

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011

From high, anti-New blue Dems can always make slick sappy altruist cry "we're for the little guy"

...do about 50 percent of us believe their sick cant?

...zat 50% be negative/olden and mafioso (union bosses be anti-competition = monopolist = mafioso)-beholden?

..zat 50% actually prefers misery-regress over happy-progress?

...do altruist Dems actually only paternalize "little guys" hoping to keep them on reservation to continue and multiply they-mope and we-feel-sorry-for-um fun?

...but, must stay crazy/positive here... they don't hide behind bitter wall of blue, best guess: tHAT 50% just be lazy/listless economics-ignorant

...Econ Lesson One: don't sow handouts, rather, throw Dems out (Byrds song "Everybody's Been Burned")

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQcvCxtvOfI&feature=fvwrel>

From Krauthammer article:

In this year's State of the Union address, he [Obama] proclaimed a national goal of doubling exports by 2014.

One obvious way to increase exports is through free-trade agreements.

But unions don't like them.

No surprise then that for two years Obama has been sitting on three free-trade agreements – with Colombia, Panama and South Korea – already negotiated by his predecessor.

Under the pressure of dire economic conditions and of the consequences of stiffing three valued allies, Obama appeared ready to relent – only to put up a last-minute roadblock.

He's demanding an expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance – taxpayer money (beyond unemployment compensation) given to workers displaced by foreign competition, something denied to Americans rendered unemployed by domestic competition.

It's an idea of dubious fairness but nicely designed to hold up ratification, while placing blame on Republican heartlessness rather than on political sabotage by Democrats beholden to unions for the millions they pour into Democratic coffers...

But Democratic fealty to unions does not stop there.

Boeing has just completed a production facility in South Carolina for its new 787 Dreamliner.

The National Labor Relations Board, stacked with Democrats – including one former union lawyer considered so partisan that he required a recess appointment after the Senate refused to confirm him – is trying to get the plant declared illegal.

Why? Because by choosing right-to-work South Carolina, Boeing is accused of retaliating against its unionized Washington state workers for previous strikes.

In fact, Boeing has *increased* unionized employment by more than 2,000 at its Puget Sound plant.

Moreover, the idea that a company in a unionized state can thus be prohibited from expanding into right-to-work states by a partisan regulatory body is quite insane.

It violates the fundamental principle in a free-market economy that companies can move and build in response to market conditions, rather than administrative fiat.

It jeopardizes the economic recovery, not only targeting America's single largest exporter in its attempt to compete with Airbus for a huge global market, but also threatening any other company that might think of expanding in any way displeasing to unions and their NLRB patrons.

http://articles.ocreger.com/2011-06-16/news/29671684_1_president-obama-federal-agency-democratic-coffers

from Stossel article:

The U.S. government has "helped" no group more than it has "helped" the American Indians.

It stuns me when President Obama appears before Indian groups and says things like, "Few have been ignored by Washington for as long as Native Americans."
Ignored? Are you kidding me? They should be so lucky.
The government has made most Indian tribes wards of the state.
Government manages their land, provides their health care, and pays for housing and child care.
Twenty different departments and agencies have special "native American" programs.
The result? Indians have the highest poverty rate, nearly 25 percent, and the lowest life expectancy of any group in America.
Sixty-six percent are born to single mothers.
Nevertheless, Indian activists want more government "help."
It is intuitive to assume that, when people struggle, government "help" is the answer.
The opposite is true. American groups who are helped the most, do the worst.
Consider the Lumbees of Robeson County, N.C. -- a tribe not recognized as sovereign by the government and therefore ineligible for most of the "help" given other tribes.
The Lumbees do much better than those recognized tribes.
Lumbees own their homes and succeed in business.
They include real estate developer Jim Thomas, who used to own the Sacramento Kings, and Jack Lowery, who helped start the Cracker Barrel Restaurants.
Lumbees started the first Indian-owned bank, which now has 12 branches.
The Lumbees' wealth is not from casino money.
"We don't have any casinos. We have 12 banks," says Ben Chavis, another successful Lumbee businessman.
He also points out that Robeson County looks different from most Indian reservations.
"There's mansions. They look like English manors.
I can take you to one neighborhood where my people are from and show you nicer homes than the whole Sioux reservation."
Despite this success, professional "victims" activists want Congress to make the Lumbees dependent -- like other tribes.
U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., has introduced the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would give the Lumbees the same "help" other tribes get -- about \$80 million a year.
Some members of the tribe support the bill. Of course they do. People like to freeload...
Lumbees do well because they've divorced themselves from government handouts.
Washington's neglect was a godsend.

http://townhall.com/columnists/johnstossel/2011/04/27/government_creates_poverty

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:13 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

Tuna steak supper, with spinach and portabella mushrooms



Posted by Scot Wick at 7:27 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011

Expand erleuchteten golden New USA empire

...after an hour ponder in the anti-fideism church of Deism...

...Deist Thomas Paine best refrain: "my own mind is my own church"

...seems... whether person be or pro-:

-big-gov bureaucrat Democrat or small-gov businessman Republican

-labor unionist insiders-only-benefit (to costly detriment of outsiders) or anti-unionist for-all-us benefit

-go-inward-backward socialist or go-outward-forward capitalist

-Old Age closed-trivial/tribal-mind narcolepsy-bound (they say "one global language impossible") or New Age open-preceptorial/universal-mind gypsy-found

-negative (subliminally want big dollop of misery?) or positive (really want to wallop all schlampig misery)

-New (HAT)-deplore or New (HAT)-for...

...oll/all depends on our core disposition and world view

...fundamental: government is necessary to control societal evil, therefore the bigger the government the bigger the evil (or perceived (desired?) evil)

...Dems enter politics because love to preserve/expand leaden Old blue-gov USA-flay fire

...and Reps serve due forced, in order to preserve/expand erleuchteten golden New USA empire

(Byrds/Dylan song "Spanish Harlem Incident")

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:57 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011

Re "The Republican Who Can Win" piece

...mostly reproach this article's mostly laundry list limp-wrist wimp diffident president-focus-on-particles non-afflatus approach

...seems...

-need more energy not empathy, New HAT not 無 mu zat

-need more action not moderation

-need simplification/inspiration not complication/petrification

-need gov-devolve auto-solve-problem 8-facet Rubric Cube and not gov-involve pro-absolve-Dems 1008-facet Rubik's cube

-best jest "Change Now," not whoa-hoa "change... how?"

(Byrds song "Change Is Now") <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThczUcrxns>

future heiled RealRep orator-leader-Schaffner [effective style](#) ??

(but CONTRARY CONTENT !! (miscegenate don't exterminate))

...if don't like what someone's spoken, he/she might be jest jokin'

from "The Republican Who Can Win" piece:

The Republican who wins the presidency will have to have more than a command of the reasons the Obama administration must go.

He will have to have a vision of this nation, and its place in the world, that voters recognize, that speaks to a sense of America they can see and take pride in.

He can look at the film of the crowds, mostly of young people, who gathered at the White House to wave the flag of the United States when bin Laden was captured and killed.

Faces of blacks, whites, Asians—of every ethnic group.

At Louisiana State University not long after that, a student who planned to burn an American flag had to be rushed from the campus for his safety, much to his shock.

Students by the hundreds had descended on him in rage, waving their own banners and roaring "USA! USA!" at the top of their lungs.

It was a shout that spoke for more than they could say.

After all the years of instruction, all the textbooks on U.S. rapacity and greed, all the college lectures on the evil and injustice the U.S. had supposedly visited on the world, something inside these young rose up to tell them they were Americans.

That something lies in the hearts of Americans across the land and it is those hearts to which the candidate will have to speak.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303745304576359841146126376.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:04 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

Negative jealousy and positive envy ?

Re Gallup poll below, seems...

...a certain negative (misery-love?) group (Dems) are jealous of and want the successful/rich to bleed ("better we oll (except of course our dear mafioso politburo equality-enforcers) be perpetually equally needy")

...another certain positive (happy-love?) group (Reps) are envious of and want the successful/rich to lead ("better we all be not equal but all eventually be wealthy")

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:31 AM 0 comments

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*Views on Redistributing U.S. Wealth by Heavy Taxes on the Rich --
Key Subgroups*

	Should redistribute wealth	Should not
	%	%
Democrats	71	26
Independents	43	53
Republicans	28	69
Men	42	54
Women	52	44
Whites	41	56
Nonwhites	64	33
\$75,000 and over	31	67
\$30,000 to \$74,999	51	47
Less than \$30,000	63	32

April 7-11, 2011

These findings are from Gallup's 2011
Economics and Finance poll,
conducted April 7-11.

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:30 AM 0 comments

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The old demented "communism failed because was never fully implemented" cant/argument?

...FDR's economy-toy/destroy "stimulus" extended Depression, seems Dem economists want (for their enjoyment? curtailed problems = less perceived need for Dems?) endless excess unemployment for all us again

from Krugman's Mistake of 2010 piece:

As the stimulus has faded out, so have hopes of strong economic recovery.

Yes, there has been some job creation — but at a pace barely keeping up with population growth... The percentage of American adults with jobs, which plunged between 2007 and 2009, has barely budged since then. And the latest numbers suggest that even this modest, inadequate job growth is sputtering out. So, as I said, we have already repeated a version of the mistake of 1937, withdrawing fiscal support much too early and perpetuating high unemployment.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/03/opinion/03krugman.html?_r=1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

Some keywords for business (and life) success:

C ommunications

R esources (be open to / search for what's out there,
and incorporate/use the good stuff)

E fficiency

A daptation

T eamwork

E nthusiasm

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:16 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

After another hour ponder in the anti-fideism church of Deism

...Deist Thomas Paine best refrain: "my own mind is my own church"

R.R.R. tweak:

You twenty-five percent bristling, thorny Old Worlder deny-progress anti-convert controverts who prog through the bushy thistles of mind tyranny... you sad-song wrong ones who castigate the "mindless foolishness" of the New-paradigm phenomenon introduced in this prolegomenon, you who execrate actually going to the core source and curse solving fundamental social problems - go ahead and enjoy your fatuous snickering at those who join in the race to the New World. You will be disgraced... but forgiven, even be encouraged and employed to scoff. While you still can, relish the quark relics and remnant symbols of the dark age Old World - the kings and queens, the emperors and empresses, poverty, slave occupation, starvation, war, paternalism, hate, racism, sexism and brain-weakening sexual preoccupation, and the modern norm form of war-creating tribalism - nationalism. Enjoy your misery. Have fun bowing down to prince satan's strongest tool - tyranny of the "live for today" creed zat breeds the Old World S-Q. Bow and kowtow now because soon dem will oll be swept away an' buried in an unrelenting undeniable ineluctable tide of strange-deny change.

And, laugh of your own laughs, we know tHAT after clement Schaffner falls fast and touches down an' then the borderless one-language USA- model New World is cast, you giggling niggling Old Worlders will claim fame as creators of the Newfound widespread happiness and spiritual fulfillment. We will humor you... but we will remember the true malarkey-spewing Game-playing New-block laughing stocks:無 mu-you. And we will always permit your freedom of speech but we'll never again sit an' allow you and dem cross leech bosses to sway the GAGA-tendency forty-five percent Silent Majority. The happy/loving, S-Q-eschewing New Worlders will forevermore stand up to you criers and expose your mournful abject folly and heart-of-heart desire for its telling reality - the dreadful dead yawning maw we totter at the precipice of... the rut to the defeat of Americanism and the destruction of God's only pluperfect works of art: humankind and free mind.

Schaffner = person? God? God son or daughter? "just a state of mind"?

Ultimately the Enlightenment aimed at nothing less than discovering the hidden forces in the moral world that moved and held people together, forces that could match the great eighteenth-century scientific discoveries of the hidden forces - gravity, magnetism, electricity, and energy - that operated in the physical world. - Wood

The beginning of the New World era, starting with "revolution" in America (or Russia or Iran?), is here. No trifle. The current awful dead Old-bent World era 無 mu mantra is on its death bed. Ravi Batra described Prabhat Sarkar's "law of social cycles": ...

(Byrds song My Back Pages, Beatles song Rain)

<http://economics4u.net/files/HAT-Forward-110528g.pdf>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:02 AM 0 comments

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from Farewell to Alms article:

For thousands of years, most people on earth lived in abject poverty, first as hunters and gatherers, then as peasants or laborers.

But with the Industrial Revolution, some societies traded this ancient poverty for amazing affluence. Historians and economists have long struggled to understand how this transition occurred and why it took place only in some countries.

A scholar who has spent the last 20 years scanning medieval English archives has now emerged with startling answers for both questions.

Gregory Clark, an economic historian at the University of California, Davis, believes that the Industrial Revolution — the surge in economic growth that occurred first in England around 1800 — occurred because of a change in the nature of the human population...

Dr. Clark says the middle-class values needed for productivity could have been transmitted either culturally or genetically.

But in some passages, he seems to lean toward evolution as the explanation.

“Through the long agrarian passage leading up to the Industrial Revolution, man was becoming biologically more adapted to the modern economic world,” he writes.

And, “The triumph of capitalism in the modern world thus may lie as much in our genes as in ideology or rationality.”

What was being inherited, in his view, was not greater intelligence — being a hunter in a foraging society requires considerably greater skill than the repetitive actions of an agricultural laborer. Rather, it was “a repertoire of skills and dispositions that were very different from those of the pre-agrarian world.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/07/science/07indu.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:54 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2011

Mexico ruled by mafioso (= current government) ?

from "Wealthy Mexicans Are Increasingly Investing in the U.S." article:

Mexican businessman Juan Jose Pardo had finally seen enough of the drug killings in his country, and was increasingly worried over the safety of his wife and two children.

“You feel that the problem is approaching,” he said.

“We decided it’s better to start taking action instead of waiting for something to happen.” Pardo is one of a rapidly increasing number of wealthy Mexicans to who are attempting to escape the violence by

investing \$500,000 or more in American business projects -- thereby earning legal and permanent residency status in the U.S...

"A good way to call it is an exodus. Those who can leave are leaving."

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/05/21/wealthy-mexicans-increasingly-investing-escape-cartel-violence/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:25 AM 0 comments

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MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011

Russia ruled by mafia (= current government) ?

from "Was It Something I Wrote" article:

In Russia today, journalists are murdered like Anna Politkovskaya, beaten like Oleg Kashin and intimidated like me, but — as terrible as this will sound — that is not the real problem.

The real problem is that journalists are ignored.

