

## Save a forest: print your emails

by Chuck Leavell and Carlton Owen, 31 March 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704471904576228712797236124.html?mod=rss\\_opinion\\_main](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704471904576228712797236124.html?mod=rss_opinion_main)

## Public unions: is California next?

by Daniel Henninger, 31 March 2011

Wisconsin's public union fight is the battle of the century in American politics. But while the governors of Wisconsin and Ohio have led the pushback, it's possible that the public-pension battle could shift in the future to California—with or without the participation of its governor, the endlessly recyclable Jerry Brown. Even in this bluest of states, the ground is shaking beneath the unions.

California—a state that spent the 20th century exploding with creativity, growth and wealth—now staggers beneath a \$26 billion deficit. But city officials across California, already staring into their own fiscal abyss, aren't waiting for help from hapless Sacramento...

**Continue:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703712504576232823900459098.html>

## When private money becomes a felony offense

The popular revolt against a declining dollar leads to a curious conviction.

by Seth Lipsky, 31 March 2011

...To be sure, there are advocates of sound money who believe that, while Mr. von NotHaus's scheme may have been visionary in principle, he made some mistakes under American law. He put a "\$" sign on the silver he was issuing, and he denominated the units in dollars (albeit Liberty Dollars, or Liberties). Such facts may have helped convince the jury to find him guilty of counts involving the counterfeiting of coins.

It may also be, however, that the government has overreached in the von NotHaus case. It is indisputably clear that the power to coin money and regulate its value is one that the Constitution delegates to Congress. It's an enumerated power, and one of the big ones. It's also clear that the Constitution bars states from making coins other than gold or silver legal tender. But it is not clear that there is a constitutional basis or a logic for prohibiting individuals from making and selling pieces of gold and silver and using them, on a voluntary basis, as money—i.e., to "compete with" the official coinage of the U.S....

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220383673608952.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEFTTopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220383673608952.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion)

## Black And Blue 2: Blacks flee blue states in droves

by Walter Russell Mead, 27 March 2011

Two milestones in the long, painful decline of the blue social model were reached this week and reported, of all places, in the pages of the very *éminence grise* of the *monde bleu*: the *New York Times*.

The first was a piece of national and historical news: The Census reported that waves of blue state blacks fled the stagnant job opportunities, high taxes and rotten social conditions of the mostly blue northern states to [seek better lives](#) for themselves in the south. The second milestone was local and literary: Bob Herbert, for many years the only regular Black columnist on the *New York Times*' op-ed page, has written his last column before stepping down.

The Census story is a shocker. First, according to the *Times*, the Blacks leaving tend to be the "younger and better educated". Second, the three states Blacks left in largest numbers don't just include snake-bit Michigan; the other two are Illinois and New York. Within those states, Chicago and the city of the New York (widely considered among the most successful cities in the country) are the places Blacks are deserting. 17 percent of the Black flight from Big Blue is from the Empire State; after almost a century of trailblazing social policy, New York State has succeeded in creating the most hostile environment for Blacks in the country...

**More:** <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/03/27/black-and-blue-2-blacks-flee-blue-states-in-droves/>

## The unconcealed truth about carrying guns

by Steve Chapman, 31 March 2011

...The Violence Policy Center in Washington claims that since May 2007, individuals licensed to carry guns killed 286 private citizens and 11 law enforcement officers and committed 18 mass shootings. This gory record, it asserts, destroys the myth that permit holders are generally law-abiding folks who behave responsibly.

In fact, VPC's own data, when inspected closely, doesn't dent the case for gun rights. Over the past four years, there have been more than 60,000 homicides in the United States. The slayings carried out by permit holders amount to fewer than one of every 200 murders. For every licensee who killed someone, there are more than 20,000 who didn't.

Nor does the evidence indicate that allowing people to carry pistols causes crime. Many of the shootings done by permit holders took place in their homes—where you don't need a concealed-carry license to keep a gun.

Some of the killings weren't even done with firearms: Among the cases cited by the VPC is a 2008 strangling in Florida, allegedly by a man who was licensed to carry. How can strangulation be blamed on a concealed weapon permit? If a fisherman kills someone, do we ban fishing rods?...

**More:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/the-unconcealed-truth-about-carrying-guns.html>

## Middle East Howlers

If we expect the successors of Mubarak and Qaddafi to be freedom-loving democrats, we will be dangerously disappointed.

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 30 March 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/263361/middle-east-howlers-andrew-c-mccarthy>

## Libya is not Rwanda

by Paul D. Miller, 30 March 2011

...Libya is not Rwanda. Rwanda was genocide. Libya is a civil war. The Rwandan genocide was a premeditated, orchestrated campaign. The Libyan civil war is a sudden, unplanned outburst of fighting. The Rwandan genocide was targeted against an entire, clearly defined ethnic group. The Libyan civil war is between a tyrant and his cronies on one side, and a collection of tribes, movements, and ideologists (including Islamists) on the other. The Rwandan genocidiers aimed to wipe out a people. The Libyan dictator aims to cling to power. The first is murder, the second is war. The failure to act in Rwanda does not saddle us with a responsibility to intervene in Libya. The two situations are different.

Advocates of the Libyan intervention have invoked the "responsibility to protect" to justify the campaign. But R2P is narrowly and specifically aimed at stopping genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity on a very large scale. It does not give the international community an excuse to pick sides in a civil war when convenient. Qaddafi has certainly committed crimes against humanity in this brief war, but R2P was designed to stop widespread, systematic, sustained, orchestrated crimes. If Qaddafi's barbarity meets that threshold, the administration hasn't made the case yet, and I'm not convinced. If R2P justifies Libya, then it certainly obligates us to overthrow the governments of Sudan and North Korea and to do whatever it takes to prevent the Taliban from seizing power in Kabul...

**More:** [http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/30/libya\\_is\\_not\\_rwanda](http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/30/libya_is_not_rwanda)

## Barack Obama's 'I am not a crook' moment

by T.L. Davis, 30 March 2011

...The question is not whether the President authorized it; it is when he knew about it. Did the President of the United States know about Project Gunwalker when he slapped the back of President Calderon and told him that they were working to stop the flow of guns, when in fact the operation was engaged in just the opposite?

In the Univision interview Obama revealed more than he would have liked. At one moment he tried to claim that the American government has "too many moving parts" for him to keep up with things like Project Gunwalker. It was a thinly veiled attempt to divert the conversation, but it left Obama looking as if the injuries and deaths of at least 150 Mexican nationals didn't rate his attention. However, that fact is getting a lot of attention in Mexico where the PGR, or the Mexican Attorney General's office is seeking information on U.S. agents who might have committed crimes by facilitating the movement of arms into Mexico...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/barack\\_obamas\\_i\\_am\\_not\\_a\\_crook.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/barack_obamas_i_am_not_a_crook.html)

## **The failure of multiculturalism and how to turn the tide**

*Speech by Geert Wilders, 25 March 2011, at the Annual Lecture of the Magna Carta Foundation in Rome*

... The premise of the multiculturalist ideology is wrong. Cultures are not equal. They are different, because their roots are different. That is why the multiculturalists try to destroy our roots...

... This is the new Egypt: On Monday, people demonstrate for freedom; on Tuesday, the same people beat up women because they, too, demand freedom...

... The truth is that Islam is evil, and the reality is that Islam is a threat to us... There are many moderate Muslims, but there is no such thing as a moderate Islam...

... The truth that Islam is evil has always been obvious to our ancestors. That is why they fought. It was very clear to them that our civilization was far superior to Islam. It is not difficult to understand why our culture is far better than Islam. We Europeans, whether we be Christians, Jews, agnostics or atheists, believe in reason. We have always known that nothing good could be expected from Islam. While our culture is rooted in Jerusalem, Athens and Rome, Islam's roots are the desert and the brain of Muhammad...

... In the West, our freedoms are embodied in our nation-states. This is why the multiculturalists are hostile to the nation-state and aim to destroy it. National identity is an inclusive identity: It welcomes everyone, whatever his religion or race, who is willing to assimilate into a nation by sharing the fate and future of a people. It ties the individual to an inheritance, a tradition, a loyalty, and a culture...

**Read it all:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/how-to-turn-tide.html>

## **Measuring Force**

*by Thomas Sowell, 30 March 2011*

... It is the old liberal illusion that you can measure out force with a teaspoon, not only in military operations micro-managed by civilians in Washington, like the Vietnam war, but also in domestic confrontations when the police are trying to control a rioting mob, and are being restrained by politicians, while the mob is restrained by nobody. We went that route in the 1960s, and the results were not inspiring, either domestically or internationally.

The old saying, "When you strike at a king, you must kill him," is especially apt when it comes to attacking a widely recognized sponsor of international terrorism like Colonel Qaddafi. To attack him without destroying his regime is just asking for increased terrorism against Americans and America's allies. So is replacing him with insurgents who include other sponsors of terrorism...

**More:** [http://townhall.com/columnists/thomassowell/2011/03/30/measuring\\_force/page/full/](http://townhall.com/columnists/thomassowell/2011/03/30/measuring_force/page/full/)

## **Humpty in Toytown and the Arab Boomerang**

*by Melanie Phillips, 29 March 2011*

... Now even Britain's absurd Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has blurted out that the west may have to accept that an Islamist regime may come to power in Libya. Maybe so; maybe not. Who would be surprised if so, since amongst the 'rebels' are thought to be supporters of al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood. The bottom line, however, is that Cameron, Sarkozy and Obama have absolutely no idea just who it is that they are ~~supporting~~ 'not assisting' in removing Gaddafi from power by force.

So the utterly brilliant achievement of Cameron, Sarkozy and Obama may be to help bring to power jihadis or others with interests inimical to the west, in countries in which they had previously had been confined to their box. Instead of being reasonably helpful to us, such states would therefore become intent on doing us harm.

So Cameron, Sarkozy and Obama would have made the world an infinitely more dangerous place and quite likely hugely strengthened the Islamic jihad against their own countries. Some achievement.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people are thought to have died in Syria's brutal crackdown against unrest there. Yet the humanitarian hearts of Cameron, Sarkozy and Obama do not bleed for them... So no air strikes to get rid of Bashar Assad. Of course not. The rule of thumb for western 'progressives' is that tyrants can stay in office if they are the mortal enemies of freedom, democracy and human rights and are helping the jihad—in which case it is a 'war crime' to get rid of them; the only ones they want to get rid of are those who are resisting the jihad.

As a result, moderate Arabs are appalled by western hypocrisy...

**More:** <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6826459/humpty-in-toytown-and-the-arab-boomerang.shtml>

## Why I won't vote to raise the debt limit

Everyone in Washington knows how to cut spending. The time to start is now.

by *Marco Rubio*, 30 March 2011

...We're therefore at a defining moment in American history. In a few weeks, we will once again reach our legal limit for borrowing, the so-called debt ceiling. The president and others want to raise this limit. They say it is the mature, responsible thing to do. In fact, it's nothing more than putting off the tough decisions until after the next election. We cannot afford to continue waiting. This may be our last chance to force Washington to tackle the central economic issue of our time.

"Raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure." So said then-Sen. Obama in 2006, when he voted against raising the debt ceiling by less than \$800 billion to a new limit of \$8.965 trillion. As America's debt now approaches its current \$14.29 trillion limit, we are witnessing leadership failure of epic proportions...

**Read the rest:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220670543010068.html>

## Educating Bill O'Reilly on the 'rape factor' in Islam

by *Andrew G. Bostom*, 29 March 2011

Last night for a few brief shining television moments (captured [here](#)), Wafa Sultan, courageous author of the indispensable jeremiad "A God Who Hates," strove gamely to educate Bill O'Reilly—often seemingly **impenetrable** by facts regarding Sharia—about how Islamic Law, patterned on the "perfect example" of Islam's prophet Muhammad, sanctions rape...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/03/educating\\_bill\\_oreilly\\_on\\_the.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/03/educating_bill_oreilly_on_the.html)

## The Freezing of the Rhine

by *Baron Bodissey*, 27 March 2011

"These people need to be helped and they certainly cannot be mistreated nor rejected" — this is the politically correct multicultural dilemma in a nutshell.

As long as the Italians hew to these PC principles, the flood of refugees will continue to overwhelm the immigration authorities. The pressure behind the migration is enormous, and only an equal and opposite pressure will suffice to stop it. As long as Europe provides them with lavish benefits and declines to repatriate more than a trickle, the flood will keep coming...

**Frightening:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/freezing-of-rhine.html>

And people thought *The Camp of the Saints* was fiction! When I first read that book, I was a leftist. But even then, I was on the road to recovering my sanity, because I felt that people besieging *my* country and *my* culture (not my race) with intent to pillage what was created by *my* country and *my* culture, should simply be put to death as quickly and painlessly as possible, in order to keep them from ruining things for us. In hindsight, that belief in loyalty to country and culture clearly meant that I wasn't long for the Left. Anyway: these people who are currently trying to invade southern Europe should be gunned down and tossed to the sharks. There are some good folk on the island of Sicily who'd be delighted to do it. —*Don John*

This is all very nice, Fred. But stopping ObamaCare is Job 1: it's what the American people elected this huge House GOP majority to do. If de-funding that program can only be accomplished by daring Obama and Reid to "shut down the government," then so be it. If ObamaCare proceeds much further, all other fiscal and social issues will become insignificant in comparison to the havoc wrought by its monstrous assault on Americans' health and freedom.

—*Don John*

## Republicans are winning the budget fight

The incremental approach is working and embarrassing Democrats. Why should the GOP risk a government shutdown?

by Fred Barnes, 28 March 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220350402194830.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220350402194830.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## Hillary Clinton's Falsehoods

by Peter Wehner, 28 March 2011, 11:19am

...Secretary Clinton's implication, of course, is that Iraq was a "unilateral action," as opposed to what President Obama is doing in Libya.

This assertion is false on multiple levels. Let's start by citing Josh Rogin in *Foreign Policy*, who referenced a chart listing all the countries that contributed at least some military assets to the five major military operations in which the United States participated in a coalition during the last 20 years: the 1991 Gulf War (32 countries participating), the 1995 Bosnia mission (24 countries), the 1999 Kosovo mission (19 countries), the 2002 invasion of Afghanistan (48 countries), and the 2003 invasion of Iraq (40 countries), at the height of the size of each coalition. "As of today," Rogin writes, "only 15 countries, including the United States, have committed to providing a military contribution to the Libya war."

And while we're on the topic of Iraq and historical revisionism, it's worth pointing out that the attempts at diplomacy with Saddam Hussein lasted through 12 years, 17 UN Resolutions, and two administrations, including the Clinton administration (which went so far as to bomb Iraq in 1998 without UN or NATO approval). It ranks among history's longer diplomatic efforts to avoid war. And under President Bush, five separate Iraq-related UN Security Council Resolutions were passed unanimously...

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/03/28/hillary-clinton%E2%80%99s-falsehoods/>

## Obama still murky on Libya

by Victor Davis Hanson, 28 March 2011, 9:25pm

President Obama just gave a weird speech. Part George W. Bush, part trademark Obama — filled with his characteristic split-the-difference, straw-man ("some say, others say"), false-choice tropes...

...Constant reference was made to UN sanctions, in contrast both to the costs incurred in Bush's Iraq, and the dithering by Clinton in the Balkans. He talked of allies, of joint operations, and a diminished American role to come. But again, to fulfill the UN mandate of saving the Libyans, he is going to have to violate — or at least go beyond — it by going after Qaddafi, a task he now seems to have outsourced to the Europeans, after ceasing the Tomahawk attacks on key Libyan ground installations. Why brag that "we targeted tanks and military assets that had been choking off towns and cities and we cut off much of their source of supply" when we are not going to do it any more, in admission that to do so would be going well beyond a UN-sanctioned no-fly-zone?

Translation: It now seems good to have removed Saddam, but too costly. It was good to remove Milosevic, but it took too long. So I will remove Qaddafi much more quickly and at far less cost, but I won't do it by targeting Qaddafi, but by preventing his aircraft from flying and hoping Qaddafi goes away. Qaddafi deserves our special intervention because he is worse than other dictators, such as an Assad who is a "reformer" or Ahmadinejad whom we won't "meddle" against. We successfully sought a UN resolution to protect the people, and will stick by it, but hope somehow someone will go beyond it and remove Qaddafi...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/263273/obamas-murky-libya-policy-victor-davis-hanson>

Even some non-pacifist liberals had problems with the speech.

## Obama Libya speech fudges the details

by Howard Fineman, 28 March 2011

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-03-28/obama-libya-speech-fudges-the-details/?cid=bs:archive19#>

It's nice to see the Associated Press criticize a Democrat, for a change.

## FACT CHECK: Obama's claim that US yields to NATO in Libya tangles with a more complex reality

by Calvin Woodward and Richard Lardner (AP), 28 March 2011, 9:22pm

There may be less than meets the eye to President Barack Obama's statements Monday night that NATO is taking

over from the United States in Libya and that U.S. action is limited to defending people under attack there by Moammar Gadhafi's forces. In transferring command and control to NATO, the U.S. is turning over the reins to an organization dominated by the U.S., both militarily and politically. In essence, the U.S. runs the show that is taking over running the show.

Also, the rapid advance of rebels in recent days strongly suggests they are not merely benefiting from military aid in a defensive crouch, but rather using the multinational force in some fashion, co-ordinated or not, to advance an offensive. Here is a look at some of Obama's assertions in his televised address to the nation Monday, and how they compare with the facts...

**Read on:** <http://www.macleans.ca/article.jsp?content=w6393450>

A marvelous 8,400-word history of the Koch family and their contributions to freedom.

## **The paranoid style in liberal politics**

The left's obsession with the Koch brothers.

*by Matthew Continetti, 26 March 2011 (April 4 issue)*

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/paranoid-style-liberal-politics\\_555525.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/paranoid-style-liberal-politics_555525.html)

## **The Senate's EPA Showdown**

Democrats face a moment of truth on regulatory cap and trade.

*Wall Street Journal editorial, 28 March 2011*

The Environmental Protection Agency debate lands in the Senate this week, amid the makings of a left-right coalition to mitigate the agency's abuses. Few other votes this year could do more to help the private economy—but only if enough Democrats are willing to buck the White House...

...The White House and Mr. Reid will offer phony alternatives to keep 41 Democrats in the corral. The Baucus amendment is the classic Beltway trick of trying to provide political cover while not solving the problem. Mr. Rockefeller is sponsoring a two-year delay before the EPA rules take effect, but that will merely defer the problem.

The McConnell amendment is one of the best proposals for growth and job creation to make it onto the Senate docket in years. If Mr. Obama is intent on defending the EPA's regulatory assault, then the least Senate Democrats can do is force him to defend his choices himself.

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704517404576222581494405442.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704517404576222581494405442.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **The Shadow Knows**

*A series of essays by Baron Bodissey, on the future of civilization.*

*Here are the first three (March 15-17, 2011).*

### **part one: The Discontinuity**

Creative destruction is going to happen. It will be difficult and dangerous for almost everyone.

