

**Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013**  
**Humanity at a Crossroads**  
**21 September 2013**

**Session 01**

**The Enlightenment 2.0**  
**Curt Gibby**

**Current Events Segment**  
**ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery**  
**Conroe, Texas**

# **Program for TSS Meeting**

## **21 September 2013**

- **9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (45 Minutes +/-) –**  
*Curt Gibby*
- **10:15 am - 10 Minute break**
- **10:25 am – Enlightenment 1.0 and Intro 2.0**
- **11:55 am Closing Remarks and Feedback**
- **Next Meeting 19 October 2013 – Enlightenment then and Now**

# Third Saturday Seminars

**Third Saturday Seminars - Fall Sessions 2013**

**3 Sessions. No Fee**

**To refer to an ancient Chinese saying, our world is in interesting times and individual citizens are assaulted with a blinding array of propaganda from every conceivable source. The Third Saturday Seminar is about demystification of what is going on around us. Time will also be spent on current events. Meets on Montgomery Campus in B102.**

**17381 S 9/21-11/15 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. MC B102 Gibby**

**The Lone Star College Montgomery ALL Program:**

**[Academy for Lifelong Learning Program Description](#)**

**[A.L.L. Fall 2013-14 Course Schedule](#) (PDF)**

**[Map of campus and parking lots](#)**

**Or call 936.273.7446**

# Change

**There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's yourself.**

**Aldus Huxley**

# Accepting the challenge

Most of you have in fact made real contributions during your lifetimes and careers. And now you feel you have earned a rest and start cashing in your chips and enjoying the good life.

Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

# **DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)**

As our times get more and more interesting, some of the subjects I bring up are sounding more and more onerous or threatening.

My purpose is not to frighten anyone, even when some of the information seems to have a prophetic quality, I cannot predict the future with any accuracy, but I can distinct possibilities, given what we all see going on and we just may see some of the things we talk about take become part of our reality in the future. And if they do, then I hope by our talking about them now you will avoid being surprised and the temptation to (be) panic(ked).

Our leaders love to manipulate us emotionally into crises and panic us into a irrational fear response. Please don't let them.

.

# Current Events

**Don't***be***Panic***ked!*

# Navy Yard Shooter Sought Help as Pentagon Missed Warnings

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Gopal Ratnam & Tony Capaccio - Sep 18, 2013 11:00 PM CT

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Google+ 23 COMMENTS + QUEUE Print Email

Aaron Alexis sought medical help in the days before his shooting rampage at the [Washington Navy Yard](#), leaving a trail of missed distress signals now under scrutiny in the massacre's wake.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel acknowledged yesterday that the military failed to pick up "red flags" in Alexis's background, pledging to investigate and plug holes in security at facilities worldwide, and weaknesses in the clearance procedures that allow access to them.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, right, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, left, lay a wreath in honor of the Navy Yard shooting victims, at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. on September 18, 2013.

The 34-year-old Navy contractor twice requested emergency treatment for insomnia in the month before the shooting, the Department of Veterans Affairs said yesterday. That was just a few weeks after he had summoned police to his [Rhode Island](#) hotel room complaining that he was hearing voices and being stalked by unseen harassers -- prompting a concerned officer to alert the local naval station.

**Related:** [Navy Yard Killer's Case Highlights Flaws in Vetting](#)

There's no evidence any of the incidents set off alarms. The  
The Enghement 2.0





## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Print



SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap>

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## Food Stamp Program Could See Cuts

by Sarah Hurwitz  
Published September 20, 2013

EUGENE, Ore. — Big cuts could be coming to the federal food stamp program, and it would have a significant impact on people living in parts of Oregon.

House Republicans have passed a bill that would slash aid to about four million Americans over the next 10 years.

Those who use food stamps in Lane County would definitely feel the pinch if the proposed cuts are passed. More than 1 in 3 residents qualify for some sort of food assistance. That would mean approximately 20 fewer meals for a family of four every month.



The manager of Sundance Natural Foods says they see shoppers who use an Oregon Trail Card pretty regularly.

"People of all kinds really come into our store with food stamps. There isn't a particular type. So I think food stamps benefits everybody," said Tera Ponce, Sundance Natural Foods Manager.

She says it wouldn't be smart to cut the food stamp program because so many people rely on it.

The legislation would also allow states to require food stamp recipients to be tested for drugs and to stop lottery winners from getting benefits.



[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250\\_162-57603877/house-passes-bill-funding-government-defunding-obamacare/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57603877/house-passes-bill-funding-government-defunding-obamacare/)

## House passes bill funding government, defunding Obamacare



Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, celebrates as he speaks during a rally as other House Republicans look on after a vote September 20, 2013 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. / ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

772 Comments / 10K Shares / 168 Tweets / Stumble / Email More +

*Updated at 3:01 p.m. ET*

House Republicans advanced a bill on Friday that would continue funding the government at current spending levels for nearly three months but would strip money appropriated to fund Obamacare, following through on months of threats and inviting the prospect of a government shutdown if the Senate, as expected, does not accede to the House's decision before an Oct. 1 deadline.

The bill was passed on a largely party line vote, with 228 Republicans and two Democrats voting in favor of passage. 188 Democrats and one Republican were opposed.

Immediately after the vote concluded, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and much of the Republican conference held a rally at the Capitol to celebrate.

# Immigration bill

## House Republicans Quit Bipartisan Immigration Group, Weakening Chance Of Legislation

By [Elizabeth Llorente](#)

Published September 20, 2013 Fox News Latino

It was to be a bipartisan effort to draft immigration legislation in the House of Representatives.

But the attempt at the united front effectively collapsed Friday when two more Republicans dropped out of what had begun as a group of eight members earlier this year.

Texas Republican Reps. John Carter and Sam Johnson announced that they were abandoning the effort to work on a comprehensive immigration bill, which President Obama has pushed to see passed in Congress by the end of the year.

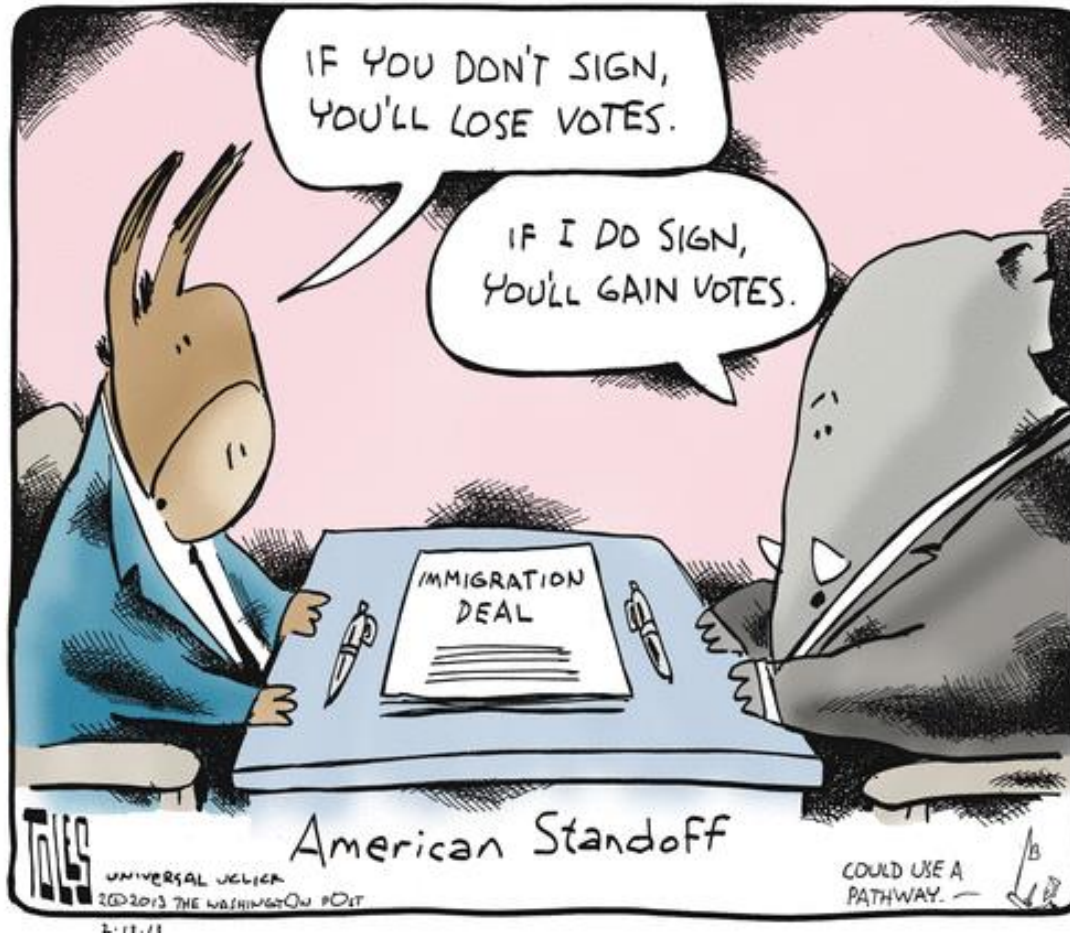
Read more:

21 September 2013 The Enlightenment 2.0  
<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2013/09/20/house-republicans-quit-bipartisan-immigration-group-weakening> 13

