've employed every bit of wizardry they could conjure to keep their doors open in an economy ruined in large part by poor policymaking by politicians. They've suffered through the excruciating decisions to cut workers and close offices and plants. They've spent sleepless nights weighing one desperate option after another to buy themselves a little more time.

They've seen their profits disappear and their operations dwindle. And now they've got a president asking them to go reckless, to add employees they don't yet need on the faith that Obama really does get it and will put policies in place to get the economy moving. You don't need an MBA to know business doesn't work that way. Companies that add workers ahead of demand are soon out of business. And investors don't invest in an economy still vulnerable to the whims of a president who can't tell pro-business policies from anti-business ones...

...He reveals he doesn't get it at all by assuming businessmen can do what politicians do — spend money they don't have on things they don't need without worrying about paying the bill.

More: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110210/OPINION03/102100340/1008/OPINION01/Altruism-is-Obama%E2%80%99s-new-jobs-plan>

The hypocrisy of Michael Moore

by Jeffrey T. Kuhner, 10 Feb 2011

...His father—contrary to Mr. Moore's claims—was not some low-level autoworker struggling to put food on the table. Instead, he worked at General Motors where he earned a comfortable salary, owned a bourgeois home, sent his four kids to private Catholic school and played golf nearly every day at a private club. Mr. Moore had a privileged upbringing.

Moreover, Mr. Moore's films often have one common theme: America is a racist nation based on the exploitation of the poor. Hence, he is a vocal supporter of numerous liberal causes—nationalized health care, class warfare, the redistribution of wealth, affirmative action, empowering labor unions, gun control and the demonizing of HMOs, pharmaceutical companies and big oil.

He claims that white flight from the cities to the suburbs is based on fear of blacks—supposedly a glaring illustration of deep-seated racism. He said that whites "gave black America a pat on the back—and then ran like the devil to the suburbs." Yet, Mr. Moore has not practiced what he preaches. He does not live in an interracial neighborhood. Instead, he has made his home at a swanky mansion in Central Lake, in an upscale, exclusive and overwhelmingly white community in northern Michigan...

...His investment portfolio has included owning significant shares of stock in medical, health, pharmaceutical, defense and big oil companies, such as Pfizer, Merck, Eli Lilly, Pharmacia Corporation, Tenet Healthcare, Sunoco, General Electric and even the "evil" Halliburton. He has also invested in firms that outsource jobs to the Third World—including China, where slave labor is rampant. He wants to soak the rich with higher taxes, but uses accountants to exploit every loophole and exemption to reduce his burden to Uncle Sam ...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/10/the-hypocrisy-of-michael-moore/>

Barack Obama should be nervous about 2012

by Nile Gardiner, 10 Feb 2011

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100075460/barack-obama-should-be-nervous-about-2012/>

Hugh is all over this!

Hal Rogers pledges \$100 billion in cuts from President Obama's FY '11 proposed budget which...

by Hugh Hewitt, 10 Feb 2011

...is of course not what the Pledge for America promised. The Pledge for America promised a return to pre-bailout level budget appropriations for non-defense, non-security expenditures.

Sheesh, they still do not understand that everyone reads everything. The freshmen will have to tackle this on the floor, and the leadership in the caucus.

What is more troubling than the House GOP's inability to live up to the promise, is the decision to try and trick people into believing that they will...

More: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/8ec26c15-3691-4384-bfbb-26c6186c2ea7>

ACORN sprouting fresh branches

by Matthew Vadum, 10 Feb 2011

As the remnants of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now regroup in order to bring chaos to the 2012 election cycle, ACORN's renamed New York chapter is teeming with activity.

The successor organization, called New York Communities for Change (NYCC), operates out of the same office on Nevins Street in Brooklyn that is home to ACORN and its partisan arm, the socialist Working Families Party of New York.

Longtime ACORN leader Jon Kest is executive director of NYCC. Kest is the brother of Steve Kest, former executive director of ACORN, who has joined fellow radical community organizer Van Jones as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank that functions as a public relations firm for the Obama administration.

The "new" ACORN group has already held a glittering fund-raiser featuring "Sex in the City" actress Cynthia Nixon and U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano (D.-N.Y.), both longtime ACORN supporters...

More: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41696>

How Al Gore offered Keith Olbermann a job

by Marisa Guthrie, 9 Feb 2011

...Olbermann's Current show will likely premiere in late May, when the non-compete clause in his exit agreement with NBC Universal will have reached its conclusion. Sources tell THR that that agreement also stipulates that Olbermann cannot work for any network considered a competitor. "He had no choice but to go to a place like Current because his non-compete excluded just about every other place," said an MSNBC insider.

Current averaged 18,000 homes in primetime for fourth quarter 2010, lower than any other network measured by Nielsen. "Contract terms never stipulated Current TV as one of the targeted outlets," the source added.

In a conference call with reporters on Tuesday, Olbermann described the show as "an improved, amplified and stronger version of the show that I just did at my previous network."...

More: <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/al-gore-offered-keith-olbermann-97680>

"Amplified"? "Stronger"?

What's he going to do, speak into the mic with a bullhorn? Actually behead a conservative on camera?

Dear Mainstream Media Reporter Who Wasted My Time

by Ann Coulter, 9 Feb 2011

I've been finishing my next book and only able to catch bits and pieces of the news this month, but, based on what I've heard from the mainstream media, I'm pretty sure the conservative movement is now being led either by Jared Loughner or GOProud's president, Chris Barron. In honor of the gays who have come out of the closet as Republicans to be one of the 140 sponsors of CPAC 2011, I thought I'd run one of the interviews I gave before speaking to GOProud last September, which the reporter never ran after wasting my time.

This is also in honor of The New York *Times* reporter who wasted my time by writing an article—or at least a headline, which is as far as I got—on my speech to the gays that specifically required knowing absolutely nothing about me. Moreover, I'm feeling like the tea party is stealing my thunder again this week, so it's time to suck up to the gays! (That's from the *Times*' headline.)...

Funny: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41695>

A Great Senator Retires

by Hugh Hewitt, 10 Feb 2011

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/a35ab336-9fc0-4dc3-a89f-2028eb62a249>

GOP Defaults on Pledge to America

by Hugh Hewitt, 10 Feb 2011

http://townhall.com/columnists/hughhewitt/2011/02/10/gop_defaults_on_pledge_to_america/page/full/

Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) gets caught lying again, claims he clerked on Roe v. Wade

Yid With Lid, 10 Feb 2011

During a press conference about Abortion rights held by Senate Democrats, Blumenthal claimed he was right in the middle of the Roe vs Wade decision which was written by Blackmun in 1973.

"I'm new to the Senate but I'm not new to this battle. Since the days of *Roe v. Wade*, when I clerked for Justice Blackmun, as a state legislator, as attorney general, I have fought this battle."

The problem is, Blumenthal clerked for Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun in 1974, the year after Blackmun wrote Roe v. Wade decision. In 1973 Blumenthal was busy not being in Vietnam.