### **part two: Additional Economic Background**

An excellent layman's explanation, and some revealing charts.

### **part three: Survival Plus**

"What then?"

## **Why TARP has been a success story**

*by Robert Samuelson, 28 March 2011*

It isn't often that the government launches a major program that achieves its main goals at a tiny fraction of its estimated costs. That's the story of TARP—the Troubled Assets Relief Program. Created in October 2008 at the height of the financial crisis, it helped stabilize the economy, used only \$410 billion of its authorized \$700 billion, and will be repaid most of that. The Congressional Budget Office, which once projected TARP's ultimate cost at \$356 billion, now says \$19 billion. This could go lower.

You would hardly know...

**Continue:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-tarp-has-been-a-success-story/2011/03/25/AFEe6jkb\\_story.html?hpid=z4](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-tarp-has-been-a-success-story/2011/03/25/AFEe6jkb_story.html?hpid=z4)

On people who blame the Israelis for the crimes committed against them.  
She says that the murderers of the Fogel family are savages. Of all the nerve!

## **Armchair Barbarism**

by *Melanie Phillips*, 13 March 2011

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6779100/armchair-barbarism.shtml>

## **Melanie Phillips on saying "savages"**

27 March 2011

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

Here's why so many of them are deranged and suicidal.

## **The connection between Muslim inbreeding and terrorism**

by *Nicolai Sennels*, 17 Dec 2010

If there are two things that characterize Islamic culture, they are terrorism and inbreeding. The latest research shows that these two things might be closely connected.

The concept of Islamic terror does not need any introduction. Not everyone might know, however, that seventy percent of Pakistanis and forty percent of Turks are inbred (*Jyllands-Posten*, 27/2 2009 "[More stillbirths among immigrants](#)"). Research shows that the same goes for close to half of all Arabs (*Reproductive Health Journal*, 2009 "[Consanguinity and reproductive health among Arabs](#)").

First cousin marriages have been the tradition in many Muslim families for innumerable generations. Such marriages increase the risk of negative mental and physical consequences...

**Continue:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/12/connection-between-muslim-inbreeding.html>

## **So when can we call it terror?**

by *David Harsanyi*, 24 March 2011

...So why did Reuters—and other news outlets—identify the bombing as taking place not in an Israeli neighborhood, but in a "Jewish" one? And why is it a "Palestinian" strike and not a Muslim one? Religious affiliation, it seems, is selectively vital information. Jews, you see, are a religious group occupying Jerusalem, and Palestinians are nationalists striving for autonomy in their homeland.

Of course, Reuters is only the worst offender. It is true that the *New York Times* can't file a dispatch from Israel without conflating the religiously motivated murders of civilians with the "settlement" problem. As if Hamas is firing rockets at civilians because it is exasperated by the slow progress of the peace process.

The *Times* also reported that this was the first bombing "inside Jerusalem in four years," which was untrue. The Associated Press posted its piece on the bombing and packaged it with a picture of an Arab who had died in an earlier, unrelated airstrike—precipitated by rockets launched from autonomous Gaza, ruled by Hamas, a group that, according to Reuters, leads an "uprising for independence." This must be true; Jimmy Carter says so...

...If Reuters were faithfully accurate and impartial, it would—well, it would actually cover the murders. Then it would use more exact words—perhaps "disputed" rather than "occupied"—and mention that the process has been frozen since the late 1940s because of unremitting Arab violence...

**Great column:** [http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_17694152](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_17694152)

## **The price of taxing the rich**

The top 1% of earners fill the coffers of states like California and New York during a boom—and leave them starved for revenue in a bust.

by *Robert Frank*, 26 March 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704604704576220491592684626.html?mod=WSJ\\_WSJ\\_US\\_News\\_6](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704604704576220491592684626.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_US_News_6)

## **Don't overstate anti-Muslim bias**

*by William J. Bennett and Seth Leibsohn, 26 March 2011*

Almost two weeks after the House Homeland Security Committee hearing on radicalization in the Muslim community in America, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin has announced he will hold a hearing in the Senate. But, rather than focus on the problem of radicalization in the Muslim community, Durbin's panel will be directed to another subject: anti-Muslim bigotry in the United States.

Senator Durbin has said anti-Islamic sentiment in America is on the rise and that, "It is important for our generation to renew our founding charter's commitment to religious diversity and to protect the liberties guaranteed by our Bill of Rights." The hearing, scheduled for next week, follows a CNN special to air this Sunday, "Unwelcome: The Muslims Next Door."

While we have not been in contact with Senator Durbin or his staff, we have just published a book on America and its relationship to Islam. And while we have not seen the CNN special just yet, we have seen [the trailer](#), which focuses on opposition to a mosque being built in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Despite what may have gone on in Murfreesboro with the mosque its adherents have wanted to build, the larger story of anti-Islamic bias in America does not hold water...

**More:** <http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/03/26/bennett.muslim.hearing/index.html?npt=NP1>

## **Hypocrisy of Michael Moore thickens**

*by Jerry Zandstra, 25 March 2011*

What would you say to someone who made \$50 million in an industry in which 90 percent of his fellow union members made less than \$5,000 per year? How about someone whose last project grossed over \$220 million but who hired nonunion workers to save money? Unions should be up in arms. People across the country should be protesting outside this guy's house. Commentators like Rachel Maddow should be raining condemnation on his head in disgust over the growing gap between the wealthy and the poor in America...

...Moore will receive an income for the rest of his life from ongoing sales of his documentaries that will be manifold greater than that of any union worker with whom he is in solidarity. Certainly the lion's share of the wealth he created for himself with his films would be taken from him and given to those whose lives were permanently changed. Let's start the negotiation at 90 percent.

If I were a betting man, I would put money on Moore's next documentary focusing on unions and the battle in Wisconsin. It may be that he isn't expressing moral outrage at the loss of union collective bargaining. It is more likely that he is merely doing promotion for his next project. I'm sure he will again make millions telling the story of people who have lost what they believe to be their rights. I wonder if any of them will collectively bargain with him in advance for a portion of the money he will make telling their stories.

**Read the rest:** <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110325/OPINION01/103250338/1008/OPINION01/Hypocrisy-of-Michael-Moore-thickens>

## **Egypt Air wipes Israel off the map—a sign of where Egypt could be headed**

*by Praveen Swami, 25 March 2011*

...Part of the reason for the Islamist victory is that the revolution wasn't—outside of the imaginations of some in the western media—a Woodstock-like flower-power upsurge...

...Essam Sharaf, Egypt's new prime minister, thus made a speech in Tahrir Square with the Brotherhood leader Mohammad el-Beltagi standing by his side.

I'm guessing a harder line on Israel will be just part of the Brotherhood's pound of flesh: its [2007 draft manifesto](#) also calls for non-Muslims and women to be denied from standing from president, and an Iran-style council of clerics to guide the workings of government.

**More:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/praveenswami/100081394/egypt-air-wipes-israel-off-the-map-a-sign-of-where-egypt-could-be-headed/>

## **Do-Gooders in a land with no good guys**

*by Mark Steyn, 25 March 2011*

...Perhaps now that so many Libyan jihadists are in Iraq, the Libyans left in Libya are all Swedes in waiting. But perhaps not. If we lack, as we do in Afghanistan, the cultural confidence to wean those we liberate from their less-

attractive pathologies, we might at least think twice before actively facilitating them.

Officially, only the French are committed to regime change. So suppose Gadhafi survives. If you were in his shoes, mightn't you be a little peeved? Enough to pull off a new Lockerbie? A more successful assassination attempt on the Saudi king? A little bit of Euro-bombing?

Alternatively, suppose Gadhafi winds up hanging from a lamppost in his favorite party dress. If you're a Third World dictator, what lessons would you draw? Gadhafi was the thug who came in from the cold, the one who (in the wake of Saddam's fall) renounced his nuclear program and was supposedly rehabilitated in the chancelleries of the West. He was "a strong partner in the war on terrorism," according to U.S. diplomats. And what did Washington do? They overthrew him anyway.

The blood-soaked butcher next door in Sudan is the first head of state to be charged by the International Criminal Court with genocide, but nobody's planning on toppling him. Iran's going nuclear with impunity, but Obama sends fraternal greetings to the "Supreme Leader" of the "Islamic Republic." North Korea is more or less openly trading as the one-stop bargain-basement for all your nuke needs, and we're standing idly by. But the one cooperative dictator's getting million-dollar-a-pop cruise missiles lobbed in his tent all night long. If you were the average Third World loon, which role model makes most sense? Colonel Cooperative in Tripoli? Or Ayatollah Death-to-the-Great-Satan in Tehran? America is teaching the lesson that the best way to avoid the attentions of whimsical "liberal interventionists" is to get yourself an easily affordable nuclear program from Pyongyang, or anywhere else, as soon as possible...

**Read it all:** <http://www.oeregister.com/opinion/military-293677-gadhafi-way.html>

## **The Shadow Knows, part five: the Virtual Open University**

*by Baron Bodissey, 24 March 2011*

...One of the books in *The Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder features the establishment of a schoolhouse in a small farming settlement on the American frontier. When the population grew large enough, the farmers met and decided to set up a school for their children. The men passed the hat to collect enough money to hire a schoolmarm and the necessary basic materials, and then they pooled their resources and built the schoolhouse themselves. The children taught in schoolhouses like this one — both boys and girls — were expected to reach an eighth-grade level of proficiency before leaving to work full-time on the farm.

Does anyone believe that the quality of their education was lower than that received by those \$15,000-per-year baggy-pants self-esteem factories that are turned out by our schools today? How well do you think those eighth-grade farm boys would compare with the average high school graduate ca. 2010?

So we can assume that a combination of the homeschool and prairie-school model could carry our Shadow educational system through high school level. But what about university level?...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/shadow-knows-part-five.html>

## **Handouts are to blame for Detroit's steady slide**

*by Frank Beckmann, 25 March 2011*

...LBJ's war on poverty — the biggest war our country has ever lost — seeded a welfare mentality in black homes that caused a major decline in the number of African-American families with married parents living at home.

Most blacks lived in "nuclear" households when LBJ's effort began, and by 1995 only 1 in 3 black homes had married parents. Parker points out that the incidence of poverty in black homes is only 10 percent (below the national average) where the parents are married.

The war on poverty, with all its entitlements, caused the collapse of the black community, bringing with it crime, drugs, promiscuity, abortion and worse while it brought politicians the entitlement of guaranteed votes.

The only thing that will permanently change Detroit for the better is the rejection by citizens of any politician who comes with more addictive handouts or any other promises of special favor. These entitlements have destroyed the self-motivation of Detroiters for over 50 years and the city won't change as long as those programs continue and the politicians who provide them are chased out of office...

**More:** <http://detnews.com/article/20110325/OPINION03/103250342/1008/OPINION01/Handouts-are-to-blame-for-Detroit%E2%80%99s-steady-slide>

## **Decoding Libya**

*by Andrew C. McCarthy, 26 March 2011*

...The Brotherhood's disagreement with bin Laden, like Hasadi's, is strictly about tactics, especially *in the West*. In the United States and Europe, the Brothers think the best way to advance the sharia cause is stealth jihad, not violent jihad. They prefer having their sharia soul-mates (e.g., CAIR and the Islamic Society of North America) masquerade as civil-rights activists, the better to exploit Western freedoms and win the sympathies of the media and the academy...

...My opposition to intervention in Libya has been misstated in the last few days. Some commentators claim I've said the rebels are really al-Qaeda. That misstates my argument. As I've repeatedly said, the rebels are a mixed bag. The strongest faction, particularly in ideological influence, is the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been in Libya for 70 years. There are also militant groups, such as Hasadi's LIFG, that have ties to al-Qaeda, though they do not necessarily agree with bin Laden's decision in the 1990s to take the violence global. In addition, there are Islamist organizations (such as the National Front for the Salvation of Libya) that claim to be non-violent and that oppose Qaddafi because they have come to regard him as non-Muslim, an apostate whose eccentric brand of Islam is seen as heterodox, and who persecutes his Muslim people. Moreover, there are undoubtedly al-Qaeda operatives in the mix, because al-Qaeda goes wherever the action is.

To describe these factions is not to discount the existence of some secular opposition to Qaddafi: some leftists who see an opportunity, and even some Western-influenced freedom fighters. Interventionists delude themselves, though, when they portray the latter as predominant, as the face of the rebels. Libya is a tribal Islamic backwater. That is why Qaddafi has always had to couch his despotism in Islamist rhetoric. It is why Libya, **more than any other country** by percentage of population, **supported** the insurgency in Iraq. In fact, rebel leader Hasadi claims to have recruited more than two dozen jihadists to that cause. Qaddafi's opposition is not driven by al-Qaeda. It is driven by sharia...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/263138/decoding-libya-andrew-c-mccarthy>

## Is President Obama the weakest Commander-in-Chief in US history?

by Nile Gardiner, 25 March 2011

A new Reuters/Ipsos poll released today reveals a striking lack of public confidence in President Obama's ability as Commander-in-Chief, with just 17 percent of Americans describing his leadership as "strong and decisive," compared to 36 percent who believe it is "indecisive and dithering."...America is now engaged in military operations in North Africa, but led by a president who increasingly makes Jimmy Carter look like General Patton...

**More:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100081318/is-president-obama-the-weakest-commander-in-chief-in-us-history/>

## The liberal media cult

by James Lewis, 25 March 2011

...Here's the latest Stalinoid Party Lie about Sarah Palin. Just Google these words: "Sarah Palin loses popularity." I just got more than 8 million hits on that phrase in 0.22 seconds. The hits include:

1. The New York Times. (Natch!)
2. McClatchy.
3. CBS News
4. HuffPo.
5. Newsweek.
6. Mother Jones.
7. Obama.org
- ... et mendacious cetera.

We know who started that little viral lie. It came from the Washington Post, from **Dana Milbank**, who whipped up a twitter mob for the specific purpose of shutting Governor Palin out of the liberal media. That's how scared they are of the Governor of Alaska.

All the little brainwashed Leftobots went *Heil Dana! Zum Befehl!* And then they marched stiffly to all their twitter pods and typed in the message from the Politburo. It's just like those old Nuremberg mobs in the 30s. Libs are really disgusting human beings. And now the words "Sarah Palin is losing popularity" has 8 million hits on Google. How's that for mass brainwashing?

When JournOList was exposed, we found out how dozens of famous "reporters" and "commentators" were coordinating their exact words, just like Stalin's Party Lies...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the\\_liberal\\_media\\_cult.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the_liberal_media_cult.html)

## **A glimpse of a future with Obamacare**

*by Sally C. Pipes, 24 March 2011*

The one-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act this week brings new reason to consider a major health-care announcement by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick. Almost five years into his state's Romneycare plan, it turns out that spending is out of control, threatening public-sector budgets and private-sector wealth generation.

The solution to this government-created mess, Patrick told the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce last month, is more government control — or health-care reform Part II, as some are calling it. Americans in the other 49 states should pay attention. Massachusetts is the blueprint for Obamacare, and Patrick is among those who want his state's plan to serve as a national model.

The first part of Patrick's proposed solution is mandating managed care — the old health maintenance organization, or HMO, repackaged as an "accountable care organization" (ACO) — under which Big Medicine makes more money the less care it provides...

**Read on:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-glimpse-of-a-future-with-obamacare/2011/03/16/ABcNfkRB\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-glimpse-of-a-future-with-obamacare/2011/03/16/ABcNfkRB_story.html)

## **After Gaddafi, Democracy or Jihadists?**

*by Walid Phares, 24 March 2011*

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/after\\_gaddafi\\_democracy\\_or\\_jih.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/after_gaddafi_democracy_or_jih.html)

## **Why Multiculture Will Always Fail**

*by Dr. Nicolai Sennels, 22 March 2011*

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/why-multiculture-will-always-fail.html>

## **Letter to President Obama on military action in Libya**

*by House Speaker John Boehner, 23 March 2011*

<http://www.speaker.gov/Blog/?postid=230489>

[http://www.speaker.gov/UploadedFiles/POTUSLetter\\_032311.pdf](http://www.speaker.gov/UploadedFiles/POTUSLetter_032311.pdf)

## **Trump may not become President, but Romney, Huckabee, Gingrich and other GOPers can learn from him**

*by S.E. Cupp, 23 March 2011*

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

## **Energy Fantasyland**

*by Victor Davis Hanson, 24 March 2011*

...It seems as if paying lots more for electricity and gas, in European fashion, was originally part of the president's new green agenda. He helped push cap-and-trade legislation through the House of Representatives in 2009. Had such Byzantine regulations become law, a recessionary economy would have sunk into depression. Obama appointed the incompetent Van Jones as "green jobs czar"—until Jones' wild rantings confirmed that he knew nothing about his job description "to advance the administration's climate and energy initiatives."

At a time of trillion-dollar deficits, the administration is borrowing billions to promote high-speed rail, and is heavily invested in the federally subsidized \$42,000 Government Motors Chevy Volt. Apparently the common denominator here is a deductive view that high energy prices will force Americans to emulate European centrally planned and state-run transportation.

That conclusion is not wild conspiracy theory, but simply the logical manifestation of many of the Obama administration's earlier campaign promises. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu— now responsible for the formulation of American energy policy— summed up his visions to the Wall Street Journal in 2008: "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." I think Chu is finally figuring out the "somehow."...  
**More:** <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0311/hanson032411.php3>

## **President Obama's Crony Capitalism**

*Investor's Business Daily editorial, 22 March 2011*

...Our disengaged president has said little as the Arab world is engulfed in revolution and has been absent as a huge budget battle plays out in Congress. But some lines can be drawn between his more inexplicable decisions and cronyism. Indeed, many of Obama's decisions have been all about benefiting special interests and political friends — what's been called the Chicago Way. Whatever it's called, it's in the interests of the few at the expense of the whole. Some examples...

**Brazen:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/566837/201103221841/Crony-In-Chief.htm>

## **A Liberal War in Libya**

*by David Warren, 23 March 2011*

...In the name of a "humanitarianism" that is not thought through, we are subtly joining forces with so-called "moderate" Islamists against isolated secular tyrants. We have foreign services sending feelers out to Islamist opponents of every Arab regime, in the name of "democracy" and "inclusivity."

From Obama down through the liberal intelligentsia we have blather about how the Muslim Brotherhood is "evolving"—as it embraces the tactical devices of modern Western political parties, from women's groups and youth clubs to electronic media and studied efforts by spokesmen to appear "cool." Yet all this remains in the service of a political ideology that is unambiguously committed to the spread of Shariah, and the destruction of us.

This is a very old story: the ability of the liberal mind to delude itself by confusing appearances with realities; by embracing the comfortably plausible in preference to the uncomfortably true...

**More:** <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/liberal+Libya/4484179/story.html>

## **While Obama searches for clarity, we're plunged into another war**

*by John Kass, 23 March 2011*

President Barack Obama unmasked himself Tuesday. He was in El Salvador, standing with Salvadoran President Mauricio Funes, when reporters asked him about his war in Libya.