# Immigration (Reform?)

Tom Toles by Tom Toles

February 13, 2013



# Texas Gubernatorial Election 2014

Wikipedia

## **Republican primary Candidates - Declared**

Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas<sup>[1]</sup>

Larry Kilgore, perennial candidate and Texas secessionist<sup>[2]</sup>

Miriam Martinez, former Univision personality<sup>[3]</sup>

Tom Pauken, former Texas Workforce Commissioner, former chairman of the Republican Party of Texas<sup>[4]</sup>

**Polling** [[show](#)] **Hypothetical polling**

## **Democratic primary Candidates - Potential**

Wendy Davis, State Senator<sup>[10][11]</sup>

Kinky Friedman, singer, songwriter, novelist, humorist and Independent candidate for Governor in 2006<sup>[12]</sup>

Kirk Watson, State Senator and former Mayor of Austin<sup>[13]</sup>

# Wendy Davis for governor? She'll announce her plans Oct. 3

By [Wayne Slater](#)

[wslater@dallasnews.com](mailto:wslater@dallasnews.com)

[6:55 am on September 18, 2013](#) | [Permalink](#)

Democrat Wendy Davis will announce Oct. 3 her election plans amid growing indications she intends to run for governor. The Fort Worth senator catapulted to national attention with an 11-hour filibuster over abortion restrictions that frustrated Republican leaders and energized Texas Democrats who haven't elected a statewide candidate in nearly two decades. Davis sent supporters an email this morning asking that they tell friends she will be making an announcement in two weeks and to sign up for her coming campaign. In her email, she says:

*“There’s one question I’ve gotten quite often in the past few months. I’ve heard it online, while I’m traveling around the state, from the media, and in my Fort Worth neighborhood: **What’s next?** On October 3rd, I’ll be answering that question. And as part of my dedicated network of grassroots supporters, you will be among the very first to find out.”*



# Next General Election is Nov 4, 2014


That is only **409**days from now.

All 435 Members of House of Representatives and 33 Senators will be elected or re-elected.

All 150 Members of Texas House of Representatives and 31 Texas Senators will be elected or re-elected. One-half of the Senate membership is elected every two years in even-numbered years, with the exception that all 31 Senate seats are up for election for the first legislature following the decennial census in order to reflect the newly redrawn districts. After the initial election, the Senate is divided by lot into two classes, with one class having a re-election after two years and the other having a re-election after four years.

THE BLOG

## New Projection of Election Results: Romney 52, Obama 47

5:00 AM, OCT 29, 2012 • BY FRED BARNES 

     Send to Kindle

The bipartisan Battleground Poll, in its "vote election model," is projecting that Mitt Romney will defeat President Obama 52 percent to 47 percent. The poll also found that Romney has an even greater advantage among middle class voters, 52 percent to 45 percent.



While Obama can close the gap with a strong voter turnout effort, "reports from the field would indicate that not to be the case, and Mitt Romney may well be heading to a decisive victory," says pollster Ed Goeas.

Should Romney win by 5 percentage points, it would increase Republican chances of gaining control of the Senate. His coattails would help elect GOP Senate candidates in Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. "Republicans are now certain to hold the House," Goeas said, "regardless of how the presidential race turns out."

The poll's election model takes into account variables including voter intensity, age, and education, and voters who are certain in their vote. The race "remains very close in the surface," Goeas said, "but the political environment and the composition of the likely electorate favor Governor Romney."

The projected outcome by the Battleground Poll is close to that of the Gallup Poll. Last week, Gallup said Romney leads Obama 49 percent to 46 percent in its model of the electorate's composition on November 6.

The Battleground Poll is conducted by Goeas of the Tarrance Group and Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners. Goeas is a Republican, Lake a Democrat. The survey is affiliated with *Politico* and George Washington University.

# Delay's sentence overturned, Travis County DA will appeal



Delay: "We were all, basically, on our knees praying and my lawyer calls and says, 'You're a free man,' "

Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay smiles as he leaves a lunch meeting on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, in Washington. A Texas appeals court tossed the criminal conviction of DeLay on Thursday, saying there was insufficient evidence for a jury in 2010 to have found him guilty of illegally funneling money to Republican candidates. Photo: Carolyn Kaster

<http://www.chron.com/default/photo/Former-House-Majority-Leader-Tom-DeLay-smiles-as-5209610.php>

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# Raising the Costa Concordia

[http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2013/09/16/20517915-watch-time-lapse-video-of-massive-salvage-operation-to-set-costa-concordia-cruise-liner-upright?lite](http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/09/16/20517915-watch-time-lapse-video-of-massive-salvage-operation-to-set-costa-concordia-cruise-liner-upright?lite)

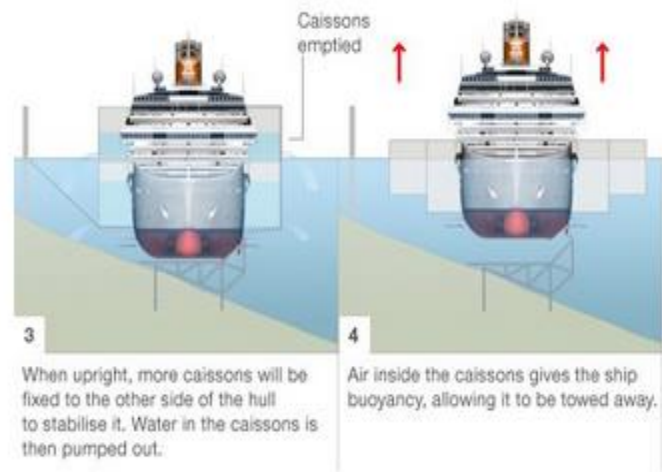
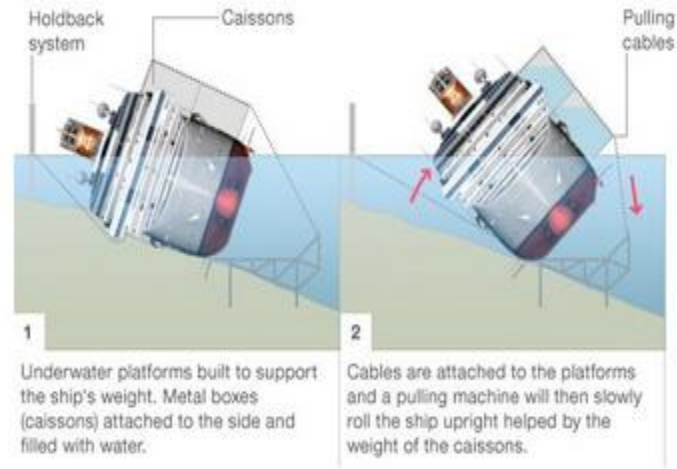


In stages: The Costa Concordia ran aground in January 2012 (top left), before emerging during the salvage operation yesterday (top right) and (bottom left) and being turned upright (bottom right) today

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2423367/Costa-Concordia-Time-lapse-video-reveals-impressive-19-hour-effort-wrench-ship-side.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2423367/Costa-Concordia-Time-lapse-video-reveals-impressive-19-hour-effort-wrench-ship-side.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