Listen: <http://tv.breitbart.com/senator-blumenthal-d-ct-gets-caught-lying-again-claims-he-clerked-on-roe-v-wade/>

House GOP's spending cut less than expected

by Emily Miller, 9 Feb 2011

...Internally, the Republicans suffered blowback from their party for not cutting enough immediately to meet the \$100 billion promised in the pledge. A group of 11 Republican Senators sent a letter to Speaker of the House John Boehner (R.-Ohio) last week asking him to keep to the \$100 billion promise. GOP Senators Tom Coburn (Okla.), Jim DeMint (S.C.), John Ensign (Nev.), Mike Enzi (Wyo.), Mike Johanns (Neb.), Ron Johnson (Wis.), Mike Lee (Utah), Rand Paul (Ky.), Marco Rubio (Fla.), Pat Toomey (Pa.), and David Vitter (La.) wrote the following, in part, to Boehner:

"We believe that, as a part of the urgent need to cut federal spending, the total value of the Fiscal Year 2011 spending reductions in the upcoming continuing resolution should be no less than \$100 billion. The American people expect at least this level—which is just one-fifteenth of the FY 2011 budget deficit."

I asked Cantor how the budget cuts would in fact meet the Republicans' promise. The Majority Leader said that the difference will be made up in the next full 12-month period, instead of just the seven months of the current fiscal year during which they control spending.

"It fulfills the pledge because we said in a year's time we were going to cut spending by \$100 billion. As you know, we are five-twelfths of the way through the fiscal year by the time the expiration occurs. "We will be proposing this again in the next fiscal year, and if you look at it in an annualized basis, I assure you it will be over \$100 billion," Cantor said...

More: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41686>

Ryan confronts Bernanke over Fed's purchases of U.S. debt, raises concerns about the dollar

by Jon Ward, 9 Feb 2011

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan challenged Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's policy of so-called quantitative easing—the printing of new U.S. dollars to buy government debt—and raised concerns that a weakened dollar and inflation could cause the loss of the currency's global reserve status. "There is nothing more insidious that a country can do to its citizens than debase its currency," Ryan told Bernanke...

...Bernanke, in his opening statement, defended the purchase over the last two years of almost \$1.7 trillion in U.S. debt... Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the ranking committee Democrat from Maryland, defended Bernanke's approach...

...The second round of QE—which is \$600 billion compared to the first round total of \$1.25 trillion—is currently half done, Bernanke said. Under questioning, he said that if the economic recovery was still stagnant in June when QE had run its course, "we would have to think about additional measures."

However, in New York, a senior Federal Reserve official on Tuesday raised red flags about continuing the program. "Barring some unexpected shock to the economy or financial system, I think we are pushing the envelope with the current round of Treasury purchases. I would be very wary of expanding our balance sheet further," said Richard Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

More: <http://dailycaller.com/2011/02/09/ryan-confronts-bernanke-over-feds-purchases-of-u-s-debt-raises-concerns-about-the-dollar/>

Reaganomics: What We Learned

From December 1982 to June 1990, Reaganomics created over 21 million jobs. The right policies can do it again.

by Arthur B. Laffer, 10 Feb 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704364004576132473777840938.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Chris Lee takes government transparency a bit too far

The New York Republican concludes a warp-speed scandal with resignation.

by John Hayward, 9 Feb 2011

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41697>

Made in the USA

U.S. manufacturing still tops China's by nearly 46 percent.

by Jeff Jacoby, 6 Feb 2011

...A recent Heartland Monitor survey finds "clear anxiety about the decades-long employment shift away from manufacturing to service jobs," National Journal's Ron Brownstein reported in December. The "decline of US manufacturing" is giving Americans a "sense of economic precariousness" — only one in five believe that the United States has the world's strongest economy, versus nearly half who think China is in the lead. "Near the root of the unease for many of those polled is the worry that the United States no longer makes enough *stuff*." When asked why US manufacturing jobs have declined, 58 percent cite off-shoring by American companies to take advantage of lower labor costs.

There's just one problem with all the gloom and doom about American manufacturing. It's wrong.

Americans make more "stuff" than any other nation on earth, and by a wide margin. According to the United Nations' comprehensive database of international economic data, America's manufacturing output in 2009 (expressed in constant 2005 dollars) was \$2.15 trillion. That surpassed China's output of \$1.48 trillion by nearly 46 percent. China's industries may be booming, but the United States still accounted for 20 percent of the world's manufacturing output in 2009 — only a hair below its 1990 share of 21 percent...

Read the rest: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/02/06/made_in_the_usa/

Obama's crony capitalism

by David Harsanyi, 9 Feb 2011

..."Right now, businesses across this country are proving that America can compete," Obama explained, listing a number of businesses that get it, such as Caterpillar, Whirlpool, Dow and a company named Geomagic.

All of these phenomenal success stories (thanks to Ira Stoll at the blog "The Future of Capitalism" for pointing this out) also share, in one way or another, the privilege of feeding at gov't's welfare trough. Oh, yes, these exemplars of good corporate citizenry prove they can compete in a marketplace with taxpayer funds. Which will no doubt make them more compliant with the administration's wishes.

General Electric's CEO, Jeffrey Immelt, whom Obama recently appointed to lead his new panel on "job creation," understands this new reality. One of the nation's most effective cronies, Immelt's company has benefited from government bailouts, waivers and lines of credit. A real icon of capitalism, Immelt.

On a completely separate issue, Immelt has also supported every initiative the president has forwarded from the stimulus—"Bold, visionary action!"—and cap and trade (under which, unlike you, GE would benefit financially), and he embraces all the subsidies that come with the progressive green agenda...

More: <http://reason.com/archives/2011/02/09/obamas-crony-capitalism>

The Betrayal of Great Britain

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 7 Feb 2011

...That we would betray Britain's nuclear secrets would not be surprising, since we are quite willing to betray our own. Before a recent U.N. conference on nuclear nonproliferation, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced: "Beginning today, the United States will make public the number of nuclear weapons in our stockpile and the number of weapons we have dismantled since 1991."

START, both old and new, has disclosure and verification requirements. Yet some secrets are and should be maintained, especially in regard to a historical ally that was not a party to the treaty and wishes to maintain a certain degree of confidentiality.

Our special relationship with Britain seems to have deteriorated into a special animus. Perhaps to this administration it was an inconvenient reminder of the days of Reagan and Thatcher, when the U.S. led the world instead of apologizing to it. It was a day when we and our presidents believed in American exceptionalism...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=562301&p=1>

Anyone can make a mistake. Maybe the problem is ABORTION DRUGS.

Pregnant Colo. woman mistakenly gets abortion drug

Associated Press, 8 Feb 2011

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700108221/Pregnant-Colo-Woman-mistakenly-gets-abortion-drug.html>

Sun Tzu: The Enemy of the Bureaucratic Mind

by Walter Russell Mead, 8 Feb 2011

...Our ideals and our values tell us that social justice and righteous dealing win out in the end. If we want to be powerful we must support democracy and human rights around the world. Sun Tzu begs to differ. He is a deeply offensive man and no decent university in the United States would allow him to teach.

Take his attitude toward women. Testing to see if Sun Tzu's methods would in fact lead to better military performance, the king of Wu told Sun Tzu to teach the king's 180 concubines to march in good order. Very systematically Master Sun instructed the women until he was sure they knew what to do. He gave the order to march; they laughed. He reviewed the procedures one more time; when they failed once again he took the two 'generals' — the king's favorites — and had them beheaded. The king told him to stop the exercise and spare the women; "No", said Master Sun. "You've put me in charge of the army; it's military justice on the field." The two favorites died; the rest of the women marched in perfect order. Master Sun was confirmed in high command.