The risks they take in challenging Vladimir Putin and the Russian oligarchy have ceased to have meaning. One is valued only for telling a harmless story, an amusing anecdote that can exist, side by side, with ad space.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/22/opinion/22panyushkin.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:19 PM 0 comments

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Why are leftist economists so enamored of manufacturing?

Re McConnell's Economics textbook figure 27.2:

-As a nation's economy evolves from developing to developed status, meaning consumers have more wealth

-consumers demand a greater amount, and overall percentage, of services and lesser percentages of agricultural and industrial goods

-derived demand for labor in that nation follows the same trend

-Among services with larger demand in developed countries: gas, electricity, internet, phone, cable TV, lawn care, car and other insurance monthly charges, health care, education, airline tickets, car rental, vacation travel including hotel rooms, beauty & barber, cosmetic surgery, movies, music, sports theater/arena tickets, amusement parks

-As needs for agricultural and industrial goods, which are mostly basic goods, are met people then spend more on services, which are mostly advanced/luxury goods

from Krugman "Making Things In America" piece:

So while we still have a deeply troubled economy, one piece of good news is that Americans are, once again, starting to actually make things.

And we're doing that thanks, in large part, to the fact that the Fed and the Obama administration ignored very bad advice from right-wingers — ideologues who still, in the face of all the evidence, claim to know something about creating prosperity.

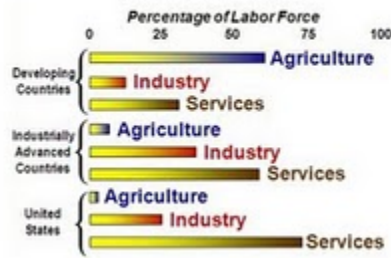
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/20/opinion/20krugman.html?_r=1

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:13 AM 0 comments

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McConnell's Economics textbook figure 27.2:

Figure 27.2 – Derived Labor Demand As a Function of Nation's Development Level



Posted by Scot Wick at 6:12 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011

Such much-mirth only after "Earth destruction" American RealRepublican Revolution?

...when reporter goes "turning to the Mideast" first thought be "whoa, best turn west lest contract the heebie-jeebies"

...seems...

...Israel/Palestine problem be like a 1000-facet Rubik's Cube, loads-o-fun fo' oll dem pol and pundit flibbertigibbet dudes

...be simple people: Israel/Palestine become new state of USA

...in future fully-developed, enlarged USA model New World for sure only two true societal problems:

1-Citizens' Shareholder Dividend (equal shares for all of government tax revenues - expenditures surplus due to big unfettered economy and small tethered government) can always be bigger, and...

2-not enough misery to keep dem philosophunculist novelists busy

...USA model being one language, free enterprise, free movement of people, power to apt people/states ferly and not to inept Ample Central-State Government Monopoly, living 25% positive-segment global sthenia defeats lying 25% negative-segment tribal inertia, shrunk/defunct mafia, wealth for all not dearth, except...

...oll those mawkish guys/gals who'll forever despise/oppose liberty/modernity will still be free to have/save their 'lil Amish-ish enclaves

...flipside of negative blue Old fescennine culture-protection be positive New gold mine culture-creation

...fact or fiction? such much-mirth only after THAT "Earth-quake/shake-destruction" American RealRepublican Revolution

Byrds songs Mind Gardens, You Won't Have To Cry, It's All Over Now Baby Blue

from "Executing the Vision of Israel's Pre-War 1967 Borders Presents Some Serious Logistical Issues" article:

Assume for the moment that the 80,000 [Israeli] settlers leave [the West Bank] willingly, money is found to compensate the settlers and build them new communities and the two sides agree on a way for Israel to ensure it doesn't have the same threat from a new Palestinian state that it does from Gaza.

That phenomenally optimistic assumption still leaves two huge problems:

First is the so-called "Palestinian right of return," or the basic question of what to do with Palestinian refugees who left their homes when Israel was created.

The general agreement between observers here is that a final deal would mean they would be allowed to return to the new Palestine, but not Israel.

And the second major problem inherent with the '67 border requirement: the entire Old City, including the most holy site in the Jewish religion, the Wailing Wall, sits on the other side of that border.

Both the Palestinians and Israelis claim Jerusalem as their capital and the Wailing Wall is on the Palestinian side of the "Green Line," which is diplomatic speak for the border before the Six-Day War broke out in 1967.

In any final status agreement, both sides would have to agree about what to do with Jerusalem and the holy sites of both religions, which has proved thus far to be an uphill battle, with the Israelis demanding a undivided capital and the Palestinians refusing to make a deal without large parts of the Old City and East Jerusalem.

No one said making peace was easy.

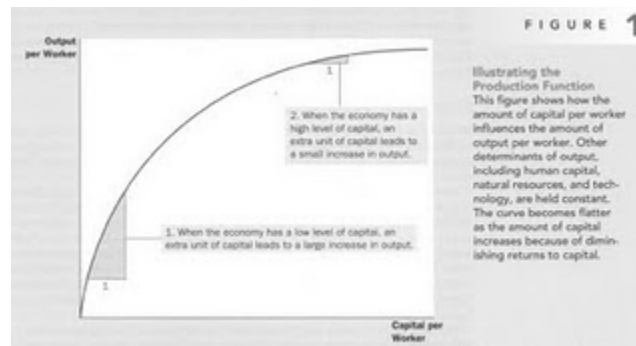
<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/05/20/obamas-support-israels-pre-war-167-borders/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:42 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

from Mankiw:



Posted by Scot Wick at 6:14 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

re "The Secrets of Intangible Wealth" article:

re "The Secrets of Intangible Wealth" piece:

...seems answer be their 25% cheery-tune positive capitalist/globalist happiness-loving New Worlder leaves, maybe with outsider New Worlders' (Real Republican, "Free Corps," eliminate/destroy penury) thrill-mind-boggling samizdat help...

...jest must storm/defeat their 25% weary-tune negative socialist/tribalist misery-loving Old Worlders who empower their 5% shapeless-form (sub-human?) kill-mind-demagoguing, Peace Corps (perpetuate/enjoy penury?)-inviting (to qualify for "foreign aid"-pocketing) mafia kleptocrats kelp

Byrds song Lay Down Your Weary Tune

from "The Secrets of Intangible Wealth" article:

The big question that its researchers don't answer is: How can the people of the developing world rid themselves of the kleptocrats who loot their countries and keep them poor?

<http://reason.com/archives/2007/10/05/the-secrets-of-intangible-weal>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:07 PM 0 comments

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TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011

Are You Richer Than the Richest American?

from Mankiw's Principles of Economics textbook:

Are You Richer Than the Richest American?

American Heritage magazine once published a list of the richest Americans of all time.

The number 1 spot went to John D. Rockefeller, the oil entrepreneur who lived from 1839 to 1937.

According to the magazine's calculations, his wealth would today be the equivalent of \$200 billion, more than twice that of Warren Buffett, the investor who is today's richest American.

Despite his great wealth, Rockefeller did not enjoy many of the conveniences that we now take for granted.

He couldn't watch television, play video games, surf the Internet, or send e-mail.

During the heat of summer, he couldn't cool his home with air conditioning.

For much of his life, he couldn't travel by car or plane, and he couldn't use a telephone to call friends or family.

If he became ill, he couldn't take advantage of many medicines, such as antibiotics, that doctors today routinely use to prolong and enhance life.

Now consider: How much money would someone have to pay you to give up for the rest of your life all the modern conveniences that Rockefeller lived without?

Would you do it for \$200 billion? Perhaps not.

And if you wouldn't, is it fair to say that you are better off than John D. Rockefeller, allegedly the richest American ever?

The preceding chapter discussed how standard price indexes, which are used to compare sums of money from different points in time, fail to fully reflect the introduction of new goods in the economy.

As a result, the rate of inflation is overestimated.

The flip side of this observation is that the rate of real economic growth is underestimated.

Pondering Rockefeller's life shows how significant this problem might be.

Because of tremendous technological advances, the average American today is arguably "richer" than the richest American a century ago, even if that fact is lost in standard economic statistics.

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:56 AM 0 comments

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[Interesting/useful data table from Mankiw](#)

Country	Period	Real GDP per Person at Beginning of Period ^a	Real GDP per Person at End of Period ^a	Growth Rate (per year)
Japan	1890-2006	\$1,408	\$33,150	2.76%
Brazil	1900-2006	729	8,880	2.39
China	1900-2006	670	7,740	2.34
Mexico	1900-2006	1,085	11,410	2.24
Germany	1870-2006	2,045	31,830	2.04
Canada	1870-2006	2,224	34,610	2.04
Argentina	1900-2006	2,147	15,390	1.88
United States	1870-2006	3,752	44,260	1.83
India	1900-2006	632	3,800	1.71
United Kingdom	1870-2006	4,502	35,580	1.53
Indonesia	1900-2006	834	3,950	1.48
Bangladesh	1900-2006	583	2,340	1.32
Pakistan	1900-2006	690	2,500	1.22

^aReal GDP is measured in 2006 dollars.

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SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011

re "Slow Growth Will Destroy America" piece

...after one hour ponder in the anti-fideism church of Deism

...Deist Thomas Paine best refrain: "my own mind is my own church"

...perpend... and seems...

...Real Republicanism be factual incrementalism, strong-song long-run fulfillers, increase GDP growth by 1~2%

...Deal Democratism be the actual fanaticism, à la mort short-run satisfiers, increase government growth by 25~50%

...RealReps: balance budget, reduce government size, taxes minimize; realize higher personal wealth, decreased on-dem-dependency, increased freedom, stateside fix/fortify then eventual worldwide/universal spread of placet Americanism (free enterprise, democracy, cultural/ideological mixing, positive thinking)

...DealDems: stealth all the above-nixing

Checked out his book "Selfish Reasons to Have More Kids" at Amazon, here's an excerpt:
In any case, the obligation to put your children's future above your personal happiness has a lot less bite than you'd think.
Adoption and twin research provides strong evidence that parents barely affect their children's prospects. If parents gave themselves a big break - or redoubled their efforts - kids would turn out about the same. Before you dismiss this claim as crazy, imagine you adopt a baby girl and raise her to adulthood. Who do you think she will resemble more by the time she graduates from high school: Her biological parents, or you?
I don't just mean physical resemblance; I'm also talking about smarts, personality, achievements, values, and so on.
Can you honestly say you'd be shocked if your adopted daughter had a lot more in common with the strangers who conceived her than she did with you?
You don't have to merely imagine this scenario.
It's been done - repeatedly.
A small army of researchers has compared adoptees to their relatives - biological and adopted. They find that when adopted children are young, they resemble both the adopted relatives they see every day and the biological relatives they've never met.
However, as adopted children grow up, the story has a shocking twist:
Resemblance to biological relatives remains, but resemblance to adopted relatives mostly fades away. Studies that compare identical to fraternal twins reach the same conclusion.
The lesson: It's easy to change a child but hard to keep him from changing back.
Instead of thinking of children as lumps of clay for parents to mold, we should think of them as plastic that flexes in response to pressure - and pops back to its original shape once the pressure is released. We'll explore adoption and twin research in great detail later in the book.
For now, I'll just say that it actually fits my experience as a father.
When I put my kids in the "naughty corner," they apologize for their offenses, and their behavior improves.
But it doesn't stay better for long.
A few hours, days, or weeks later, my sons are up to their old tricks - and back in the corner they go. Which makes me wonder: If I can't change what my sons are going to do next month, how can I hope to change what they're going to do when they're adults?
Whatever your experiences, suppose for the sake of argument that adoption and twin research is sound. Then in purely selfish terms, parenting is a much better deal than it looks on the surface.
If massive parental investment is the only way to turn a child into a normal adult, groaning at the thought of a new addition to the family is natural.
If your child is virtually destined to become a normal adult, however, you should rethink that groan - especially if you're happy with the way you and your spouse turned out.
Odds are, your kids will painlessly inherit your brains, success, charm, and modesty.
The implication: Parents can give themselves a guilt-free break.
Children cost far less than most parents pay, because parents overcharge themselves.
You can have an independent life and still be an admirable parent.
Before you decide against another child, then, you owe it to yourself to reconsider.
If your sacrifice is only a fraction of what you originally thought, the kid might be a good deal after all.
http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2011/05/caplan_on_paren.html

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

re: Reaganomics Vs. Obamanomics: Facts And Figures

...just a state of mind, positive and negative?

...often wonder if reality really simple - people actually enjoy complaining about problems an' pain - caused by awful paternalists' (kings, queens, Camelot lot) suzerain force

...dem paternalists'/socialists' seeming unspoken we be-broken/bleed precept/formula/creed:

-1-"better for the poor to make one dollar an' the rich (except of course shapeless-form down-looking crowned politburo) make two, oll forever dependent on dems" ...

-2-"than for the poor to make two dollars an' the rich ten (alas, lest the poor soon after make four an' then fortune), all forever independent from dems"

...best guess is only half all of us do be anti-New, prefer to stew an' misery-an-woe-strew; of course they strive/contrive to appear altruist/kind, an' of course is oll jest legerdemain

(Beatles' song Rain)

from Reaganomics Vs. Obamanomics: Facts And Figures

In February 2009 I wrote an article for *The Wall Street Journal* entitled "Reaganomics v Obamanomics," which argued that the emerging outlines of President Obama's economic policies were following in close detail exactly the opposite of President Reagan's economic policies.

As a result, I predicted that Obamanomics would have the opposite results of Reaganomics.

That prediction seems to be on track.

When President Reagan entered office in 1981, he faced actually much worse economic problems than President Obama faced in 2009...

President Reagan's four-point economic program:

1. Cut tax rates to restore incentives for economic growth
2. Spending reductions, including a \$31 billion cut in spending in 1981, close to 5% of the federal budget then
3. Anti-inflation monetary policy restraining money supply growth compared to demand, to maintain a stronger, more stable dollar value
4. Deregulation, which saved consumers an estimated \$100 billion per year in lower prices

Reagan's first executive order, in fact, eliminated price controls on oil and natural gas.

Production soared, and aided by a strong dollar the price of oil declined by more than 50%.

These economic policies amounted to the most successful economic experiment in world history.

The Reagan recovery started in official records in November 1982, and lasted 92 months without a recession until July 1990, when the tax increases of the 1990 budget deal killed it..

While the Reagan recovery averaged 7.1% economic growth over the first seven quarters, the Obama recovery has produced less than half that at 2.8%, with the last quarter at a dismal 1.8%...