# Costa Concordia raised

## Salvage operation



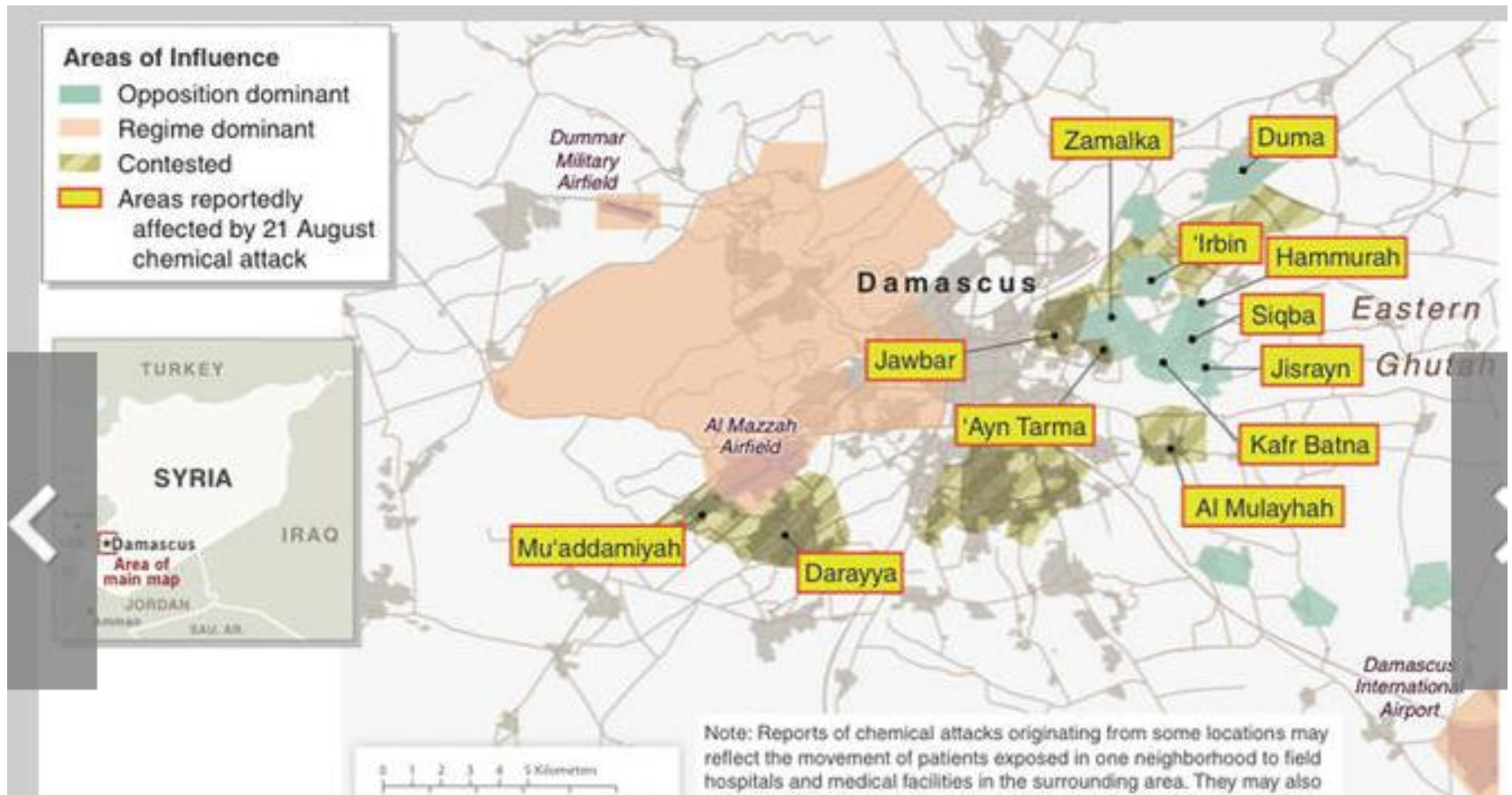
Source: Titan/Micoperi. Image: Getty



# Things are still serious in **Syria**.



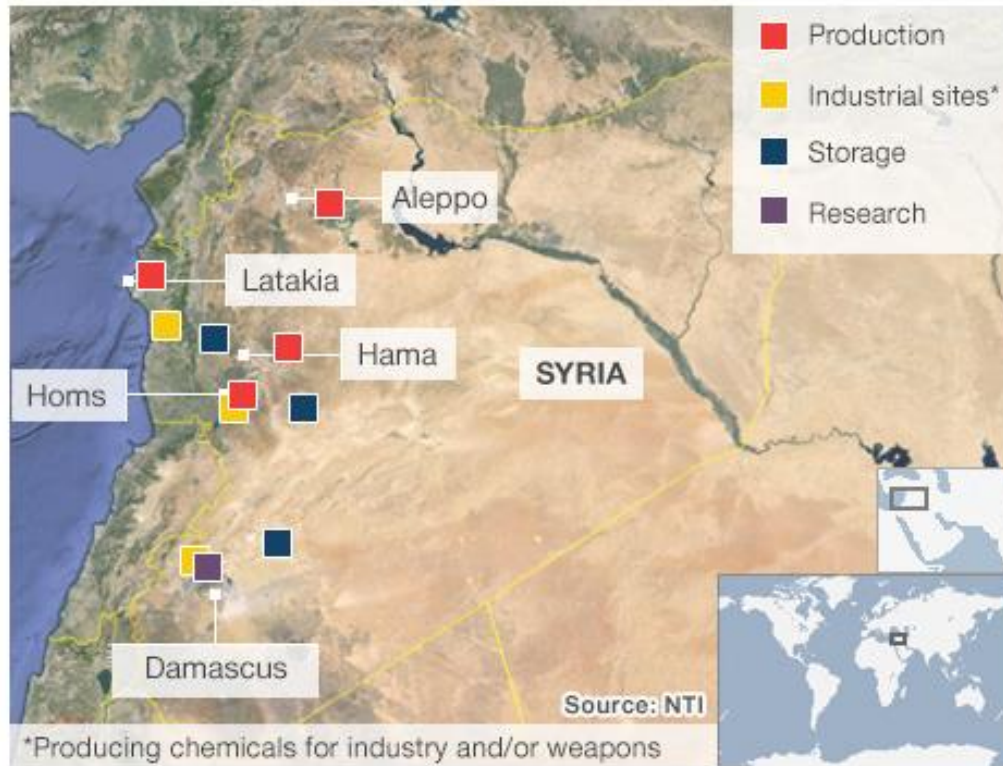
# Yahoo Images – Sarin Gas Attack



The United States Government assesses with high confidence that the Syrian government carried out a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21, 2013 ... [less](#)

## Syria's chemical weapons stockpile

Chemical weapons facilities in Syria

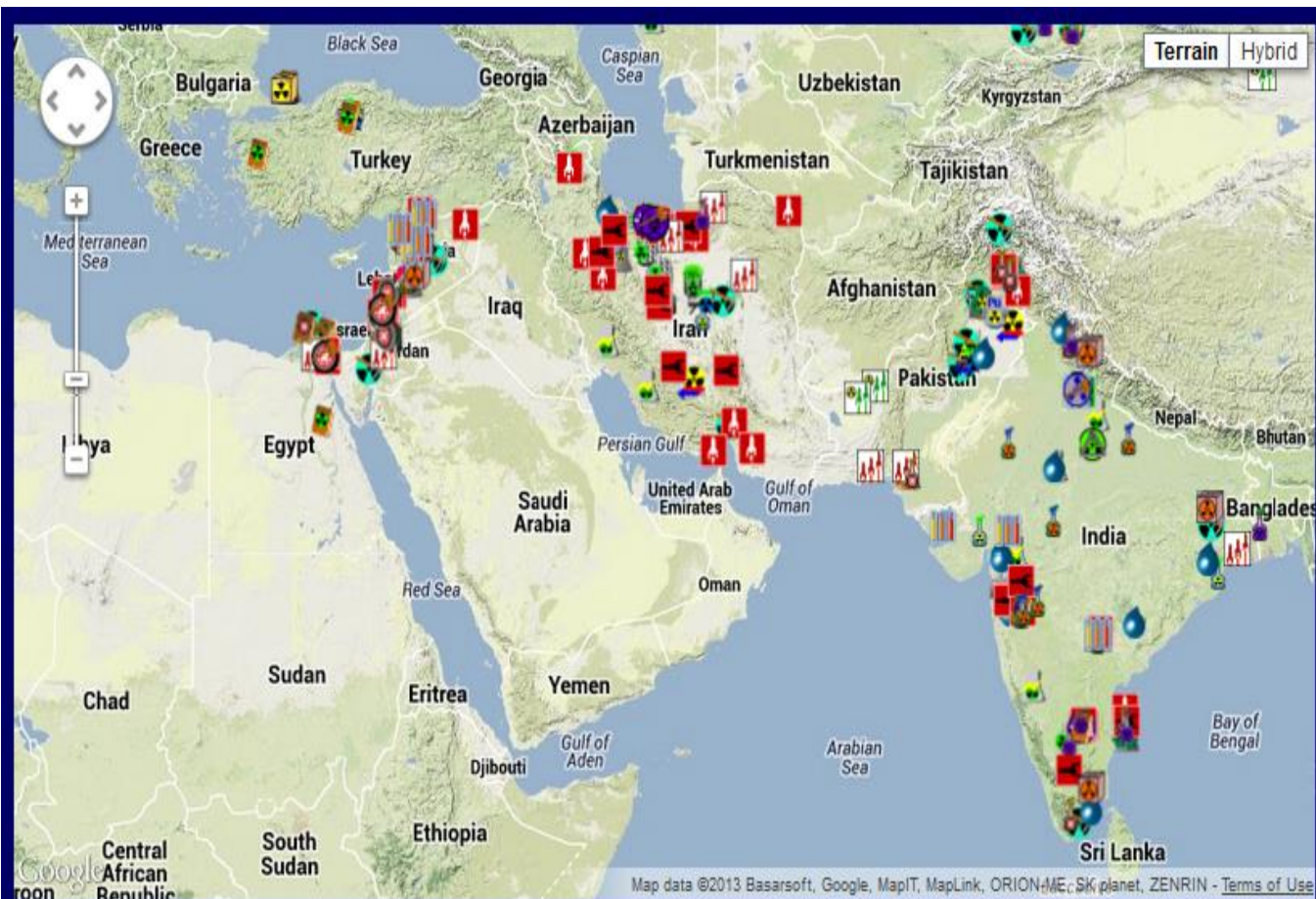


The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) says it has received an initial disclosure from the Syrian government of its chemical weapons programme, which is now being examined.





<http://www.nti.org/gmap/?place=26.2145,52.8277,4&layers=nuclear,missile,biological,chemical>



### Show/hide facility type

- Any Category
- Biological ▶
- Chemical ▶
- Missile ▶
- Nuclear ▶

Find facilities with descriptions in these country profiles:

[Share](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

Argentina	Belarus	China	Cuba	Egypt	India
Iran	Israel	Kazakhstan	North Korea	Pakistan	Russia
South Korea	Syria	Turkey			

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the large amount of data processed, the map may be slow to respond.