Sexism, trafficking in persons, violation of human and legal rights, insubordination, militarism and general authoritarianism: a modern American university would be more likely to send Sun Tzu to the Hague to be tried for war crimes than to give him tenure. Many ancient Confucians felt the same way, but nevertheless Sun Tzu's influence

survives. Morality counts, but at least for some benighted people winning also matters...

More: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/02/08/sun-tzu-the-enemy-of-the-bureaucratic-mind/>

The Pentagon opts for Economy of Force

by Austin Bay, 9 Feb 2011

This week, the Pentagon published a national military strategy document, its first revision since 2004...

...NMS 2011 pegs intense urbanization as a gritty geo-strategic issue, but that has been a global trend since at least the mid-20th century. Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation has been a worry since the 1950s—arguably since World War I, when considering chemical weapons. NMS 2011 says, "State-sponsored and non-state actors complicate deterrence and accountability by extending their reach through advanced technologies that were once solely the domain of states." That paraphrases Martin Van Creveld, circa 1989...

...NMS 2011 doesn't really identify America's enemies, either, beyond al-Qaida militants and nods at North Korean and Iranian troublemaking...

...NMS 2011 is steeped in the language of fiscal constraint and DIME. "Our Nation's security and prosperity are inseparable." As budgets shrink, leaders "must ... make difficult choices between current and future challenges." DIME appears on page one: U.S. foreign policy must "employ an adaptive blend of diplomacy, development (i.e., economic assistance and investment) and defense." We "must continuously adapt our approaches to how we exercise power" and use "the full spectrum of power to defend our national interests and advance international security and stability."

That's old wine served in a new skin, in an era when the old wallet is dangerously thin. Preaching it, however, is easy. Achieving it without loss of lives and treasure is all too rare.

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/austin-bay/the-pentagon-opts-for-economy-of-force.html>

What good things can happen when you look up from your navel!

Social Scientist Sees Bias Within

by John Tierney, 7 Feb 2011

...Discrimination is always high on the agenda at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's conference, where psychologists discuss their research on racial prejudice, homophobia, sexism, stereotype threat and unconscious bias against minorities. But the most talked-about speech at this year's meeting, which ended Jan. 30, involved a new "outgroup."

It was identified by Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at the University of Virginia who studies the intuitive foundations of morality and ideology. He polled his audience at the San Antonio Convention Center, starting by asking how many considered themselves politically liberal. A sea of hands appeared, and Dr. Haidt estimated that liberals made up 80 percent of the 1,000 psychologists in the ballroom. When he asked for centrists and libertarians, he spotted fewer than three dozen hands. And then, when he asked for conservatives, he counted a grand total of three.

"This is a statistically impossible lack of diversity," Dr. Haidt concluded, noting polls showing that 40 percent of Americans are conservative and 20 percent are liberal. In **his speech** and in an interview, Dr. Haidt argued that social psychologists are a "tribal-moral community" united by "sacred values" that hinder research and damage their credibility — and blind them to the hostile climate they've created for non-liberals...

Gratifying: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/science/08tier.html?_r=2&ref=science

And Dr. Haidt's slide show presentation is worthwhile, even though he believes in global warming, and dismisses intelligent design: <http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/jhaidt-819710-haidt-postpartisan-social-psychology/>

Mr. Cameron's speech was really marvelous—for a head of government. He is a good man.

Radicalisation and Islamic extremism

by David Cameron: speech delivered on 5 Feb 2011 at the Munich Security Conference.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/02/terrorism-islam-ideology>

But some of us would like to hold this good man to a higher standard:

The Brit PM's limp attack on multiculturalism

by Selwyn Duke, 6 Feb 2011

...Let's start by saying that Cameron, like all Western leaders, is a creature of the age who is either unwilling or unable to address the real problem: immigration itself. For it is not just multiculturalism that has failed but also the importation of multiple unassimilable cultures.

The reality is that it isn't borders, mountains, rivers, trees, rocks or animals that make a nation, but people. Australia, the US, Canada and Taiwan only became those nations because of the migration of Europeans to the first three and Chinese to the last; they were far different when occupied by only Indians or aborigines (as to this, you can ask the Indians and aborigines about the effects of immigration). Likewise, as I wrote in 2007, "[R]eplace our population with a Mexican or Moslem one and you no longer have a Western civilization, you no longer have America. You have Mexico North or Iran West."...

...As I also wrote in the 2007 piece: "Do you want to know why we have Moslem prayers broadcast five times daily in Hamtramck, Michigan; Moslem foot baths installed in the Kansas City Airport; 'Islamic Immersion' classes in a California school district; Moslems who are planning jihad against us on our own shores; and Moslems who demand an Arabic public school in NYC and Moslem dormitories at colleges? Legal immigration. Why do we have illegal immigrants brazen enough to protest in the streets and demand the rights of citizens? Legal immigration. Why do you have to press buttons to conduct business in the language of the land and why are government documents printed in foreign ones? Legal immigration. Why have we seen Mexicans in our streets burning our flag and wielding signs stating 'Gringo Go Home'? Legal immigration..."

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/02/the_brit_pms_limp_attack_on_mu.html

And that 2007 piece, too:

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/2007/duke051507.htm>

A good look at both sides of the bankruptcy debate.

When States Go Bust

by James Pethokoukis, 7 Feb 2011 (Feb. 14 issue)

It's a solution of apparent Alexandrian elegance and simplicity: Empower America's cash-strapped states to slice cleanly through a strangling knot of debilitating debt and government union cronyism by letting them file for bankruptcy. Long-term liabilities could be restructured, unaffordable labor contracts rewritten, fiscal health restored. No federal bailouts necessary...

...Kevin Drum of *Mother Jones* put it this way: State bankruptcy "promises to become a pretty serious battle. For Republicans it's got everything: The tea parties will love it, it provides an alternative to raising taxes, and...it helps defund a key Democratic interest group. What's not to like?"

Surprisingly, quite a bit—at least among some Republicans and conservatives. In a January 24 session with reporters, House majority leader Eric Cantor brushed off the idea...

Read the rest: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/when-states-go-bust_541424.html

Special Commemorative Notable Quotables: Ronald Reagan at 100

by Brent Bozell III et al., Feb 2011

Quite a compendium: <http://www.mrc.org/notablequotables/nq/2011/20110206025515.aspx>

Rewriting Ronald Reagan

How the media have worked to distort, dismantle and destroy his legacy.

by Brent Baker, Tim Graham, and Rich Noyes, Feb 2011

Quite a compendium: <http://www.mrc.org/BiasAlert/uploads/Reagan2011.pdf>

Someone's got it in for us. He's planting stories in the press. Obama had better cut it out quick; but when he will, I can only guess. Talk about moving to the center. He's turning into Bush! Before you know it, he'll "play on our fears" and "lie us into war."

Concerns grow over Egypt's WMD research

U.S. has been quiet about Cairo's weapons programs, but revolt changes the calculus.

by Robert Windrem, 7 Feb 2011

An ObamaCare appeal from the states

Twenty-one governors representing more than 115 million Americans have written to Kathleen Sebelius asking for more flexibility on health-care reform.

by Governor Mitch Daniels (R-IN), 7 Feb 2011

...All claims made for it were false. It will add trillions to the federal deficit. It will lead to a de facto government takeover of health care faster than most people realize, and as millions of Americans are added to the Medicaid rolls and millions more employees (including, watch for this, workers of bankrupt state governments) are dumped into the new exchanges...