For the last couple of years, President Obama keeps claiming that the recession was the worst economy since the Great Depression.

But this is not correct. This is the worst recovery since the Great Depression...

The Reagan Recovery took off once the tax rate cuts were fully phased in.

Similarly, the full results of Obamanomics won't be in until his historic, comprehensive tax rate increases of 2013 become effective.

While the Reagan Recovery kicked off a historic 25-year economic boom, will the opposite policies of Obamanomics, once fully phased in, kick off 25 years of economic stagnation, unless reversed?

<http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/05/05/reaganomics-vs-obamanomics-facts-and-figures/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:59 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011

from Macionis' Society the Basics

TABLE 2-1 Attitudes among Students Entering U.S. Colleges, 1968 and 2001

Life Objectives ("Essential" or "Very Important")		1968*	2001	Change
Develop a philosophy of life	Men	79%	44%	-35%
	Women	87	42	-45
Keep up with political affairs	Men	52	35	-17
	Women	52	28	-24
Help others in difficulty	Men	50	53	+ 3
	Women	71	68	- 3
Raise a family	Men	64	72	+ 8
	Women	72	72	0
Be successful in my own business	Men	55	45	-10
	Women	32	35	+ 3
Be very well off financially	Men	51	76	+25
	Women	27	71	+44

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:05 AM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011

[re Stossel's Government Creates Poverty](#)

...seems...

...on the negative side, some people enjoy feeling sorry for others and smothering, and some enjoy being felt sorry for and being smothered

...when dem 50% misery-enjoyers dominate we all be in miserable rut

...but, on the positive side, when happiness-lovers dominate we have the free choice of joy-enjoy-enable

...end result (to dem an insult), at least half of us be happy-fulfill

...since government is necessary due to evil, its dominance is sure evidence/measure of our percent (rather preponderance?) of evil

(Byrds song Mind Gardens)

Stossel's article:

http://townhall.com/columnists/johnstossel/2011/04/27/government_creates_poverty

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:23 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011



"Isn't that the real genius of democracy?...The VOTERS are ultimately to blame."

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:23 AM 0 comments

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No doubt Indiana an' Minnesota taxpayers will soon again be axed to bail out them lax ectozoon lame game-player Dems in ailing California

... fat cells demand nourishment/engorgement and to plumpify/multiply

... Old DealDems (they think "let's fool 'em") = fat, lazy, body/mind-obesity (and now fatter comfortably oll bitch), ring "if, if, if"

... New RealReps (they think "let's school 'em") = HAT, crazy, body/mind-shapely (and-how later comfortably all rich), chime "do-it"
(Byrds' song The Bells of Rhymney)

from Wayne Allen Root's The Conscience of a Libertarian:

To deflect blame, big-spending politicians blame taxpayers, claiming taxes are too low.

Do you realize that if taxes are doubled (thereby killing the economy and costing millions of jobs), earmarks would undoubtedly double, too (plus an extra billion here or there for good measure).

No matter how high tax revenues go up, spending goes up higher.

Here's the Congressional formula for those of you who still don't understand.

When taxes go up, spending goes up.

When taxes go down, spending goes up.

Death and taxes may be certain, but government spending is just as certain ... plus 20 percent.

But state and city governments are just as addicted to spending the taxpayer's money as the federal government.

California may be worse than Congress, if that's possible.

The most dysfunctional state in the country was looking at a \$40 billion budget deficit over the next two years, until the federal government bailed them out with the economic stimulus package.

Remember that California has the first or second highest income tax rates in the country (they struggle with New York every year to see who can outdo the other).

Just like the federal government, no matter how high the taxes, California spends it all - and then some.

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:10 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011

After all Governor Mitch Daniels for president seems best over rest

...In Indianapolis IN other day walked by Indiana capitol building on way to a Subway

...ate and read of Governor and others on iPad

...then walked back to Residence Inn along Canal Walk, to-self talked

...after all Mitch Daniels for president seems best over rest, can coalesce and lead, will TEA-party-creed-heed

...creed being "taxed-enough-already," boldly destroy sick amoebic Fed Government stranglehold monopoly, make USA great by making states great

...seems he can bring up RealRepublicans' glad positive USA-fame living New World expanding economy-employment, and bring down DealDemocrats' sad negative USA-an'-us-blame-game laughing Old World misery-enjoyment

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/158397-dick-armey-on-2012-daniels-would-be-perfect-pick-for-gop?page=1#comments>

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:31 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

Kahlil Gibran quote

"In battling evil, excess is good; for he who is moderate in announcing the truth is presenting half-truth. He conceals the other half out of fear of the people's wrath."

Posted by Scot Wick at 12:44 PM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

Re term limits, from Wayne Allen Root's *The Conscience of a Libertarian*:

Another solution to the insanity, stupidity, and arrogance of politicians is so simple: term limits.

We are governed by modern-day versions of kings and queens, otherwise known as career politicians...

It is almost impossible for a reformer with fresh ideas to unseat an entrenched incumbent at any level of government.

Having politicians like US. Senator Byrd in West Virginia or US. Senator Harry Reid in Nevada may be good for bringing home the bacon to West Virginia and Nevada, but it's absolutely terrible for the nation as a whole.

Career politicians become special interest tyrants, demanding favors and federal dollars for their long list of friends and contributors - and with seniority and power gained over the years, rest assured they get whatever they want.

The best example occurred as this book went to print.

Senator Harry Reid made sure that billions of dollars were included in Obama's economic stimulus bill to build high-speed rail lines from Disneyland to Las Vegas...

Politics as usual (without term limits) tends to attract people who want to be career politicians.

It attracts people who actually admire government (and the power of government).

That type of person also can't wait to use the power of government to rule the lives of others.

That type of person loves to use the power of incumbency to stay in office for life.

That type of person knows how to use the system to benefit special interests (so they will help him stay in office for life).

That type of person expands the size of government, increases the power of his or her office, and hires more government employees - who are forced to vote for politicians who support bigger government (in order to keep their jobs and increase their compensation).

Is this the kind of individual you want in control of our economic and personal decisions?

Is this the kind of individual you want to have power over your life?

Is this the kind of individual you want in charge of our government?

Do you want this type of individual in power for Life?

Term limits provide at least some form of reasonable check on this kind of abuse of power.

They give a fighting chance to our odds of electing true reformers and citizen politicians.

They give a fighting chance to achieving true reform and change.

They give a fighting chance to those looking to break the power of incumbency.

They give a fighting chance to the possibility of electing candidates with a diversity of backgrounds...

Nothing changes so long as we keep electing a political class whose entire career and life are tied to politics...

The longer politicians stay in office, the more powerful they become, the more hooked on power and greed, the more deep their tentacles grow into the political establishment.

John McCain was no "maverick." Obama couldn't spell "change."

Those were merely campaign slogans their advertising agencies and political strategists desperately wanted you to believe.

Obama and McCain are both career politicians. They are not Republicans or Democrats.

Career politicians have only one party affiliation - Beltway Insider...

Change the ID of our politicians from lifelong careers in political office to the vision of our Founding Fathers, to that of citizen politicians.

Our Founding Fathers were farmers, property owners, small business owners, and entrepreneurs who put down their pitchforks and muskets, and set aside their business careers, to serve their country as civil servants.

They served for short periods of time, and then went back to their businesses and families.

They could not even imagine a lifelong career in politics.

That is precisely why our Founding Fathers created a Constitution to limit the power of government and politicians.

Limiting their time in office is a simple way to limit the actual power of government.

Term limits quickly and efficiently create a new political "brand" from career politicians to citizen politicians.

Suddenly our government will rely on citizen politicians who earn their livelihood outside of politics.

Term limits aren't perfect. They're certainly not the only answer.

But they make it harder for seasoned, connected, professional politicians to "game the system" in favor of their friends and special interests.

Want more proof of the importance of limiting the power of the wolves, frauds, and corrupt cons who run our political process?

Look no farther than my home state of Nevada.

Our state constitution limits our legislature to the role of part-time politicians - meeting only for four months every two years.

Nevada has also enacted term limits on the state level.

Are those limits on a politician's power perfect? Far from it.

Our Nevada politicians manage to cause plenty of damage in only the few months they meet every two years.

But keeping our politicians sidelined for most of the time has kept our state government in check for a half century now.

Nevada is among the lowest tax states in the United States.

Let's end the political dynasties.

No more kings or queens, no more princes or princesses.

No more hoods (Blagojevich) who rule like Mafia dons handing out patronage.

Let's end the political machines, end the sense of patronage, end the arrogance once and for all.

Let's end the earmarks, graft, and waste created by some powerful career politicians.

No politician in the United States - at any level of office - should serve more than two to three terms.

Period.

That's enough to do what they pledge to do, then force them to retire from public service, and go back to their real careers.

That reduces the opportunities for corruption, the pay for play, and the special interest domination. That keeps them in touch with the real world instead of spending their lives isolated in Washington, DC, or state capitals, around other politicians every second of every day.

That eliminates the endless need for fundraising (because there is no reason to fundraise if you are not running for office again), and the conflicts of interest that are created by endless fundraising.

That eliminates the need for politicians to vote for bills just to curry favor with special interests (in order to collect more money, so they can get reelected).

That eliminates the power of incumbency, and encourages more diversity in our elected officials.

Term limits restore some measure of balance of power back to the people - just as the Constitution intended.

It's time to restore the citizen politician to lead this great country - just as our Founding Fathers intended. (Byrds' song "I'll Probably Feel A Whole Lot Better When You're Gone")

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:38 PM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2011

The Fed-led/fed Old World and the by-dem-dreaded New World

...after one hour ponder in the anti-fideism church of Deism

...Deist Thomas Paine refrain: "my own mind is my own church"

...seems... maybe...

...DealDem pols need to look/sound good/"normal" now, to shapeless form hidden non-transparent mu rub-club bow; protect self-enrich, all-others-in-ditch ground

...a key be they hew-to an' subserve Federal Reserve economists' hypnotic splattered mist scientific delirium madness

...rather than teach populace righteousness of long-term project independence an' wealth-create fortify-U.S. economics, instead preach insidiousness of short-term abject dependence and stealth subjugate/mystify-us politics

...voters vote wrong for two reasons - ignorance (self-doubt?) and negativity (many actually be socialism-misery-preference?)

...so them Dems go pro-complicate, anti-liberate, blanket/get 'em ignorant/pliant misused/abused confused to point of not havin' vaguest notion... or laughin' mostly

...Fed dons and their sook Federal Government pawns be the true blue anti-New-drums-of-dawn satan's Myrmidons? theirs be zat Old for oll end an' New-forestall, ours be tHAT gold and Citizens' Sharehold Dividend for All

...need mu-dead Old World FedGov an' their odd prodder-laughers oll insider-tangle/strangle then default, lead to Schopfers' few-led (TEA?) RealRepublican revolution, HAT last time-ripe Schaffner fall-fast, squares-round-about, an' God's golden (parallel?) New World mornin' for us All?

(Byrds' songs 5D Fifth Dimension, wHAT's Happening?!, Eight Miles High, Don't Doubt Yourself Babe, Why, Lay Down Your Weary Tune, Mr. Tambourine Man, It's All Over Now Baby Blue, Change Is Now, Chimes of Freedom, McGuinn's You Bowed Down and Your (Hilliary's) Love Is A Gold Mine, McLean's American Pie)

From Wayne Allen Root's The Conscience of a Libertarian:

The Federal Reserve isn't the solution.

Like big government (of which they are a tool), the Fed is the problem.

Virtually every economic downturn since 1913, when the Fed was created, can be traced to Fed policies. Lest we forget, the Fed was around in 1929 when the stock market crashed.

They were around for the Great Depression - actually they were right smack dab in the middle of the worst economic mess in US. history.

Their policies helped to turn a deep recession into the Great Depression.

Even if you're a Fed defender, and don't agree that they were a contributor to the Great Depression, you certainly have to admit that the Fed didn't prevent or solve the deepest economic crisis in US. history. Nor did they see it coming.

But then they never saw the financial tsunami of 2008 coming either.

As recently as last April 2, 2008, the Fed didn't even know we were in a recession.

Back then, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testified before a joint Congressional committee where he said, "A recession is possible."

He described the economy back then as in "slight contraction"...

The Fed's strategy is simple: The Fed floods the economy with "easy money" by either artificially lowering interest rates or printing more money.

That creates an artificial economic boom to help politicians to get elected or reelected.

Invariably this artificial economic boom is followed by a very real "economic bust."

Recent examples of this artificial bubble bursting can be seen in the dot.com (technology and computer) world implosion in 2000, and again when the banking, credit, and real estate markets collapsed in 2008.

Do you notice a pattern there?

If it's so easy to see the mistake, why does the Fed continue to pursue a failed strategy?

Good question.

The answer is simple: political pressure from fat cats (big contributors like banks, Wall Street, real estate firms), special interests (big contributors), and voters who demand prosperity, easy money, low interest rates, and entitlements from big government.

Someone has to pay for all these giveaways, handouts, goodies, corporate welfare, bailouts, stimulus packages, and entitlement Ponzi schemes.

The Fed makes it all possible by printing up new money to pay for it all.

Without the Fed printing presses working overtime, politicians couldn't make promises to pay for every program under the stars.

They certainly couldn't afford to pay for all those promises.

But nothing in the Constitution gives Congress the authority to give control of monetary policy to a central bank. Nothing.

That same US. Constitution demands that our US. currency be backed by stable commodities - such as gold or silver.

The gold standard is a very simple concept: paper notes (our currency) are simply set at a fixed value, by matching them to preset fixed quantities of gold.

The return to the gold standard is the gold standard for a stable, credible, reliable money supply, and a true free market economy.

Why don't politicians want to set our currency to the gold standard?

Simply because the gold standard stands in the way of the goals of big government proponents and their endless spending programs.

The gold standard prevents politicians from inflating the money supply to hide the actual costs of the welfare state - from welfare itself, to corporate welfare, bailouts, handouts, entitlements, stimulus packages, and wars across the globe.

A billion here, and a billion there, and eventually this stuff starts to add up to serious money!

That's exactly what politicians fear...

Traditional politicians despise the gold standard because it threatens their agenda, and threatens their power grab.

It threatens to limit their imaginations (and reelections).

It ruins their party. It keeps their greed in check.

With a gold standard in place there is no ability for a central bank to create money out of thin air to fund any and every pet project or earmark.

The gold standard forces politicians to live within their means...