# Yahoo Images





<http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/14/cartoons-of-the-week-june-8-14/photo/cartoon2-48/>



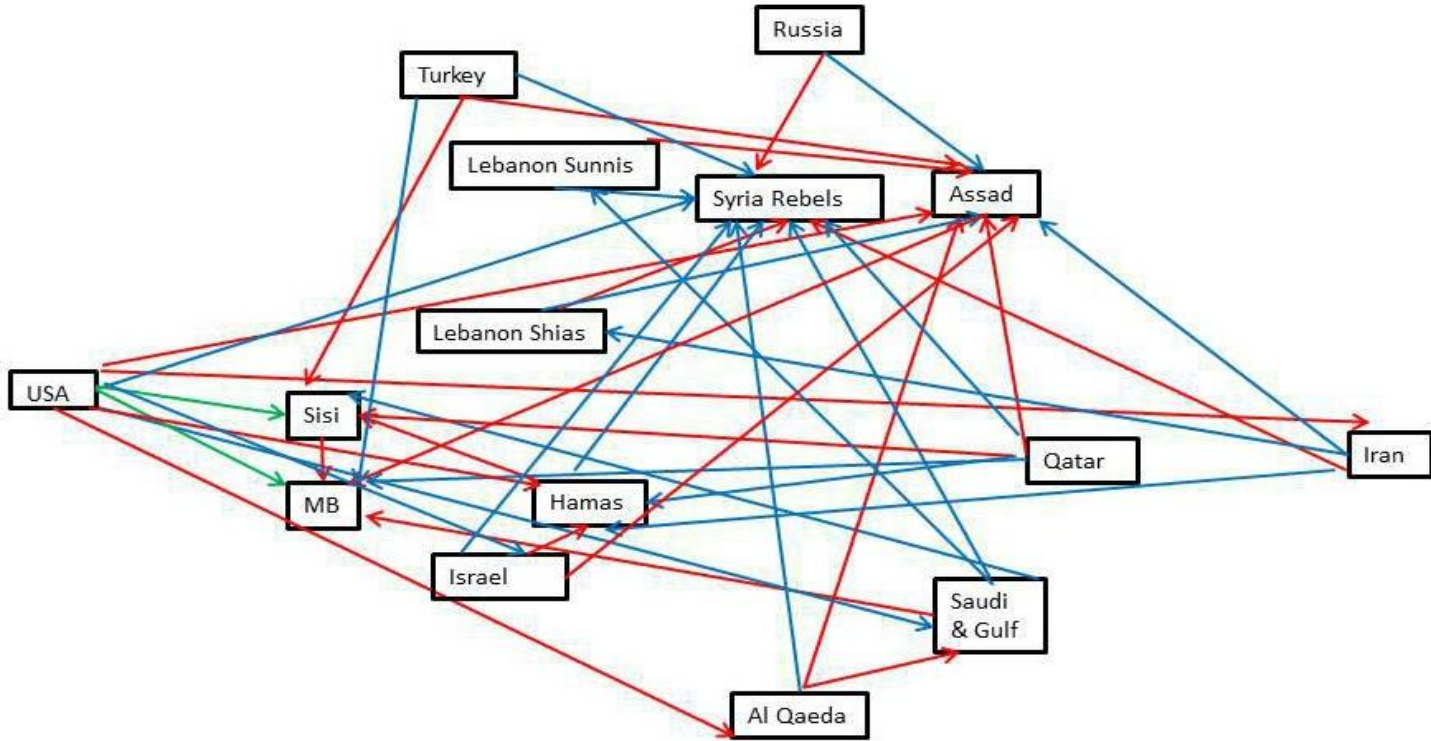


Sir, Iran is backing Assad. Gulf states are against Assad!  
Assad is against Muslim Brotherhood.  
Muslim Brotherhood and Obama are against General Sisi.  
But Gulf states are pro-Sisi! Which means they are against Muslim Brotherhood!  
Iran is pro-Hamas, but Hamas is backing Muslim Brotherhood!  
Obama is backing Muslim Brotherhood, yet Hamas is against the U.S.!  
Gulf states are pro-U.S. But Turkey is with Gulf states against Assad; yet Turkey is pro-Muslim Brotherhood against General Sisi.  
And General Sisi is being backed by the Gulf states!  
Welcome to the Middle East and have a nice day.  
KN Al-Sabah,  
London EC4, U.K.



# The Middle East, explained in one (sort of terrifying) chart

By [Max Fisher](#), Published: August 26 at 12:42 pm



The Complete Idiot's Chart to Understanding The Middle East

- supports
- Hates
- Has no clue

© @thebigpharaoh



## [The Middle East, explained in one \(sort of terrifying\) chart](#)

By [Max Fisher](#), Published: August 26 at 12:42 pm Cont.

Spend a few minutes staring at this and you will either have a seizure or actually comprehend the Middle East. Egypt is represented by the "MB" (Muslim Brotherhood) and "Sisi" for military leader Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sissi. (Courtesy The Big Pharaoh)

What could be simpler than the Middle East? A well-known Egyptian blogger who writes under the pseudonym The Big Pharaoh put together this chart laying out the region's rivalries and alliances. He's kindly granted me permission to post it, so that Americans might better understand the region. The joke is that it's not a joke; this is actually pretty accurate.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/26/the-middle-east-explained-in-one-sort-of-terrifying-chart/>

**Update:** Some readers have raised a few fair quibbles with the chart. The biggest is that it's not totally accurate to say that Israel supports Syrian rebels; although they certainly don't care for Assad and have previously bombed Syrian weapons and nuclear installations, they're not exactly rooting for a Libya-style rebel takeover, either. And **al-Qaeda doesn't just hate the Assad regime, it also hates the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and others. All of which helps to drive home that the Middle East is even more complicated than it appears on this already crazy-complicated chart.**

**“I think it is just terrible and disgusting how everyone has treated Lance Armstrong, especially after what he achieved, winning seven Tour de France races while on drugs. When I was on drugs, I couldn't even find my bike.”**

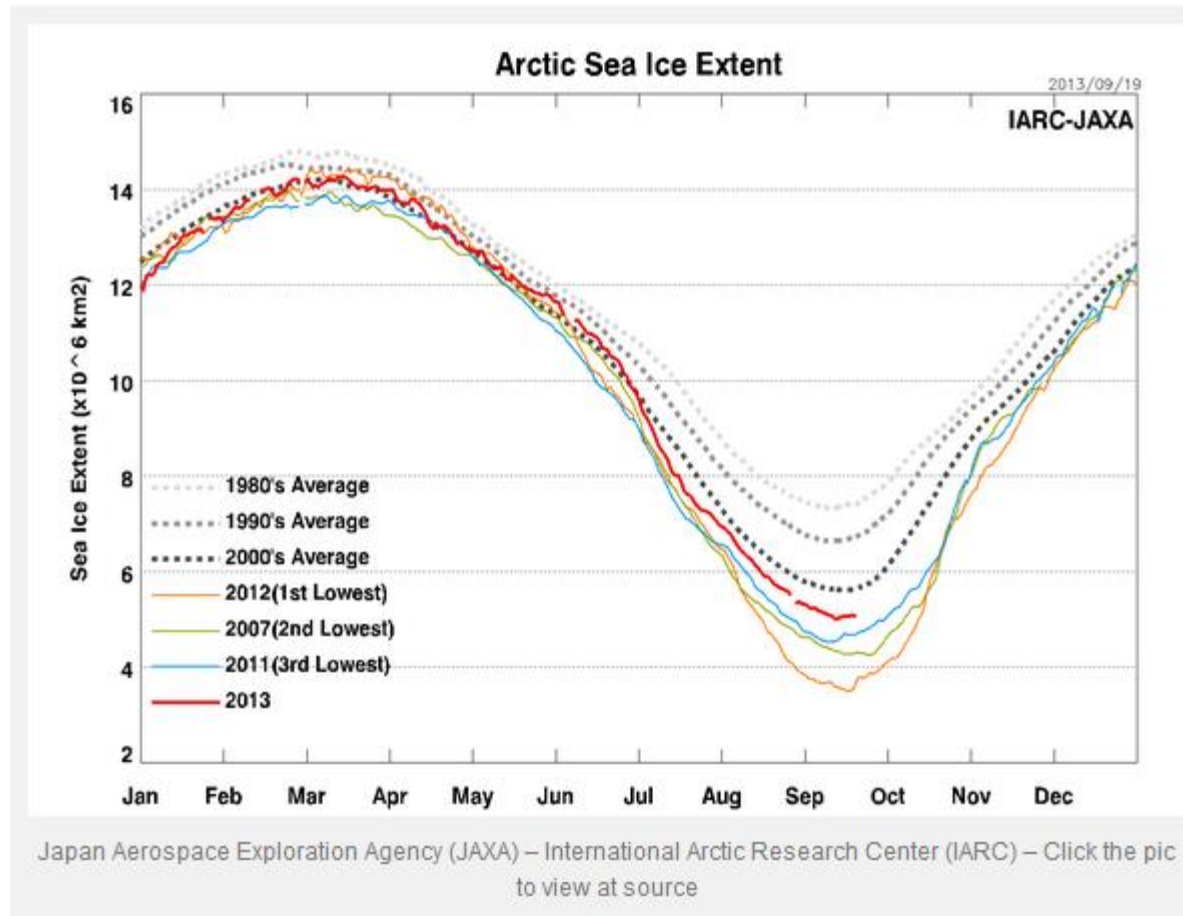
***Willie Nelson***



# Arctic Sea Ice Extent

Stopped shrinking for this Year

Arctic Sea Ice Extent – 15% or Greater:



[http://www.ijis.iarc.uaf.edu/seaice/extent/Sea\\_Ice\\_Extent\\_L.png](http://www.ijis.iarc.uaf.edu/seaice/extent/Sea_Ice_Extent_L.png)

# Fed Chair Hopefuls Are “Lapdogs for the Establishment”: Jim Rogers

At last count, [more than 350 economists](#), 38 female [House Democrats](#) and about [17 Senators](#) have signed letters to President Obama urging him to nominate Fed Vice Chair Janet Yellen as the next Chairman of the Fed. She emerged as the frontrunner for the job now that [Larry Summers](#), a former economic advisor to the president and Treasury Secretary under President Clinton, has withdrawn his name from consideration.