...For state governments, the bill presents huge new costs, as we are required to enroll 15 million to 20 million more people in our Medicaid systems. In Indiana, our independent actuaries have pegged the price to state taxpayers at \$2.6 billion to \$3 billion over the next 10 years. This is a huge burden for our state, and yet another incremental expenditure the law's authors declined to account for truthfully.

Perhaps worse, the law expects to conscript the states as its agents in its takeover of health care...

...I have written to Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of Health and Services (HHS), saying that if her department wants Indiana to run its program for it, we will do so under the following conditions...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703652104576122172835584158.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

AOL acquires Huffington Post, stock falls 3.42%

AOL Inc. Common Stock (NYSE: AOL)

After Hours: 21.17 **↓0.02 (0.09%)** 5:27PM EST

Last Trade: **21.19**

Trade Time: 4:03PM EST

Change: **↓0.75 (3.42%)**

Prev Close: 21.94

Open: 21.96

Bid: 21.17 x 1000

Ask: 21.19 x 100

1y Target Est: 27.18

Day's Range: 21.06— 22.10

52wk Range: 19.61— 29.45

Volume: 4,275,058

Avg Vol (3m): 829,114

Market Cap: 2.26B

P/E (ttm): N/A

EPS (ttm): -7.97

Div & Yield: N/A (N/

<http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=aol&q1=1>

Despite the terrible pun (and I usually *like* terrible puns), this may be his best column ever.

Between Mubarak and a hard place

by Ben Stein, 7 Feb 2011

...The people in Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez demonstrating against Mubarak are not Jefferson, Madison, and Washington. They are not liberal democrats and believers in universal human rights. In the final analysis, they are not going to be pals of the United States or our only reliable friend in the area, Israel.

Dwight Eisenhower, a genuinely great President, stood up boldly against Israeli, French, and British seizure of the Suez Canal in an effort to befriend Egypt. Gamal Abdel Nasser and his Egyptians responded by kicking us in the teeth every chance they could. If there has been a fundamental change in the Egyptians' attitudes towards the U.S., it has been subtle indeed. Maybe too subtle to be detected.

Yes, indeed, all of these demonstrations are a sign of a new dawn in the Mideast. But it's a lot like the old dawn,

except for a thick haze of Iranian smoke. Has no one noticed that in all of the recent political changes in the Arab states, power going to persons largely sympathetic to Iran is a constant? Has anyone noticed how Mohamed ElBaradei endlessly carried water for Iran about nuclear arms when he was at the UN supposedly trying to stop nuke proliferation? This is not going to end well for the U.S. and the air of breathless (that word again, sorry!) expectation from the newscasters that Egypt and the whole Mideast will turn out to be like Minnesota simply has no precedent in history.

Next, how is it that hardly anyone is pointing out except in conservative talk radio that when there was a real democratic outpouring in the streets of Iran, an attempted revolution against the dictatorship of the Holocaust-denying, America-hating, nuclear weapons-seeking Ahmadinejad in Iran, and Iran suppressed it with gunfire, Barack Obama said not a word. He totally ignored the young people trying to make Iran into a democracy. (Iran is the one place in the Mideast besides Israel where there are a lot of pro-American young people.) He tried to kiss up to Ahmadinejad with the blood of pro-democracy youth...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/02/07/between-mubarak-and-a-hard-pla>

Who will defend Mideast Christians?

by Joseph Bottum, 7 Feb 2011

...So why should they expect improvement from a new government? Particularly one in which the radical Muslim Brotherhood is certain to play a major role? The Copts are under the screw, and somehow, every time modern Egyptian history makes a turn, it ends up biting down harder on the nation's religious minorities.

Of course, Egypt's Christians are hardly alone in their suffering. Here's a headline from 2010: "Catholic Bishop Stabbed to Death in Turkey." And here's another: "Islamist hard-liners in Indonesia target Christians." And another: "Iraqi Christians mourn after church siege kills 58." The Christmas season saw 48 killed in Muslim attacks in Nigeria. On Christmas Day, Iran opened its campaign against conversions by arresting dozens of evangelicals. Bombs left on the doorsteps of Christian homes in Iraq killed two and injured 14 on Dec. 30. On and on the list goes. The single most dangerous thing in the world to be, right now, is a Christian in a Muslim country.

It wasn't always so. Relations among religious groups were never easy, but in the long years after the spread of Islam in the eighth century, large pockets of Christians — Copts and Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Syriac — managed to survive.

The 20th century was less kind. The genocide of a million Armenian Christians by the Turks from 1895 through 1918 signaled the beginning of an era in which Muslim-majority nations would prove increasingly incapable of tolerating non-Muslim minorities.

The 21st century looks much the same. For a decade now, Western nations have done little to help...

More: http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-02-07-column07_ST_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

Comedy central:

This could get ugly.

Waxman whacks 'fishing expeditions'

Washington Examiner editorial, 6 Feb 2011

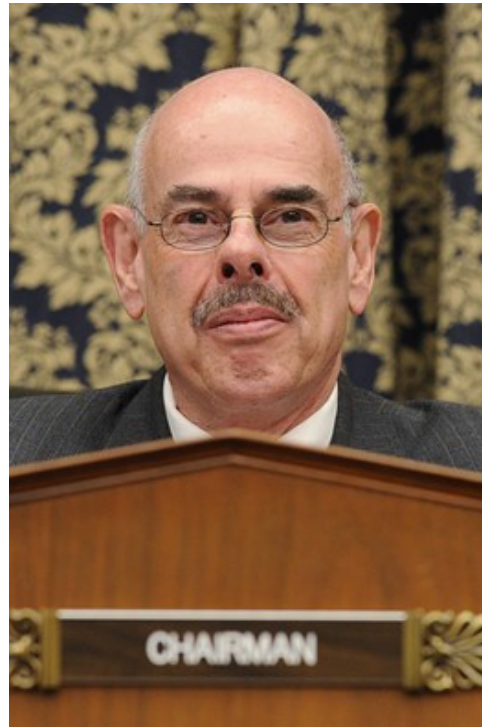
...Coming from Waxman, that line about fishing expeditions is nothing short of hilarious. During his two years in the chair now occupied by Upton, Waxman was Quick-Draw McGraw in demanding documents, issuing subpoenas and dragooning witnesses, particularly if doing so resulted in embarrassment for Republicans, Fortune 500 CEOs, oil companies, or public utilities...

...Nobody was laughing, though, when Upton added that under Waxman's leadership, the committee failed to convene a single hearing on ObamaCare. "During the months following passage of the bill, the American people were subjected to rising premiums, increased costs, employers that were considering ending their health care coverage, unpopular policies secretly inserted into regulations without public comment, insurers exiting the market altogether, and the need to exempt many businesses

from the disastrous effects of the PPACA. Yet this committee remained silent."...