With the gold standard in place, government automatically becomes more open, honest, and transparent - it either lives within its means or raises taxes, as opposed to simply printing more money (creating a stealth tax called inflation).

Instantly, with the gold standard in place, government is more responsible and accountable to the people and the taxpayers.

Inflation caused by the wholesale printing of money by the Fed is theft government - sanctioned white-collar crime...

The gold standard regulates interest rates, which suddenly reflect real supply and demand for credit, not numbers artificially created out of thin air to reflect political needs.

The gold standard regulates business, as CEOs must base their business decisions on sound policy (knowing government or the Fed won't be there to bail them out)...

Just listen to the words of Thomas Jefferson, the Founding Father who wrote our Declaration of Independence:

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.

Ask yourself the most important question of all:

With record-setting budget deficits under former President Bush, trillion dollar bailout packages under former President Bush, even bigger trillion dollar bailout programs under President Obama, even bigger trillion dollar stimulus packages under President Obama, record-setting handouts, entitlements, and redistribution of wealth under President Obama (due to higher taxes), record-setting national debt under President Obama, and the Fed printing presses working overtime to create unlimited quantities of depreciating dollars (to cover up all this lavish spending), why would anyone want to own the dollar? Why indeed...

The antidote to corrupt, selfish, and irresponsible politicians addicted to recklessly spending our taxpayer money is simple:

Eliminate the Federal Reserve and restore the gold standard.

To put it bluntly, destroy the Fed before the Fed destroys us.

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:50 AM 0 comments

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California from, Indiana here we come

From California Descends Deeper article:

...a law signed by Governor Jerry Brown last week mandating new renewable energy requirements for electric utilities in the state.

The new law requires that 33 percent of electricity generated be done with "renewable" sources, essentially wind mills and solar panels, by the end of the year 2020.

...When the utilities are forced to buy several times more power generated by windmills and solar panels, the price is bound to go through the roof.

Not to worry, however.

The new law further requires the utilities commission to place limits on how much can be spent on renewable power.

When one kind of coercion isn't enough, follow up with another kind of coercion.

Of course, the only real result of a price ceiling is to create shortages.

...The targets are unlikely to be achieved even after billions of dollars have been squandered.

According to Gino DiCaro, spokesman for the California Manufacturers and Technology Association, industry in California already pays electricity rates about 50 percent higher than the rest of the country.

That, of course, is one of the reasons for the exodus of businesses from the state.

Although California politicians fail utterly in their basic responsibilities—balancing a budget, for example—they arrogantly believe they can save the planet.

...Ominously, the renewable mandate signing ceremony was attended by U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

It isn't often a state-level bill signing is attended by a U.S. cabinet officer.

The Obama administration obviously believes California's lunacy is just what the rest of the country needs.

God help us.

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/04/21/california-descends-deeper-int>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:59 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011

No-competition gas station and local monopoly lesson

...stopped at a gas station recently

...as pulled in found was only station around

...always avoid stations with none other across street, seems always some issue

...so, knew there'd be some defect, due to monopoly effect

...yo, the gas nozzle did not have a lever catch, enables let go and clean windows during gas flow

...checked adjacent nozzles and all had same trouble

...but, this traveler had plastic bottle that fit and jammed lever, so could let go

...went into station, talked with sales clerk, mentioned catch problem/solution

...clerk acted hurt, malapert, dismayed at problem-circumvent, "shouldn't do that" fit/blather

...rather than say problem would soon be fixed, zat person seemed dismayed/ disturbed it could be by-me nixed

...but, put a competitor across street and soon station/ person would be problem-solver

...so it seems with inept DealDems' idealized Old-road centralized monopoly government, pile on an' enjoy the torment (kept in power by the 50% nigger-howler giggling misery-enjoying segment?), an' they be shocked by RealRepublican New-road up-step actual remedies

...if only had across-street we-vote-with-feet U.S. FedGov competitor... wait, THAT's the role/goal of local individual states, and FedGov just stands to block up the Hall (Dylan/Byrds' song "The Times Are A-Changin")

From "Only Government Can Set You Free" piece:

"With a massive rising national debt that threatens to consume the entire productive capacity of the United States, modern day America is going down the very same road as the Kings of France.

...when government begins centralizing and accumulating power, it develops a monopoly on power, and becomes increasingly threatened by anything that impedes that monopoly."

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/only-government-can-set-you-free-oped-17042011/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 1:58 PM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

Seems Democrats' extant ample simple strategy be:

Seems Democrats' extant ample simple strategy be:

...get the people dependent, fat an' happy

...get 'em pro Old-lazy an' anti New-crazy

...get 'em in pro-woe an' stasis status quo fixity

...get 'em in front of murder-mystery loaded TV an' affronted by anti-misery TEA

...get 'em ignorant/used/abused confused to extent of not havin' vaguest notion... or laughin' mostly (Byrds' Song wHAT's Happening?!?!)

From Hanson's "Obama's Dreamland"

Obama borrowed more in the month of February alone (\$223 billion) than did the spendthrift George W. Bush during the entire 2007 budgetary year (\$163 billion). Obama recently asserted that not authorizing a lofty new national-debt ceiling would be partisan recklessness. He should know. In 2006, then-senator Barack Obama voted not to raise the debt ceiling and railed against out-of-control government spending under the Bush administration. But then, the annual deficit was one-fifth of what it is today. Apparently President Obama lives in an alternative universe from the one Senator Obama used to inhabit.

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/04/14/asleep_in_dreamland_usa_109552.html

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:23 PM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

Seems Democrats' ample simple strategy be:

Seems Democrats' ample simple strategy be:

...get the people fat an' happy

...get 'em pro Old-lazy an' anti New-crazy

...get 'em in pro-woe an' stasis status quo fixity

...get 'em in front of murder-mystery loaded TV an' affronted by anti-misery TEA

...get 'em ignorant/used/abused confused to point of not havin' vaguest notion... or laughin' mostly (Byrds' Song wHAT's Happening?!?!)

From Blankley's GOP has changed the conversation article:

If the Democratic Party gives up the vast spending that is driving the nation to fiscal catastrophe, they undermine their ability to win elections as a national political party. They will fight for years to prevent such a spending "drought."

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/04/13/presidents_call_to_inaction_to_be_withdrawn_109530.html

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:24 PM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2011

Economics4u.net RRR tab Mullings on one tenalp RealRepublican Revolution week end 110410 tweak

Hat last fall fast in mornin'...

<http://www.economics4u.net/RRR.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 12:48 PM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011

When a government enterprise fails, it is expanded.

When a private enterprise fails, it is closed down. When a government enterprise fails, it is expanded. - Milton Friedman

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:02 AM 0 comments

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TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

Re Labor Movie Night

...seems...

...only fair that companies should be able to use same tactics as unions...

...we're all always free to quit current job if wages seem too low, and find another higher-paying job; this usually requires extra effort such as educating/training oneself and job-hunting

...the union methodology/mentality is...

-form union because not happy with free market rate wages that companies pay

-jobs are property of workers, not the companies (of course opposite is true, and this is the fatal flaw in unionists' logic)

-unionists use coercion such as a strike (seems easier (and more self-satisfying?) than self-improving and job-hunting), to force companies to pay higher than market rate wages

-end result is higher wages for union workers, higher costs/prices of goods union workers produce, little/no net gain for union workers (main gain be cathartic "stick-it-to-the-man" self-satisfaction?), and big net loss for non-union workers

-also, society/economy loses the extra productivity union workers would have gained/contributed if they'd have positively educated/trained and marketed themselves rather than negatively joined union and gone on strike (not to mention the lost higher real wages for the worker who joined-union rather than self-improved)

...oh, why not allow companies to band together to force lower wages on workers? ... no ... this is morally wrong, and illegal

Posted by Scot Wick at 1:46 PM 0 comments

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MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011

Is government a Giffen Good?

Below figure from Mankiw's Principles of Economics

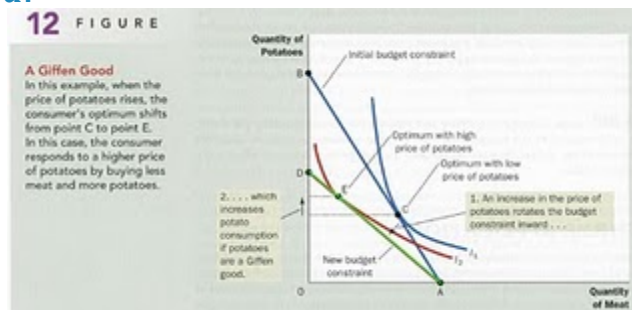
-e.g., potatoes = government, meat = consumer goods

-the higher the cost of government, the less income we have, and the more government we (or at least some of us) want?

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:14 AM 0 comments

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Is government a Giffen Good?



Posted by Scot Wick at 6:13 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

RRR tab Mullings on one tenalp RealRepublican Revolution 110402 tweak

RRR tab Mullings on one tenalp RealRepublican Revolution 110402 tweak

<http://www.economics4u.net/RRR.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:44 PM 0 comments

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Exceptionalism: Dems negative about Americanism?

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-03-30-column30_ST_N.htm#

...from Medved article...

The right views America as exceptionally blessed and righteous — chosen by God (or fate, if you prefer) to inspire humanity with distinctive ideals of liberty, self rule and free markets.

The left, on the other hand, expresses an intensifying tendency to see the U.S. as exceptionally guilty (for slavery, "genocide" against Native Americans and arrogant imperialism) and exceptionally backward when it comes to "social justice."

...seems...

...Dems: since we be no-good, must reform/transform nugatory USA, be lenitive and stay away from rest of age-Old World (thereby allow Old World extension cover-USA insult)

...Reps: since we be good, must strengthen/embolden USA, parry and instead spread/give Americanism desider(H)atum (freedom, capitalism, democracy, one language, mixing), and best form New World (no mo' to-Old-dudes bow, over-globe-extend USA end result) (Roger McGuinn's "You Bowed Down" (Hilliary?))

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:23 AM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

[Agree with the Daily Show, we must end tax breaks for corporations](#)

...let the free market work unencumbered by government meddling, influence and interference

...although no mo' tax breaks would end jobs for many lobbyists, end favored insider status for many corporation CEO's (think GE's Immelt), and end kickbacks for many pols

...so it seems "end corporation tax breaks" is just an empty mantra by good-looking bad-doing pols and pundits

...U.S. should end the tax breaks and lower the corporate income tax rate from current 35% to same as Canada: 16.5%

...but, enacting these New measures would

-give the misery-lover guy and gal pals two less things to enjoy making fun of and complaining about - the tax breaks and our constrained, miss-American-Pie, prosperity

-lessen our perceived need for protection/paternalizing by the good Ol' boy pols

http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-march-28-2011/i-give-up---pay-anything---?xrs=share_fb

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:15 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

[Re article "UAW Would Accept More Lower Wage Jobs"](#)

"Joe Ashton, UAW vice president in charge of GM, said the union 'will look at anything to retain jobs'"

...since unions' main goal is to get higher-than-market-rate wages for their members (part of difference going into UAW bosses' pockets) thereby reducing the number of jobs, I wonder if UAW will look at the best way to not only retain but also greatly increase the number of jobs - decertifying itself and de-unionizing GM

article at Google search "UAW Would Accept More Lower Wage Jobs"

Posted by Scot Wick at 11:38 AM 0 comments

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["Schumer calls GOP-proposed cuts 'extreme'" article](#)

From below "Schumer calls GOP-proposed cuts 'extreme'" article

"Mr. Speaker, it's time to forget the Tea Party and take the deal."

...seems...

...Old order shapeless-form good ole boy Americanism-destroy DealDem protecters of the moldy status quo Kingdom norm see THAT best TEA pro- progress, change and reform as "extreme"

...(as did the Tories see the U.S. colonial revolutionaries)
 ...and mope and propagandize lies in hope of look-down ground-protect
 ...lest we-reject and dem be rounded up, upended and suspended
 (Byrds song Chimes of Freedom)

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2011-03-30-teaparty30_ST_N.htm?csp=34news#

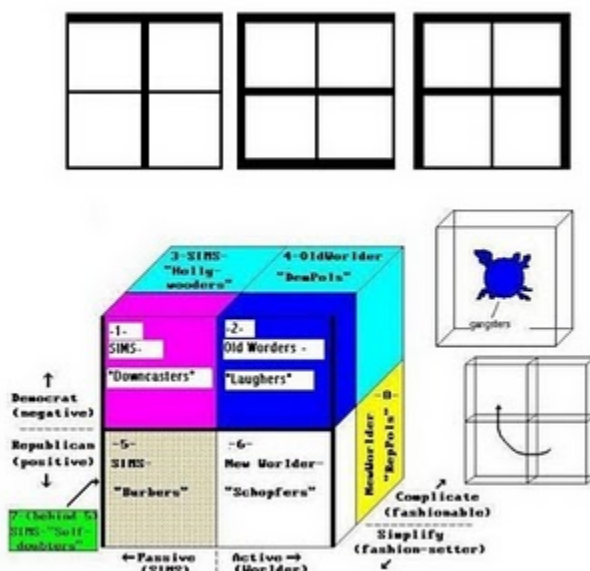
Posted by Scot Wick at 6:29 AM 0 comments

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MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011

Tea Party Express Wants to Oust Sen. Dick Lugar

Tea Party Express Wants to Oust Sen. Dick Lugar



<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/TeaPartyExpress-DickLugar-AmyKremer-Obamacare/2011/03/25/id/390740>

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:55 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011

Excerpts from article "Incomes and Inequality"

The growing inequality in wealth and income has led many people to question whether the contemporary American economy is rigged in favor of the rich.

While there is little doubt that the gap between the wealthy and everybody else has widened in recent years, the situation is not as unfair as some of the numbers seem to imply...

more-educated groups show greater income inequality than less-educated groups.

Uneducated people are more likely to be clustered in a tight range of relatively low incomes.

But the educated will include a greater range of highly motivated breadwinners and relaxed bohemians, and a greater range of winning and losing investors.

A result is a greater variety of incomes.

Since the United States is growing older and also more educated, income inequality will naturally rise...

inequality of happiness is usually less marked than inequality of income, at least in wealthy societies.

A man earning \$500,000 a year is not usually 10 times as happy as a man earning \$50,000 a year.

The \$50,000 earner still enjoys most of the conveniences of the modern world.