**Related:** [Larry Summers Out; Obama "Mishandled" the Fed Nominating Process, Says Economist](#)

While Congressional members and economists push their pick for Fed chair, international investor Jim Rogers tells The Daily Ticker: it doesn't matter who Obama picks because all Fed Chair candidates “are lapdogs for the establishment.” He expects any new Fed chair will continue current policy, which he says is “insane.”

<http://finance.yahoo.com/blogs/daily-ticker/fed-chair-hopefuls-lapdogs-establishment-jim-rogers-125844406.html>

# Tired Of Inequality? One Economist Says It'll Only Get Worse

Economist Tyler Cowen has some advice for what to do about America's income inequality: Get used to it. In his latest book, *Average Is Over*, Cowen lays out his prediction for where the U.S. economy is heading, like it or not:

**"I think we'll see a thinning out of the middle class," he tells NPR's Steve Inskeep. "We'll see a lot of individuals rising up to much greater wealth. And we'll also see more individuals clustering in a kind of lower-middle class existence."**

**It's a radical change from the America of 40 or 50 years ago. Cowen believes the wealthy will become more numerous, and even more powerful. The elderly will hold on to their benefits ... the young, not so much. Millions of people who might have expected a middle class existence may have to aspire to something else.**

"Imagine a very large bohemian class of the sort that say, lives in parts of Brooklyn," Cowen explains. "... It will be culturally upper or upper-middle class, but there will be the income of lower-middle class. They may have lives that are quite happy and rewarding, but they may not have a lot of savings. There will be a certain fragility to this existence."

<http://www.npr.org/2013/09/12/221425582/tired-of-inequality-one-economist-says-itll-only-get-worse>

# Implications of America's New Gilded Age

Five years after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the U.S. economy is emerging from the “Great Recession.” Home sales are rebounding and the auto industry is surging, while banks are showing healthier balance sheets and credit is easing. But according to a new study, not everyone is enjoying the same level of improvement. The top 1 percent of American wages are close to full recovery while the bottom 99 percent have barely begun to recover. In fact, the top 10 percent of U.S. earners took in more than half the country’s total income last year, the first time that has happened in a century. Guest host Tom Gjelten and his guests examine what this income gap means for the American economy, society and political system.

## **Guests**

### **Stephanie Coontz**

director of research and public education, Council on Contemporary Families ,  
Evergreen State College

### **Dante Chinni**

The Wall Street Journal and American Communities Project at American University

### **Thomas Edsall**

professor of journalism, Columbia University and columnist, The New York Times;  
author of "The Age of Austerity: How Scarcity Will Remake American Politics"

This is the Diga del Cingino dam in Italy - can you see the little dots on the wall? You'll never guess what they are ...

What's that on the dam wall ?Look closely, it's one of those things you have to see to believe !



This is the Diga del Cingino dam in Italy - can you see the little dots on the wall? You'll never guess what they are ...



They are European Ibex and they like to eat the moss and lichen growing on the wall. They also are licking the salt off the stone. Isn't it incredible they can stand at that angle. Just when you think you've seen everything !



# “Physician heal thyself” Luke 4:23

Richard Haass, was interviewed recently by Diane Rehm regarding, [“Foreign Policy Begins At Home: The Case For Putting America's House In Order”](#) (1 hr)

“The president of the Council on Foreign Relations says the biggest threat to the United States comes not from abroad but from within. He says that only by getting our own house in order -- fixing our crumbling infrastructure, second-class schools and outdated immigration system -- will we be able to lead a world that will otherwise be overwhelmed by global challenges, regional conflicts and failed states. Diane and her guest discuss why he believes foreign policy begins at home.”

# From the Introduction to “Foreign Policy Begins At Home”

This relatively short book is predicated on a consequential idea: The biggest threat to America’s security and prosperity comes not from abroad but from within. The United States has jeopardized its ability to act effectively in the world because of runaway domestic spending, underinvestment in human and physical capital, an avoidable financial crisis, an unnecessarily slow recovery, a war in Iraq that was flawed from the outset and a war in Afghanistan that became flawed as its purpose evolved, recurring fiscal deficits, and deep political divisions. For the United States to continue to act successfully abroad, it must restore the domestic foundations of its power. Foreign policy needs to begin at home, now and for the foreseeable future.



# Surveillance Nation:

**Surveillance Nation:** Thank goodness, that this subject is finally under wide discussion. Even though the reporting is spotty and is a little misleading, we'll find out that it conceals more than it reveals. Military classification has long been used to cover incompetence and criminality (Which is categorically against regulations, but it's too convenient not to invoke) and in courts to deny defendants their constitutional rights. Then we are assured that on the one hand that the massive data collected on individuals will always be protected, we see how easy it was for Wikileaks and Snowden to gain access to information the government claims is sensitive. There is no way to reliably control access or use of this data given the present attitudes of leadership and management.

<http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/14/cartoons-of-the-week-june-8-14/photo/cartoon3-48/>



# Need a job? The Age of Big Data, By STEVE LOHR

February 11, 2012, N.Y. Times, Sunday Review

GOOD with numbers? Fascinated by data? The sound you hear is opportunity knocking.

Mo Zhou was snapped up by I.B.M. last summer, as a freshly minted Yale M.B.A., to join the technology company's fast-growing ranks of data consultants. They help businesses make sense of an explosion of data — Web traffic and social network comments, as well as software and sensors that monitor shipments, suppliers and customers — to guide decisions, trim costs and lift sales. “I’ve always had a love of numbers,” says Ms. Zhou, whose job as a data analyst suits her skills.

To exploit the data flood, America will need many more like her. A report last year by the [McKinsey Global Institute](#), the research arm of the consulting firm, projected that the United States needs **140,000 to 190,000 more workers with “deep analytical” expertise and 1.5 million more data-literate managers**, whether retrained or hired.

# Why should you care about Bluffdale, Utah?



21 September 2013

The Enghtement 2.0



# The NSA Is Building the Country's Biggest Spy Center (Watch What You Say)

By [James Bamford](#), 03.15.12, 7:24 PM, Wired

Under construction by contractors with top-secret clearances, the blandly named Utah Data Center is being built for the National Security Agency. A project of immense secrecy, it is the final piece in a complex puzzle assembled over the past decade. Its purpose: to intercept, decipher, analyze, and store vast swaths of the world's communications as they zap down from satellites and zip through the underground and undersea cables of international, foreign, and domestic networks. The heavily fortified \$2 billion center should be up and running in September 2013. Flowing through its servers and routers and stored in near-bottomless databases will be all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phone calls, and Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trails—parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases, and other digital “pocket litter.” It is, in some measure, the realization of the “total information awareness” program created during the first term of the Bush administration—an effort that was killed by Congress in 2003 after it caused an outcry over its potential for invading Americans' privacy.

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**The NSA has become the largest, most covert, and potentially most intrusive intelligence agency ever.**