More:

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2011/02/comedy-central-waxman-whacks-fishing-expeditions#>



Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)

At Ground Zero, a sham memorial

by Michael Burke, 6 Feb 2011

...The memorial will wipe away all evidence of the attacks and replace it with trees and waterfalls. This is like covering Gettysburg with asphalt. Everything we remember 9/11 by, all that we embraced after the attacks, will be replaced with a tribute to the narcissism of elitist intellectuals, artists and politicians. What if past generations had done that at Auschwitz or Hiroshima?

And let's not kid ourselves about why this is happening. First, it's because of our love affair with ourselves. We are convinced that all history began with us and that nothing else matters. So we remake Ground Zero to pander to "what all of us...need and deserve," as the jury that dictated its concept pompously pronounced...

More: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2011/02/06/2011-02-06_at_ground_zero_a_sham_memorial.html

Mr. Kristol, stand for truth

by Pamela Geller, 6 Feb 2011

Bill Kristol has opened the French doors of his ivory tower, stepped out and deigned to address the great unwashed conservative quarter. High above the people and reality, he admonishes those on the right for not embracing the catastrophic events unfolding in the Middle East.

In his opinion piece, "Stand for Freedom," he dismisses or summarily denies the concrete facts on the ground. Of course, *we all want freedom*. Of course, we support voices yearning to be free. We fought for and believed *The Bush Doctrine*, and still do. But there is far more at work here, as evidenced by the fierce behind-the-scenes jockeying and arm-twisting by the on-the-ascent Muslim Brotherhood, an organization created after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. The left wing lemmings are eating up this discourse among us like maggots on dead flesh, but that is their only joy, so let them have it.

But Kristol is so wrong, inexcusably so. Glenn Beck nailed it. The advance of Islamic supremacism is exactly what is at play here. And we are right to be cautious. Nobody expects Mubarak to survive—we only care about what comes after. There is Kristol-lite and there is reality: **Muslim Brotherhood: Egyptians demanding restoration of Islamic law...**

More: http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/02/mr-kristol-stand-for-truth.html

And this post from Pamela shows lots of photos of moonbats and terrorist-enablers.:

Egypt support rallies in New York and Canada turn into pro-Hamas, Jew-hate fests

by Pamela Geller, 6 Feb 2011 [lots of photos]

http://atlashrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/02/egypt-support-rally-in-new-york-and-canada-turn-into-pro-hamas-jew-hate-fests.html

Egypt is bruised, but not broken

by Salim Mansur, 5 Feb 2011

http://www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/salim_mansur/2011/02/04/17159306.html#/comment/columnists/salim_mansur/2011/02/04/pf-17159306.html

Green jobs are not evergreen jobs

by Debra Saunders, 6 Feb 2011

...The Massachusetts plant opened in 2008 with much fanfare and generous taxpayer assistance. But just one year later, The New York Times reported, company suits were talking to Chinese officials, who could offer cheaper labor—average monthly wages below \$300 as opposed to \$5,400 in the Bay State—sweetheart loans and other incentives...

...According to the California Energy Commission, the cost of photovoltaic solar electricity is about 26 cents per kilowatt hour, as opposed to 13 cents for electricity powered by natural gas.

With the unemployment rate at 9 percent, Washington should be looking to create jobs that aren't going to run to China. Or, as Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, told the *New York Times*, "If the president really were serious about job creation, he would be working with us to develop American oil and gas by American workers for American consumers."

American Enterprise Institute senior fellow Steven F. Hayward likes to ask people which state has the lowest unemployment rate. The answer is North Dakota, with an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. "The reason is they've had a huge oil and gas boom," Hayward explained. They've tripled their oil output.

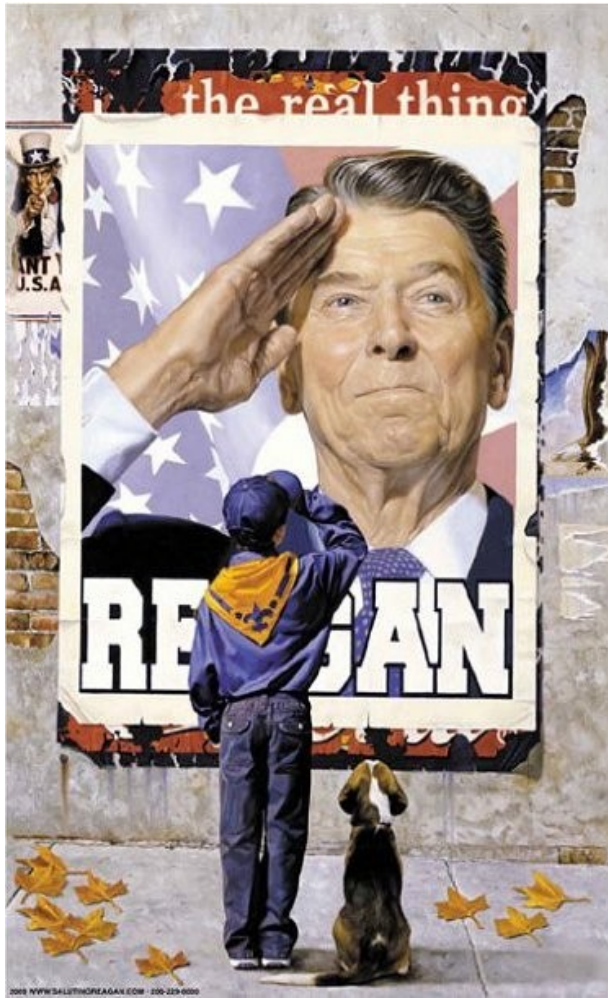
As the price of oil spills over the \$100-per-barrel mark, Washington ought to reconsider the "green jobs" approach. As Hayward noted, "Brown energy creates jobs and prosperity."

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/debra-saunders/green-jobs-are-not-evergreen-jobs-11-02-06.html>

February 6th is Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday

If your eyes are dry after reading or listening to this, there's something wrong with you:

[Eulogy for Ronald Reagan](#) Margaret Thatcher, 11 June 2004 **[Video](#)**



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

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

[City Upon a Hill](#) *Ronald Reagan, 25 Jan 1974*

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

[Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation](#) *Ronald Reagan, April 1983*

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

[Reagan's Leadership, America's Recovery](#) *Margaret Thatcher, 30 Dec 1988*

[Our Revolution: farewell address](#) *Ronald Reagan, 11 Jan 1989* [Video](#)

Reagan Reclaimed

by *Steven F. Hayward, 24 Jan 2011 (February 7 issue)*

...There is something passing strange about the way in which liberals now claim to understand Reagan better than today's conservatives do, yet somehow were unable to make him out when he was right in front of them...

...Liberals who now laud Reagan's Cold War statecraft should be made to explain why they were wrong and Reagan right, for it gets directly to liberalism's sentimental view of human affairs—which affects current policy, from the War on Terror to crime and the welfare state. More broadly, they should be made to explain why they appreciate the virtues of conservatives only after they are gone from the scene (as we have also seen with Goldwater, Eisenhower, and even Nixon to some extent)...

...Reagan's invocation of Paine, as well as his quotation of John Winthrop's "City upon a Hill" sermon, expresses the core of his optimism and belief in the dynamism of American society, a dynamism that can have unconservative effects. But he explained his use of Paine in conservative terms way back in his 1965 autobiography, *Where's the Rest of Me?* "The classic liberal," Reagan wrote, "used to be the man who believed the individual was, and should be forever, the master of his destiny. That is now the conservative position. The liberal used to believe in freedom under law. He now takes the ancient feudal position that power is everything. He believes in a stronger and stronger central government, in the philosophy that control is better than freedom. The conservative now quotes Thomas Paine, a

longtime refuge of the liberals: 'Government is a necessary evil; let us have as little of it as possible.'"