It is indeed his war. He started it. He gave the order to launch the missiles over the weekend. And now the man who ran for president as an anti-war candidate owns his very own war. But there has been confusion over which member of his coalition will command the war. Will Obama ask a foreign general to direct American troops? Will President Nicolas Sarkozy of France take the coalition lead?

On Tuesday, Obama was asked about these command issues. It wasn't a trick. It should have been expected. He stood there, and he opened his mouth. "I would expect that over the next several days you will have clarity and a meeting of the minds of all those who are participating in the process," Obama said.

We'll have clarity in a few days? Clarity in a few days, Mr. President?

You don't wait to find clarity a few days after you begin a war. You'd better have complete clarity before you ever give the order to fire in the first place. Days after ordering the launch of cruise missiles at around \$1 million a pop isn't the time to find clarity, Mr. President. Days after you bomb a country — even one run by a murderous psychopath like Moammar Gadhafi — isn't the time to begin searching for clarity...

**Continue:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-met-kass-0323-20110323,0,508159,full.column>

## **America's accelerating downward spiral**

*by Peter Ferrara, 23 March 2011*

For two years now, I have been arguing in this column and elsewhere that President Obama's economic policies were a throwback to the 1970s, and so were going to produce the same result as the 1970s—the worsening cycles of inflation and recession known as stagflation. With last week's reports regarding the Producer Price Index and the Consumer Price Index, those results are now here.

But these developments are just several further spins in an accelerating downward spiral for America that leaves our traditional prosperity, high standard of living, and national security extremely vulnerable to three looming disasters, at least two of which are likely to happen within the reasonably near future...

...In the past four decades in the U.S., every substantial increase in the real price of oil (meaning in excess of general inflation) has been followed within a couple of years by a sharp rise in unemployment. So with oil now surging past \$100 a barrel, what does that suggest about unemployment over the next two years? And what does it say about President Obama's economic IQ that the goal of his energy policy has been precisely to raise the price of oil, through cap and trade and restrictions on supply? The man can be well-spoken, as President Obama undoubtedly is, and still not have the slightest idea what he is talking about.

America's accelerating downward spiral advanced on Friday when CBO released a report on President Obama's exploding deficits and debt...

**Serious:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/03/23/americas-accelerating-downward>

## Who's in charge?

### Germans pull forces out of NATO as Libyan coalition falls apart

22 March 2011, 23:32 GMT [\[Lots of photos, including Obamas drinking wine in Chile\]](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1368693/Libya-war-NATO-squabbles-leads-bombings-kill-Gaddafi.html>

### U.S. rescue chopper shoots six Libyan villagers as they welcome pilots of downed Air Force jet

22 March 2011, 20:51 GMT [\[Lots of photos\]](#)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1368633/Libya-war-US-chopper-shoots-6-villagers-welcomed-Air-Force-F-15-crash-pilots.html>

### A U.S. kill team's trophy photos: More damaging than Abu Ghraib?

A German magazine publishes images of American soldiers posing next to dead Afghan civilians.

22 March 2011

<http://theweek.com/article/index/213402/a-us-kill-teams-trophy-photos-more-damaging-than-abu-ghraib>

## What we're talking about when we talk about Big Government

Behold: the structure of redundancy, stupidity, and unconstitutional power the 100-year fog of leftism has created.

by David Steinberg, 7 March 2011

...Conservatives — Originalists — speak of Big Government always: an aversion to it is deservedly the driving intellectual thesis behind conservatism. We despise Big Government, more than anything, and I can't emphasize strongly enough that I don't believe the left *has any clue why*. They have theories about guns and fear, psychological weakness, bigotry, and the like, and these are all weak arguments against Big Government, which makes them easy to dismiss and continue to be a leftist. They are not, of course, *our* arguments. There is a disconnect between what we say, what we mean when we protest Big Government and what we are thought to mean by our political opposition...

...In a century, Big Government transformed an essential and minimized service, the Federal Highway Administration, into the **Department of Where the F\*\*\* Do You Think You're Going**, and the above fog machine is just the genetics of one department. I noted earlier that the GAO had "found" massive amounts of redundancy; it was a poor word. The GAO simply took the time to report on the disgust. Any rational man could look at the following, which is nothing more than a collection of current federal agencies, and understand the waste is of a scale difficult to comprehend and inspiring of our worst tendencies to rage.

This is your Big Government, perhaps the biggest Big Government there ever could be. The problem is not one or several agencies, but the whole damned thing: believe it, it is true — this is the actual structure of the United States. See if you can spot the redundancies...

**Eye-popping:** <http://pajamamedia.com/blog/what-we%e2%80%99re-talking-about-when-we-talk-about-big-government/?singlepage=true>

## Social Security isn't broken?

by Christopher Chantrill, 19 March 2011

...The hole in the government finances, the utter mess of ObamaCare, the coming Medicare maelstrom: how did we get in this mess? The short answer is that it all started in about 1850 when sensitive people started worrying about the poor suffering workers. Oh no, they cried. We have to *do something*. They were sensitive, those people, but they were not smart. Their "do something" always ended up as some centralized administrative government program, with government taking money from its least favorite citizens and giving it to its most favored citizens, and calling the result compassion.

Earth to sensitive people. Scientists have not called humans "social animals" for nothing. "Society" is not an administrative mechanism but a living organism in which each human participates in complex acts of cooperation, social mores, and, as a last resort, force. The "trick," as climate scientists put it, is to get as many people as possible acting out of cooperative and moral motives.

Let's put this in evolutionary, Darwinian terms for our liberal friends. The reason that all human societies have adapted to feature cooperation and religion is because these social inventions reduce the need for force and its administrative horror show. In our age we are foolish enough to put this to the test. We have created a mechanical monster, the modern centralized administrative state, to rumble over society, tearing up its complex social interactions with unstoppable force. Pay for the government's Social Security plan or go to jail. Join the government's universal health plan or go to jail. Send your kid to government school or go to jail. The result is like an Asian tsunami, a debris field of broken dreams and promises...

...No, Social Security isn't broke. It's worse than that. Social Security is a bottle on a shelf of social narcotics that kill the social instinct and poison people with an addictive sense of entitlement to the fruits of other peoples' labor. In the life after liberalism, when liberal power has collapsed, we'll reconstruct all the social ties that liberals have so energetically broken up...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/social\\_security\\_isnt\\_broken.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/social_security_isnt_broken.html)

## America's descent into strategic dementia

by Caroline Glick, 21 March 2011

What the US foreign policy fights regarding Egypt and Libya indicate is that currently, a discussion about how events impact core US regional interests is completely absent from the discussion...

...Obama looks to the UN as a vehicle for tethering the US superpower. He views US allies in the Middle East and around the world with suspicion because he feels that as US allies, they are complicit with US imperialism. Given his view, Obama's instincts dictate that he do nothing to advance the US's core interests in the Middle East. Consider his policies towards Iran. The Iranian regime threatens all of the US's core regional interests. And yet, Obama has refused to lift a finger against the mullahs...

...Obama's treatment of ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak is case in point. When the Muslim Brotherhood-backed opposition protests began in late January, Obama was perfectly happy to do nothing despite the US's overwhelming national interest in preserving Mubarak in power. But when faced with domestic pressure to intervene against Mubarak, he did so with a vengeance. Not only did Obama force Mubarak to resign. He prevented Mubarak from resigning in September and so ensured that the Brotherhood would dominate the transition period to the new regime...

...The problem with the neoconservative position is that it makes no distinction between liberal regime opponents and illiberal regime opponents. It can see no difference between pro-US despots and anti-US despots. If there is noticeable opposition to tyrants, then the US must support that opposition. This view is what informed the neoconservative bid to oust Mubarak last month and Gaddafi this month...

...To an even greater degree than in Egypt, the debate was settled by the third US foreign policy camp—the opportunists. Led today by Clinton, the opportunist camp supports whoever they believe is going to make them most popular with the media and Europe... What the US foreign policy fights regarding Egypt and Libya indicate is that currently, a discussion about how events impact core US regional interests is completely absent from the discussion. Consequently, it should surprise no one that none of the policies the US is implementing in the region advance those core interests in any way. Indeed, they are being severely damaged...

**Outstanding analysis:** <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=213195>

## Japan: whatever happened to the nuclear meltdown?

by James Delingpole, 21 March 2011

Amazing, isn't it, what a little light military intervention can do to a nuclear crisis? One minute, the world is facing nuclear meltdown armageddon to rank with—ooh, Three Mile Island at the very least, and quite possibly Chernobyl. A few (shockingly expensive) missile strikes over Benghazi and Tripoli later, though, and the Japanese nuclear crisis has all but vanished from the face of the earth. Maybe we should start small wars more often. Or maybe—even better—the MSM could learn to start reporting on nuclear incidents like journalists instead of activists from Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth...

...One of the main objections raised about nuclear power is how incredibly expensive it is. There's a reason for this: thanks to forty years of hysterical, dishonest propaganda from "Atomkraft Nein Danke" eco-activists like Porritt and Huhne, the bar for safety has been set to such impossibly high standards that it cannot compete economically with less heavily regulated industries such as oil, coal, gas—or indeed wind. I was pleased to hear Toby Young on Any Questions reiterating my point about the safety records of the nuclear and wind industries:

**Nuclear fatalities** in the last ten years: 7. **Wind farm fatalities** in the last ten years: 44.

In those ten years nuclear provided thirty times the energy of wind. This means in the last decade, nuclear has been around 200 times safer than wind on an energy produced/accidents basis...

**Outstanding:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100080636/japan-whatever-happened-to-the-nuclear-meltdown/>

## Obama's incoherent case for war

The president can't distinguish the Libya campaign from the Iraq War.

by Mona Charen, 22 March 2011

...How are Obama's motives regarding military action against Moammar Gadhafi less "cynical" than those he was so contemptuous of in Wolfowitz and Perle? What "ideological agenda" was the Bush administration "shoving down our throats" that Obama is not himself duplicating? Is he opposed to the freedom agenda? What, exactly, was so obnoxious about the Bush program?

How has Obama concluded that a war against another Middle East villain is now justified and not "dumb" or "rash"? And on what principle can President Obama now decline to intervene on behalf of other freedom fighters around the globe?

We don't know, because unlike George Bush, who took his case for war to the American people through a vote in the United States Congress (with 110 Democrats voting in favor), President Obama has acted unilaterally—putting our forces into harm's way based solely on his power as commander in chief. (Code Pink—call your office!) If he is relying upon the vote in the United Nations as his mandate for military action, he is establishing a new principle of diminished U.S. sovereignty. American forces can now be ordered into action by the president and the U.N. but without the U.S. Congress?

On most of the foreign and security policy issues he preened himself about—the folly of deposing despots, closing the prison at Guantanamo, using military tribunals to try terrorists, and withdrawing from Iraq, President Obama has reversed himself. He has performed these reversals without explanation and without apology for his shrill condemnation of his predecessor. He condemned Bush's "ideology," but his own foreign policy seems to have amounted to marketing the image of himself...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/262694/obama-s-incoherent-case-war-mona-charen>

## Paul is brain-dead

The new comedy is aggressively anti-Christian, despite the protestations of its cast members.

by Christian Toto, 19 March 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/paul-is-brain-dead/?singlepage=true>

Mr. Dunn is wrong about one thing, though. Donald Berwick is not a "good man." No educated person who supports socialized medicine in 2011 A.D. can possibly be a good man or woman.

## The big Obama defeat the media ignored

by J.R. Dunn 21 March 2011

...Sometimes the biggest victories are the ones that make the least noise. Lost amid all the excitement over the Rio trip, the anti-obesity campaign, and the March Madness picks was the revelation that Senate Democrats had given up any attempt to confirm Donald Berwick as chief of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It seems that 42 Republicans had informed the Democratic majority by letter that they would vote for Berwick's confirmation when Hell froze over. (With Wisconsin, that makes two examples of Republicans acting as if they had spines in one month. Will wonders never cease?) Berwick was originally given a recess appointment, another example of Obama's Chicago method of doing things. But that means that he must now leave office by the end of the year.

This would be truly below the fold on Page 5 if not for one single factor: as CMS head, Berwick is Obama's point man on health care, the man tasked with putting ObamaCare into action. Now Obama is left having to start over again from square one. This is as serious a repudiation of ObamaCare as Judge Roger Vinson's decision, and possibly one with even greater ramifications...

...It remains critical that Berwick actually leave. Having twisted the rules to get him in, Obama is quite capable of doing the same once again. There's an old Chicago trick, pioneered by Richard J. Daley, in which Da Mare would hire unqualified pals, let them go just before the civil service exam requirements came up, then rehire them. That's how things were done in the Duchy of Chicago, a land Obama is at least as familiar with as he is Indonesia.

This will probably be worth drawing a line in the sand over. An effort that should feature speeches, manifestoes, press conferences, hearings and quite a lot in the way of public education as to exactly what Obama's health-care "reforms" actually have in store for us. In other words, everything that should have been done with Berwick and was not done due to Obama's trickery. The other point is to undo whatever damage Berwick has already done...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the\\_big\\_obama\\_defeat\\_the\\_media.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the_big_obama_defeat_the_media.html)

## Obama's health care reform is unhealthy for hospitals

Trying to squeeze productivity gains out of hospitals will force many to close

by John D. Hartigan, 19 March 2011

...What Mr. Foster [Medicare's chief actuary] is telling us is that deducting the legislatively presumed productivity savings from Medicare reimbursements would gradually turn more than 700 of our hospitals into chronic money losers. And — while he doesn't spell out what would happen when those hospitals eventually had to shut down — there's no doubt that the impact would be devastating. Patients in rural areas would have to travel long hours to get to the nearest hospital still open for business, and patients everywhere would have to put up with critical shortages of beds, operating rooms and ICUs, as well as badly overcrowded clinics and emergency rooms.

Not only that, care would almost certainly have to be rationed. Grandpa might not get his heart bypass. His daughter might not get her mammogram. And his grandson would probably have to wait months for surgery to repair a sports injury.

Despite all this, HHS has no plans to intervene. Brushing off Mr. Foster's warnings, his superiors insist that the new Medicare reimbursement reductions won't cause any harm to hospitals or the communities they serve because hospitals can "become more productive" if they "invest in system changes." But that's just bureaucratic posturing...

**More:** <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-hospitals-20110319,0,3796608.story>

## Marine Le Pen: next French president?

Interview with Cecilia Cacciotto, 18 Feb 2011

**Runs 7:54, and includes English translation (not subtitles):**

<http://www.euronews.net/2011/02/18/marine-le-pen-next-french-president/>

## What if King George III had had Google?

by James Lampe, 19 March 2011

...The leadership of Google is very fond of our current Administration, and CEO Eric Schmidt's contributions favor the Democrat Party over the Republican Party 12-1. Google employees contributed \$803,000 to Obama, and Google executives have taken jobs in the Obama administration." (These folks might be handy to someone who desires to regulate the Internet.)

It's also prudent to take a look at Google's operations and management practices as well as their corporate culture. What is the character of the company? As Lincoln observed; "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character give him power." Such as the power of control over a monopolistic tool like Google, which any tyrant could turn into a cyber-weapon. So what kind of character does Google Inc. have? It's not hard to dream up ways to collect and use information for negative purposes. In fact, one night after reading these Google media reports my mind offered up this atavistic scenario...

...Google has already censored and blocked anti-Obama blogs, and admitted their staff picks Google search results! What recourse will we have if Google censors conservative blogs in October 2012, just before the election? Do we appeal our case to Eric Holder?

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/what\\_if\\_king\\_george\\_iii\\_had\\_ha.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/what_if_king_george_iii_had_ha.html)

## Startpage: an unbiased alternative to Google

"The world's most private search-engine."

<http://www.startpage.com/eng/advanced-search.html?&cat=web&query=>

## The Justice Department fix is in

*by J. Christian Adams, 16 March 2011*

...The whitewash is authored by the DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). While it sounds like an impartial shop, it isn't. In January 2009, Attorney General Michael Mukasey blasted the draft OPR report about the John Yoo and James Bybee terror interrogation investigation as a "hatchet job." OPR tried to ram through their sloppy work **in the final days** of the Bush administration and General Mukasey would have none of it. The repudiation was consistent with OPR's sordid history of omitting relevant investigative facts and inventing legal standards that don't exist.

Congressmen Frank Wolf and Lamar Smith have been demanding documents and explanations about the New Black Panther case for almost two years. In response, DOJ opened the OPR investigation. But OPR is now headed by Robin Ashton. Ashton, according to multiple sources who have worked alongside her, is a militant leftist partisan. She actually left DOJ to do a detail on the Senate Judiciary Committee for Senator Patrick Leahy. Hans von Spakovsky wrote **this piece** in which he describes Ashton's bizarre behavior, such as searching through co-workers' desks...

...What does the OPR report conclude? Indications are that it will conclude that nobody did anything improper in dismissing the case. But it apparently goes even further and concludes that the case was brought because of racial bias, or at least with an insensitivity to Mr. Holder's "people." In doing so, signs are that the authors of the report are perfectly willing to adopt some of the favorite lines of the extreme left-wing blogosphere about people who worked on the case and the principle of equally enforcing the law. Americans know a whitewash when they see it, especially a racially unfair one.

I have been silent until now about the OPR investigation because I assumed the people conducting the investigation were not as corrupt as the people responsible for ordering the case to be dismissed...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-justice-department-fix-is-in/?singlepage=true>

## Could 'Chernobyl' scaremongers cost our nuclear future?

*by Christopher Booker, 20 March 2011*

The scaremongers were certainly out in force last week, with talk of "meltdown" and claims that the Japanese nuclear power plant emergency threatened a disaster "worse than Chernobyl." There is, of course, no parallel with Chernobyl at all. The problem at Fukushima was not the explosion of a working nuclear reactor (all its reactors had been automatically shut down). The main problem was the lack of water to cool spent fuel rods. Even if the overheating rods caught fire, the worst-case scenario was never more than that some radioactive particles, given an unfavourable wind, might reach as far as Tokyo. There was never any chance that this could compare with Chernobyl, although even the long-term effects of that 1986 disaster, as it turned out, **were very much less serious** than scaremongers at the time predicted.

The excessive stockpiling of fuel rods at Fukushima only arose because **pressure from anti-nuclear groups has made the safe dispersal of nuclear waste so difficult...**

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8392928/Could-Chernobyl-scaremongers-cost-our-nuclear-future.html>

## **Righteous indignation**

Excuse me while I save the world.

by Andrew Breitbart (to be published 15 April 2011)

<http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/abreitbart/2011/02/24/pre-order-my-book-righteous-indignation-excuse-me-while-i-save-the-world-now-ask-me-how/>

A recent guest on the *Hugh Hewitt Show*:

## **Farnsworth's Classical English Rhetoric**

by Ward Farnsworth, (available 30 March 2011)

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Farnsworths-Classical-English-Rhetoric/Ward-Farnsworth/e/9781567923858>

\$26.95 at Barnes and Noble. Amazon wants \$135.00. What's up with that?