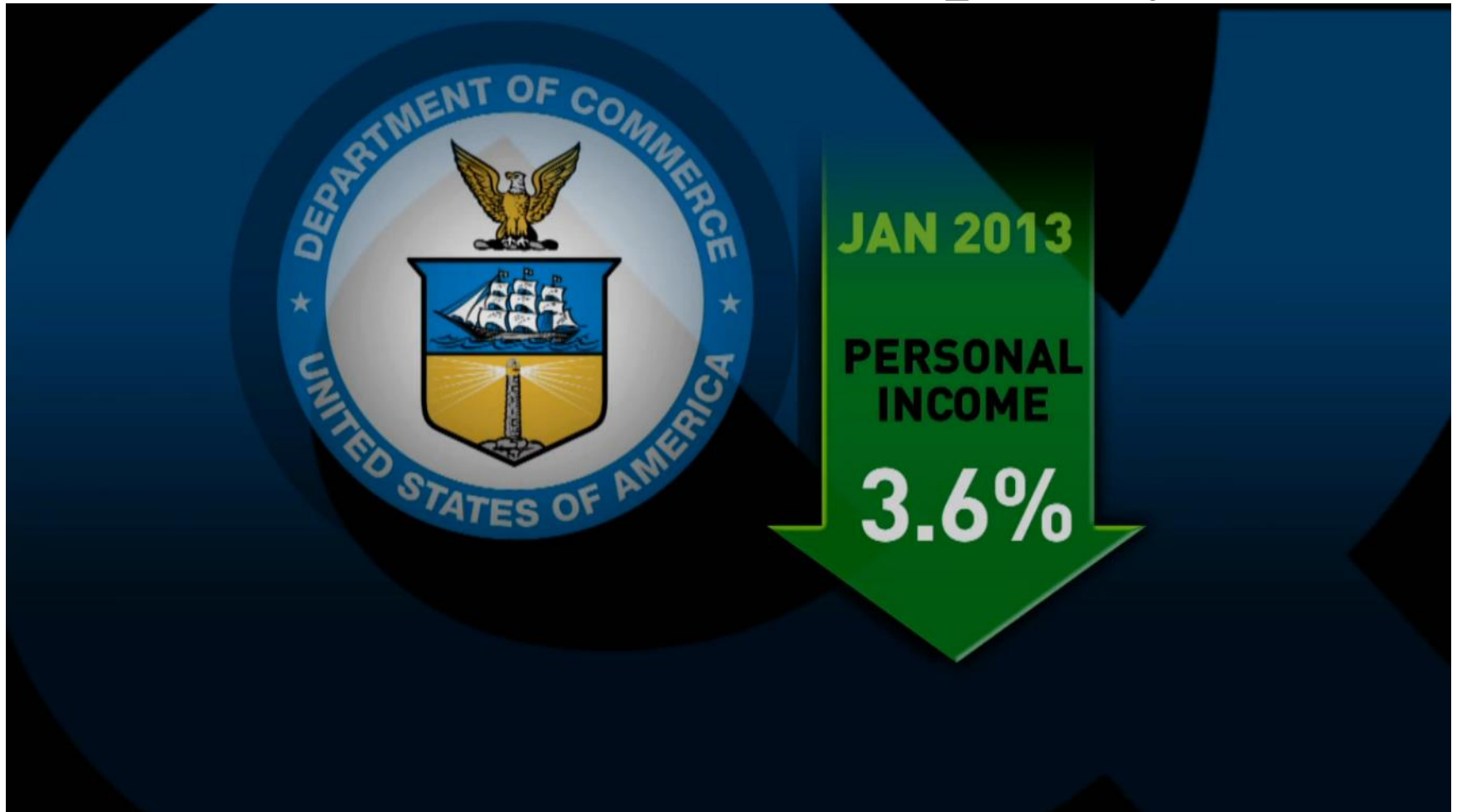
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<http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/14/cartoons-of-the-week-june-8-14/photo/cartoon5-48/>



# United States of Inequality



<http://billmoyers.com/segment/bill-moyers-essay-the-united-states-of-inequality/>

# People Need Trees

A team of researchers with the U.S. Forest Services looked at data from 1,296 counties, accounted for the influence of other variables -- things like income, race, and education -- and came to a simple conclusion: Having fewer trees around may be bad for your health. Their findings, [published recently in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#), suggest an associative rather than a direct, causal link between the death of trees and the death of humans.

Geoffrey Donovan, a research forester at the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, joined the NewsHour recently to discuss why.

**DONAVON:** Well my basic hypothesis was that trees improve people's health. And if that's true, then killing 100 million of them in 10 years should have an effect. So if we take away these 100 million trees, does the health of humans suffer? We found that it does.

Researchers have shown this in other ways in the past. There's been some famous research showing that people recover faster from surgery and take fewer drugs if their hospital room has a view of trees. Other research -- including some of my own -- has shown that mothers with more trees around their homes are less likely to have underweight babies. It's been shown that if you put people in a natural environment, it can reduce their blood pressure, heart rate and other measures of stress. Obviously we also know that trees can improve air quality. And that's why I looked at these two causes of death. I didn't look at pancreatic cancer or something like that. I looked at cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease because both can be affected by air quality and stress.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2013/06/can-lack-of-trees-kill-you-faster.html>

# **A comment from last time**

## **Too Much of a Good Thing, Peter Orzag**

In an 1814 letter to John Taylor, John Adams wrote that **“there never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.”**

That may read today like an overstatement, but it is certainly true that our democracy finds itself facing a deep challenge

**<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/politics/magazine/94940/peter-orszag-democracy#>**

# Civic Duty

**Don't forget about the Mid-Term General Election 4 November 2014, that's in only 409 days.**



“Observe, my son, with what little wisdom the world is governed.”

- Baron Gabriel Gustaffson von Oxenstierna,  
17th century Swedish statesman

**Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013**  
**Humanity at a Crossroads**  
**21 September 2013**

**NEXT - 10 Minute BREAK**

***Then the Presentation***

**Session 01**

**Enlightenment 2.0**

**Curt Gibby**

**ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery**  
**Conroe, Texas**

# **Don't panic!**

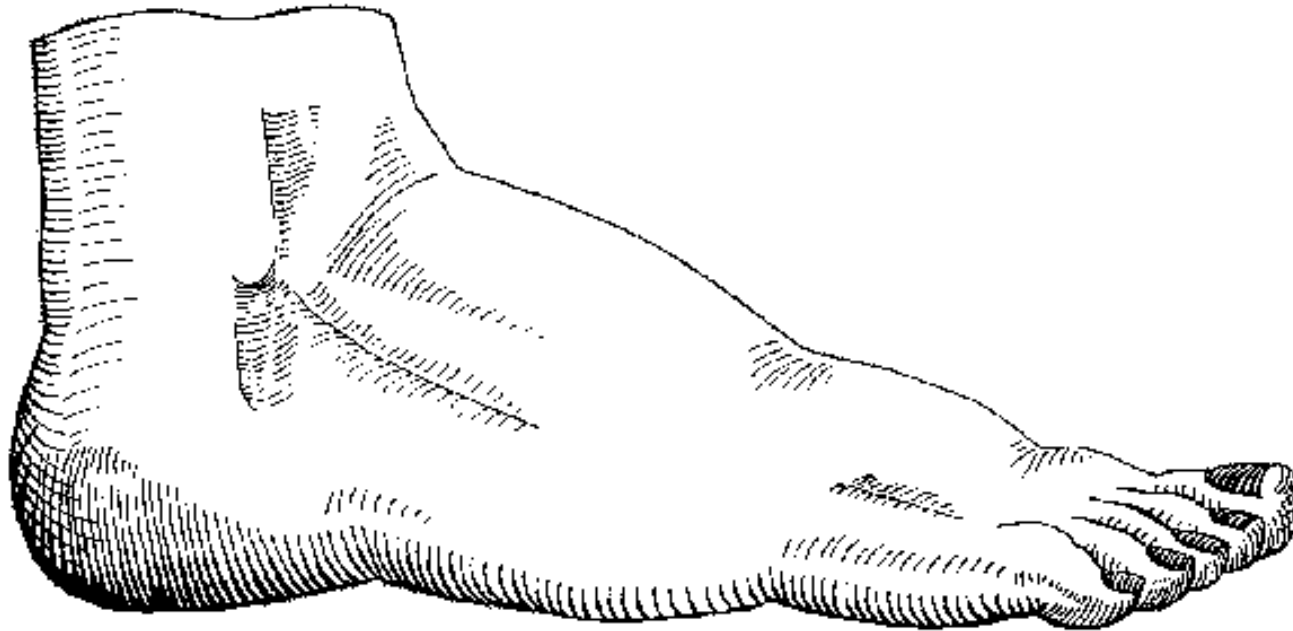
## ***Don't be Panicked!***

# **Welcome back to interesting times !**



## **See You Next Time**

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here e seen in its original format in the ottom left corner of "*An Allegory of Venus and Cupid y [ronzino](#)*" (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

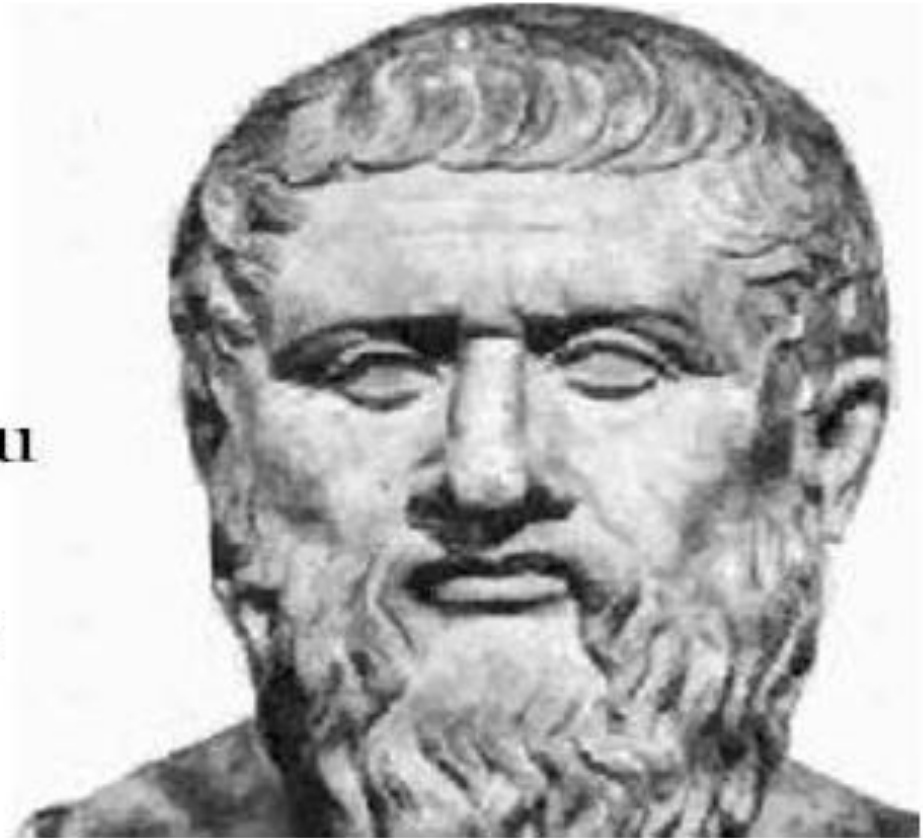
# Enrichment Material



# Inferior Government

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics, is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