Reagan's mixture of the revolutionary or progressive Paine with the Jeffersonian limited-government Paine is a potent formula in American politics that liberals have abandoned...

Read it all: <http://www.aei.org/article/103043>

The Gipper's lesson

Washington Times editorial, 4 Feb 2011

...A Democrat in his early Hollywood days, Reagan nonetheless believed he had a duty to stand up against the communist ideology he saw undermining his country.

Reagan switched political parties, but he held the same core beliefs that he applied to the challenge of governing California. In 1967, the Golden State had run up a \$200 million budget deficit (\$1.3 billion in today's dollars). While he made a few mistakes on issues from abortion to taxes in this political debut, he learned important lessons. By 1975, California reported a budget surplus of \$555 million. While politicians today would divide up such a windfall and blow it on new programs and initiatives, Reagan gave it back in the form of a rebate. His opponents called this an "unnecessary expenditure of public funds." To Reagan, the money belonged to the people who earned it, not to politicians. Reagan calculated that his administration had given back \$5.7 billion in the form of refunds, tax cuts and reductions in tolls.

This California experience guided Reagan as 40th president of the United States...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/3/the-gippers-lesson/>

Ronald Reagan at 100: A true believer who caught destiny's eye

by Michael Barone, 27 Jan 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/01/ronald-reagan-true-believer-who-caught-destinys-eye>

The Media, Reagan and Obama

by Ed Lasky, 31 Jan 2011

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



Left does right about

by Jonah Goldberg, 5 Feb 2011

The only good conservative is a dead conservative. That, in a nutshell, describes the age-old tradition of liberals suddenly discovering that once-reviled conservatives were OK after all. It's just we-the-living who are hateful ogres, troglodytes and moperers. Over the last decade or so, as the giants of the founding generation of modern American conservatism have died, each has been rehabilitated into a gentleman-statesman of a bygone era of conservative decency and open-mindedness...

...It's an old game. For instance, in 1980, quirky New Republic writer Henry Fairlie wrote an essay for the Washington Post in which he lamented the rise of Reagan, "the most radical activist of them all." The title of his essay: "If Reagan Only Were Another Coolidge"...

More: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/2011_0205left_does_rightabout/

Obama's Egypt Flip-Flop

by Leslie H. Gelb, 5 Feb 2010

...The policy trick for the U.S. and others is to try to "praise" Mubarak into saving his nation once again by turning over power to his subordinates, calling for an assembly to fix the worst parts of the present constitution, and holding supervised elections in, say, three months' time. To my friends in the talkocracy, I have to say that trying this approach is far better than pretending that the protestocracy can somehow magically transform itself into a democratic government. They have no organized political parties and, alas, no experience with governing.

As for the long list of gargoyles to be encountered during this process, I've already disgorged myself about the MB [Muslim Brotherhood]. They promise democracy and nonviolence at home and not to Islamicize Egypt. Given their long history, it's simply naïve to take them at their word. And I'll bet most Egyptians are even more worried about the MB than the American talkocracy...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-02-04/egypt-protests-obamas-flip-flop-naive-media-on-extremists-and-more-fears/>

'Braveheart' screenwriter Randall Wallace at National Prayer Breakfast

3 Feb 2011

Watch: <http://www.breitbart.tv/braveheart-screenwriter-randall-wallace-at-national-prayer-breakfast/>

He also wrote and directed *We Were Soldiers*, and *Secretariat*.

Santelli Slams CNBC Panelists for Spinning Jobs Report

CNBC's floor reporter criticizes 'kool-aid drinkers' for trying to find good news in the 'disappointing.'

by Julia A. Seymour, 4 Feb 2011

Includes video: http://www.mrc.org/bmi/articles/2011/Santelli_Slams_CNBC_Panelists_for_Spinning_Jobs_Report.html

Unemployment actually at 9.9%, Under-employment' at 19.2%

Gallup, 4 Feb 2011

Chart: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/125639/Gallup-Daily-Workforce.aspx>

Labor Force Participation Plunges To Fresh 26 Year Low

by Tyler Durden, 4 Feb 2011

At 64.2%, the labor force participation rate (as a percentage of the total civilian noninstitutional population) is now at a fresh 26 year low, the lowest since March 1984...

More, including chart: <http://www.zerohedge.com/article/labor-force-participations-plunges-fresh-26-year-low>

The Problem of the Friendly Tyrant

by Michael Ledeen, 3 Feb 2011

...Many people are now saying that it is always wrong for America to support dictators. "Always" is too much.

Was it wrong to join the Soviets in the war against the Axis? Would it have been better to sacrifice thousands of American lives in order to avoid the moral stain on our standard? Are tactics to be trashed in favor of a single strategy? As I keep saying, we are often compelled to choose between various evils, and it is a legitimate choice. It's the way the world generally works, in fact; it's rare to have a fully attractive and morally impeccable option.

Plus, while tyrants are contrary to our national DNA, there are dictators and dictators. Some can be convinced to democratize, and those chances are increased if they trust us and are willing to work with us. One way to get from dictatorship to democracy — and that is our national mission — is to get friendly tyrants to liberalize their polities. Peaceful transitions have been accomplished, and, by the way, in societies that were widely believed to be intrinsically, almost genetically, authoritarian. To take two: Taiwan and Spain, both of which democratized from the top down.

Tyrants don't like this process at all, obviously...

Crucial facts: <http://pajamasmedia.com/michaelledeen/2011/02/03/the-problem-of-the-friendly-tyrant-2/?singlepage=true>

Egypt's Days of Decision

by Conrad Black, 3 Feb 2011

...Charles de Gaulle wrote the playbook for facing down demonstrators and strikes in 1968: He waited for the bourgeois instincts of the French to bubble up in concern that these antics would actually cost them money, ostentatiously assured himself of the loyalty of the army (after the chief of the Paris police said, in accord with precedent, that the force was no longer reliable), and then spoke to the country for less than five minutes.

"As the sole legitimate repository of national and republican power, I have, in the last 24 hours, considered every means, I repeat every means, for the conservation of that power," he began. He then announced that he would not retire: "I have a mandate from the people; I will fulfill it." He would not replace the prime minister, "whose value, solidity, and capacity have earned the homage of all," and had already dissolved the National Assembly for new elections. These would take place in the ways and on the timetable provided by the Constitution, unless the agents of chaos — whom he identified as totalitarian Communists, "colored, at the outset, with the deceiving appearance of discredited politicians who would shortly be discarded"—prevailed. In such an event, it was clear, he would unleash the notoriously heavy-handed French army.

He concluded: "The republic will not abdicate. . . . Progress, independence, and peace will prevail with liberty. Vive la République! Vive la France!" This was an unanswerable reply: let the bourgeoisie become bored and alarmed and then stand absolutely on democracy against mob rule, and — if the mobs disrupt the democratic processes — deploy overwhelming force. The uprising collapsed like a soufflé and, in the campaign following, de Gaulle asked where the revolutionary leaders had been when he had defied Nazi Germany, and when he had crushed army putschists. He then won the greatest electoral victory in 175 years of sporadic republican French history...