## **A staggering absence of leadership**

by J.C. Watts, 20 March 2011

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/a-staggering-absence-of-leadership-118321059.html>

Thanks, Chairman Maobama.

## **U.S. cost of living hits record, passing pre-crisis high**

by John Melloy, 17 March 2011

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/42130406>

## **Grad rocket lands in Ashkelon; 2 treated for shock**

by Yaakov Lappin, 20 March 2011

...Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he viewed seriously the "criminal attacks by Hamas on Israeli citizens. Israel will take all necessary measures to defend its citizens."

If the current round of violence continues to escalate, the IDF will consider resuming targeted killings against Hamas commanders and senior operatives in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas's so-called "return to direct terror activity" began Friday with the firing of a guided anti-tank missile at an IDF jeep on patrol along the Gaza border.

This is the second time in a month that a guided anti-tank missile has been fired from the Gaza Strip. The IDF believes that Hamas and possibly other organizations have a significant arsenal including Kornet, Faggot and Sagger-guided anti-tank missiles.

Hamas fired 54 mortar shells into communities in the western Negev within a period of about 15 minutes early in the morning, causing extensive damage to several homes on a kibbutz, a police spokesman said. One shell landed on the rooftop of a kindergarten, but there was no one inside because it was Shabbat...

**More:** <http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Article.aspx?id=213034>

## **50 mortar shells fired into Israel, 2 injured**

by Yaakov Lappin, 19 March 2011

Civilian areas in southern Israel were heavily shelled by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza on Saturday morning, when more than 50 mortars were fired at the regional councils of Sha'ar Hanegev, Eshkol and Sdot Hanegev...

**More:** <http://www.jpost.com/NationalNews/Article.aspx?id=212838>

## **Blunder Over Libya**

by David Warren, 19 March 2011

Does anyone remember the Powell doctrine? A relic of Colin Powell's days in the Pentagon, this held that any U.S.

military incursion into a foreign country must meet three criteria of success. It must enjoy broad international support, employ overwhelming force, and deploy a clear exit strategy.

Really this was a relic of the Vietnam War, and America's horrible national experience of bleeding to no purpose. Powell was never the president, however, and his doctrine was never official policy. It merely looked like a policy, in the absence of any articulate contradiction. Had it been in force, the U.S. could never have entered the First World War, the Second World War, or Korea. It would also have obviated the American Revolution. It was about right for the Kuwait intervention in 1991, however.

This Powell doctrine was a curious echo of the shopping list that came down to us, from the Middle Ages, as "bellum iustum," or "just war theory."...Prudence, in the higher moral sense, cannot be reduced to a formula, yet the attempt by such great minds as those of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas to think through the requirements of prudence in war cast much light on our quandaries. Into sin we may fall, but we must try to live justly.

In a way almost touching, the Bush administration tried to meet all the criteria of a just war, when invading Afghanistan, then Iraq. They tried to meet the Powell maxims, too. They went to elaborate and exhausting lengths to leave "democratic" and constitutional regimes, in a most unfavourable region. For this, especially, they endured the contempt of the world's most aggressively self-righteous people. Who, in turn, seem to be rallying behind the Security Council resolution of Thursday night, which "authorizes" the enforcement not only of no-fly zones over Libya, but any other uses to which military forces may be put, short of a decisive ground invasion.

The very fact that Russia and China failed to veto this resolution, speaks against it. That it fails not on one, but on every single criterion of a just war, should be noted. That it fails the Powell test is a matter of course...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.davidwarrenonline.com/index.php?id=1259>

## **Very close encounters of the 'super moon' kind: Amazing pictures of our lunar neighbour... the nearest it's been in 20 years**

*20 March 2011*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1367956/Super-moon-Amazing-pictures-lunar-planet--nearest-Earth-20-years.html#ixzz1HAihHOCV>

The "international community" of Jew-haters willfully refuses to recognize (a) that the "Palestinians" have no historic existence whatever, and (b) the Israelis have a right to the land, as a matter of international law.

### **Sheer Sophistry**

*by Jed Gladstein, 19 March 2011*

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/sheer\\_sophistry.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/sheer_sophistry.html)

### **'Where are the Americans?' A Tale of Two Tsunamis**

Bush immediately sent massive military aid after the 2004 tsunami. Obama went golfing.

*by Roger Kimball, 17 March 2011*

<http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerkimball/%e2%80%9cwhere-are-the-americans%e2%80%9da-tale-of-two-tsunamis/>

Mr. Hillyer charts a middle course between the House GOP leadership and the budget hawks led by Mike Pence. Not sure he's right, but it's worth reading.

### **Budget battles demand perspective**

*by Quin Hillyer, 18 March 2011*

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/03/18/budget-battles-demand-perspect>

### **The totalitarian minority**

*by Lance Fairchok, 19 March 2011*

...Elections are either won or lost within our political system, there is no other alternative. Those who win have the

approval of the majority of citizens for the policies and legislation they have promised to enact. That reality usually prevents what happened in Wisconsin. It assumes both sides accept that the rule of law is in the best interest of all. A setback means a legislator struggles harder or reassesses, working to bring about the legislation they feel is best for the constituency whose interests they represent. If they lose, they do not refuse to play or unleash foul-mouthed thugs on the institutions they so recently spent into insolvency. No Democratic Republic can operate for long when one side sabotages the process when they do not get their way.

The public sector unions are saying clearly and loudly that they deserve privileges and status denied the vast majority of the citizens whose taxes pay their inflated salaries, and implicit in their violent rhetoric is the threat that if they do not get their way they will burn the statehouse down, even kill their political opponents. They further let us know that their privileges should come off the backs of those whose labors are much greater and whose rewards are far less, peasants to their royal status, "have-not" to their "have." This is the truth of the national debate under the Democrats. President Obama, the great divider, is a stooge of union bosses. The latter care nothing about citizens not members of their union...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the\\_totalitarian\\_minority.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the_totalitarian_minority.html)

Public-sector union goons continue to cleanse rectums with their tongues, and the cheesehead police violate their oaths every hour they're on duty. These criminals should all be rounded up.

## **Wisconsin after the Union Takeover**

*by Josiah Cantrall, 19 March 2011*

"Are you wearing a bulletproof vest?"

Click. Michael Hintze's phone line went dead—the caller never identified himself. A prominent Wisconsin Tea Party leader, Hintze is the latest recipient of anonymous death threats.

Maybe you thought it was finally over in Wisconsin. Walker overcame the liberal blitzkrieg, elected Republicans decided that there's no moderate stance between bankruptcy and prosperity, the bill was passed and signed, and the fourteen Democrats gave up their life on the run.

But there's more. Though chapter one undeniably ended with a resounding victory for Walker, the next part may easily become a forgotten chapter among thousands in the left's annals of Alinsky-style combat.

Wisconsin has become the latest setting for organized liberal activism. Pro-union forces are setting out to execute the power-plays of leftism: divide, intimidate, and conquer. Community organizers are working tirelessly to increase the opposition through lies and distortion in the hope of building cold-blooded hatred for Walker and his allies...

**Liberal 'civility':** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/wisconsin\\_after\\_the\\_union\\_take.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/wisconsin_after_the_union_take.html)

## **Why is NASA hiding James Hansen's ethics records?**

*by Christopher Horner, 16 March 2011*

...about years of non-compliance by Hansen's protege Gavin Schmidt. Schmidt has been running a third-party activist website almost since the moment Hansen brought him on board. The site was originally established to assail author Michael Crichton and defend the risible "Hockey Stick" graph showing stable global temperatures until the past 150 years. He did this using taxpayer resources, on taxpayer time. NASA agreed with this when I won my administrative appeal seeking Schmidt's "RealClimate.org" records on NASA's server.

But now, in a Washington, D.C., federal court, NASA is arguing that whenever Schmidt does this, at whatever time of day and in whatever office he sits, he's clearly punching out from his job at NASA, so his daytime moonlighting is none of your business.

We'll see if that floats. But in the meantime, we learned something about GISS, of which Hansen is currently director: GISS was not requiring Schmidt to comply with ethics rules that direct employees to obtain waivers for such outside employment. He scrambled to do so, and NASA provided us those very records.

That got me thinking: Is it unreasonable to believe the same man allowing this as director is also skirting the law's requirements? NASA doesn't want me (or you) to know. It says that to release these records would "clearly be an unwarranted violation" of Hansen's privacy interests.

That's untrue, given applicable FOIA precedent, as we explain in our appeal...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/why-is-nasa-hiding-james-hansens-ethics-records/?singlepage=true>

A mendacious regime continues its racist policies. "Barack H. Obama doesn't care about white people."

## **Justice Department to white male bullying victims: Tough luck**

by Kerry Pickett, 18 March 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/blog/watercooler/2011/mar/18/doj-white-male-bullying-victims-tough-luck/>

## **Interview with author of *Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA***

Mark Frauenfelder talks to Maryn McKenna, 14 March 2011

...MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) kills more people every year than AIDS. In the US alone 19,000 die from it each year, and another 369,000 are hospitalized because of it. The World Health Organization calls MRSA the most important health issue of the 21st century...

...No one knows how long staph has been around. It was named back in the 19th century, but if you look at staph genetically, it has probably been around as long as we have. The reason microbiologists say that is because, of all the bacteria that are in close contact with humans, staph is uniquely good at developing workarounds for our immune systems. And it has so many different kinds of workarounds and protections that the hypothesis is that it's been living with us for a very, very long time.

MRSA, on the other hand, is a recent phenomenon, and it's really something we created. The first cases of MRSA were identified in England in 1961 and the reason that they're there is because staph had already become resistant to penicillin. Penicillin started being used in the 1940s. Staph very quickly became resistant to it. In 1960, in response to that, a drug company that existed at the time came out with a new drug, a kind of augmented penicillin, called methicillin. Methicillin is the "M" in MRSA. Staph became resistant to methicillin within 11 months of the drug coming on the market. The reason why we still use the acronym MRSA with "M" for methicillin is because the essential structure of methicillin is copied in dozens of other drugs that we now use and MRSA became resistant to all of those as well. But it really is sort of an unintended consequence of our drug development that staph became resistant to that drug and then to all those other related drugs across the years...

**More, including comments from people who've survived MRSA ("mersa"):**

<http://www.boingboing.net/2011/03/14/interview-with-autho-5.html>

Hmm...1961...after 13 years of **British socialized medicine!** —Don John

Public-sector union scum post death threats against conservative journalists and elected officials.

## **'Civility' was always dead**

"Push back hard," the *New York Times* advised. Government union backers have done so.

by James Taranto, 18 March 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704608504576208613404482884.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLETopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704608504576208613404482884.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion)

Note: Don John belongs to three *private*-sector unions.

## **Ronald Reagan & George W. Bush**

by Mark Levin, 18 March 2011

My friend Pete Wehner took my criticism of President George W. Bush and some of his most senior staff as a challenge to compare Bush to President Ronald Reagan. Comparing Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush is like comparing Margaret Thatcher and John Major. That's not to put down Bush or Major, both of whom were fine leaders, but they were not the historical figures their former staffers and supporters insist.

Who said? "I've abandoned free-market principles to save the free-market system." Well, those words would never have passed Reagan's lips. It was infamously said by Bush, in defense of his massive spending spree in the last weeks of his presidency. There's nothing conservative about it. But it sums up Bush's lack of confidence in the free market system, and his repeated and excessive use of government intervention in American society.

Bush never claimed to be the conservative Reagan was, nor did he spend his early political career challenging GOP orthodoxy, which, until Reagan won in 1980, was mostly incoherent mush of the Rockefeller-Scranton-Nixon-Ford-Bush/41 kind. George H. W. Bush and other mainstream Republican primary challengers sought to thwart Reagan because, they insisted, his conservatism would be rejected by the voters. Now, Pete insists that as president, Reagan's

record, in virtually all respects, is inferior to George W. Bush's, in advancing conservative principles. This is not only counter-intuitive, it is factually defective. As I proceed with this discussion, I believe it will become evident...

**Crushingly so:** <http://www.facebook.com/notes/mark-levin/ronald-reagan-george-w-bush/10150109191410946>

## **Against a No-Fly Zone**

*by Stanley Kurtz, 18 March 2011*

...I am not an advocate of establishing a no-fly zone in Libya. When it comes to the freedom agenda in the Middle East, I am a skeptic. Democracy promotion may (or may not) work as a long-term enterprise in places where U.S. troops are in place. I don't think it should drive our Middle East policy in the short or medium term, however. The Libyan opposition is a complex mix of Islamists, actors motivated by tribal allegiances, and liberals. The last element is probably the weakest of the three, and even their purported liberalism may not guarantee a pro-Western stance. While we might be lucky enough to quickly and cleanly displace Qaddafi, I don't think the relatively thin prospects of the Libyan opposition developing into liberal democrats justifies the risks of an extended military entanglement.

I take arguments for a no-fly zone based on more traditional considerations of national interest more seriously. America does have an important interest in securing the supply of oil from the Middle East. Libyan oil is not critical to our supply, however, and this operation does not appear to be an attempt to send a signal about the need to stabilize oil flow...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/262454/against-no-fly-zone-stanley-kurtz>

## **It's still an empty lockbox**

*by Charles Krauthammer, 18 March 2011*

Last week, President Obama's budget chief, Jack Lew, took to his White House blog to repeat his claim that the Social Security trust fund is solvent through 2037...

...Invoking the "full faith and credit" mantra for those IOUs in the trust fund is empty bluster. It does not change the fact that, as the OMB itself acknowledged, those IOUs "do not consist of real economic assets that can be drawn down in the future to fund benefits." Yet Lew continues to insist that these "special issue" trinkets will pay off seniors for the next 26 years.

Nonsense. That money is gone with the wind. Those trust fund trinkets are nothing more than a record of past borrowings. They say nothing about the future.

Consider: If Treasury had borrowed twice as much from Social Security in the past — producing twice as many IOUs sitting in the lockbox — would this mean the trust fund is today twice as strong? Solvent for 50-some years instead of just 26? Of course not. The trust fund "balances" are mere historical record-keeping. As the OMB itself admitted, future payouts will have to be met by future taxes and future borrowings — or by Social Security reform that, by reducing benefits, makes such taxing and borrowing unnecessary...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/its-still-an-empty-lockbox/2011/03/17/ABPpoym\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/its-still-an-empty-lockbox/2011/03/17/ABPpoym_story.html)

Everything you know about Senator McCarthy (1908-1957) is wrong.

## **Joe McCarthy speaks on *See It Now***

*4 April 1954*

**Watch:** <http://kitmantv.blogspot.com/2010/07/joe-mccarthy-speaks-on-see-it-now.html>

## **Chevy Volt: the car from Atlas Shrugged Motors**

*by Patrick Michaels, 16 March 2011*

...GM has continually revised downward its estimates of how far the machine would go before the gas engine fired, and now says 25 to 50 miles. It turns out that the premium-fuel fired engine does drive the wheels—when the battery is very low or when the vehicle is at most freeway speeds. So the Volt really isn't a pure electric car after all. I'm sure that the people who designed the car knew how it ran, and so did their managers...

...Another reason they aren't exactly flying off the lots is because, well, they have some problems. In a telling

attempt to preserve battery power, the heater is exceedingly weak. Consumer Reports averaged a paltry 25 miles of electric-only running, in part because it was testing in cold Connecticut... It will be interesting to see what the range is on a hot, traffic-jammed summer day, when the air conditioner will really tax the batteries. When the gas engine came on, Consumer Reports got about 30 miles to the gallon of premium fuel; which, in terms of additional cost of high-test gas, drives the effective mileage closer to 27 mpg. A conventional Honda Accord, which seats 5 (instead of the Volt's 4), gets 34 mpg on the highway, and costs less than half of what CR paid, even with the tax break.

Recently, President Obama selected General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt to chair his Economic Advisory Board. GE is awash in windmills waiting to be subsidized so they can provide unreliable, expensive power. Consequently, and soon after his appointment, Immelt announced that GE will buy 50,000 Volts in the next two years, or half the total produced. Assuming the corporation qualifies for the same tax credit, we (you and me) just shelled out \$375,000,000 to a company to buy cars that no one else wants so that GM will not tank and produce even more cars that no one wants. And this guy is the chair of Obama's Economic Advisory Board? It really is enough to get you to say Atlas Shrugged...

**More:** <http://www.forbes.com/2011/03/16/chevy-volt-ayn-rand-opinions-patrick-michaels.html>

## How Washington ruined your washing machine

The top-loading washer continues to disappear, thanks to the usual nanny state suspects.

by Sam Kazman, 17 March 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704662604576202212717670514.html>

## Scapegoating Mitch Daniels

by Philip Klein 17 March 2011

...Despite having a generally conservative governing record, in the run-up to a possible candidacy, Daniels has managed to alienate all parts of the GOP's so-called "three-legged" stool. He has rattled economic conservatives by floating the possibility of a VAT tax, unnerved national security hawks by talking about defense cuts and seeming indifferent about foreign policy, and angered values voters by calling for a "truce" on social issues while the country confronts the national emergency of our fiscal crisis.

It's the latter comments that have drawn the most heat, giving his potential rivals an easy opening at conservative events to say that yes, social issues are a priority.

But while Daniels has become a popular target for social conservatives who understandably don't want to see their issues downplayed, the reality is that Daniels' crime was to say explicitly what most of the other potential candidates are saying and doing implicitly—that is, emphasizing the importance of economic and fiscal issues over moral matters.

In a sense, Daniels has become a scapegoat for a gripe that social conservatives have had for decades—that Republicans take them for granted. Politicians count on them to get elected, but then spend most of their time pursuing other issues once in office...

**Read the rest:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/03/17/scapegoating-mitch-daniels>

He is **not** in favor of a value-added tax (VAT).

## Politics and Policy with Mitch Daniels: Chapter 3 of 5 (6:05)

Mitch Daniels outlines his tax policy.

Interview with Peter "tear down this wall" Robinson, 16 March 2011

**Watch:** <http://tv.nationalreview.com/uncommonknowledge/post/?q=N2VkODcwMzRiMDg5ZTA3ZTcxZGNmYzc5ZjQ4NGQxNWQ=>

## Netanyahu in 1978

March 16, 2011

In a remarkable video from 1978, 28 year old MIT grad Benjamin Netanyahu debates whether there should be a Palestinian state created on the West Bank and Gaza... One of Netanyahu's interrogators in the clip is Fouad Ajami, the well known political analyst...

...Netanyahu's strong defense of Israel rings as true today as it did in 1978. The clip is only ten minutes and is well worth watching.