*Plato*



**One of life's persistent questions:**

**“Why do cockroaches roll over before they die?”**



# Pope is pooped, Pax passe

Pope is pooped

People puzzled

Pundits posture prattle

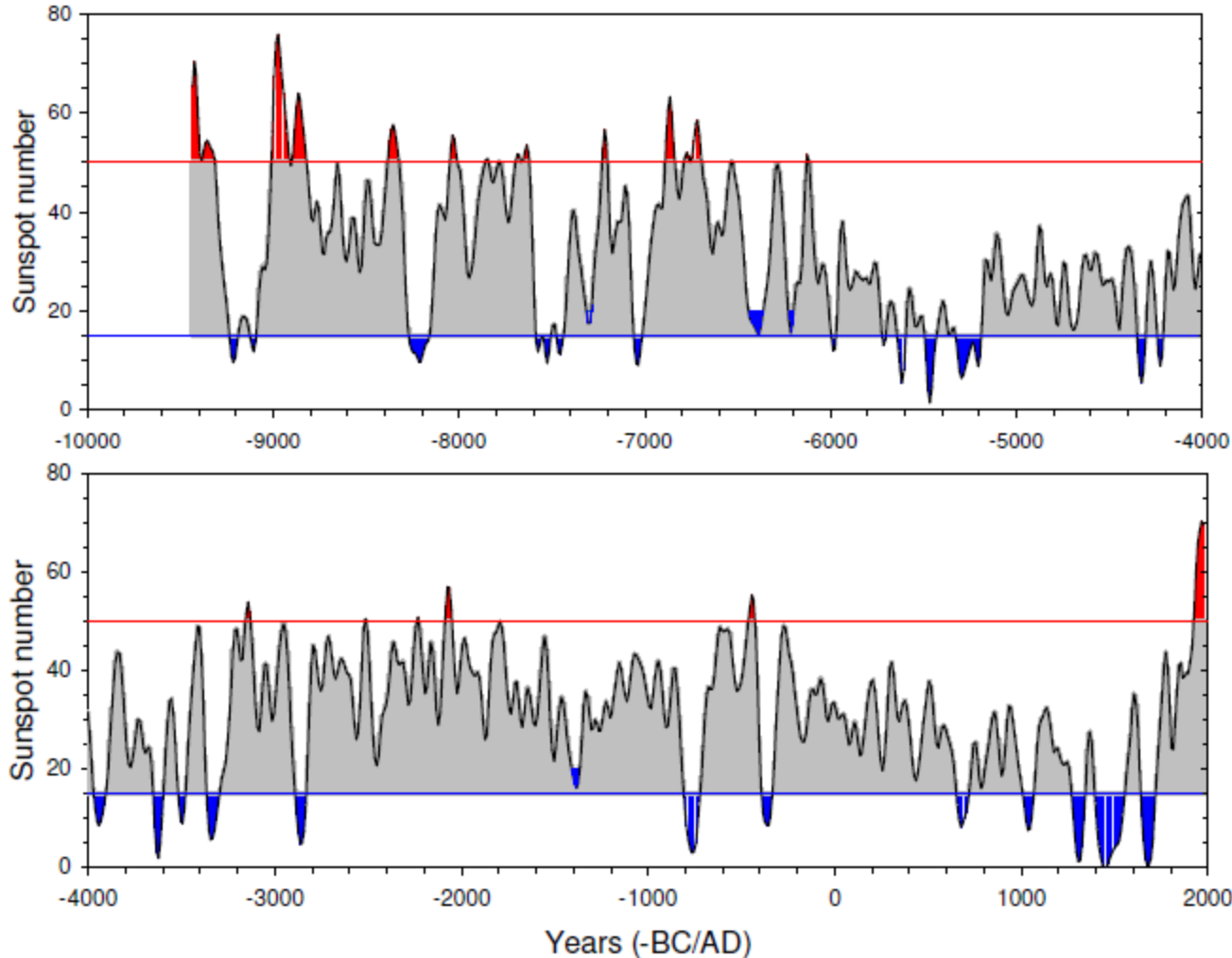
Plutocracy political plotting erupts

Children still at risk

Anonymous

# A History of Solar Activity over Millennia

Ilya G. Usoskin, Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory (Oulu unit), University of Oulu, Finland



The paper examines records from two isotope proxies (e10 and C14) and finds that solar activity at the end of the 20th century was at the highest levels of the past 1200 years.

# We're all niggers to the 1%

**DICKERSON:** Now, the duty of all lack people who—especially those of us who came after the Civil Rights Movement, what are we eing called upon to do? We don't have to go out and face ull Connor. All we have to do is step into the freedom that our ancestors won for us

...**DICKERSON:** They're niggerizing white people. The great thing aout that statement 'We're all niggers to the 1%' is that when I say that to white people in the movement they just go, 'Word,' you know, they get it.

**STEELE:** When we talk aout poor we immediately jump to lack or we immediately jump to Hispanic and what we need to talk aout when we talk aout poor is American people living in poverty regardless of the color of their skin.

**LOPEZ:** I think what's interesting, you know, aout the Occupy movement is, is this language of the 99 versus the 1. Um and if people identify with the 99 that's a different type, that's a different type of consciousness altogether.

<http://race2012ps.org/the-film/transcript/>



# The Middle Class Is Broke: Pew Study Reveals Real Problem With Economy

*By Henry Blodget / Daily Ticker – 23 Aug*

*<http://www.businessinsider.com/income-inequality-2012-8>*

One of the most important stories in the U.S. economy these days is the rise of extreme inequality.

Over the past 30 years, a [larger and larger portion of America's income growth has gone to those in the top 10%](#) of incomes, and especially those in the top 1%. This is a major change from the prior 60 years, in which the top 10% and the bottom 90% shared in the income gains.

A stark and startling example of this trend is the fact that, adjusted for inflation, "average hourly earnings" in this country have not increased in 50 years.

A recent Pew study confirms that America's middle class has recently experienced a "lost decade."

Since 2000, the Pew says, "the middle class has shrunk in size, fallen backward in income and wealth, and shed some—but by no means all—of its characteristic faith in the future." Pew cites statistics showing that middle class earnings and net worth have plummeted since the mid-2000s and that about 85% of the middle class say it is harder to maintain their standard of living than it was 10 years ago.

Collectively, the middle class represents enormous buying and spending power, and in the past 60 years this spending power has helped the U.S. economy become the envy of the world.

# The global debt clock

Our interactive overview of government debt across the planet

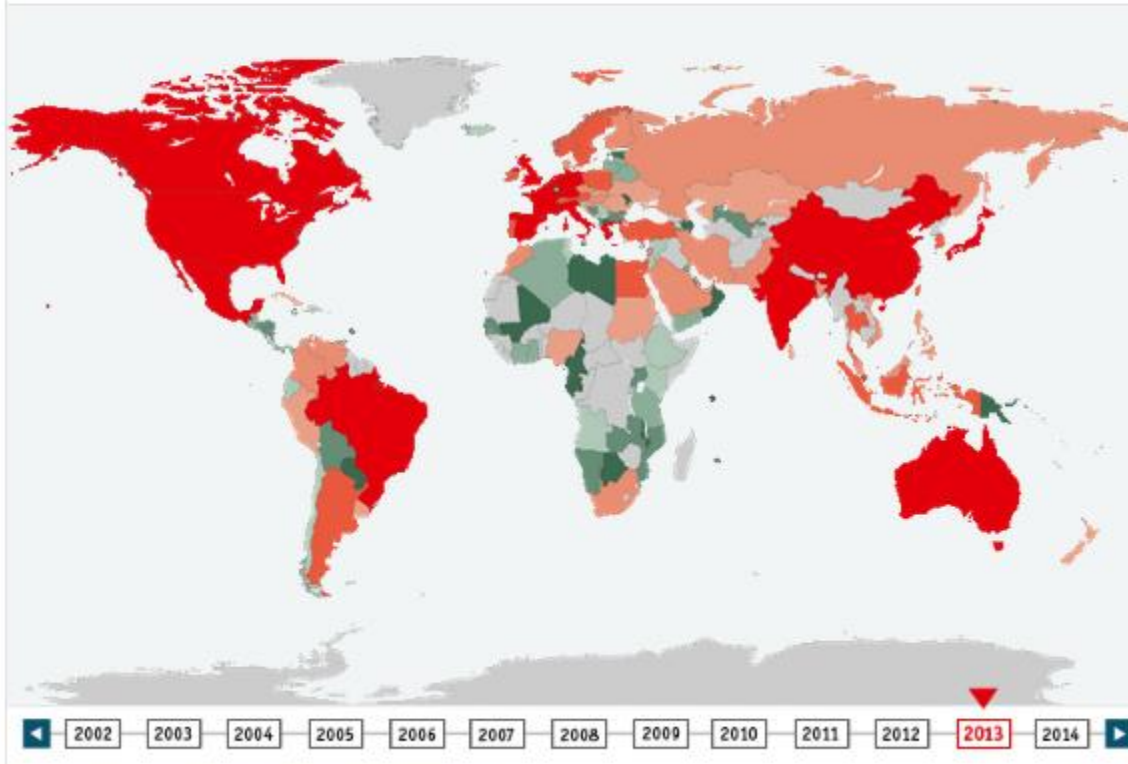
Like 664 Tweet 5,588

\$ 050,660,624,005,343

CURRENT GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT

Total public debt

Higher debt Lower debt



COMPARE COUNTRY DEBT

Choose a country...  
Choose a country...  
Choose a country...