...It need hardly be emphasized that Mubarak is not de Gaulle and Egypt, unlike France, is not and never has been a democracy, but Mubarak has followed some of the same techniques...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/258659/egypt-s-days-decision-conrad-black>

Laughing Your Head Off in Liberal Land

by Jack Kemp (no, *not* the late quarterback, Congressman, and VP candidate), 31 Jan 2011

The new tone of civility the liberals are pursuing apparently includes wishing violent death on Sarah Palin. Recently in Missoula, Montana, an otherwise high-quality performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* by the Missoula Children's Theater had the script altered with the approval of the MCT director Curt Olds to call for the beheading of Sarah Palin in the tune "As some Day it May Happen (I've Got a Little List)" and thus singing about her "not being missed," as the *Wall St. Journal* informs us...

...Apparently this is what our Bill Ayers-influenced children's educators now believe is the proper subject to teach youngsters to sing along to: contemplation of the beheading of not some nineteenth-century caricatures, but a very real twenty-first century conservative politician...

... John Edwards was right. There really are two Americas, but not in the way he meant it. As liberals call for divisiveness of the most bloody kind in a children's theater performance (no, it wasn't mere "fun," but a teaching of what is now socially acceptable in that community), it is necessary to shine "the sun, whose rays are all ablaze," to borrow a line from a different song in *The Mikado*, on this vile biliousness in order to make its influence wane.

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

Spilled Milk

by Thomas Sowell, 1 Feb 2011

Despite the old saying, "Don't cry over spilled milk," the Environmental Protection Agency is doing just that.

We all understand why the Environmental Protection Agency was given the power to issue regulations to guard against oil spills, such as that of the Exxon Valdez in Alaska or the more recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But not everyone understands that any power given to any bureaucracy for any purpose can be stretched far beyond that purpose.

In a classic example of this process, the EPA has decided that, since milk contains oil, it has the authority to force farmers to comply with new regulations to file "emergency management" plans to show how they will cope with spilled milk, how farmers will train "first responders" and build "containment facilities" if there is a flood of spilled milk...

...Only in government is any benefit, however small, considered to be worth any cost, however large...

A GREAT column: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/258491/spilled-milk/thomas-sowell>

The Muslim Brotherhood's penetration of the Obama Administration

Jamie Glazov talks to Pamela Geller, 3 Feb 2011

<http://frontpagemag.com/2011/02/03/the-muslim-brotherhood%E2%80%99s-penetration-of-the-obama-administration/>

Adminstration in contempt over Gulf drilling moratorium, judge rules

by Laurel Brubaker Calkins, 3 Feb 2011

The Obama Administration acted in contempt by continuing its deepwater drilling moratorium after the policy was struck down, a New Orleans judge ruled.

Interior Department regulators acted with "determined disregard" by lifting and reinstating a series of policy changes that restricted offshore drilling, following the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, U.S. District Judge, Martin Feldman of New Orleans ruled yesterday.

"Each step the government took following the court's imposition of a preliminary injunction showcases its defiance," Feldman said in the ruling. Such dismissive conduct, viewed in tandem with the re-imposition of a second blanket and substantively identical moratorium, and in light of the national importance of this case, provide this court with clear and convincing evidence of the government's contempt," Feldman said...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-03/u-s-administration-in-contempt-over-gulf-drill-ban-judge-rules.html>

Mr. Tadros is a university student in Egypt.

The story of the Egyptian Revolution

by Sam Tadros, 2 Feb 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/the_story_of_the_egyptian_revo.html

Do-gooders mobilize against free speech

by Debra J. Saunders, 1 Feb 2011

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_debra_j_saunders/do_gooders_mobilize_against_free_speech

Grading Barack Obama

Libertarian legal scholar Richard Epstein on his former University of Chicago colleague.
with Nick Gillespie, 24 Jan 2011 (February issue)

3,500 words: <http://reason.com/archives/2011/01/24/grading-barack-obama>

Sen. Sanders: 'Get rid of the private health care companies'

3 Feb 2011

<http://nation.foxnews.com/health-care/2011/02/03/sen-sanders-get-rid-private-health-care-companies#>

The legal future of ObamaCare

by Peter Ferrara, 2 Feb 2011

...The swing fifth vote is as usual up to Justice Anthony Kennedy. I believe what will be decisive in winning his vote as well is to demonstrate there are other alternative means to achieving the goals of ObamaCare that would be constitutional, so we would not be asking Kennedy to rule that universal health care for all must be unconstitutional.

Just two basic reforms would provide a universal health care safety net that would ensure that no one need ever suffer without essential health care. First would be to block-grant Medicaid back to the states, with each state then to replace it with Medicaid vouchers for the purchase of private health insurance. Each state would decide how much to provide at each income level in their state to ensure that no one would lack basic health insurance because they were too poor.

This would benefit the poor enormously because the current Medicaid program so badly underpays doctors and hospitals that the poor often cannot find doctors and hospitals that will treat them under Medicare. With these Medicaid vouchers, the poor would enjoy the same health care as the middle class, because they would enjoy the same health insurance as the middle class.

The second reform is state uninsurable risk pools for those who nevertheless still do not buy health insurance, and then become too sick and costly to buy it, like the homeowner who fails to buy fire insurance before his house catches on fire. These uninsurables would get coverage from the risk pool, paying premiums based on their ability to pay. The state would subsidize the pool for the remaining costs. A majority of the states already operate such uninsurable risk pools, and they have proved quite workable.

Everyone would then have the means of obtaining essential coverage and care, without any individual or employer mandate. Indeed, unlike ObamaCare, this safety net covers everyone, and so achieves the valid social goal far better.

These reforms would not be costly because less than one fourth of the uninsured fail to get health coverage because they are too poor to do so, and only a relatively small number of people find themselves without insurance and then too sick to get it. If we do this in the context of block-granting Medicaid back to the states, the net result could well be less overall government spending rather than more. The only reason President Obama and the Democrats would not even consider this approach is that it does not involve the government takeover of health care, which was the real goal all along, so the wise government could run health care in the interests of progressive "social justice" (which sometimes means denying people health care)...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/02/02/the-legal-future-of-obamacare>

I can balance the Budget

by John Stossel 2 Feb 2011

...As the bureaucrats complain about proposals to make tiny cuts, it's good to remember that disciplined government could make cuts that get us to a surplus in one year. But even a timid Congress could make swift progress if it wanted to. If it just froze spending at today's levels, it would almost balance the budget by 2017. If spending were limited to 1 percent growth each year, the budget would be balanced in 2019. And if the crowd in Washington would limit spending growth to about 2 percent a year, the red ink would almost disappear in 10 years.

As you see, the budget can be cut. Only politics stand in the way.

More: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2011/02/02/i-can-balance-the-budget/>

How to understand Rush Limbaugh

by Wilfred M. McClay, 1 Feb 2011

...Many of his detractors have never even listened to his show, for example. Some of his critics regularly refer to him as Rush "Lim-bough" (like a tree limb), as if his name is so obscure to them that they cannot even remember how to

pronounce it.