Even if more money makes people happier, it appears to do so at a declining rate, which places a natural check on the inequality of happiness...

the United States has an inequality of happiness roughly comparable to that of Sweden or Denmark, two nations with strongly egalitarian reputations.

American society offers good opportunities for people to be happy, even if not everyone becomes rich... If we look at leisure, from 1965 to 2003, less-educated groups experienced a bigger boost in free time than more-educated groups.

In other words, the high earners are working hard for their money and perhaps they are having less fun... What matters most is how well people are doing in absolute terms.

We should continue to improve opportunities for lower-income people, but inequality as a major and chronic American problem has been overstated.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/25/business/25scene.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 2:16 PM 0 comments

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News item Gingrich: 'We'll Be Running' for President in a Month

I hope so, he's my pick for President, although he seems wrong on some issues, in his book "Real Change" he says everyone should be required to have health insurance, I hope he means required by states not FedGov

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/03/27/gingrich-running-president-month/?test=latestnews>

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:33 AM 0 comments

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France gov zeal/love to make real a global tax regime cartel

...after one hour ponder in the anti-fideism church of Deism

...Deist Thomas Paine refrain: "my own mind is my own church"

...seems...

...key phrase be: "want everyone in the world to suffer"

...real goal of raising taxes - socialists (here Dems) ipso facto know higher income tax rates result in lower tax revenues, people will evade, economy will be frayed

...but these outcomes be rationale for misery-cult big gov blanket to become "great" big gov carpet

-to force/enforce the higher tax rates and go after the tax evaders

-to provide "fair" welfare for the newly-created poor (by-Dem-adored pets)

...oll the while blaming the economy-die on wealth-generators tax evaders (askance News who can use the moola way better than dem gov Blues)

(Byrds' song "It's All Over Now Baby Blue" ("lover" be Satan?))

from Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right":

Countries like France, for example, want everyone in the world to suffer under the same growth-killing, debilitating tax structures so that they don't have to compete with low-tax jurisdictions.

Many Asian countries have rightly scoffed at them and kept their low tax and cost structures in place, attracting more business while European countries fight a losing battle.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) began a campaign against what they called Uncooperative Tax Havens in 2000, and sadly, they are getting more and more countries to sign on to information sharing agreements and an internationally agreed tax standard.

Some liken it to an OPEC for politicians...

They want to eliminate what they call "harmful tax competition."

There is no such thing.

We know that companies should compete, individuals should compete, and so too should governments.

The Department of Justice sues companies when it believes companies are harming competition.

Why shouldn't these same concepts apply to countries?

The ones who call it harmful are the ones who can't make the tough decisions about spending and see their population shrinking or leaving to other places.

Yes, it is harmful to them, and it should be.

Even the OECD's very own economists, after examining the forces shaping tax policy, noted that a key reason for the erosion of a country's tax base is high taxes.

In a globalized world, capital is mobile.

Some countries have actually lowered taxes to stem the loss of tax revenue.

The best way to reduce tax evasion is to lower taxes.

The vast majority of people in the world believe they should pay something in taxes.

We all understand we need roads and infrastructure.

But there is a point at which taxation levels become so high they approach expropriation.

We're not there yet in the United States, but many parts of Europe are.

Posted by Scot Wick at [6:21 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

[Mike Huckabee's comments on Revel's: "How Democracies Perish"](#)

The book had a big impact on me for this reason: the essence of it was that when people in a government were able to vote for themselves, and they were able to obtain benefits out of the public treasury, as we can in the United States, that there would come a point at which we would drain more benefits than we would be able to sustain. His whole point was that democracies perish when people recognise their ability to get something at others' expense, and when they continue to accelerate in that direction, there comes a point at which that society collapses.

[interviews/mike-huckabee-on-simple-governance](#)

Posted by Scot Wick at [5:33 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

[Airports example of negative altruist-contractionalist-wasteful politics defeat of positive realist-expansionist-bountiful economics](#)

From Michelle Caruso-Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right":

Four other airports receiving 2009 funding don't even have commercial passenger service.

And according to the inspector general, at least four grant recipients have multiyear histories of grant management problems, raising doubts about their ability to ensure the funds are effectively administered.

Kentucky's Owensboro, Daviess County Airport received more than \$650,000 even though they've been cited for poor administration of funds for ten of the past eleven years.

This happens because the government has very different motivations than the private sector.

When awarding this money, the FAA decided that every state should receive at least one grant.

So that's why Dover, Delaware, got more than \$900,000 to design (not construct) a new runway at an airport with no commercial flights.

The FAA told the inspector general's office that it was the only project in the state "ready to go."

Think about the implications for your money: The government officials didn't want the best use of the money.

Instead they wanted to spread it around.

So if that meant compromising by giving the money to airports with a history of financial mismanagement, or to projects that do not alleviate the most pressing needs in the airport infrastructure, so be it.

The money to Alaskan airports reflects another misguided mission of the federal government: to make sure even the most rural areas of the country are served by air.

On the surface it sounds oh-so-egalitarian.

But when the government insists that "everyone" get something, what everyone gets is miserable service...

The airports and the air-traffic control system should be funded directly by users.

All kinds of networks, such as telephone networks and utilities, are funded this way, through fees directly charged to their customers.

Either privatizing both systems or running them in a similar fashion to private corporations can accomplish a better funding structure.

Once this is done, they should be allowed to auction or simply raise fees on the time slots that are most sought after, and then they should be able to keep that money themselves for airport improvements.

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:25 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

re Income Inequality table, from Mankiw

...richest 20% of families receive 48% of income, bottom 20% receive 4%

...seems...the rich...

-use much of incomes to buy luxury items such as large houses, which provide jobs

-invest much in companies (e.g. stock market) which provide jobs

-give away much to charity

-provide example/incentive for the non-rich to get rich

-main income waste be buying non-productive assets such as gold and re-sold (as opposed to new) old art

...seems redistribution of income from rich to non-rich by government has three main downsides:

-1-government (ever-growing) bureaucracy takes a (ever-growing) cut, reducing amount to be redistributed

-2-non-rich people use extra income inefficiently (main reason they are non-rich)

-3-deadens incentives for the non-rich to get rich

...seems one idea be phase-out old complicated government redistribution such as social security, and phase-in a simple Citizens Shareholder Dividend (Fair Tax prebate?)

-CSD be equal shares for all of government taxes -minus- spending surplus, ensuring transparent/ small/ efficient hands-off-economy government

-if people can now easily receive stock dividends into their brokerage accounts, couldn't CSD be just as easy?

-phase-in avoids -2- and -3- downsides

-eventual CSD guaranteed \$50,000/year income for all would mean government could end economy-deaden intrusive altruist/activist/paternalist fiscal and monetary policy aimed at short-term increased employment (but decreases long-term employment and wealth generation, and voids CSD consideration)

<http://www.amazon.com/Principles-Economics-N-Gregory-Mankiw/dp/0324589972>

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:12 AM 0 comments

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Income Inequality table, from Mankiw

Year	Bottom Fifth	Second Fifth	Middle Fifth	Fourth Fifth	Top Fifth	Top 5%
2005	4.0%	9.4%	15.2%	22.9%	48.1%	21.1%
2000	4.3	9.8	15.5	22.8	47.4	20.8
1990	4.6	10.8	16.6	23.8	44.3	17.4
1980	5.2	11.5	17.5	24.3	41.5	15.3
1970	5.5	12.2	17.6	23.8	40.9	15.6
1960	4.8	12.2	17.8	24.0	41.3	15.9
1950	4.5	12.0	17.4	23.4	42.7	17.3
1935	4.1	9.2	14.1	20.9	51.7	26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:11 AM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

...Workers of the World Unite!...

From UAW Plans New Tactics article:

(full article accessible using Google search: UAW Sets New Tactic to Organize at Foreign Car Makers)

They hope to be more successful by reaching out to foreign unions at the auto makers' overseas plants and bringing pressure from prayer vigils, fasts or protests at dealerships.

If the international coalitions prove successful, they would represent a step toward the globalization of organized labor.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704461304576216781493268262.html>

...seems...

...DealDems export U.S.-vile unionism/insider-monopoly

...RealReps export U.S.-style capitalism/jeder-panoply

...if 100% of us were union members all of us would be paid higher wages

...but prices of all goods would be much higher (mostly from distortion of market forces due to politics/inefficiencies defeat of economics/efficiencies)

...so ultimately only union bosses and their paid-off-politician enablers can benefit/profit from unionization

...the evil of unionism graphically displayed below

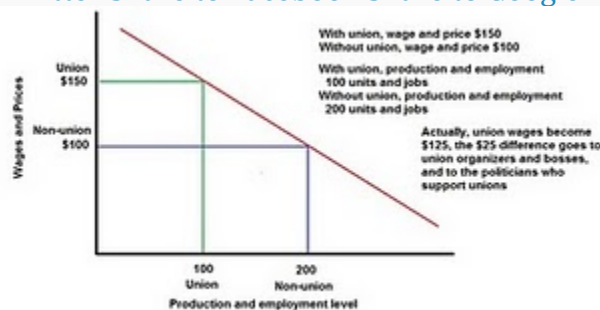
...btw this is also the monopoly model

...monopoly (anti-competition, anti-capitalism, anti-transparency, anti-democracy, anti-freedom) be the heart of social evil

... it rewards a few insiders, punishes the majority outsiders, enriches the 5% shapeless-form mafia core

Posted by Scot Wick at 3:26 AM 0 comments

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Posted by Scot Wick at 3:25 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

Intellectual laziness -> (led to) Dems' perpetual prominence?

Laziness -> passiveness -> no-inquisitiveness/logic -> pro-passion/illogic -> cover-ears/shed-tears -> Dems' faction prominence ?

...seems...

...on surface Dems' fence-down-lurch (go "we're against fatcats who don't pay their fair share and for the middle class")

...can appear to look better than Reps' Hence-dawn-march ("no free pass, face it - ex nihilo nihil fit") from Schweikart and Allen book:

Madison emerged as the most significant of the three Federalist Papers authors [Hamilton, Jay] in one respect:

he correctly analyzed the necessity of political parties ("factions," as he called them) and understood their role.

An extensive republic, especially one as large as the United States would become, inevitably would divide society into a "greater variety of interests, of pursuits, of passions, which check each other."

Factions, then, should be encouraged.

They provided the competition that tested and refined ideas.

More important, they demanded that people inform themselves and take a side, rather than sliding listlessly into murky situations they did not choose to understand out of laziness.

<http://www.amazon.com/Patriots-History-United-States-Columbus/dp/1595230017>

Posted by Scot Wick at 2:34 AM 0 comments

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MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

[re Why Do Women Still Earn Less Than Men? article...](#)

...if women earn 77% of what men earn for same work output, wouldn't companies only want to hire women?

...seems...

...companies have to pay each worker what they are worth, if they pay less the worker can move to another company who will be happy to pay them more, example:

...company A pays man \$100, woman \$80, each generates \$110 sales

...company B knows woman can generate \$110 sales, and hires woman from company A for \$90

...company C knows woman can generate \$110 sales, and hires woman from company B for \$95

...company D knows woman can generate \$110 sales, and hires woman from company C for \$100

...end result is all companies pay man and woman same amount from the beginning (if work output is same)

...no sinister discrimination or collusion against women going on here, just economics

...perhaps women don't negotiate hard enough, since companies always want to maximize profits they are happy to pay only \$80 if the woman accepts

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1983185,00.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 3:43 PM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011

[Nice work if you can get it, great article by Robert Reich, re widening income gap](#)

...however, he implies government should do more to help people get higher education

...some studies show this government help artificially raises demand for education, paying for people to go to college who shouldn't be going (and eventually dropping out)

...which raises the cost of education for everyone and overall result is fewer getting higher education

http://prospect.org/cs/articles?article=_nice_work_if_you_can_get_it

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:59 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

["The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer"](#)

...seems...

...soft-love Dems want to make us believe the earnings gap is due to failure of the capitalism system

...and we must wealthy-blame, government must step in and "remedy the unfair game"

...inevitably a government-failure negative endless cycle of poverty and government-dependency

...the more of us that are poor and dependent, the stronger the Dems, so this soft-love hold-down cycle is in their interest

...tough-love Reps try to make us understand the real reality that capitalism empowers the individual

...free to choose between educating oneself or not, more study and less leisure and others-blame

...free positive ascendancy of all-be-wealthy and independency

...the more of us THAT are rich and independent, the stronger the Reps, so this tough-love squares-round ascendancy be in our interest

from Mankiw:

"The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer."

Like many adages, this one is not always true, but recently it has been.

Many studies have documented that the earnings gap between workers with high skills and workers with low skills has increased over the past two decades...

Data show the increase in the financial reward resulting from education.

In 1980, a man on average earned 44 percent more with a college degree than without one; by 2005, this figure had risen to 87 percent.

For a woman, the reward for attending college rose from a 35 percent increase in earnings to a 72 percent increase.

The incentive to stay in school is as great today as it has ever been.

Why has the gap in earnings between skilled and unskilled workers widened in recent years?

No one knows for sure, but economists have proposed two hypotheses to explain this trend.

Both hypotheses suggest that the demand for skilled labor has risen over time relative to the demand for unskilled labor.

The shift in demand has led to a corresponding change in wages, which in turn has led to greater inequality.

The first hypothesis is that international trade has altered the relative demand for skilled and unskilled labor.

In recent years, the amount of trade with other countries has increased substantially.

As a percentage of total U.S. production of goods and services, imports have risen from 5 percent in 1970 to 16 percent in 2005, and exports have risen from 6 percent in 1970 to 11 percent in 2005.

Because unskilled labor is plentiful and cheap in many foreign countries, the United States tends to import goods produced with unskilled labor and export goods produced with skilled labor.

Thus, when international trade expands, the domestic demand for skilled labor rises, and the domestic demand for unskilled labor falls.

The second hypothesis is that changes in technology have altered the relative demand for skilled and unskilled labor.

Consider, for instance, the introduction of computers.

Computers raise the demand for skilled workers who can use the new machines and reduce the demand for the unskilled workers whose jobs are replaced by the computers.

For example, many companies now rely more on computer databases, and less on filing cabinets, to keep business records.

This change raises the demand for computer programmers and reduces the demand for filing clerks.

Thus, as more firms use computers, the demand for skilled labor rises, and the demand for unskilled labor falls.