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/03/netanyahu\\_in\\_1978.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/03/netanyahu_in_1978.html)

## Why they celebrate murdering children

Islam is as Islam does.

by Andrew McCarthy, 16 March 2011

...Muslims, in fact, are more often exhorted by their scriptures to brutalize non-Muslims than Christians are urged by the gospels to love their enemies and turn the other cheek. Yet, though we assume the latter are meant to take the message to heart, we are somehow sure Islam doesn't really mean what it says — that when Muslims strike terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, it must be Israel's fault, or America's, or something, *anything, other than Islam, the only common denominator in these attacks.*

For U.S. officials, it is a bridge too far to acknowledge the welter of doctrinal grounding that supports these atrocities. Sort the deranged likes of Jared Loughner from the ideologically driven adherents of Islam? Observe the chasm between mentally disturbed killers and mentally conditioned killers? No way.

So here's a suggestion: Maybe our paralyzed policy makers could see their way clear to noticing how Muslims respond to Muslim jihadists: Like the Muslims across the globe who cheered the 9/11 attacks; like those who **littered** Arid Uka's Facebook with such commentary as, "Way to go, you old killer!" and "That is part of this beautiful religion. One is allowed to fight the unbelievers when attacked."...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/262229/why-they-celebrate-murdering-children-andrew-c-mccarthy>

## Commemorating the Greek Genocide

Baron Bodissey, 16 March 2011

We've heard a lot lately about the "genocide" at Srebrenica in Bosnia, thanks to the recent decision by the Canadian Government to **ban Srdja Trifkovic from Canada.**

There's another genocide — a real one — that the Islamic world and most Western governments don't want to talk about: the genocide against Christians conducted by the Turks during and after the First World War. There were actually three overlapping genocides involved — against the Armenian minority in Turkey, against the Assyrians in what is now mostly Iraq, and against the Greeks in Thrace and Asia Minor.

We just received this press release from the Hellenic League of America about an upcoming commemoration of these genocides, which will be held next month in New York...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/commemorating-greek-genocide.html>

"After all, if you believe that no one was ever corrupted by a book, you also have to believe that no one was ever improved by a book (or a play or a movie). You have to believe, in other words, that all art is morally trivial and that, consequently, all education is morally irrelevant. No one, not even a university professor, really believes that."

—Irving Kristol (1920-2009)

## German authorities confirm that Frankfurt shooter viewed De Palma clip

The combination of fictional American "atrocities" and radical Islamic preaching appears to have led Arid Uka to kill.

by John Rosenthal, 11 March 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/german-authorities-confirm-that-frankfurt-shooter-viewed-de-palma-clip/>

## The Saudi Day of Rage

The Kingdom could have something better than riots in its future.

by John Hayward, 15 March 2011

...There appears to be a reservoir of patriotism and goodwill toward the unlovely monarchy that could allow them to achieve change and growth without cataclysm. They're sitting on enough wealth to finance something more sophisticated than a battle in the streets. The dissidents want reforms that the monarchy *could* grant, without losing its power—unlike Hosni Mubarak, whose power depended on the very corruption that filled Cairo with beggars.

It would be nice to think someone was on the phone to Riyadh, explaining to the royals how they can ride the wave

of unrest rushing through their country, and find a future better than Egyptian uncertainty or Libyan horror. I don't want to sound *too* optimistic... but the makings of something better *are* there. This valuable, benighted nation might have a real shot at democracy, if the Leader of the Free World teaches them about it. I hope David Cameron is up to the task.

**More:** <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=42315>

## **U.S. stunned by latest undercover sting**

*by A. Barton Hinkle, 15 March 2011*

The nation was left reeling yesterday by the revelation that the presidential election of 2008 was a hoax. The shocking announcement came when White House press secretary Jay Carney told reporters that Barack Obama has been working in secret with conservative provocateur James O'Keefe since 2007...

**Incredible:** <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/oped/2011/mar/15/TDOPIN02-us-stunned-by-latest-undercover-sting-ar-905677/>

## **The myth of green energy jobs: the European experience**

*by Kenneth P. Green, Feb 2011*

With \$2.3 billion in Recovery Act tax credits allocated for green manufacturers, President Barack Obama and other Democratic politicians have high hopes for green technology. But their expectations clash with both economic theory and practical experience in Europe. Green programs in Spain destroyed 2.2 jobs for every green job created, while the capital needed for one green job in Italy could create almost five jobs in the general economy. Wind and solar power have raised household energy prices by 7.5 percent in Germany, and Denmark has the highest electricity prices in the European Union. Central planners in the United States trying to promote green industry will fare no better at creating jobs or stimulating the economy...

**More:** <http://www.aei.org/outlook/101026>

## **Ready for unionized airport security?**

As payback for union support, the Obama administration greases the wheels for the largest federal organizing effort in history.

*by Kimberley Strassel, 11 March 2011*

...Here's the fundamental problem with public-employee unions: They exist to compete with, and undermine, public priorities. The priority of Wisconsin citizens is a state that can provide basic services, encourage private-sector jobs, and pay its bills. Wisconsin public-employee unions, by contrast, were formed to, and exist to, erect a system that showers members with plump pay and benefits, crowding out state services and private jobs. The same disconnect is on display with the TSA.

...Mr. Pistole is insisting that he won't bargain over security policies, pay and benefits, qualifications or disciplinary measures. But some of this is fuzzy, and there's plenty for the union to be getting on with, including union rules on shifts, hours and transfers. This will stymie or delay the TSA's ability to quickly move workers to heightened security risks, to institute new procedures, or to keep terrorists guessing. Aviation experts like Michael Boyd of Boyd International have warned the TSA is already a "60,000 member DMV from Hell."...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704399804576192981822688892.html>

## **Rep. Keith Ellison wrote that the Constitution is evidence of a racist conspiracy**

*by Bryan Preston, 10 March 2011*

<http://pajamasmedia.com/tatler/2011/03/10/rep-keith-ellison-wrote-that-the-constitution-is-a-racist-conspiracy/>

## **Officials in Japan grapple with radiation risk**

Conditions at plant are stabilized, but Reactors 5 and 6 Heat Up.

by Yuka Hayashi, 15 March 2011, 11:35am EDT

...The conditions at the plant appeared to have stabilized in some aspects Tuesday afternoon. While radiation levels at the plant remain elevated, they have dropped significantly from earlier in the day, ruling out the continuation of unstoppable large-scale leaks. Radiation levels in downtown Tokyo—which had also risen earlier Tuesday, though they remained well below levels that could damage human health—also fell sharply later in the day...

...Speaking at a press conference late in the afternoon, chief cabinet secretary Yukio Edano said officials now suspect that those extremely high readings may have come from the debris from Monday's explosion coming to rest by the gauge...The radiation level at the plant's gate had shot up to over 11,000 microsievert per hour Monday morning, equivalent to the amount a person is exposed to in 11 years. That level has dropped to below 600—roughly equivalent to a medical X-ray—by mid-afternoon.

...In Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, the radiation level hit as high as 0.212 microsievert per hour around 7 a.m., according to the Kanagawa Prefectural Government. But the level had fallen to around 0.1 microsievert per hour at around noon.

An official at the prefectural government said the recorded level is a fraction of the 600 microsieverts that a human body receives from one x-ray...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703908304576201643613498376.html?mod=>

## The Objectivist with the Dragon Tattoo

With his *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* trilogy, for reasons that will likely forever remain unknown, a Scandinavian leftist managed to create a libertarian parable for the ages.

by Benjamin Kerstein, 12 March 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-objectivist-with-the-dragon-tattoo/>

Mr. Peretz is the editor-in-chief emeritus of *The New Republic*.

## Obama's scandalous approach to the Middle East

by Martin Peretz, 15 March 2011

...What is curious about Obama's infatuation with Arab societies (and with non-Arab Muslim societies, too) is that he knows just about nothing about them. And I don't just mean their histories or theology. What's clear is that the president grasps pretty-close-to-zero about the actualities of these states, their economic and social realities, the stratifications by tribe and sex, the race between literacy and population growth, the synchrony of tradition with bureaucracy, the stultification of education, the militarization of these polities, their abhorrence of liberal ideas. And the fact is that Obama is neither fast-spirited nor supple. He certainly was blind-sided by the turbulence and torment that has wracked the region over more than two months now. Why could he not see the new amidst the crumbling old? And why was he also not liberated a bit from the old order to which he had mysteriously attached himself?

The fact is that Obama is a victim of a certain sort of "orientalism" transmitted to him by his friend Rashid Khalidi carrying the message of Edward Said. Except that this form of the dogma, now hopefully on its last legs in the academy, does not idealize the vision of the imperials. It idealizes whatever Arab reality happens to have survived western imperialism. Among them is the standing of the *hijab* or *burqa*. This is part of the civilizational conflict in the world of Islam and, as I have pointed out at least twice, Obama has spoken up for the looking-backwards end of the dispute. Why should he not, in Cairo and at the White House, have defended the modernizers instead? This would have put him on the side of the future, though if he didn't want to intrude on an internal Muslim struggle he could have simply shut up. But no. This president thinks he speaks with authority on any topics he chooses to address...

**Read it all:** <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/85234/peretz-israel-palestinian-obama>

Simply one of the best summaries of global politics **EVER**.

## The value of American promises

by James Lewis, 13 March 2011

...At this very moment heated debates are taking place all over the world. Our shaky allies feel scared because Obama is a "community dis-organizer." He is a revolutionary by instinct, an anarchist. He likes to see revolutions.

Now mind you, the industrial world has been far too dependent on the United States, so that Europe has eaten its

own seed grain of military investment. It has drifted off into vain delusions. The whole European Union has a delusional ideology, conveniently forgetting what Europe's safety and security is based on. But today they are suddenly getting it again: Merkel, Sarkozy, and Cameron are trying to wake up their peoples from the sleepy delusions of the past.

Still, self-defense in a dangerous world is not cost free. Europe has relied on American guts and tenacity to defend it. So has Japan, and even Russia since the Soviet Union crumbled. All the delusional fantasies that sabotage our safety today (post-modernism, multiculturalism, the UN) came from Europe, when Europe's ideologues figured that Uncle Sam could be suckered forever, and that they could have their world imperialism cost-free. The result is "cultural Marxism," which runs our universities and media today.

That's what the UN and global warming fraud are about: Using American lives and treasure to pay for a fantasy world for European socialists. It's not going to work, and Europe just got the message from Barack Hussein Obama. Talk about ironies!

The Middle East is shivering because they're getting it, too. It's not hard for them to see danger, because they calculate their chances for survival every day. When they see those gray American battle fleets on the horizon in the Mediterranean, they know that things will be safe for another day. They may not love us, but their lives will be safe. The very second those fleets disappear so does their security. Today they understand it again, after Obama dumped Mubarak, even if they forgot it for the last few decades...

**Read it all:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the\\_value\\_of\\_american\\_promises.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/the_value_of_american_promises.html)

## **Obama's oil production protest fails fact-checking test**

*by Hugh Hewitt, 14 March 2011*

"So any notion that my administration has shut down oil production might make for a good political sound bite, but it doesn't match up with reality." So declared President Obama Friday with the practiced firmness of voice and direct look into the teleprompter that signals to veterans of the Obama watch that the chief executive has strayed far from the truth...

**A withering indictment:**

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/03/hugh-hewitt-obamas-oil-production-protest-fails-fact-checking#>

## **Japan does not face another Chernobyl**

*by William Tucker, 14 March 2011*

Even while thousands of people are reported dead or missing, whole neighborhoods lie in ruins, and gas and oil fires rage out of control, press coverage of the Japanese earthquake has quickly settled on the troubles at two nuclear reactors as the center of the catastrophe.

Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), a longtime opponent of nuclear power, has warned of "another Chernobyl" and predicted "the same thing could happen here." In response, he has called for an immediate suspension of licensing procedures for the Westinghouse AP1000, a "Generation III" reactor that has been laboring through design review at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for seven years. Before we respond with such panic, though, it would be useful to review exactly what is happening in Japan and what we have to fear from it...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704893604576198421680697248.html>

Bad timing for a title like this one. Fortunately, it refers not to the Japanese city, but to the corrupt and foolish attempt by our "betters" among the world's political elite to institutionalize Global Warming Hysteria and destroy the unprecedented standard of living which the West enjoys and the Rest aspire to achieve. Thanks to scientists like Fred Singer and some sane Senators in Washington, the lunatic Kyoto Protocol of 1997 is now "shovel ready" at the gates of the graveyard.

## **Good bye, Kyoto**

*by S. Fred Singer, 13 March 2011*

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/good\\_bye\\_kyoto.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/good_bye_kyoto.html)

If all the 'Palestinians' were to disappear, these things wouldn't happen any more. They're a waste of oxygen.

—Don John

## **Islamic Jew Hatred: **\*\*GRAPHIC\*\*** Muslims massacre Jewish family of five, three-year-old stabbed in the heart, baby's throat slashed**

by Pamela Geller, 13 March 2011

[http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas\\_shrugs/2011/03/islamic-jew-hatred-graphic-muslims-stab-jewish-family-of-five-to-death.html](http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2011/03/islamic-jew-hatred-graphic-muslims-stab-jewish-family-of-five-to-death.html)

## **Video of Friday's slaying of Jews by Palestinians banned by YouTube and Facebook**

Roger L. Simon, 13 March 2011 Via *Ynet*

The video at [this link](#) was removed by YouTube and Facebook within two hours of posting. We thought you had a right to see it.

Meanwhile in Gaza "residents from the southern city of Rafah hit the streets Saturday to celebrate the terror attack in the West Bank settlement of Itamar where five family members were murdered in their sleep, including three children.

Residents handed out candy and sweets, one resident saying the joy 'is a natural response to the harm settlers inflict on the Palestinian residents in the West Bank.'"

<http://pajamasmedia.com/tatler/2011/03/13/video-of-fridays-slaying-of-jews-by-palestinians-banned-by-youtube-and-facebook/>

## **Massacre of the Israeli Fogel family by a Palestinian terrorist—Names and Faces**

On Friday night two Palestinians slayed an entire Israeli family in their house while they were sleeping: Rabbi Udi Fogel (36), his wife Ruth (34), 11-year-old Yoav, four-year-old Elad and three-month-old Hadas.

**Photographs:** <http://www.myisrael.org.il/action/739>

## **Cordoglio per Israele**

14 March 2011

La Redazione esprime profondo cordoglio per il disumano atto di terrorismo di cui è rimasta vittima una famiglia israeliana. Udi e Ruthi Fogel e i loro tre bambini, Hadas di tre mesi, Elad di tre anni e Yoav di 11 anni sono stati sgozzati come animali mentre dormivano. Sgozzare bambini, ovvero tagliargli la gola da parte a parte mentre dormono, è un atto di tale bestialità che assimila i palestinesi a degli Orchi e con gli Orchi non si discute, con gli Orchi si combatte perchè gli Orchi vanno fermati, sempre, ad ogni costo. Se i palestinesi credono di fondare una nazione su questi atti, se credono che il futuro si costruisca ammazzando i figli degli altri e mandando a morire da kamikaze i propri, resteranno delusi perchè la storia, prima o poi, li spazzerà via come già accaduto ad altri popoli prima di loro.

<http://www.iostoconoriana.it/site/news.php>

## **Sayings of Chairman Maobama**

by Michael Goodwin, 13 March 2011

First I did a double take. He said *what?* I read it again and the shock waves followed. A beleaguered President Obama has told aides it would be so much easier to be the president of China, the *New York Times* reports.

There are two ways to read the remark, which is attributed to anonymous aides. One is that Obama resents the burden of global leadership that comes with the American presidency. The other is that he longs for an authoritarian system, where he need tolerate no dissent.

Under either or both interpretations, his confession carries a dose of self-pity that means Obama has hit a wall. He is in over his head, and he knows it. Even before the horror in Japan, the president faced a litany of nightmares. From Libya to Iran to Afghanistan to gas prices, unemployment and rising debt, Obama is surrounded by serious trouble...

**This is great:** [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/sayings\\_of\\_chairman\\_maobama\\_FSOKC0BqmCpXK1ozBxXlrM](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/sayings_of_chairman_maobama_FSOKC0BqmCpXK1ozBxXlrM)

## **Fukushima Nuclear Accident—a simple and accurate explanation**

by Barry Brook, 14 March 2011

...I am writing this to give you some peace of mind regarding some of the troubles in Japan: that is, the safety of Japan's nuclear reactors. Up front, the situation is serious, but under control. And this text is long! But you will know more about nuclear power plants after reading it than all journalists on this planet put together...

**Actually, it's just 3800 words, and includes good visuals:**

<http://bravenewclimate.com/2011/03/13/fukushima-simple-explanation/>

Dr. Brook is a noted science professor at the University of Adelaide in Australia, and an expert on nuclear power.

## **Six-figure bus drivers and other working-class heroes**

*by Ann Coulter, 9 March 2011*

Can we stop acting as if people who work for the government are the heroes of working people? Fine, we understand that Wisconsin public sector employees like the system that pays them an average of \$76,500 per year, with splendid benefits, and are fighting like wildcats against any proposed reforms to that system. But it's madness to keep treating people who are promoting their own self-interest as if they are James Meredith walking into the University of Mississippi...

**More:** <http://www.anncoulter.org/cgi-local/article.cgi?article=413>

## **Japan nuclear fallout: how bad could it get?**

*by Josh Dzieza, 12 March 2011, 7:53pm*

As Japan scrambles to cope with a nuclear reactor damaged in the quake, Josh Dzieza talks to Ron Ballinger, a nuclear expert at MIT, about how the plants work, worst-case scenarios, and more.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-03-12/japan-nuclear-fallout-how-bad-could-it-get/>

## **Japan struggles to control reactors**

*by Yuka Hayashi & Mari Iwata, 13 March 2011*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703555404576195700301455480.html>

## **It is a war, started by the unions**

*by Patrick McIlheran, 12 March 2011*

"This is war," panted Michael Moore, the left-wing propagandist, after Gov. Scott Walker's limits on government unions' power passed the Senate. Moore sounded eager. And he's right. It is war. But look at who's fighting whom.

The unions say they're the target because Walker demanded that state workers start paying something toward their retirements and 12.6% of the cost of their health coverage. You think this a good deal; government unions think it's Pearl Harbor. Walker also insists benefits and work rules no longer be negotiable, since collective bargaining is precisely why governments are spending twice as much on employee health as regular employers do.

So, sure, he's fighting government unions. The unions' war plan, however, hinges on mixing up targets. They need others, too, to imagine they're in the sights...

**Read on:** <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/117830438.html>

The details of what went on behind the scenes, including the bad faith of the unions and the Democrat legislators.

## **On Wisconsin!**

How Republicans won the battle of Madison.

*by Stephen F. Hayes and John McCormack, 13 March 2011 (March 21 issue)*

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/wisconsin\\_554095.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/wisconsin_554095.html)

## **It's time for gays to get married**

*by Bill Flax, 12 March 2011*

Gay marriage appears inevitable. It is the next step in the dance of dissonance across America. A flip through the clouds as modernity divorces itself from traditional culture. Is nothing still sacred?

Homosexuality has been politicized to an extent never seen before in America. What was once barely visible has become front page news and the object of incessant glorification. The entertainment industry inundates us with charming portraits of benign homosexuality.