In short, he is never quite acknowledged as the formidable figure he clearly is. Instead, he is dismissed in one of two ways—either as a comic buffoon, a passing phenomenon in the hit parade of American pop culture, or as a mean-spirited apostle of hate who appeals to a tiny lunatic fringe. These two views are not quite compatible, but they have one thing in common: they both aim to push him to the margins and render him illegitimate, unworthy of respectful attention. This shunning actually works in Limbaugh's favor because it creates the very conditions that cause him to be chronically underestimated and keeps his opposition chronically off-balance. Indeed, Limbaugh's use of comedy and irony and showmanship are integral to his modus operandi, the judo by which he draws in his opponents and then uses their own force to up-end them. And unless you make an effort to hear voices outside the echo chamber of the mainstream media, you won't have any inkling of what Limbaugh is all about or of how widely his reach and appeal extend.

The influence is real and pervasive. Like it or not, Rush Limbaugh is unarguably one of the most important figures in the political and cultural life of the United States in the past three decades...

3,600 illuminating words: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/how-to-understand-rush-limbaugh-15634>

ObamaCare is no longer a law

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 2 Feb 2011

...The White House plans to appeal Vinson's ruling. But until it asks for a stay and a court grants one, the government should cease and desist from implementing ObamaCare if it's to stay within the bounds of the law. Don't be surprised, though, if it doesn't.

Democrats still control the White House and Senate, which means they control the levers of the bureaucracy. And they are the party that believes the Constitution means whatever they say it means. A little thing like a federal judge's decision means nothing.

The government's separation of powers across three branches of authority has served this country well for more than 200 years. It was the framers' intent that each branch would be held in check by the others, that none could ever arrogate to itself the absolute power to rule.

Those sharp lines have been blurred, however, by this White House in the same way the political left has for decades obscured the plain language of the Constitution...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=561722&p=1>

ObamaCare D.O.A.

by Dick Morris, 1 Feb 2011

...Obama's economic program is in ruins. His healthcare bill is unconstitutional. His financial regulation bill (Dodd-Frank) has so harassed small and community banks that they have stopped lending to small businesses. And, on top of all that, he is losing Egypt to radical Muslim fundamentalists. What a presidency!

More: <http://www.dickmorris.com/blog/obamacare-d.o.a/>

Kirkpatrick's essay was published in November 1979, just 3 days before the Iran Hostage Crisis began.

Go Read Kirkpatrick. Again.

by Ted R. Bromund, 1 Feb 2011

Now more than ever, Jeane Kirkpatrick's "**Dictatorships & Double Standards**" essay deserves to be read and pondered. If this isn't the greatest essay *Commentary* has ever published, it's certainly the most influential. Amb. Kirkpatrick doesn't tell us "what we should do" about Egypt, and it's impossible to summarize such a brilliant piece. But she does make three relevant points: about freedom, revolution, and the American administration. First, **as Peter has implied** and **as Abe has written**, "The time to urge a dictator to grant his people freedoms is before he's flitting between burning buildings"; in other words, if we want to encourage autocracies to move towards democracy, it cannot be a crisis response...

...And finally, there is the contrast between the president's claim as of last Tuesday that "American leadership has been renewed and America's standing has been restored" and Iran, where this administration sat on its hands as a viciously anti-American regime with a nuclear-weapons program slaughtered and raped protesters at will. And Honduras, where it moved heaven and earth to reinstate a pro-Chavez dictator in the making. And Egypt, where it is mincing about reform partnerships with Mubarak and the Egyptian people, a partnership that exists nowhere except in the Obama

administration's fevered desire to catch up with events that have relentlessly outpaced it...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/bromund/388631>

Though the evil crime was committed almost two years ago, this marvelous essay has lost none of its relevance.

The deadly jive of Jiverly diversity

by Takuan Seiyo, 8 Apr 2009

...It should be a legal requirement that anyone bloviating about "The American Dream" define what it is and for whom. A corollary requirement should be that all American politicians stop talking about the desires of people who want to immigrate to America, and start talking about the desires of America with respect to prospective immigrants...

...Full disclosure: I am a by-the-bootstraps American immigrant and I learned English from scratch as my then-fourth language...

...The tragic explanation of Jiverly's evil rampage, overwhelming in its empirical precedent, has been in plain view for decades. Third World immigrants come to America not for its Shakespeare's tongue or WASP Constitution and founding ideas of freedom expressed in rights and linked responsibilities. They come for the fraudulent "American Dream," a dream that both the Right and the Left have bleached of all its cultural and ethnic denotations or even connotations. It's all about opening a Laundromat, mailing to the old country a photo next to a newly acquired Mercedes, sending the son to the old country to find a wife and increasingly, having the son fight or spy for the old country against the new one. Or it's about cramming for years to get an advanced degree and get rich that way.

This is not immigration as it was 120 years ago, but colonization. And when the streets turn out not be paved in gold, and golden-haired maidens will not be pawed, the fraudulent Dream crashes. The toxic jive of petty capitalist exploiters, opium-sucking "progressives" and toothsome politicians claims its victims. And the victims claim *their* victims.

There is hardly an area where a unique freedom conferred by the American Constitution is more linked to responsibility than the 2nd Amendment. The popular privilege of bearing arms is embedded in the culture of Northern Europe, whence the Founding Fathers came. It's in the firearms tradition of the Swiss, the middle class yeomanry tradition of the Dutch, Flemings, Germans and Britons. And so is the tradition of restraint. If England listened to Enoch Powell, to this day its hottest citizens' disputes would be settled with fists and barstools, and its bobbies would never even have heard of [MP5s and body armor](#). East and South Asians come to the United States without any of these traditions...

Read it all: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2009/04/deadly-jive-of-jiverly-diversity.html>

Clueless in Washington

by Caroline Glick, 1 Feb 2011

...If the regime was the biggest problem, then certainly removing US support for it would make sense. However, the character of the protesters is not liberal. Indeed, their character is a bigger problem than the character of the regime they seek to overthrow.

According to a Pew opinion survey of Egyptians from June 2010, 59 percent said they back Islamists. Only 27% said they back modernizers. Half of Egyptians support Hamas. Thirty percent support Hizbullah and 20% support al Qaida. Moreover, 95% of them would welcome Islamic influence over their politics. When this preference is translated into actual government policy, it is clear that the Islam they support is the al Qaida Salafist version.

Eighty two percent of Egyptians support executing adulterers by stoning, 77% support whipping and cutting the hands off thieves. 84% support executing any Muslim who changes his religion.

When given the opportunity, the crowds on the street are not shy about showing what motivates them. They attack Mubarak and his new Vice President Omar Suleiman as American puppets and Zionist agents. The US, protesters told CNN's Nick Robertson, is controlled by Israel. They hate and want to destroy Israel. That is why they hate Mubarak and Suleiman.

What all of this makes clear is that if the regime falls, the successor regime will not be a liberal democracy. Mubarak's military authoritarianism will be replaced by Islamic totalitarianism...

The narcissistic paradigms of Bush and Obama: <http://www.carolineglick.com/e/2011/01/clueless-in-washington.php>

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Be sure to read these superb pieces:

The Descent of Liberalism *by Michael Knox Beran*

The State Despotism *by Mark Steyn*

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

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

Just Make Stuff Up *by Victor Davis Hanson*

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

Health Care Mythology *by Clifford Asness*

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