<http://www.amazon.com/Principles-Economics-N-Gregory-Mankiw/dp/0324589972>

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:42 AM 0 comments

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[Mankiw Chapter 19, table 1](#)

	1980	2005
Men		
High school, no college	\$41,083	\$40,112
College graduates	\$59,196	\$75,130
Percent extra for college grads	+44%	+87%
Women		
High school, no college	\$24,775	\$28,657
College graduates	\$33,452	\$49,326
Percent extra for college grads	+35%	+72%

Note: Earnings data are adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2005 dollars. Data apply to full-time, year-round workers age 18 and over. Data for college graduates exclude workers with additional schooling beyond college, such as a master's degree or PhD.

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:40 AM 0 comments

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FedGov answer to FedGov regulators' failure: more FedGov regulators

FedGov answer to FedGov regulators' failure: more FedGov regulators

... fat cells demand nourishment and to multiply/enlarge

From Cabrera:

The Securities & Exchange Commission is another example of an agency that was meant to protect us but hasn't.

If the financial crisis we just lived through doesn't prove that regulations do nothing to help stave off disaster, what about some other historical failures to remind us: Enron, World Com, and that guy Bernard Madoff.

The Office of the Inspector General of the SEC found that "between June 1992 and December 2008 when Madoff confessed, the SEC received six substantive complaints that raised significant red flags concerning Madoff's hedge fund operations and should have led to questions about whether Madoff was actually engaged in trading.

Finally, the SEC was also aware of two articles regarding Madoff's investment operations that appeared in reputable publications in 2001 and questioned Madoff's unusually consistent returns."

Think about that.

During a period of sixteen years, eight different opportunities arose to uncover Bernie Madoff and yet the SEC failed each time.

You've probably heard about Harry Markopolos, who actually brought them the very evidence they needed to uncover Madoff's scam.

He told them it was a Ponzi scheme and had done all the painstaking work to prove his case and make it easy for investigators.

But according to the inspector general, the SEC "almost immediately expressed skepticism and disbelief." It doesn't end there.

Bernie Madoff claimed he was using a certain financial institution to clear his trades.

The SEC contacted the institution to get a list of trades, but the institution responded saying there were no such trades at all.

You'd think that that alone would have been enough to get the SEC, an agency created to protect investors, to launch an investigation into Madoff's movements, but it wasn't.

Here the SEC investigators had caught him in a bald-faced lie, and yet they never did any follow-up at all. Also in the report from the inspector general was this little nugget: "numerous private entities conducted basic due diligence of Madoff's operations and, without regulatory authority to compel information, came to the conclusion that an investment with Madoff was unwise."

So once again the private sector, without any extraordinary powers such as subpoenas and regulatory oversight, achieved for its clients what a government institution did not achieve for the investing public.

Private institutions have a real incentive to uncover fraud: money. They don't like losing it.

Government institutions have no such motivation. They live forever.

Heck, when they fail, they usually get even more money, not less.

The SEC got a lot more money and staff after the collapse of Enron and WorldCom.

In 2001 its budget was \$437 million.

In 2008 it got \$906 million, nearly twice as much.

<http://www.amazon.com/You-Know-Right-Prosperity-Government/dp/1439193223>
<http://www.amazon.com/You-Know-Right-Prosperity-Government/dp/1439193223>

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:50 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

[Re Pelosi article...seems...](#)

Re Pelosi article... seems...

...Dems - look good do bad... want to spoil with soft love and fatten the child, want the child to be forever childish (be dependent) and to give the child fish

...Reps - look bad do good... want to roil with tough love and slim the child, want the child to grow up (be independent) and to motivate the child to learn how to fish

...Fat cells demand nourishment and to multiply/enlarge

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/nancy-pelosis-plan/2011/03/10/ABzh4Lm_blog.html

Posted by Scot Wick at 2:50 PM 0 comments

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[Re Krugman - A growing economy is the solution to the unemployment problem](#)

Re Krugman - A growing economy is the solution to the unemployment problem... the less government involvement in the economy and the fewer government employees, the faster the economy will recover and grow... Krugman thinks we need more of both, but as Henry Hazlitt said:

When your money is taken by a thief, you get nothing in return.

When your money is taken through taxes to support needless bureaucrats, precisely the same situation exists.

We are lucky, indeed, if the needless bureaucrats are mere easygoing loafers.

They are more likely today to be energetic reformers busily discouraging and disrupting production.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/18/opinion/18krugman.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:54 AM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011

[Regarding needless government bureaucrats](#)

From Henry Hazlitt's "Economics In One Lesson":

But their justification consists in the utility of their services.

It does not consist in the "purchasing power" they possess by virtue of being on the public payroll.

This "purchasing power" argument is, when one considers it seriously, fantastic.

It could just as well apply to a racketeer or a thief who robs you.

After he takes your money he has more purchasing power.

He supports with it bars, restaurants, night clubs, tailors, perhaps automobile workers.

But for every job his spending provides, your own spending must provide one less, because you have that much less to spend.

Just so the taxpayers provide one less job for every job supplied by the spending of officeholders.

When your money is taken by a thief, you get nothing in return.

When your money is taken through taxes to support needless bureaucrats, precisely the same situation exists.

We are lucky, indeed, if the needless bureaucrats are mere easygoing loafers.

They are more likely today to be energetic reformers busily discouraging and disrupting production.

Posted by Scot Wick at 3:57 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

Productivity (output per worker hour) gains are the key to real wage gains for everyone

Productivity (output per worker hour) gains are the key to real wage gains for everyone, union work rules reduce productivity... btw since union wages of GM etc. have had to come down to Honda-USA level wages (i.e. market-level wages, as are always paid to non-unionized office workers), wut is the use/purpose of unions, other than to line pockets of union organizers and Dem politicians with union dues money?

from Mankiw:

From 1959 to 2006, productivity as measured by output per hour of work grew about 2.1 percent per year. Real wages grew at 2.0 percent - almost exactly the same rate.

With a growth rate of 2 percent per year, productivity and real wages double about every 35 years.

Data for three shorter periods show very different productivity experiences.

Around 1973, the U.S. economy experienced a significant slowdown in productivity growth that lasted until 1995...

The slowdown in productivity growth from 2.8 to 1.4 percent per year 1973~1995 coincided with a slowdown in real wage growth from 2.8 to 1.2 percent per year.

Productivity growth picked up again around 1995, and many observers hailed the arrival of the "new economy."

This productivity acceleration is most often attributed to the spread of computers and information technology.

As theory predicts, growth in real wages picked up as well.

From 1995 to 2006, productivity grew by 2.6 percent per year, and real wages grew by 2.5 percent per year.

The bottom line: Both theory and history confirm the close connection between productivity and real wages.

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:03 PM 0 comments

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011

re Eric's "A teacher" message...

... don't teachers know about this situation going in? an industrial salesperson can spend 1/3 or more of his/her time on the road but does not expect sympathy nor adulation because of it ... his message... A teacher somewhere in your neighborhood tonight will be grading papers and preparing lessons to teach. In the minute it takes you to read this, teachers all over the world are using their "free time", and often investing their own money, for your child's literacy, prosperity and future. Re-post if you are or were a teacher, love a teacher, or appreciate our teachers.

re Eric's video link below, lots of music and slogans... also begging and crying for more money and "rights"... maybe I should go to my boss and/or customers and try the same (... but I won't cuz I'd get fired)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TKVsZ4iYaE&feature=player_embedded

Posted by Scot Wick at 2:18 PM 0 comments

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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

Unions benefit only unionists?

I'd be interested to see an article explaining (not just simply claiming) how unions have benefited anyone but the unionists themselves... corporations benefit both their shareholders and the economy at large by/through generating profits and efficient use of capital/wealth

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:32 PM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

In a sense, all unionists are Luddites

In a sense, all unionists are Luddites: raising short-term wages above market value results in higher costs results in lower productivity and higher prices... and holds back much more substantial long-term wage gains

from Mankiw:

The Luddite Revolt

Over the long span of history, technological progress has been the worker's friend.

It has increased productivity, labor demand, and wages.

Yet there is no doubt that workers sometimes see technological progress as a threat to their standard of living.

One famous example occurred in England in the early 19th century, when skilled knitters saw their jobs threatened by the invention and spread of machines that could produce textiles using less skilled workers and at much lower cost.

The displaced workers organized violent revolts against the new technology.

They smashed the weaving machines used in the wool and cotton mills and, in some cases, set the homes of the mill owners on fire.

Because the workers claimed to be led by General Ned Ludd (who may have been a legendary figure rather than a real person), they were called Luddites.

The Luddites wanted the British government to save their jobs by restricting the spread of the new technology.

Instead, the Parliament took action to stop the Luddites.

Thousands of troops were sent to suppress the Luddite riots, and the Parliament eventually made destroying machines a capital crime.

After a trial in York in 1813, seventeen men were hanged for the offense.

Many others were convicted and sent to Australia as prisoners.

Today, the term Luddite refers to anyone who opposes technological progress.

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:26 PM 0 comments

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Always wonder wut the negative fascination with murder is

Always wonder wut the negative fascination with murder is, never watch any of dem ubiquitous shows, enough problems in the world without making-up imaginary ones... misery enjoyment?

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:09 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

U.S. Federal Reserve and U.S. Federal government caused the Great Depression and WWII ?

U.S. Federal Reserve and U.S. Federal government (enactment of Smoot-Hawley trade-deadening tariffs) caused the Great Depression and World War II ?

From Mundell:

Bismarck once said that the most important fact of the nineteenth century was that England and America spoke the same language.

Along the same lines, the most important fact of the twentieth century has been the rise of the United States as a superpower.

The first third of twentieth century economics was dominated by the confrontation of the Federal Reserve System with the gold standard.

The gold standard broke down in World War I and its restoration in the 1920's created the deflation of the 1930's.

Economists blamed the gold standard instead of their mishandling of it and turned away from international automaticity to national management.

The Great Depression itself led to totalitarianism and World War II.

<http://www.columbia.edu/~ram15/nobelLecture.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 12:45 PM 0 comments

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The Byrds - Thoughts and Words

The Byrds - Thoughts and Words

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0v9llyxvIE>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:45 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

Rubric Cube Veracity and/or Efficacy Summary

...after all, notion of U.S. division into two parallel Republican and Democrat nations seems visceral, hopeless regress

...jus' as New Americans sang dirge and left nanny-tyranny Europe only to see our cur Tory element emerge (now hegemony), so too could/would occur in a today-Texas-RealRep-Republic but tomorrow-Texas-DealDem-pathetic

...so, must go evince and convince:

1-all happiness-loving 50% Reps of happiness-happiness of H-A-T (Hence All Terr sum: global one language speaking (Spanish or English?), full free movement of people, expanded USA model with New Citizens' Shareholder Dividend guaranteed income (which would also guarantee small efficient/sufficient government)) result

...only must insist living half of 50% Reps be HAT activist (thoughts-words-action), they'd splay, round squares and pare-off win-over those SIMS voters who stand-around, an' win ground

2-half of misery-loving 50% Dems of happiness-miserableness (if you love misery you're going to be miserable if you're happy) of HAT "insult"

...HAT sthenia simply being lief belief in actuality of words "schadenfreude" "sadism" "masochism" "bully" "incredulity" "jabberwocky" "enmity" "melancholy" "jealousy" "envy" "rapacity" "calumny" "putridity" "negativity," and thoughts tHAT half of us be hawkish happiness-loving Rep positives and half be mawkish misery-loving Dem negatives (an' small portion being seemingly-subhuman shapeless-form mafia)

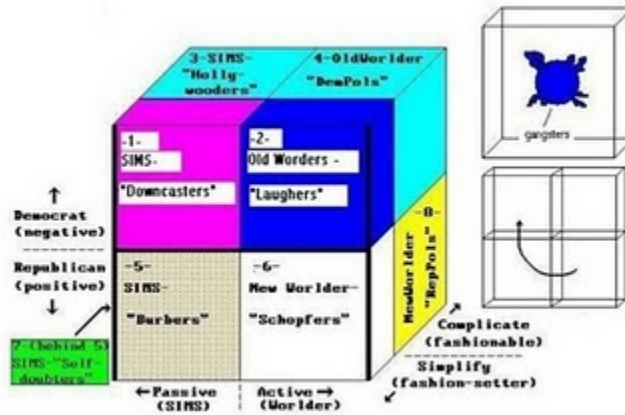
...thereby explaining to all us News here and thru universe the always-misery-Old-goal sour-rot soporific non-logic of socialist-"progressive" thought/curse

...providing logical and fun veracity and/or efficacy justification for Schopfers' New-World-ought Old-World-naught move-tracing-sun remove facing-fence psychological violence

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:37 AM 0 comments

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Rubric Cube



Posted by Scot Wick at 5:36 AM 0 comments

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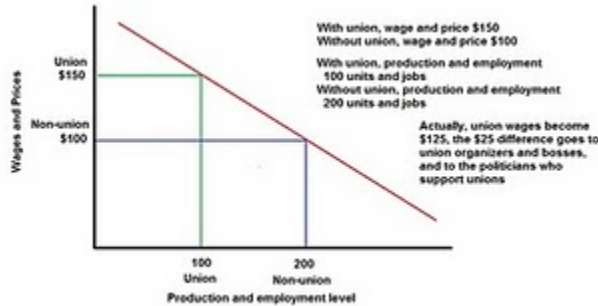
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011

The evil of unionism graphically displayed

The evil of unionism graphically displayed... btw this is also the monopoly model... monopoly (anti-competition, anti-capitalism, anti-freedom) is the heart of social evil ... it rewards a few insiders, punishes the majority outsiders, enriches the 5% shapeless-form mafia core

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:14 AM 0 comments

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Posted by Scot Wick at 5:13 AM 0 comments

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

The massive attack on working people (by unionists)

...when you read such things as "as I woke up this morning my thoughts went to the massive attack on working people that is going on in Wisconsin"
 ...the Republicans' (public's) counterattack is not on "working people" but rather on "unionists' greed."
 ...unionists are always free to join together, start up their own company, and pay themselves as much as they like, or form their own country and do the same... wait, zat was tried in the Soviet Union
 ...could it be unionism = legalized thievery? if we were all thieves there'd be nothing to steal, if we were all unionists there'd be nothing to steal

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:19 PM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

Dems be tribalists-segregationists-paternalists?

...Reps be minglists-integrationists-fraternalists?
 ...which be positive and which be negative?
 ...seems...
 ...Reps color-blind-grow, Dems color-bind-woe

...Reps' mindset country (and entirety)-people inclusive, Dems dead-set my (and tribes)-people exclusive Michelle Malkin ("Hey Eric Holder") shows abundance of which-be-which countenance evidence

<http://michellemalkin.com/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:55 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

[George Will - on why liberals love trains:](#)

To progressives, the best thing about railroads is that people riding them are not in automobiles, which are subversive of the deference on which progressivism depends.