From the closet, homosexuality emerged into the open; from the open, it ascended to acceptability; from

acceptability to equality, and from equality exalted onto a pedestal. Thus does the West stray from its cultural moorings.

The gay lobby and their cheerleader on Pennsylvania Ave. scored a victory on "Don't Ask Don't Tell." Now the White House just capitulated on the Defense of Marriage Act. Amidst all the fuss over gay marriage, everyone misses the obvious. Gays have every bit as much right to get married as you or I. And in fact, they should...

**Just read it with an open mind:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/its\\_time\\_for\\_gays\\_to\\_get\\_marri.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/its_time_for_gays_to_get_marri.html)

## **Mindless push for 'diversity' in the military won't win wars**

*by Roger Hedgecock, 11 March 2011*

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=42229#>

## **Rep. Allen West slams military diversity report**

*by Caroline May, 11 March 2011*

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/03/11/rep-allen-west-slams-military-diversity-report/>

## **Cowboy Subsidies**

In Harry Reid's world, the cowboy embodies dependency without end.

*by Mark Steyn, 12 March 2011*

..."The mean-spirited bill, HR 1...eliminates the National Endowment of the Humanities, National Endowment of the Arts," said Senator Reid. "These programs create jobs. The National Endowment of the Humanities is the reason we have in northern Nevada every January a cowboy-poetry festival. Had that program not been around, the tens of thousands of people who come there every year would not exist."

"Tens of thousands" would "not exist"? There can't be that many cowboy poets, can there? Oh, c'mon, don't be naïve. Where there are taxpayer-funded cowboy poets, there must surely be cowboy-poetry festival administrators, and a Bureau of Cowboy-Poetry Festival Licensing, and cowboy-poetry festival administration grant-writers, and a Department of Cowboy Poetry Festival Administration Grant Application Processing, and Professors of Cowboy-Poetry Festival Educational Workshop Management at dozens of American colleges credentialing thousands of cowboy-poetry festival workshop coordinating majors every year...

...Well, it's easy to mock, and in the hours after Senator Reid's effusions many of us on the Internet did. I liked Mary Katherine Ham's channeling of Ted Kennedy: "John Boehner's America is a land in which cowboys would be forced into back-alley poetry recitations"...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261992/brokeback-mountain-debt-mark-steyn>

## **Israel pursues murderous Palestinians**

*12 March 2011*

JERUSALEM (AP) - The Israeli military says it will "bring to justice" the Palestinian attackers who stabbed five members of an Israeli family to death as they slept in a West Bank settlement.

Avi Mizrachi, commander of the military's Central Command, made the remarks Saturday morning a few hours after the grisly attack. "This was a very harsh terror attack, a whole family was wiped out by despicable cowardly murderers who came in the dead of night and killed innocent children, a woman and man as they slept," Mizrachi said...

**Continue:** [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9LTIBFO0&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9LTIBFO0&show_article=1)

## **Obama: 'The best revolutions are organic'**

*by James Lewis, 11 March 2011*

We finally have a quote from Obama that sounds authentic. It's something he believes, or at least it's something that some Marxist professor told him back at Occidental or Columbia, in the old dope-smoking days, one that stuck in his mind. Behind the scenes in the White House Obama apparently trotted out this gem of Marxist-Leninist wisdom several times during the Middle East firestorms of the last two months, according to [this source](#):

"The best revolutions are organic."

This is while they are trying to decide whether to save any lives, and the whole Muslim world is exploding. Obama is doing nothing except giving a push to Mubarak and Khadafi—which is bound to make things worse in the short run. In Egypt the military took over and stabilized the situation, and Libya has a real civil war. But Iran is doing fine, thanks to Obama's gullibility in dealing with the blood-spattered mullahs.

Oh, well. Zero out of three ain't bad. But now we know *why* The President of the United States was doing nothing. He wasn't protecting the rebels in Libya from the tender mercies of Khaddafi's air force, *because a Western intervention in Africa would not be "organic."*...

**It gets even 'better':** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/obama\\_the\\_best\\_revolutions\\_are.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/03/obama_the_best_revolutions_are.html)

## **Dems' dull budget scissors**

*by Jonah Goldberg, 11 March 2011*

According to earthly logic, if you got a raise of 10 percent last year, but this year you're only getting a raise of 8 percent, you're still getting a raise. On Planet Washington, that qualifies as an indefensible slashing. So when the GOP cut \$4 billion from the budget last week, the Democrats acted as if it was an involuntary amputation.

Now the GOP wants to cut \$61 billion of discretionary nondefense spending from the total budget of \$3.7 trillion, and Democrats are responding as if this will spell the end of Western civilization. But given their terror of forcing a government shutdown, Democrats were forced to counteroffer with a cut of \$10.5 billion, or 0.28 percent of the federal budget. Imagine you have a budget of \$10,000 (about 40 percent of it borrowed on a credit card), then "slash" 28 bucks. That's what it's like to be a frugal Democrat...

...In 2007, the budget was 19.6 percent of the GDP. In 2009, it went up to 25 percent of GDP. That's where the Democrats would like to see it stay.

What happened? The financial crisis, of course. But as many of us suggested at the time, one of the Democrats' real motives behind the stimulus was to inflate the "baseline" budget so that huge increases would never be reversed, thanks to the DC logic that a cut in growth is a cut.

Now, Democrats greet any attempt to restore government to its pre-crisis size—when we were still living way above our means—as if America would be plunged into the Stone Age. Look at it this way. Those heartless Republican bastards would cut 2011 nondefense discretionary spending from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent of GDP. Under Bill Clinton, such spending averaged 3.1 percent of GDP...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261902/dems-dull-budget-scissors-jonah-goldberg>

## **Obama plays the Medi-Scare card against Republicans**

*Washington Examiner editorial, 10 March 2011*

...What Sebelius did not mention was that Medicare payments are mandatory and thus unaffected by the GOP appropriations bill that passed the House last month. This new Medi-scare campaign comes from the same administration that used a program Congress intended as a Wall Street bailout—Troubled Asset Relief Program—to nationalize General Motors and Chrysler (despite a congressional vote against an auto bailout); that has been held in contempt of court for imposing an illegal moratorium on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; that proposes to regulate the Internet despite having no statutory authority to do so; and that fired Americorps Inspector General Gerald Walpin in a manner that utterly violated a law that Obama himself co-sponsored in the Senate.

Now all of a sudden, Obama administration officials are sticklers for the rules, fearful of exceeding their authority by even one iota?...

**More:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2011/03/obama-plays-medi-scare-card-against-republicans>

## **A very modest victory in Madison**

*National Review editorial, 10 March 2011, 5:35pm*

...By curtailing the collective-bargaining powers of some government-employee unions, Wisconsin merely joins the ranks of Colorado and Maryland — not precisely hotbeds of right-wing extremism. In liberal Maryland, which extends collective-bargaining rights to some, but not all, government workers, this must all seem particularly overblown: The state is home to a great many employees of the federal government, many of whom belong to public-sector unions

that do not enjoy the extortionate powers until now invested in Wisconsin's union bosses.

Gov. Scott Walker and the sober Republicans in Wisconsin's state legislature are celebrating a victory, to be sure, but it is in truth a modest one: Under the new law, government workers will vote annually on whether they wish to be represented by a union, and the state will not be compelled to extract union dues from employees' paychecks on behalf of the unions. Health-care and pension benefits for government workers will be set by the people's elected representatives outside of the union-dominated collective-bargaining process, and wage increases will be indexed to inflation. Government workers still will enjoy salary-and-benefit packages that in most cases exceed what those workers could hope to command in the private sector, along with such hard-to-price benefits as enhanced job security.

For this modest reform, Governor Walker has been compared to Adolf Hitler, and progressives have called for his assassination. For adopting collective-bargaining rules similar to those found in many other states and more generous than those found in some, the people of Wisconsin have seen their state capitol under the occupation of bongo-beating misfits while the necessary and essential business of state government ground to a halt, with Democrats fleeing the state in a cynical bid to prevent duly elected legislators from legislating...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261885/very-modest-victory-madison-editors>

## Union power comes in many forms

Who needs collective bargaining if you've got legislators in your pocket?

by Steven Malanga, 6 March 2011

When the skyrocketing cost of public employees' salaries and benefits helped push New York City to the brink of bankruptcy in the mid-1970s, state and local officials put together a bailout that reduced pension and benefits packages for Gotham's workers. But by 1987, with the city out of the crisis, New York's unions were again demanding better pensions and benefits.

When Mayor Ed Koch balked, the union simply abandoned the bargaining process and went to Albany, where it offered state legislators its political backing in exchange for enacting generous new benefits. "It's the same old story," said a frustrated Koch. "Giving in to the unions will help Assembly members and senators stay in office." The mayor decided to go to Albany too and dissuade the legislators from granting the new benefits—but they told him to stay home. "They sent [labor leader] Barry Feinstein to see me," Koch told me several years ago, recalling the incident. "He told me that there was nothing I could do to stop the bill." The cost to the city's taxpayers: \$101 million annually.

The situation that Koch faced back then is familiar to many mayors, city council members, and even governors today...

**Read on:** <http://city-journal.org/2011/eon0306sm.html>

## The new Paul Revere

Rep. Peter King is alerting us to the Islamic radicals already among us.

by Deroy Murdock, 10 March 2011

As House Homeland Security Committee chairman Peter King (R., N.Y.) opened this morning's hearings on domestic Muslim radicalism, his ears must have stung from the nasty names he had been called. "McCarthyite," some charged. The *Washington Post's* Eugene Robinson believed King was fueling "irrational fears." Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada worried that King would "demonize law-abiding American Muslims." Georgetown University Islamic-studies professor John Esposito called King's hearing "a platform for Islamophobia draped in the American flag, reinforcing ignorance, stereotypes, bigotry, and intolerance in the name of national security."

If King deserves such vitriol, so do key Obama administration officials who share King's grave concerns about homegrown Islamic extremists and their threat to national security...

...Beyond these prominent Democrats, some Muslims also have denounced their militant co-religionists: "American Muslims must take the lead in creating solutions to the radicalization of our own," Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, M.D., wrote Wednesday on FoxNews.com. "These hearings will provide the long overdue platform for us to step away from the standard denials and apologetics in order to reclaim our Muslim identity from the terrorists and redefine ourselves within the framework of the American pantheon." Jasser, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant commander and now president of the Phoenix-based [American Islamic Forum for Democracy](http://www.americanislamicforum.org), testified today before Congressman King....

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261874/new-paul-revere-deroy-murdock>

## Rep. Keith Ellison's bigotry

The congressman told a teachable story this morning. One problem: It's untrue.

by *Matthew Shaffer*, 10 March 2011

...Does Ellison's account check out with reality?

No. It is actually pretty close to the opposite of the truth. In fact, six weeks after the September 11 attacks — before Hamdani's remains were identified, which Ellison implies to be the turning point of public perception — Congress signed the PATRIOT Act into law with this line included: "Many Arab Americans and Muslim Americans have acted heroically during the attacks on the United States, including Mohammed Salman Hamdani, a 23-year-old New Yorker of Pakistani descent, who is believed to have gone to the World Trade Center to offer rescue assistance and is now missing." That is, Hamdani was actually singled out for particular high honors among the thousands of victims of the September 11 attacks. There's little evidence of the "rumors" of which Ellison speaks, either...

...The belief that Mohammed Salman Hamdani was a victim of anti-Muslim bigotry was never based in reality. It was manufactured by the Left as a rhetorical prop, exploited as a bludgeon against people who want to talk seriously about terrorism. If Hamdani was singled out for his faith, it would appear he was singled out for especially high honors. Most 9/11 victims were not half so celebrated as he was. Rather than suffering from apocryphal American anti-Muslim bigotry, Salman Hamdani appears to have benefited from America's eager inclusiveness.

Americans have long seen Mohammed Salman Hamdani as a hero. Too bad Representative Ellison saw him only as a prop.

**Shameless:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261903/rep-keith-ellison-s-bigotry-matthew-shaffer>

## Why I'm fighting in Wisconsin

We can avoid mass teacher layoffs and reward our best performers. But we have to act now.

by *Scott Walker*, 10 March 2011

...The unions say they are ready to accept concessions, yet their actions speak louder than words. Over the past three weeks, local unions across the state have pursued contracts without new pension or health-insurance contributions. Their rhetoric does not match their record on this issue.

Local governments can't pass budgets on a hope and a prayer. Beyond balancing budgets, our reforms give schools — as well as state and local governments — the tools to reward productive workers and improve their operations. Most crucially, our reforms confront the barriers of collective bargaining that currently block innovation and reform.

When Gov. Mitch Daniels repealed collective bargaining in Indiana six years ago, it helped government become more efficient and responsive. The average pay for Indiana state employees has actually increased, and high-performing employees are rewarded with pay increases or bonuses when they do something exceptional.

Passing our budget-repair bill will help put similar reforms into place in Wisconsin. This will be good for the Badger State's hard-working taxpayers. It will also be good for state and local government employees who overwhelmingly want to do their jobs well.

In Wisconsin, we can avoid the massive teacher layoffs that schools are facing across America. Our budget-repair bill is a commitment to the future so our children won't face even more dire consequences than we face today, and teachers like Ms. Sampson are rewarded — not laid off.

Taking on the status quo is no easy task. Each day, there are protesters in and around our state Capitol. They have every right to be heard. But their voices cannot drown out the voices of the countless taxpayers who want us to balance our budgets and, more importantly, to make government work for each of them.

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576190260787805984.html>

## Is Obama a War Criminal Yet?

Liberal double-standard is in full view over Gitmo.

*Washington Times* editorial, 9 March 2011

...The White House detainee policy *volte-face* vindicates the policies of President George W. Bush. At the very least, Mr. Obama should apologize to his predecessor for smearing his reputation so thoroughly during the 2008 campaign. Our novice commander in chief has learned the valuable lesson that talking about being president, at which Mr. Obama was so adept, is a far cry from actually being president, at which he clearly is not.

**Read the rest:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/8/is-obama-a-war-criminal-yet/>

## King hearings are overdue

*National Review editorial, 9 March 2011*

"Katrina/Rita FEMA Trailers: Are They Safe or Environmental Time Bombs?" "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and the Federal Workforce." "Online Privacy, Social Networking, and Crime Victimization." "The State of U.S. Coins and Currency." "Diversity and the Department of Homeland Security: Continuing Challenges and New Opportunities." "Civil Rights Services and Diversity Initiatives in the Coast Guard." "Protecting Animal and Public Health: Homeland Security and the Federal Veterinarian Workforce." "The Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2009." "Tribal Police Recruitment, Hiring, Training, and Retention at the Bureau of Indian Affairs." "Organized Retail Crime."

These are some of the topics about which the sundry homeland-security committees and subcommittees of the Democrat-controlled 111th Congress saw fit to hold hearings. The list drastically underrepresents the number of panels concerned with post-Katrina self-flagellation and the ever-impending influenza epidemic, obsessions that suggest DHS's top security priorities are protecting citizens from family *orthomyxoviridae* and low-pressure systems of uncommon size. And those hearings in the 111th that did focus on "man-caused disasters" were concerned primarily with overreacting to the *Deepwater Horizon* spill and the missing the point of the fizzled Christmas Day attack (grope-a-dope, anyone?).

Against this backdrop, the scandal is not that House Committee on Homeland Security chairman Peter King (R., N.Y.) will tomorrow hold hearings on "The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and that Community's Response." The scandal is that they have been so long in coming...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261659/king-hearings-are-overdue-editors>

## NPR Muslim Brotherhood Investigation Part I (11:38)

*Veritasvisuals, 8 March 2011*

Senior Executives at NPR meet with Muslim Brotherhood Front Group to solicit \$5mm and discuss their federal funding, Fanatical Christians, Zionists in the media, Tea Partiers, Republicans, Uneducated Americans and Juan Williams.

**Watch and listen:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd9OYJMX9t4>

Hugh Hewitt was way ahead of the curve on this one. On March 7—even before the video of Ron Schiller was revealed — Hugh spent half of his 3-hour radio show blasting NPR's insistence they're not biased, and critiquing countless clips of Vivian Schiller talking clueless nonsense in her recent softball Q-and-A at the National Press Club.

## The Other White Meat

Fake Muslims have NPR for lunch.

*by James Taranto, 8 March 2011*

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704758904576188711705044054.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLETopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704758904576188711705044054.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion)

## NPR CEO resigns over hidden video

*by Russell Adams, 9 March 2011*

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576190344232339766.html?mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_MIDDLETopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576190344232339766.html?mod=WSJ_hp_MIDDLETopStories)

## Multiculturalism Explained (2:54)

*by Andrew Klavan, 24 Feb 2011 (Hat tip: S.K.C.)*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9POkP2oCFhA>

## The flexible temperament

*by James Piereson, March 2011*

Irving Kristol was known as "the godfather" of neoconservatism, though the person who conferred that title upon him is lost in the fog of memory. One would not be surprised to learn the title was self-assigned, such were Kristol's subtle and ironical ways. In any case, he was undoubtedly amused by the thought that a religious Jew should bear a designation consecrated in the Catholic Church or that a genial and avuncular figure such as himself should be honored

with a title made famous in the popular culture by film about gangsters. The title also implies that he was only present at the christening of neoconservatism but played no paternal role in its creation, a political sleight-of-hand that reveals something important about a thinker who, though much appreciated, was nevertheless much underestimated...

**More:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/The-flexible-temperament-6991>

This great 6,000-word essay is best described as *majestic*. Its skewering of the liberal myths and hypocrisies of its time angered many intellectuals, and made Mr. Kristol something of an outcast because of two or three not entirely negative things he wrote about Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-WI). His judgment of the Senator was nonetheless more negative than positive. Had he overtly praised or exonerated McCarthy, after all, Mr. Kristol's commie-loving audience would have dismissed his message entirely.

## **"Civil Liberties," 1952—A Study in Confusion: Do we defend our rights by protecting communists?**

by Irving Kristol, March 1952

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/%e2%80%9ccivil-liberties%e2%80%9d-1952%e2%80%94a-study-in-confusiondo-we-defend-our-rights-by-protecting-communists/>

Mead's visions of the "brighter future" may or may not come true. But his analysis of what's going on right now is dazzling enough to deserve a Nobel Prize.

## **Paul Krugman gets it half right**

by Walter Russell Mead, 7 March 2011

...Krugman and the *Times* editorial board are both examples of something important in American life today: left-liberal intellectuals are increasingly able to understand that individual supports of the blue social model are crumbling. But they are still so captivated by the blue model, so profoundly convinced that the Progressive movement's solutions to America's social ills in 1910 are still valid today, that they cannot yet look beyond the blue model to imagine a different and brighter future for the United States...