Automobiles go hither and yon, wherever and whenever the driver desires, without timetables.

Automobiles encourage people to think they—unsupervised, untutored, and unscripted—are masters of their fates.

The automobile encourages people in delusions of adequacy, which make them resistant to government by experts who know what choices people should make.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2011/02/27/high-speed-to-insolvency.html>

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

[Great new hour-long interview with George Will at EconTalk](#)

Great new hour-long interview with George Will at EconTalk

<http://www.econtalk.org/>

Posted by Scot Wick at 3:21 AM 0 comments

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

[Unionists fight for own rights, but deny rights of others especially voters](#)

Seems...

...unionists working at companies have right to (vote to) organize, form union, protest and strike

...but companies also have rights... including to fire unionists

...since the company and the jobs themselves are private company property

...unionists working for government and taxpayers have parallel rights...

...after all, taxpayers' money is their private property

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:36 PM 0 comments

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[Question: WI and IN Dem fleebaggers fled \(to IL to block votes re unions\) because of ideals or because of moneybags?](#)

...(answer - deals and moneybags)

From below Good Life article:

Here's the vicious cycle: Union leaders take money from union dues and pass it to Democratic candidates. Once elected, the politicians "negotiate" with the unions that helped elect them.

In essence, the unions hire their own bosses who face them across the bargaining table.

<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/116956308.html>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:38 AM 0 comments

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[3M moving to Mexico because of Fed regulations?](#)

More look/sound good but do bad from Dems?

"The head of one of the US's biggest industrial groups has launched a scathing attack on Barack Obama's attempts to repair relations with companies, dubbing him "anti-business".

Manufacturers could shift production out of the US to Canada or Mexico as a result, warned George Buckley, chief executive and chairman of 3M"

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bd9b4100-429b-11e0-8b34-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1FGLVBYH5>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:16 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011

A future blue D.C. monopoly?

Since government is inherently a monopoly and monopolies are inherently wasteful/corrupt, the best way to cut government waste/corruption is to cut government size/power

...Dems naturally want big gov and unions (who support big gov) zat leads to short-term increased wealth for gov-union insiders

...Reps naturally want small gov, that leads to long-term increased wealth and freedom for all

...Dems be weary-tune short-term narrow-view negative mercantilists ("we must take from greedy capitalists")

...Dems naturally want most, ideally oil, government power as a blue D.C. monopoly (then nowhere the wealth-generators can flee to)

...Reps be drums-of-dawn long-term tomorrow-New positive capitalists ("let's just all get rich with profit-seeking capitalists) (profit = efficiency and wealth generation)

...if public unions win in Wisconsin and taxes are increased to support their monopoly sky-high benefits, WI businesses and people are welcome to come here to low-tax IN

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmhpyxPU4qY>

from Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right":

The solution is not to raise taxes. The solution is to spend less.

The budget has to get smaller, and the government should focus its energy on a few key areas.

When it comes right down to it, there are only five departments that we absolutely need: Defense, Homeland Security, Treasury, State, and Justice.

First eliminate the Department of Education.

[Canada does not have a federal Dept. of Education]

What if I tell you that the very existence of the Department of Education is why college gets more and more unaffordable each year?...

Nearly everything the Department of Transportation does could be devolved to the state and local governments, particularly the program called the Highway Trust Fund.

In 2009 it was 72 percent of the department's budget, or \$53 billion...

When you buy a gallon of gasoline, the federal government imposes an 18.4-cents tax, and then the state tacks on its own tax, the average total being 21.72 cents.

That 18.4 cents of federal tax goes directly into the Highway Trust Fund, a program established back in 1956 supposedly for building highways.

But now it is just a bucket of money for politically motivated projects for members of Congress, the so-called earmarks...

I don't exaggerate when I say the implications are deadly.

More than a quarter of the nation's bridges are structurally deficient.

People die when they collapse.

But at least the National Packard Museum in Warren, Ohio, got \$2.75 million for its expansion.

The federal government should stop collecting the gas tax.

Let state governments tax gasoline as they see fit.

Let them keep the money themselves for the projects that they need in the state or eliminate it altogether so that consumers can decide how to spend their own money.

Moreover, dollars will be saved in administrative costs.

There is so much waste just in the cost of the money being collected and sent to Washington, where

Congress tacks on an administrative fee and then sends it back again to fund state and local pet projects.

Another, more important effect of letting states decide if and when to impose a gas tax is that they would no longer be vulnerable if their congressional representatives were weak, low-ranking, or too principled to obtain the appropriations for needed projects. It also would prevent extremely powerful senior members of Congress from getting more than their fair share.

Alaska used to get huge appropriations from the transportation bill - due in large part to the clout of Senator Ted Stevens, who was in Congress from 1968 to 2009.

Shifting the spending to the state would realign incentives and end states' get-my-share-of-that-money approach.

Currently there is a big pot to which each state has contributed, and therefore every state has an incentive to get as much of that money back as it can.

Those that are better at the game get more than others.

Remove that federal pot and the thinking changes.

When politicians are fighting it out at the state or local level, the battles over money are that much closer to the people who are actually going to foot the bill.

If Alaskans want a bridge to nowhere, Alaskans can put up the money...

Milton Friedman advocated this type of devolution because it meant dispersion of power.

He generally felt there should be as little concentration of power in Washington as possible, because if people didn't like the policies in one state or town, they could move to another.

When a state chooses to spend money, it adds directly to its own tax burden.

It forces the state government to weigh the benefit of a project versus having to pay for it, knowing that if their taxes rise too high they will lose their population and businesses to other states.

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:39 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011

[Seems Dems stand for paternalism/unions and 95% penury](#)

...and Reps stand for freedom/taxpayers and 100% wealthy

...would explain why Dems prefer progressive taxation

...their Old goal is to have only the richest 45% (most successful, private industry job-creators) pay taxes

...then Dems can expand government and gov unions unimpeded

...and label resisters "the wealthy, corporations, and their lackeys"

(also "materialists, anti-environmentalists, imperialists")

...as the economy is rounded from above run into the ground, we all become equally poor

...as 45% silent majority stand around, living 25% happiness-lovers concede ground

...lurking politburo-politician mafioso pour through door and seize power

...end insult/result be (total) rule of 5% shapeless-form mafia and laughing/smirking 25% misery-lovers

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/02/25/krugmans_third_world_fantasy_109030.html

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

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:07 AM 0 comments

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[Re previous "Members of a labor union are in fact colluding members of a labor cartel"](#)

This is an illustration of Dems' mostly look-good-do-bad politics

...they say unions help the little guy, but actually only help the colluding in-there guy, at the expense of larger society and especially at the expense of the little guy

...never blithely accept Democrats' negative emotional shouted and crying bromides, platitudes, and canards; always rightly inspect the positive rational Republican side look-bad-do-good economics from Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right":

[Private] Charter schools are enormously popular, yet numerous states have laws that bar or limit their operations.

Legislators have often caved when faced with the demands of unions that prioritize teachers' jobs over kids' education.

Some states simply don't allow them, many states put an arbitrary cap on the number allowed, and some simply make the requirements so onerous that entrepreneurs don't even bother to try to develop them.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Members of a labor union are in fact colluding members of a labor cartel - a monopoly

...seems monopoly (patents and the like are exceptions) is the heart of social evil..

From Mankiw's "Principles of Economics":

If the market for water [labor] were perfectly competitive, the production decisions of each firm [worker] would drive price equal to marginal cost.

Because we have assumed that the marginal cost of pumping additional water is zero, the equilibrium price of water under perfect competition would be zero as well.

The equilibrium quantity would be 120 gallons.

The price of water would reflect the cost of producing it, and the efficient quantity of water would be produced and consumed.

Now consider how a monopoly would behave.

Table 1 shows that total profit is maximized at a quantity of 60 gallons and a price of \$60 a gallon.

A profit maximizing monopolist, therefore, would produce this quantity and charge this price.

As is standard for monopolies, price would exceed marginal cost.

The result would be inefficient, because the quantity of water produced and consumed would fall short of the socially efficient level of 120 gallons.

What outcome should we expect from our duopolists?

One possibility is that Jack and Jill get together and agree on the quantity of water to produce and the price to charge for it.

Such an agreement among firms over production and price is called collusion, and the group of firms acting in unison is called a cartel.

Once a cartel is formed, the market is in effect served by a monopoly.

That is, if Jack and Jill were to collude, they would agree on the monopoly outcome because that outcome maximizes the total profit that the producers can get from the market.

Our two producers would produce a total of 60 gallons, which would be sold at a price of \$60 a gallon.

Once again, price exceeds marginal cost, and the outcome is socially inefficient.

[in economics zero profit = only normal profit = free market price, so Table 1 figures are e.g. + \$1000]

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:53 PM 0 comments

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Table 1

Quantity	Price	Total Revenue (and total profit)
0 gallons	\$120	\$ 0
10	110	1,100
20	100	2,000
30	90	2,700
40	80	3,200
50	70	3,500
60	60	3,600
70	50	3,500
80	40	3,200
90	30	2,700
100	20	2,000
110	10	1,100
120	0	0

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:52 PM 0 comments

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We in-win from Eight Miles High - WHAT Obama should have said re Libya cries:

In response to Libya New Worlders faction requests, the USA will now send military assistance to stabilize the situation.

After one year we'll request a referendum vote: the people of the Libya state can vote to become a territory of the USA, or we will leave.

We hope the 25% living New Worlder faction of the Libya state will persuade at least 50% to vote to join the USA as a territory, and work for the goal of becoming one or more New USA states.

All this will allow the people of the Libya state to quickly become free and rich.

We hope a majority of people of the Libya state will stand against their 5% shapeless-form mafia and 25% laughing/dealing misery-loving segments and reject endless Old World tyranny and poverty, and accept New World weal.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100077455/the-obama-administration's-spineless-response-to-colonel-gaddafis-reign-of-terror/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/23/remarks-president-libya>

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:36 AM 0 comments

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

We wouldn't have fire today if cavemen tribalists hadn't discovered?

...today read this comment on Facebook:

"I understand his [Scott Walker] being elected in on the basis of curbing spending.

HOWEVER, unions are the reason kids don't work in factories, we have weekends, we expect safe working conditions etc. His expecting the working class of Wisconsin to shoulder the tab for his tax cuts for corporations is just BS."

...if not for unions:

-kids would still be working in factories?

-we'd still have to work on weekends?

-we'd have less safe working conditions?

-we'd still have low wage rates?

...public/economic pressure/forces would have naturally corrected these problems (and mostly did, but unionists take credit)

...Republican, logical, capitalist, correct, positive - jobs are either private property of a company or taxpayers' property (i.e. are property of those who pay for)

...Democrat, illogical, socialist, incorrect, negative - jobs are the property of workers, and unions (and government should) enforce this property right
..btw....we'd still have slavery today if not for the Civil War? ... no ... but we'd likely have a parallel competing freer richer CSA ... and definitely 600,000 fewer war dead

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:55 PM 0 comments

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When it comes to immigration, I call for an open-door policy

agree... when in doubt go for free... capitalism is optimized with free movement of capital including people... logical next step would be USA-Mexico nations concatenation ... but parallel and competing TexMex (red states join with Mexico) seems better libertarian notion

from Caruso-Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right":

When it comes to immigration, I call for an open-door policy.

No quotas. None. Whoever wants to come is allowed to come.

If you pose no security threat to our nation, you are welcome to pursue the American dream.

The fact that I advocate open immigration doesn't mean I'm oblivious to the need for strong security.

You can document every individual coming across our borders and actually know who they are.

In fact, I think a process that allows for documentation and free entry would actually increase our national security.

It would bring people out of the shadows.

Everyone coming and going would use legitimate entry points.

Sneaking across would be for criminals only.

Instead of wasting money building fences and tracking the hordes sneaking across the border in the middle of the night through the Rio Grande or in the trunks of cars, we could more carefully track those who hate our way of life.

Rather than chase away those who want our way of life, we'd have more money to defend against suspected terrorists...

I'm not sure what everyone is so afraid of. America was built on the backs of immigrants.

Nearly all of us came from somewhere and we should be proud of this heritage.

But this particular issue divides conservatives, probably more than any other.

If you are truly conservative you believe in the free movement of labor, capital, and goods. Immigration should be subject to the free market as everything else is.

Americans are always focused on the exceptionalism of their country.

We believe that we are the most ambitious, best educated, most creative, most economically free people in the world.

If we have that self-assessment correct, we should be able to compete with anyone and win.

So let's put our money where our mouths are and be prepared to compete.

I believe when Americans measure up, we'll continue to get the jobs we want and start the businesses we want to start.

Having to compete will only make us better.

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:30 AM 0 comments

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The mideast (and Wisconsin)...

The mideast (and Wisconsin) - the instability of justice is defeating the stability of injustice

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:25 AM 0 comments

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Another example of Dems' look/sound good but do bad ?...

...Obama said would not kick entitlement reform can down road,

...then goes ahead and does it

...hoping Reps will start reforms and then Dems can (try to) frame/blame Reps for being cold-hearted from Krauthammer article:

"For all its gimmicks, this budget leaves the country at decade's end saddled with publicly held debt *triple* what Obama inherited.

A more cynical budget is hard to imagine.

This one ignores the looming debt crisis, shifts all responsibility for serious budget-cutting to the Republicans - for which Democrats are ready with a two-year, full-artillery demagogic assault - and sets Obama up perfectly for reelection in 2012.

Obama fancies his happy talk, debt-denial optimism to be Reaganesque.

It's more Louis XV.

Reagan begat a quarter-century of prosperity; Louis, the deluge.

Moreover, unlike Obama, Louis had the decency to admit he was forfeiting the future.

He never pretended to be winning it."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/17/AR2011021705270.html>

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Dem - Rep party dichotomy basic negative/positive view-logic:

...seems...

...sing-blues Dems' power base be people who are "unsuccessful," "outside the capitalist system," "poor," and "dependent," therefore is in Dems' natural interest to have all of us miserable/ poor/ dependent (...ponder... are about 50% of us fooled by Dem? or do they actually enjoy misery/penury?)

...happy-tune Reps' power base be people who are "successful," "inside the capitalist system," "rich," and "independent," therefore is in Reps' natural interest to have all of us as happy/ millionaires/ independent

...Old disproven negative Democrat mercantilist outlook - the rich get richer by taking from the poor (this track is cry an' miss the American Pie)

...New proven positive Republican capitalist outlook - the rich get richer by making others rich (this track is sing bye-bye to missing American Pie)

...listen to Dylan/Byrds' knell "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue"... ("lover" be... _____'s spell)?

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:22 PM 0 comments

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The mideast - the instability of justice is defeating the stability of injustice

The mideast - the instability of justice is defeating the stability of injustice

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:38 AM 0 comments

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The world is a dangerous place to live...

"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it." - Albert Einstein

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:31 AM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011

re F.D.R. Warned us...

Scott Walker just straw man, Unionists' real target is us taxpayers

Tea Partier's counter-protest sign: "We protest on Saturdays - Too busy working M-F paying for union greed"

Unionists' tactics be?: pout, shout, cry, lie ... me-me negativity

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/02/18/the-first-blow-against-public-employees/fdr-warned-us-about-public-sector-unions>

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:31 AM 0 comments

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Scot - you are playing dumb

Scot - you are playing dumb. Corporate interests don't twist the arms of legislators to advance their interests? The free market is free for those with economic leverage, and not free for those without it. Workers united in order to build something like equivalent leverage. Striking is a tool that often works in employing that leverage. It is as much a right as the ownership of property. - a union supporter ...I'd be interested to read an example of "how corporate interests twist the arms of legislators to advance their interests" ... do you mean they lobby for lower tax rates and fewer regulations? - Scot

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:15 AM 0 comments

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Just read article "How unions help all workers"

...article has blizzard of words, statistics, and tables, stating the obvious - unions gain higher compensation for unionized workers

...falsely claims unions' increased compensation sets standard for non-unionized workers (actually market forces do this)

...what this article does not state (rather obfuscates) is the truth: unions strive for short-term forced artificially higher compensation for union insiders at the expense of non-union (freedom and truth-loving) outsiders and long-term overall efficient generation of wealth and riches for all

...what this article avoids is logic:

-if 100% of us were union members all of us would be paid higher wages

-but prices of all goods would be much higher (mostly from distortion of market forces due to politics defeat of economics)

...so ultimately only union bosses and their paid-off-politician enablers can benefit/profit from unionization

http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/briefingpapers_bp143/

Posted by Scot Wick at 7:05 AM 0 comments

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Perhaps the wage stagnation has been caused by increased government involvement in and distortion of the economy

Re the "How the middle class became the underclass" article

...the chart shows very little real median income improvement year 1917 to 2008.

...1917 was Woodrow Wilson's time, he started the "progressive" government era we are still in, government taxes/spending drastically increased

...in 1920 total government spending was \$1143 per person, in 2008 was \$17,574 per person (both in 2008 dollars)

...perhaps the wage stagnation has been caused by increased government involvement in and distortion of the economy

...including not minimally an imbuing of a working-class government-dependency free-market-blame resignation mentality

...from Zachary Wong's [Human Factors In Project Management](#) - "behaviors - not strategies, processes, and structures - make or break organizational performance"

http://money.cnn.com/2011/02/16/news/economy/middle_class/index.htm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011

What is the union-side economic logic of striking? there is none - only emotion and logic-negation

Seems economic logic - whenever you see workers publicly striking it is by definition because they want more (money, benefits) than they are worth,

...since they are not happy with their free market value they use coercion to get more

...just as companies are free to pay people what they are worth and hire and fire, so too are workers free to evaluate own worth, leave and fully achieve

...whenever I drive by demonstrating workers I say "boo!" and give a thumbs down (thinking they are holding themselves, their company, and the economy down)

...why don't striking workers quit, form own company, and pay themselves whatever they want? (because coercion, forcing consumers and taxpayers to pay up, is easier money?)

...what is the union-side economic logic of striking? there is none - only emotion and logic-negation

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:33 AM 0 comments

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

Logical extension of unionization "protection" ?

...seems...if 100% of us were union members...

...all of us would be paid higher wages...

...but prices of all goods would be at least equally higher...

...so ultimately, only mammon-pilfering, profligacy-producing, progress-pillorying union boss hegemons (and their paid-off-politician enabler/ partisans) profit from unionization

...unionization amounts to we free-side minions paying union monopolists protection money for a continuing functioning (albeit attenuated) (but eventually dead?) economy

...unionists' "there-there" "protection" of small businesses is an obfuscating cover for/of protection money... after oll, they need millions of weak non-union non-threaten-dem peon segment to support the higher wages of unionists (lower wages of us non-unionists thereby moderating prices)

...so actually 100% unionization is not wot the hegemons want, unionists really want an insider-monopolists / outsider-pacifists dichotomy

From Michelle Caruso-Cabrera's "You Know I'm Right:

Unions should have died a natural death as our economy evolved.

Arguably, unions would have come to a natural demise but for President Kennedy's Executive Order 10988, issued in 1962, which allowed unionism in the federal bureaucracy.

It was a pivotal step and led to widespread unionization among government workers.

The statistics tell the whole story:

Back in 1960, there were 900,000 union members working for government, and by 2009 there were 7.9 million.

Nearly 50 percent of them are teachers.

Unions want bigger government because it leads to more members.

That's why unions are bad for taxpayers, bad for the economy, and bad for the political process...

Union organizers love public-sector workers because they've learned you can only get so much out of a private company before it goes belly up and the goose that laid the golden egg is dead.

Look no further than General Motors:

When GM went bankrupt, it was no longer an automaker.

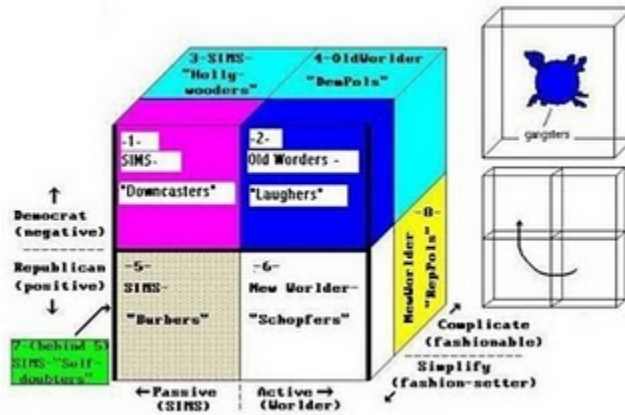
It had become a supplier of health care that only made cars on the side.

Posted by Scot Wick at 8:42 AM 0 comments

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Rubric Cube - seems politicians are second-class, only concede-to, hew-to, acquiesce-to, at most react-to and coalesce the first-class activists...

... therefore the best activists have to remain active, lest it oll become an in-there mushy middle (Byrds song "Change Is Now")



Posted by Scot Wick at 5:26 AM 0 comments

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Governor Mitch Daniels decertified the public-employees union in Indiana in 2004, and we're doing just fine

Governor Mitch Daniels decertified the public-employees union in Indiana in 2004, and we're doing just fine

"The reforms began instantly. On his first day Daniels reversed an executive order signed by a Democratic predecessor granting collective bargaining rights to state employees. Union membership plummeted overnight. "I think they were happy to have the extra thousand dollars that would have gone to dues," Kitchell said. Decertifying the public-employees' union has spared Indiana pressures that have crippled other state governments. Unhindered by union demands, the governor instituted a "pay for performance" scheme, rewarding state employees who met explicit goals with raises ranging from 4 percent to 10 percent. The salaries of underperforming employees stayed flat. No one was fired, but every time a job went vacant a supervisor had to justify hiring a replacement. The number of state employees has fallen from 35,000 to under 30,000, back where it was in 1982."

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/ride-along-mitch>

Posted by Scot Wick at 4:29 AM 0 comments

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

Unions an' Leftists: if religion can be irrational, why not politics/economics?

...leftists do not make sense because they don't want/need to

...about 50% of us place faith in leftists due to their irrational dialectic, not because of any reasoned logic

..."successful/rich capitalists are evil, you must rebel" no matter that people are free to form unions, start their own companies, and pay union members as much as they please

...reason-negation seems foundation of religion of leftism

from Jonah Goldberg's "Liberal Fascism":

For syndicalists at the time and, ultimately, for leftist revolutionaries of all stripes, Georges Sorel's myth of the general strike was the equivalent of the Second Coming.

According to this myth, if all workers declared a general strike, it would crush capitalism and render the proletariat - rather than the meek - the inheritors of the earth.

Whether the implementation of a general strike would actually have this result didn't matter, according to Sorel.

What mattered was mobilizing the masses to understand their power over the capitalist ruling classes.

As Mussolini said in an interview in 1932, "It is faith that moves mountains, not reason. Reason is a tool, but it can never be the motive force of the crowd."

This kind of thinking has been commonplace on the left ever since.

Think of Al Sharpton when allegedly confronted by the fact that the Tawana Brawley "assault" was a fake.

"It doesn't matter," he's reported to have said. "We're building a movement."

Even more impressive was Sorel's application of the idea of myth to Marxism itself.

Again, Sorel held that Marxist prophecy didn't need to be true.

People just needed to think it was true.

Even at the turn of the last century it was becoming obvious that Marxism as social science didn't make a whole lot of sense.

Taken literally, Marx's *Das Kapital*, according to Sorel, had little merit.

But, Sorel asked, what if Marx's nonsensicalness was actually intended?

If you looked at "this apocalyptic text... as a product of the spirit, as an image created for the purpose of molding consciousness, it... is a good illustration of the principle on which Marx believed he should base the rules of the socialist action of the proletariat."

In other words, Marx should be read as a prophet, not as a policy wonk.

That way the masses would absorb Marxism unquestioningly as a religious dogma.

Sorel was deeply influenced by the pragmatism of William James, who pioneered the notion that all one needs is the "will to believe."

It was James's benign hope to make room for religion in a burgeoning age of science, by arguing that any religion that worked for the believer was not merely valid but "true."

Sorel was an irrationalist who took this sort of thinking to its logical conclusion:

any idea that can be successfully imposed - with violence if necessary - becomes true and good.

By marrying James's will to believe with Nietzsche's will to power, Sorel redesigned left-wing revolutionary politics from scientific socialism to a revolutionary religious movement that believed in the utility of the myth of scientific socialism.

Enlightened revolutionaries would act as if Marxism were gospel in order to bring the masses under their control for the greater good.

Today we might call these aspects of this impulse "lying for justice."

Of course, a lie could not become "true" - that is, successful - unless you had good liars.

This is where another of Sorel's major contributions comes in: the need for a "revolutionary elite" to impose its will upon the masses.

On this point, as many have observed, Mussolini and Lenin held almost identical views.

Central to their common outlook was the Sorelian conviction that a small cadre of professional intellectual radicals - who were prepared to reject compromise, parliamentary politics, and anything else that smacked of incremental reform - were indispensable to any successful revolutionary struggle.

This avant-garde would shape "revolutionary consciousness" by fomenting violence and undermining liberal institutions.

"We must create a proletarian minority sufficiently numerous, sufficiently knowledgeable, sufficiently audacious to substitute itself, at the opportune moment, for the bourgeois minority," Mussolini channeled Lenin in pitch-perfect tones.

"The masses will simply follow and submit."

Posted by Scot Wick at 5:56 PM 0 comments

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? Republicans logical, positive, New Worldish...

? Republicans logical, positive, New Worldish, open-minded, unafraid of truth, anti-dependency, pro-wealth, and pro-change;

Democrats illogical, negative, Old Worldish, closed-minded, afraid of truth, pro-dependency, anti-wealth, and anti-change?

Newt Gingrich: The Nattering Nabobs of Negativism Strike Again

"Power Resides with the American People, Not in Washington

If You Respect the American People, You Can Rely on the American People

If a new conservative President and Congress develop and win based off of a new Contract with America in 2012, there is nothing that can stand in the way of true conservative reforms that will create jobs, make America safer, and maximize individual freedom and dignity for all Americans."

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=41814>

The Nattering Nabobs of Negativism Strike Again

Posted by Scot Wick at 9:28 AM 0 comments

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Example of advantage of big corporation - McDonald's

Example of advantage of big corporation - McDonald's, from Mankiw:

Imagine that you are driving through an unfamiliar town and want to stop for lunch.

You see a McDonald's and a local restaurant next to it. Which do you choose?

The local restaurant may in fact offer better food at lower prices, but you have no way of knowing that.

By contrast, McDonald's offers a consistent product across many cities.

Its brand name is useful to you as a way of judging the quality of what you are about to buy.

The McDonald's brand name also ensures that the company has an incentive to maintain quality. For example, if some customers were to become ill from bad food sold at a McDonald's, the news would be disastrous for the company.

McDonald's would lose much of the valuable reputation that it has built up with years of expensive advertising.

As a result, it would lose sales and profit not just in the outlet that sold the bad food but in its many outlets throughout the country.

By contrast, if some customers were to become ill from bad food at a local restaurant, that restaurant might have to close down, but the lost profits would be much smaller. Hence, McDonald's has a greater incentive to ensure that its food is safe.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Pesky free-market economics again get in way of Obamanomics

Pesky free-market economics again get in way of Obamanomics "Surely, there are better investment opportunities for taxpayer dollars than this fantasy"

http://articles.ocreger.com/2010-02-15/opinion/24631001_1_high-speed-rail-tgv-nuclear-power

Richard Stegemeier: High-speed rail economics bleak

February 15, 2010|By RICHARD J. STEGEMEIER

High-speed rail is a wonderful concept because it uses electricity and could reduce our dependence on fossil fuels sometime in the distant future.

Posted by Scot Wick at 6:53 PM 0 comments

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Wealth comes from growing the pie, not redistributing pieces of it

Wealth comes from growing the pie, not redistributing pieces of it

...the negative, mournful, static, parasitic, Old, wrong mercantilism view = wealth is finite, can only gain wealth by taking from others...

...has long been (at least since Adam Smith in 1776 and David Ricardo in 1817) superseded by...

...the positive, cheerful, dynamic, synergistic, New, right capitalism view = wealth is infinite, gain/increase wealth through application of comparative advantage (specialization/ trade)

...Marxism essentially is a dressed-up redux mercantilism view

...the USA hasn't been perfect but has been the greatest engine for world wealth growth

...just as Germany was once many fenced-off kingdoms, so is the world now many fenced-off countries

...re "the curse of materialism" - wealth allows people to have many things if they choose, poverty doesn't allow that choice