...This is blindness so brilliant it would dazzle a bat. If, as Krugman posits, demand for US workers will be falling in both manufacturing and the professions, how exactly will labor unions get higher wages for their members? Factories will be closing in Krugman's world and law firms will be turning more and more work over to computers or shipping it overseas. Perhaps stronger unions could make it harder for companies to do this for a while, but ultimately facts speak. Stronger unions making tougher wage demands will not exactly persuade American (and foreign) investors to create new jobs in this country — or to slow down their efforts to reduce their US workforce by outsourcing and automation. When human workers receive rising wages, become harder to fire, and are governed by ever more convoluted and expensive work rules, replacing them with computers becomes more attractive, not less...

**Read it all:** <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/03/07/paul-krugman-gets-it-half-right/>

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

—Thomas Sowell

## **Impervious to Evidence**

by Mona Charen, 4 March 2011

...Like most liberals, Dionne is enchanted with the idea of Head Start—the romance of a government program that would provide care, nutrition, education, and skills to impoverished preschoolers in order to erase, to the degree possible, the handicaps poverty imposes. That was the idea in 1965, when Head Start was founded. Lyndon Johnson declared, upon signing the enabling bill that "Today, we reach out to five and half million children held behind their more fortunate schoolmates by the dragging anchor of poverty." Head Start, he promised, would be their "passport" out.

It would have been worth the \$166 billion taxpayers have spent on the program since 1965 if a significant portion of Head Start alumni did improve their educational outcomes and escape poverty. But that did not happen...

**More:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/mona-charen/impervious-to-evidence.html>

## Great news: America sets new record for monthly deficit spending

by Ed Morrissey, 7 March 2011

I must be getting old. I can recall the days when an annual federal deficit of \$223 billion was enough to send Democrats screaming to cable news shows about the profligacy of George W. Bush and his ruinous economic policies. That seems so quaint these days as the Obama administration posts a record \$223 billion deficit — *for a single month*...

**More:** <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/03/07/great-news-america-sets-new-record-for-monthly-deficit-spending/>

Long before 9/11, I was saying we should have as many mosques in America as they have churches in Saudi Arabia.

## Mosques flourish in America; churches perish in Muslim world

Churches are on their way to becoming extinct in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity.

by Raymond Ibrahim, 3 March 2011

As Muslims prepare to erect a mega-mosque near the site of the 9/11 atrocities, it is well to reflect that the sort of tolerance, or indifference, that allows them to do so is far from reciprocated to churches in the Muslim world. I speak not of Islamist attacks against churches — such as the New Year's Eve attack in Egypt that killed 21 Christians; or when jihadists stormed a church in Iraq, butchering over 50 Christians; or Christmas Eve attacks on churches in Nigeria and the Philippines. Nor am I referring to state-sanctioned hostility by Islamist regimes, such as Iran's recent "round up" of Christians. Rather, I refer to anti-church policy by Middle East governments deemed "moderate"...

**This is what REAL intolerance looks like:**

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/mosques-flourish-in-america-churches-perish-in-muslim-world/?singlepage=true>

## Wind turbines aren't worth the life-poisoning noise nuisance

**The Falmouth experience: life under the blades**

by Jess Bidgood, 7 March 2011

...When it was installed last spring, Anderson didn't think Wind One would cause a problem. For 35 years, he's owned and operated a passive solar company on Cape Cod.

The energy conservationist in Anderson considered wind power a good principle. He wasn't alone — before the turbine switched on, Falmouth residents almost universally welcomed Wind One as a symbol of renewable energy and a way to keep taxes down. "I was proud looking at it from this viewpoint — until it started turning," Anderson said.

But now, as many as 50 people are complaining about the turbine and the noise it makes at different speeds. A dozen families are retaining a lawyer for that reason.

"It is dangerous. Headaches. Loss of sleep. And the ringing in my ears never goes away. I could look at it all day, and it does not bother me. It's quite majestic — but it's way too close," Anderson said...

**More:** <http://climatide.wgbh.org/2011/03/the-falmouth-experience-life-under-the-blades/#>

FDR would have had this treasonous apostate electrocuted within 30 days of capture.

## First the public service, then endless litigation

by Debra Saunders, 6 March 2011

...Last month, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel of South Carolina threw out Padilla's suit. In a way, it doesn't matter. Padilla can't lose. He's in prison already. It won't hurt him to appeal Gergel. In 2005, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Padilla's military detention—and still he can sue. The ACLU is involved. Padilla is only seeking \$1 in damages—but the big money, as far as taxpayers are concerned, is in the legal fees his attorneys seek.

In the meantime, defendants have had to live with a nightmare hovering over their heads. **Now they face the added expense of legal bills to defend themselves for defending this country.** The DOJ only pays legal fees of up to \$200 per hour. Former CIA attorney W. George Jameson observed, "\$200 an hour, that's kind of a junior attorney in a big law firm. That doesn't get you very far."

Padilla also is suing former Justice Department official John Yoo for writing memos that authorized the use of harsh interrogation techniques. In 2009, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White of San Francisco ruled that the case against Yoo, who was told to hire a private attorney, can go forward. Please note: The courts haven't looked at whether Padilla's charges are factual...

**More:** <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/debra-saunders/2011/03/06/first-the-public-service-then-endless-litigation/>

## The New Middle East

by Caroline Glick, 4 March 2011

...So, too, Russia's announcement that it sides with Iran's ally Turkey in its support for reducing UN Security Council sanctions against Iran indicates that the US no longer has the regional posture necessary to contain Iran on the international stage.

Iran's increased regional power and its concomitant expanded leverage in international oil markets will make it impossible for the US to win UN Security Council support for more stringent sanctions against Tehran. Obviously, UN Security Council-sanctioned military action against Iran's nuclear installations is out of the question.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has failed completely to understand what is happening.

Clinton told the House of Representatives and the Senate that Iran's increased power means that the US should continue to arm and fund Iran's allies and support the so-called democratic forces that are allied with Iran.

So it was that Clinton told the Senate that the Obama administration thinks it is essential to continue to supply the Hezbollah-controlled Lebanese military with US arms. Clinton claimed that she couldn't say what Hezbollah control over the Lebanese government meant regarding the future of US ties to Lebanon.

So, too, while Palestinian Authority leaders burn President Barack Obama in effigy and seek to form a unity government with Iran's Hamas proxy, Clinton gave an impassioned defense of US funding for the PA to the House Foreign Relations Committee this week.

Clinton's behavior bespeaks a stunning failure to understand the basic realities she and the State Department she leads are supposed to shape. Her lack of comprehension is matched only by her colleague Defense Secretary Robert Gates' lack of shame and nerve...

**Read it all:** <http://www.carolineglick.com/e/2011/03/the-new-middle-east.php>

## Global warming alarmists flip-flop on snowfall

by James M. Taylor, 2 March 2011

...The larger importance of the UCS press conference is not whether global warming causes—in effect—more winter, but what the press conference illustrated about the alarmists' oft-repeated assertions that "the science is settled" and "the debate is over."

The IPCC Third Assessment Report was as straightforward as one can get asserting that global warming would cause a decline in heavy snow events. As the Senate chairman would say, while waving the IPCC report, "We have it...." But now that real-world evidence has proven IPCC wrong, the alarmists have pulled an about-face and are claiming global warming is causing more frequent heavy snow events.

Regardless of whether global warming is causing more heavy snow events, the alarmists' about-face on snowfall calls to mind other alarmist global warming assertions that were supposedly "settled science," but that were subsequently refuted by real-world climate conditions. The alarmists used to claim global warming was causing more hurricanes, but real-world data show hurricanes **have fallen to historically lows levels**.

The alarmists used to claim global warming was causing the retreat of Kilimanjaro's mountain snowcap, but scientists now understand that **local deforestation is the culprit**. IPCC claimed in its 2007 assessment that global warming **would likely melt the Himalayan glaciers by 2035**, but IPCC now admits **there is no scientific basis** for such an assertion. IPCC claimed in its 1990 assessment that global temperatures **should rise 0.6 degrees Celsius between 1990 and 2010**, yet NASA satellite data show global temperatures warmed **by merely half that amount, at most**.

For years, alarmists have claimed "the science is settled" and "the debate is over." Well, when was the science settled? When global warming would allegedly cause Himalayan glaciers to melt by 2035, or now that it won't? When global warming would allegedly cause fewer heavy snow events, or now that it will allegedly cause more frequent heavy snow events?...

**More:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/jamestaylor/2011/03/02/global-warming-alarmists-flip-flop-on-snowfall/>

Plenty of insight about today's Middle East.

## From Saigon to Baghdad

by Michael J. Totten, 4 March 2010

Reading Rick Francona's bio makes me feel like I've hardly left my home office. He served as a lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force as an intelligence officer, and he worked with the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Balkans. He flew aerial reconnaissance missions over Laos and Vietnam, worked as a liaison officer to the Iraqi armed forces directorate of military intelligence during the Iran-Iraq War, flew sorties with the Iraqi air force, tried to foment a revolution and a military coup against the government of Saddam Hussein, and led a special operations team on a manhunt against Serbian war criminals in the Balkans. He is fluent in Arabic and Vietnamese and was inducted into the Defense Language Institute Hall of Fame in 2006.

Most US military sources I've spoken to are familiar with Iraq and the Persian Gulf but know relatively little about the Levant (the Eastern Mediterranean) and even less about distant North Africa. Francona knows Iraq and the Gulf, *and* the Levant and the crucial parts of North Africa. I spent several days with him in Israel during Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, and recently met up with him again at his home in Oregon where we discussed the wave of revolutions sweeping the Middle East...

**Includes 17 photos:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/michaeltotten/from-saigon-to-baghdad/>

## Would universal health-care coverage actually improve health?

by Jim Manzi, 4 March 2011

...Klein is correct that there appeared to be a net health benefit for the poorest participants, but this was for a tiny proportion of the population, and for a small subset of medical conditions. According to the study, "The poorest and sickest 6 percent of the sample at the start of the experiment had better outcomes under the free plan for 4 of the 30 conditions measured."...

...A single experiment like the RAND HIE is not definitive. Among other things: it finished in 1982, and we live in a different world; any such experiment requires replication; it might be that the important health effects take much longer than five years to materialize, and so on. But as an observer of the health-care debates, it always struck me as fascinating that the fact that the "best evidence we have" showed that providing health care coverage *doesn't actually improve average health* wasn't treated as more central.

Fascinating, but not surprising. In one social-policy topic after another, experts argue that some program will transform some area of public life, and solve persistent problems. They often have impressive theoretical arguments supported by complex empirical evidence. But what I believe randomized experiments have shown in many such areas — ranging from welfare to criminology to education — is that proposed policy interventions rarely work, and when they do, they tend to produce improvements that are very small as compared either to size of the problem or to the dreams of the advocates. This evidence is often ignored by those who have dedicated their lives to solving these problems, likely because it is so frustrating to almost everyone involved.

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/261322/would-universal-healthcare-coverage-actually-improve-health-jim-manzi>

## No Rx for Mitt Romney's Bay State headache

by Howie Carr, 6 March 2011

The good news for Willard Mitt Romney is that his religion won't knock him out of the Republican race for president next year. The bad news is, he's got an even bigger problem now than the magic underwear jokes — Romneycare.

"That's the question he has to address," Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) was saying Friday afternoon. "Not just in New Hampshire, but nationwide." You know how big a headache this is when even Mitt's highest-profile supporters are dodging brickbats over the chaos that is Massachusetts health care...

**Read on:** <http://bostonherald.com/news/columnists/view.bg?articleid=1321340&srvc=news&position=2>

## Government Union Collective Bargaining 101

Heritage Foundation, 4 March 2011 (Hat tip: Jim D)

A helpful primer on the rise of government unions and the monopoly power given to them through collective bargaining.

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

## Muslims go public with their plans for America

4 March 2011

<http://shariah4america.com/>

As you can see, no Islamist can be trusted. One question: How are these intolerant Godless pagan c#cks#ckers going to impose Shariah law when we have killed every last one of them and fed their bodies to the pigs?

—Don John (*Hat tip: Jim T.*)

## More on the plan to cut the Mortgage Interest Deduction

*An email from Roger Schlesinger, the "Mortgage Minute Guy," to Hugh Hewitt, 5 March 2011*

On your show Thursday, U.S. Senator Tom Coburn let the cat out of the bag on the shape of a possible "compromise" to balance the budget that includes an assault on the mortgage interest deduction on owner-occupied real estate.

An industry that is fighting to get off the mat appears to be facing a sucker punch from the Administration and Congress with this new tax. The amazing thing is that it really isn't going to hurt the "wealthy," but it will devastate middle-class homeowners, the very people this Administration is supposedly trying to help. It makes no more sense now than it did several years ago when the assault on real estate began. Before I outline consequence of this proposed change, I want to compare what happened in the financial meltdown to a Texas Hold'em Game...

**More:** <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/e2ee2051-7615-4d78-9da6-f1a68810cb1b>

*Inside Job*, Charles Ferguson's smug Oscar-winning documentary on the financial crisis of 2008, has it exactly wrong. And the Greenlining Institute was actually one of the entities most at fault.

## Outside Job: Using the Oscars to legitimize a political theory

by *Zombie*, 1 March 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/zombie/2011/03/01/outside-job-using-the-oscars-to-legitimize-a-political-theory/?singlepage=true>

## President Obama's waffling, generic, utterly noncommittal remarks on Libya

3 March 2011, at a joint press conference with Mexico's President Calderón

...The United States, and the entire world, continues to be outraged by the appalling violence against the Libyan people. The United States is helping to lead an international effort to deter further violence, put in place unprecedented sanctions to hold the Qaddafi government accountable, and support the aspirations of the Libyan people.

We are also responding quickly to the urgent humanitarian needs that are developing. Tens of thousands of people — from many different countries — are fleeing Libya, and we commend the governments of Tunisia and Egypt for their response, even as they go through their own political transitions. I have, therefore, approved the use of U.S. military aircraft to help move Egyptians who have fled to the Tunisian border to get back home to Egypt. I've authorized USAID to charter additional civilian aircraft to help people from other countries find their way home, and we're supporting the efforts of international organizations to evacuate people as well.

I've also directed USAID to send humanitarian assistance teams to the Libyan border, so that they can work with the United Nations, NGOs and other international partners inside Libya to address the urgent needs of the Libyan people.

Going forward, we will continue to send a clear message: The violence must stop. Muammar Qaddafi has lost the legitimacy to lead and he must leave. Those who perpetrate violence against the Libyan people will be held accountable. And the aspirations of the Libyan people for freedom, democracy and dignity must be met...

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/03/remarks-president-obama-and-president-calder-n-mexico-joint-press-confer>

How can anyone take America seriously when its leader is so vague and passive?

A certified liberal exposes Planned Parenthood's cynical lies.

## **Busting the birth-control myth**

by Kirsten Powers, 4 March 2011

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-03-04/planned-parenthoods-birth-control-myth/full/>

Scholarly, but highly readable—and right on target!

## **Treating Israel like Dirt**

Turning the tables on Israel's accusers.

by David Solway, 5 March 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/treating-israel-like-dirt/?singlepage=true>

## **Blowback: "Kosovars" strike again**

by Srdja Trifkovic, 3 March 2011

The **jihadi murder of two American servicemen** by a "Kosovar"-Albanian Muslim at Frankfurt Airport on March 2 combines the fruits of the United States' criminally misguided Balkan policy over the past two decades and of Europe's suicidal immigration policy since the 1960's. While it is probably too late to have either of them reversed, hope springs eternal: the deaths of two young Americans should remind us of where we stand with "Kosovars" in particular and Jihadist infiltrators into the Western world in general...

...Frankfurt will be spun by the mainstream media and Thaci's friends and enablers—such as Mrs. Clinton—as follows:

- Lone gunman, perhaps deranged, or traumatized by "Serbian crimes against his people."
- Kosovo Albanians are shocked, express grief and horror, eternal love for America.
- CAIR & Co. condemn the attack, warn against Islamophobia and hasty conclusions.
- This isolated incident does not reflect in any way on the nature of the "Kosovar" society.
- Even less does it justify questioning Kosovo's "right to independence," which is absolute.

We have been assured by successive U.S. administrations that Kosovo's Albanians are largely secular. Thaci's enablers insist that even when they desecrate and destroy Christian churches, they do it for reasons of "revenge" against the Serbs rather than Islam. When these Albanian "secularists" reveal themselves as Islamic terrorists, the episode is dismissed as untypical. Asking what this transformation bodes for a new Muslim state in the heart of Europe is still verboten in America, but no longer in Europe...

**More:** <http://www.chroniclesmagazine.org/2011/03/03/blowback-kosovars-strike-again/>

## **Biting the Hand**

by Baron Bodissey, 5 March 2011

...The media did everything they could to camouflage the ethnicity of the shooter and paper over his connections to radical Islam. Unfortunately for them, Mr. Uka's relatives in Kosovo and Germany did not cooperate with the "narrative", and provided details of the assassin's devout feelings about Islam and his recent radicalization.

By Friday the news of Arid Uka's confession had been leaked to the press, including his statement that he had planned to kill American soldiers for the sake of his Islamic convictions. The only fallback position left to the media and Western governments was that the attack was the work of an isolated zealot, with no connection to terrorist networks or organized jihad. That's pretty thin gruel, but it's all they have left...

...I'd like to think that this week's incident will make more Americans aware of our deadly errors in the Balkans, but such an outcome is highly improbable. For that to happen, on the liberal side, St. Bill "Feel Your Pain" Clinton would have to be de-canonized. Then conservatives would have to take a deep breath and acknowledge that the foreign policy of George W. Bush was seriously flawed and vehemently pro-Islamic.

Neither of these things is likely to happen. We all need to be prepared for America's disastrous policy in the Balkans to continue along the road to perdition. Even worse, we must prepare ourselves for the possibility that America will side with the Muslims in the inevitable conflict to come, when indigenous Europeans finally decide to reverse the Islamization of their countries...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/biting-hand.html> - more

## **Why are we still in Germany?**

by Mark Steyn, 5 March 2011

...Unlike Iraq and all its supposed "blood for oil," in Kosovo no one remembers why we went in, what the hell the point of it was, or which side were the good guys. (Answer: Neither.) The principal rationale advanced by Clinton and Blair was that there was no rationale. This was what they called "liberal interventionism", which boils down to: The fact that we have no reason to get into it justifies our getting into it.

A decade on, Kosovo is a sorta sovereign state, and in Frankfurt a young airport employee is so grateful for what America did for his people that he guns down U.S. servicemen while yelling "Allahu akbar!"

The strange shrunken spectator who serves as President of the United States, offering what he called "a few words about the tragic event that took place," announced that he was "saddened," and expressed his "gratitude for the service of those who were lost" and would "spare no effort" to "work with the German authorities" but it was a "stark reminder" of the "extraordinary sacrifices that our men and women in uniform are making . . ."

The passivity of these remarks is very telling. Men and women "in uniform" (which it's not clear these airmen were even wearing) understand they may be called upon to make "extraordinary sacrifices" in battle. They do not expect to be "lost" on the shuttle bus at the hands of a civilian employee at a passenger air terminal in an allied nation.

But then I don't suppose their comrades expected to be "lost" at the hands of an army major at Fort Hood, to cite the last "tragic event" that "took place" — which seems to be the president's preferred euphemism for a guy opening fire while screaming "Allahu akbar!"

But relax, this fellow in Frankfurt was most likely a "lone wolf" (as Sen. Chuck Schumer described the Times Square Bomber) or an "isolated extremist" (as the president described the Christmas Day Pantybomber).

There are so many of these "lone wolves" and "isolated extremists" you may occasionally wonder whether they've all gotten together and joined Local 473 of the Amalgamated Union of Lone Wolves and Isolated Extremists, but don't worry about it: As any Homeland Security official can tell you, "Allahu akbar" is Arabic for "Nothing to see here." ...

**Read it all:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=564996&p=1>



<http://media.townhall.com/townhall/car/b/mrz030411dapr20110303104517.jpg>

Cartoon by Michael Ramirez (Hat tip: James F.K.)

## Non-Discrimination

by Roger Scruton, March 2011 issue

...The purpose of including sexual orientation in the open-ended "non-discrimination" clauses of modern legal systems is to overcome "prejudice," to normalize homosexuality, and to make clear to the ordinary citizen that, as far as the law is concerned, it doesn't matter whether you are straight or gay. Many people think of this as a natural extension of the Enlightenment morality. Just as the moral sense, they believe, disregards differences of race, religion, and sex, so does it disregard sexual orientation. It is not simply "none of your business" that someone else is straight or gay; the matter is outside the reach of moral judgment altogether. Only "prejudice" could lead someone to behave like those

British hotel keepers, and when prejudice loses, justice gains.

It is, however, much more of a prejudice to think that matters of sexual conduct can, in this way, be simply placed beyond moral judgment—as though they were not, for ordinary people, the very essence of the moral life...

...This, it seems to me, shows what is really at stake in these disputes. They are not about human rights, or about the perennial conflict between liberty and equality. "Non-discrimination" clauses are ways of smuggling in vast moral changes without real discussion. Their open-ended nature, and the vagueness of their application, renders them almost immune to reasoned rebuttal. There is no knowing, from one year to the next, which of our ways of discriminating between people will be ruled out in the next extension of the law. Sex, sexual orientation, and maybe soon sexual practices—so that the hotel keeper will no longer be able to discriminate against the person who happens to live as a prostitute. By penalizing old-fashioned morality in this way you do not make toleration of the new morality more likely. On the contrary, you sow the seeds of resentment, by removing from ordinary people the freedom to follow their conscience in a matter that deeply troubles them...

**Read it all:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/03/03/non-discrimination>

## **WI school president threatens private business for printing pro-Walker t-shirts**

*by Jim Hoft, 4 March 2011*

<http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/03/it-begins-wi-school-president-threatens-private-business-for-printing-pro-walker-t-shirts/>

## **Wisconsin unions continue to threaten local businesses**

*by Jim Hoft, 4 March 2011*

<http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/03/wisconsin-unions-continue-to-threaten-local-businesses/>

## **Vinson to White House: Stop Stalling**

When he declared ObamaCare unconstitutional, it wasn't just "friendly advice."

*by Avik Roy, 4 March 2011*

...Vinson's ruling was pretty straightforward; usually in a case like this, the losing side moves right away to appeal the decision. Cynical types wondered if the Obama administration was dragging its feet in order to lock in as much of the law's infrastructure as possible, making it ultimately harder to reverse.

On Thursday, Judge Vinson issued his ruling on the "motion to clarify," and it's a doozy. The press is reporting that Judge Vinson stayed his original ruling overturning the law, allowing implementation of Obamacare to continue. That's true — but it's only a fraction of the story.

Vinson granted a stay on the condition that the White House file an *expedited* appeal with either the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court by next Thursday, March 10. In other words, Vinson is allowing the administration to continue implementing the law in the near term in exchange for accelerating the final resolution of the case by the appeals court and eventually the Supreme Court.

Vinson's new ruling can justly be described as a smack-down of the administration. Quoting an appellate ruling, he notes, "A declaratory judgment is a real judgment, not just a bit of friendly advice." He sardonically recounts the administration's stalling tactics, and describes their active "misrepresentation" of judicial procedure...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/261308/vinson-white-house-stop-stalling-avik-roy>

## **The inmates are running the asylum**

*by Daniel Ayalon, 2 March 2011*

...If there were ever an example of the inmates running the asylum, it is the U.N. Human Rights Council. This body has whitewashed the human rights record of some of the world's most repressive regimes, while also providing them with a forum to ruminate on and condemn the actions of a free and open nation, Israel.

The Libyan regime, which is currently massacring its citizens in a desperate bid to remain in power, successfully sought a place on the Human Rights Council only last year. U.N. General Assembly Resolution 60/251, which created the council, stated that when electing members of the council, U.N. member states "shall take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights." Only through an Orwellian flight of fancy could Libya's contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights ever have been considered positive. Recent events have made it more akin to a sick joke.

Nevertheless, in a secret ballot, 155 states voted in favor of granting Libya a coveted place on the council. These votes were given to a country that was known to be involved in extrajudicial and summary executions, brutal torture, and aiding and abetting international terrorism.

Even now, the United Nations has dithered on its responsibility to the Libyan people. It only recently decided to suspend the Libyan delegation from the council, after many days and hundreds of Libyans murdered. Even the Arab League moved quicker than the United Nations to suspend Libya in light of the violence meted out by Muammar al-Qaddafi and his regime...

**More:** [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/03/02/the\\_inmates\\_are\\_running\\_the\\_asylum](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/03/02/the_inmates_are_running_the_asylum)

## **The enablers of an Islamic Ascendancy in the West**

*by Baron Bodissey, 3 March 2011*

As regular readers know, in January the Danish journalist and historian Lars Hedegaard was acquitted of "hate speech" in a Copenhagen courtroom. For those who are unfamiliar with the case, you can probably guess which great religion of peace Mr. Hedegaard was accused of insulting. The [Legal Project Blog](#) recently interviewed Lars Hedegaard about his case and the suppression of free speech in Europe. Some excerpts are below...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/03/enablers-of-islamic-ascendancy-in-west.html>

## **Allen West: resurrecting the American spirit**

*by Erick Stakelbeck, 2 March 2011*

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/politics/2011/March/Allen-West-Resurrecting-the-American-Spirit/>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=L3LMX7gAuwM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=L3LMX7gAuwM)

Refuting the misleading statistics about schools in states without unionized teachers.

## **Longhorns 17, Badgers 1**

*by Iowahawk, 2 March 2011*

Please pardon this brief departure from my normal folderol, but every so often a member of the chattering class issues a nugget of stupidity so egregious that no amount of mockery will suffice. Particularly when the issuer of said stupidity holds a Nobel Prize...

**Stunning:** <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2011/03/longhorns-17-badgers-1.html>

## **The Most Ruthless Usually Triumph**

*by David Warren, 2 March 2011*

...History seldom repeats itself, in any melodic sense, but repeats itself constantly in rhythm and themes. We should grasp, for instance, that the American Revolution was almost unique in history, for ending so well. We should also grasp why. It was, from beginning to end, under the leadership of highly civilized men, governed by a conception of liberty that was restrained and mature. George Washington commanded, in his monarchical person, the moral authority to stop the cycle of reprisals by which revolutions descend into "eating their own." Nelson Mandela achieved something similar in South Africa.

Alternatively, a whole society—I am thinking here of the nations of Central Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall—may be so exhausted by revolutionary squalor that they long for return to "normal" life and have constitutional orders in their own, historically recent past, available as models. But even they needed Walesas and Havels.

Where such men exist, they are visible at any distance, from the start. Nowhere in the Arab world—and particularly not in Egypt, its centre of gravity—can such leaders be detected; only ridiculous pretenders. Nor do the conditions exist for wise statesmen to emerge. Nor have any of the Arab states a stable constitutional order to look back upon. Tyranny begets tyranny.

Gadhafi's most formidable opponents are the Islamists of Libya. Mubarak was haunted by the Muslim Brotherhood, and the spread of Islamism in Egyptian society, through the mosques. Even the Wahabi elite of Saudi Arabia know they face more radical Wahabis in their fragile kingdom, and the Shia Islamists among the populations that inhabit their oil

fields.

As we should surely have observed by now, whether or not the Islamists command Arab "hearts and minds," they are not only the best organized force, but the most ruthless. They are also in possession of the simplest, most plausible, most easily communicated "vision."...

**More:** <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/todays-paper/most+ruthless+usually+triumph/4369467/story.html>

## **The Decline of U.S. Naval Power**

We are abdicating our role on the oceans.

*by Mark Helprin, 2 March 2011*

...Separated by the oceans from sources of raw materials in the Middle East, Africa, Australia and South America, and from markets and manufacture in Europe, East Asia and India, we are in effect an island nation. Because 95% and 90% respectively of U.S. and world foreign trade moves by sea, maritime interdiction is the quickest route to both the strangulation of any given nation and chaos in the international system. First Britain and then the U.S. have been the guarantors of the open oceans. The nature of this task demands a large blue-water fleet that simply cannot be abridged.

With the loss of a large number of important bases world-wide, if and when the U.S. projects military power it must do so most of the time from its own territory or the sea. Immune to political cross-currents, economically able to cover multiple areas, hypoallergenic to restive populations, and safe from insurgencies, the fleets are instruments of undeniable utility in support of allies and response to aggression. Forty percent of the world's population lives within range of modern naval gunfire, and more than two-thirds within easy reach of carrier aircraft. Nothing is better or safer than naval power and presence to preserve the often fragile reticence among nations, to protect American interests and those of our allies, and to prevent the wars attendant to imbalances of power and unrestrained adventurism.

And yet the fleet has been made to wither even in time of war. We have the smallest navy in almost a century, declining in the past 50 years to 286 from 1,000 principal combatants. Apologists may cite typical postwar diminutions, but the ongoing 17% reduction from 1998 to the present applies to a navy that unlike its wartime predecessors was not previously built up. These are reductions upon reductions. Nor can there be comfort in the fact that modern ships are more capable, for so are the ships of potential opponents...

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704150604576166362512952294.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704150604576166362512952294.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **Why Koch Industries is speaking out**

Crony capitalism and bloated government prevent entrepreneurs from producing the products and services that make people's lives better.

*by Charles G. Koch, 1 March 2011*

... Because every other company in a given industry is accepting market-distorting programs, Koch companies have had little option but to do so as well, simply to remain competitive and help sustain our 50,000 U.S.-based jobs. However, even when such policies benefit us, we only support the policies that enhance true economic freedom.

For example, because of government mandates, our refining business is essentially obligated to be in the ethanol business. We believe that ethanol—and every other product in the marketplace—should be required to compete on its own merits, without mandates, subsidies or protective tariffs. Such policies only increase the prices of those products, taxes and the cost of many other goods and services.

Our elected officials would do well to remember that the most prosperous countries are those that allow consumers—not governments—to direct the use of resources. Allowing the government to pick winners and losers hurts almost everyone, especially our poorest citizens.

Recent studies show that the poorest 10% of the population living in countries with the greatest economic freedom have 10 times the per capita income of the poorest citizens in countries with the least economic freedom. In other words, society as a whole benefits from greater economic freedom...

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704288304576170974226083178.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704288304576170974226083178.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **Union 'rights' that aren't**

*by Jeff Jacoby, 2 March 2011*

... And then there are federal employees. Obama scolds Walker for trying to restrict collective bargaining by

government employees to wages, yet the 2 million federal civilian (non-postal) workers Obama presides over can't even bargain over that much: The wages, hours, and benefits of federal employment have *never* been subject to union contracts. The president appears to be perfectly OK with that. Last November he unilaterally announced a two-year pay freeze for all federal civilian employees, informing them — no negotiating — that they were going to "make some sacrifices" adding up to \$2 billion this fiscal year.

Does this mean that federal employees are oppressed and underpaid? Hardly. Average federal wages far outstrip those in the private economy. When benefits are included, federal worker compensation averages \$123,000 — more than double the private-sector average of \$61,000. Federal employees don't need collective bargaining to be treated well, and the lack of bargaining rights has not busted federal-employee unions.

As even labor leaders once acknowledged, it is civil-service rules, not collective-bargaining rights, that safeguard public employees' interests when it comes to hiring, promotions, and discipline. Wisconsin could abolish public-sector collective bargaining entirely, and its government workers would still be strongly protected from management abuse — and as free as they are today to join unions able to advocate on their behalf...

**More:** [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2011/03/02/union\\_rights\\_that\\_arent/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/03/02/union_rights_that_arent/)

## God bless Justice Alito

### God damn the Westboro Baptists—and the other "justices"

#### 1st Amendment protects military funeral protesters

by Mark Sherman (AP), 2 March 2011

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_SUPREME\\_COURT\\_FUNERAL\\_PROTESTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-03-02-10-27-23](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SUPREME_COURT_FUNERAL_PROTESTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-03-02-10-27-23)

What should be recognized as protected First Amendment "speech" is mowing down those lunatics with a machine gun.

## Where is Bomber Harris when we need him?

#### 2 US airmen killed in Frankfurt airport shooting

by David Mchugh and Juergen Baetz, 2 March 2011

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/eu\\_germany\\_us\\_airport\\_shooting](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/eu_germany_us_airport_shooting)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomber\\_Harris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomber_Harris)

It doesn't matter that the murderer wasn't a German. Can't they protect their own damned country, 66 years after Hitler?

Ms. Marcus is a leftist, but she isn't always wrong.

### Obama's "Where's Waldo?" presidency

by Ruth Marcus 2 March 2011

...This tough assessment from someone who generally shares the president's ideological perspective may be hard to square with the conservative portrait of Obama as the rapacious perpetrator of a big-government agenda. If the president is being simultaneously accused of overreaching ambition and gutless fight-ducking, maybe he's doing something right.

Maybe—or else Obama has at times managed to do both simultaneously. On health care, for instance, he took on a big fight without being able to articulate a clear message or being willing to set out any but the broadest policy prescriptions. Lawmakers, not to mention the public, were left guessing about what, exactly, the administration wanted to see in the measure and where it would draw red lines.

That was not an isolated case. Where, for example, is the president on the verge of a potential government shutdown—if not this week, then a few weeks from now?...

**More:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/03/01/AR2011030105489.html>

## Collective solutions

Will public employee unions confront fiscal reality?

Chicago Tribune editorial, 2 March 2011

...Among the 10 states with the biggest budget shortfalls this year are Texas, Louisiana and North Carolina, none

of which mandate collective bargaining for public employees. There are plenty of states with weak unions that have nonetheless managed to run up large unfunded obligations for state workers.

But here is one thing we have learned: This is one way governors can achieve economies that are desperately needed right now and in the future. Daniels says the change let him freeze pay for state employees and require greater contributions for health insurance. Walker's threat is one reason unions in Wisconsin agreed to higher contributions for pensions and health care.

So this method can be of use in escaping the fiscal crisis. It's not the best one. But if unions want to preserve their collective bargaining rights, they need to make it clear they understand the financial crisis in government, the need to act for the common good. They need to be prepared to go along with contracts that will keep states and cities solvent. They need to show that collective bargaining can coexist with fiscal sanity...

**More:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-collective-20110301,0,5131509.story>

## **Barack Obama repeating Jimmy Carter's mistakes**

*by Steve Forbes, 2 March 2011*

You need to watch only a few minutes of cable news analysis to realize just how ludicrous our national energy policies have become. As escalating tensions and chaos unfold in Egypt, Libya and other Middle Eastern nations, one energy analyst suggested that if Libyan oil supplies were to fail, the United States would rely on Saudi Arabia for its oil needs. If that statement alone doesn't put U.S. leaders on red alert, the looming national energy crisis may soon become reality.

The Obama administration is repeating the mistakes of President Jimmy Carter's failed energy policies, which marred his term and stigmatized the 1970s. They are leading us straight into another national energy disaster.

**More:** <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50417.html>

## **A shoddy New York Times poll**

*by John Steele Gordon, 1 March 2011*

The *New York Times* published a poll in today's paper with the headline "Majority in Poll Back Employees in Public Sector Unions." The *Times* thought the story so significant that it put it on page 1, above the fold...

...Although less than 12 percent of the workforce is unionized today, 20 percent of the households in the survey had a union member. Although government workers are 17 percent of the workforce, 25 percent of the households surveyed had one living there. In other words, the sample was wildly skewed toward the very people most likely to give the answers the *Times* was hoping to hear.

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/03/01/a-shoddy-new-york-times-poll/>

## **Billions in Bloat uncovered in Beltway**

*by Damian Paletta, 1 March 2011*

The U.S. government has 15 different agencies overseeing food-safety laws, more than 20 separate programs to help the homeless and 80 programs for economic development. These are a few of the findings in a massive study of overlapping and duplicative programs that cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year, according to the Government Accountability Office...

**It's even worse than you thought:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703749504576172942399165436.html?mod=ITP\\_pageone\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703749504576172942399165436.html?mod=ITP_pageone_0)

## **The next stage of the health-care debate**

*by Yuval Levin 1 March 2011*

...As former HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt told the Washington Post: "Obama was essentially telling states, 'We'll give you permission to ask for permission sooner rather than later.' What Republicans are saying is that we don't want to have to ask for permission at all, because we can't afford to build the system that you've laid out for us."

It seems that the administration has landed on a new way of dealing with the fact that the health-care debate will be far from over when the president is up for reelection next year. Rather than defend their health-care law, they're going to

say that it has many huge problems that they want to fix, but then allow for only those fixes that do not actually permit a different approach to our health-care financing crisis...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/260981/next-stage-health-care-debate-yuval-levin>

## **Long Live the American Dream**

Why India and China have nothing on America.

by *Shikha Dalmia*, 1 March 2011

Americans, hit first by outsourcing and then a recession, are becoming deeply pessimistic about their country's ability to maintain its economic leadership in a globalized world. America's Aristophanes, Jon Stewart, commented during a recent interview with Anand Giridhardas, author of *India Calling*: "The American dream is still alive—it's just alive in India." Likewise, 20 percent Americans in a December *National Journal* poll believed that the U.S. economy was no longer the strongest. Nearly half picked China instead.

But there are at least five reasons why neither India nor China will knock America off its economic perch any time soon, at least not by the only measure that matters: Offering the best life to the most people...

**Stunning stats & facts:** <http://reason.com/archives/2011/03/01/long-live-the-american-dream>

## **Support Our Troops**

**They're still fighting for us.**

**Soldiers' Angels**

**Wounded Warrior Project**

**Fisher House: help military families**

**Disabled American Veterans**

**Our Military**

## **Be sure to read these superb pieces:**

**The Descent of Liberalism** by *Michael Knox Beran*

**The State Despotism** by *Mark Steyn*

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

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

**Just Make Stuff Up** by *Victor Davis Hanson*

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

**Health Care Mythology** by *Clifford Asness*

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