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Data supplied and compiled by: Economist Intelligence Unit

Forecast

# **Greatest Threats in 2012**

**On Iran: We Don't Know If They'll Go for The bomb, 'Concerned' About Attack on U.S.**

**On Terrorism: Al Qaeda 'Core' Weakening, Affiliates and Homegrown Terror Greater Threats**

**On Afghanistan: Taliban Still Has 'Safe Haven' in Pakistan**

**On North Korea: To Early to Judge New Leader, Two Nuclear Weapon Tests**

**On the Arab Spring: Turmoil Will 'Challenge' U.S. Influence, Terrorists Could Exploit Unrest**

**On the Cyber Threat to the U.S.: Governments Can't Keep Up with Technology**

**On Drinking Water Resources: Shortages, Floods Will Hurt U.S. National Security**

# George Carlin – “Must die TV”

... suicide could become "the ultimate makeover" reality show - "Must die TV." He envisions mass suicide to capture ratings during the sweeps: homeless people (including half a million military veterans), condemned prisoners, self-selected depressed people with "hopeless minds," and the terminally ill. Sell it to the 18-to-24 male audience as "extreme living," featuring 500 of these losers "holding hands and jumping into the Grand Canyon," each wearing a hat with camera (for friends and family to watch the video afterward) and sponsor T-shirt. Perhaps fundamentalist Christians could be induced to "Jump for Jesus." If instead of cable TV you want the networks, go with advertising from Budweiser and automobile manufacturers (drink and drive responsibly) on FOX.

# What makes you an Authority?

The word authority comes from the word *author*. And the word author has a Latin root. It means: “he who enables growth”.

So, the person whom you recognize as an authority is a person who enables your growth.

The others are the ones to decide if I am an authority to them or not.

## What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

## Authority and Inner Power:

I just said the true Authority is the result of your Inner Power.

This means I would judge your sense of Authority as your Inner Power.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>



# Authority and Inner Power:

Yet, most people will judge your authority by **how you appear** and **how you act**.

We could call this your intrapersonal intelligence and your interpersonal intelligence.

People will confuse your Inner Power with your appearance and your acts, which are part of the ego.

This means that may you be totally genuine or totally faked, you will be an authority for someone.

Some will like a person's big ego and strong personality.

And he will be considered as an authority to them. That's their choice.

Some others will prefer another person's genuine vibration and ability to connect and recognize the source, and he will be considered as an authority to them.

It's always the others' choice.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

# Authority and Knowledge:

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

It can be because you are a good listener, or because you react calmly and softly to others' fragilities, or because you are good at saying, "No," or because you have no fears, or because you verbalize and observe your emotions...

If you are an individual who is very much identified with your ego, you will recognize authority to egotistic people.

If you are an individual who prefers to connect to the Source, to the I Am, you will recognize authority in spiritual people, for example, but not in egotistic people.

## Authority and Knowledge:

Your knowledge is your ability to master [Instruction on Matter](#).

People will like your knowledge in Economy, or in Finance, or in Law, or in Philosophy, or in Engineering, or in Astrology, or in Painting...

**This means authority does not claim for obedience, never!**

Only someone who feels that his authority may be at stake will claim for obedience through the use of power.

**Power inspires fear.**

**Authority inspires respect.**

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>

# **RETURN of the ELDERS UNLEASH YOUR WISDOM**

**It's time for the Return of the ELDERS! Previous successful societies relied on the councils of their ELDERS to offer WISDOM in times of confusion. Folks, we can't quit yet.**

# *Return of the Elders, Unleashing Your Wisdom*

## **Our Middle Aged Brains**

David Niesel and Norbert Herzog

**Ah... if only I could stay young... instead of faking it.**

**No kidding! It's actually true that our rains change with age. There was a report that said forty percent of your rain cells are lost with age ut that's actually not true....**

**Something the middle aged rain is better at doing is recognizing the central idea or big picture. So if the rain is in good shape, it can build pathways that allow it to recognize patterns and their significance and find a solution faster than a young person.**

# What does Authority mean?

The true Authority is the result of your inner power. It's the wisdom that comes from within.

It has to do with your connection [to the source, to the I Am](#).

Authority has nothing to do with the power to have, but rather with the power to be.

You do not have authority. You are seen as an authority.

The big difference between the External Power and Authority lies in the fact that authority cannot be imposed, it needs to be recognized.

So your authority depends on those who look at you.

Some people may recognize your authority and some others may not.

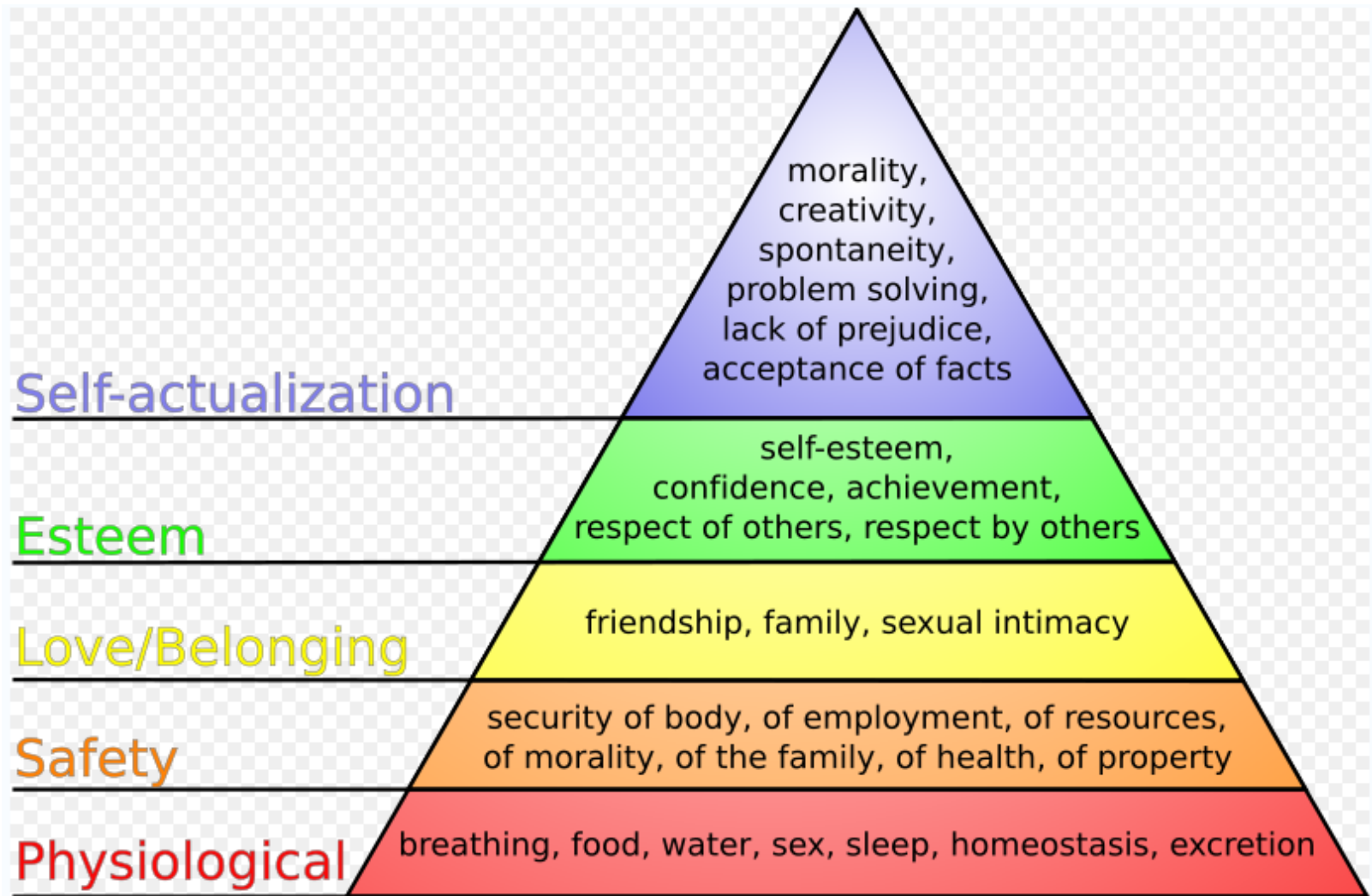
And you cannot do anything about it.

This is why people who are very much identified with their ego, and thus seeking for others' approval, can't stand those who do not recognize their authority and hence use power to submit them by force.

<http://www.luismartinssimoes.com/2009/07/how-to-be-respected/>



# Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



[Maslow's\\_hierarchy\\_of\\_needs.svg](#) (SVG file, nominally 1,717 × 1,124 pixels, file size: 8 KB)

# **It all connects**

**Fear, War, Greed**

**To much capital in the hands of the few**

**Too little money in the hands of the consumers.**

**Credit is not a replacement for disposale income**

**Oil is a limited resource**

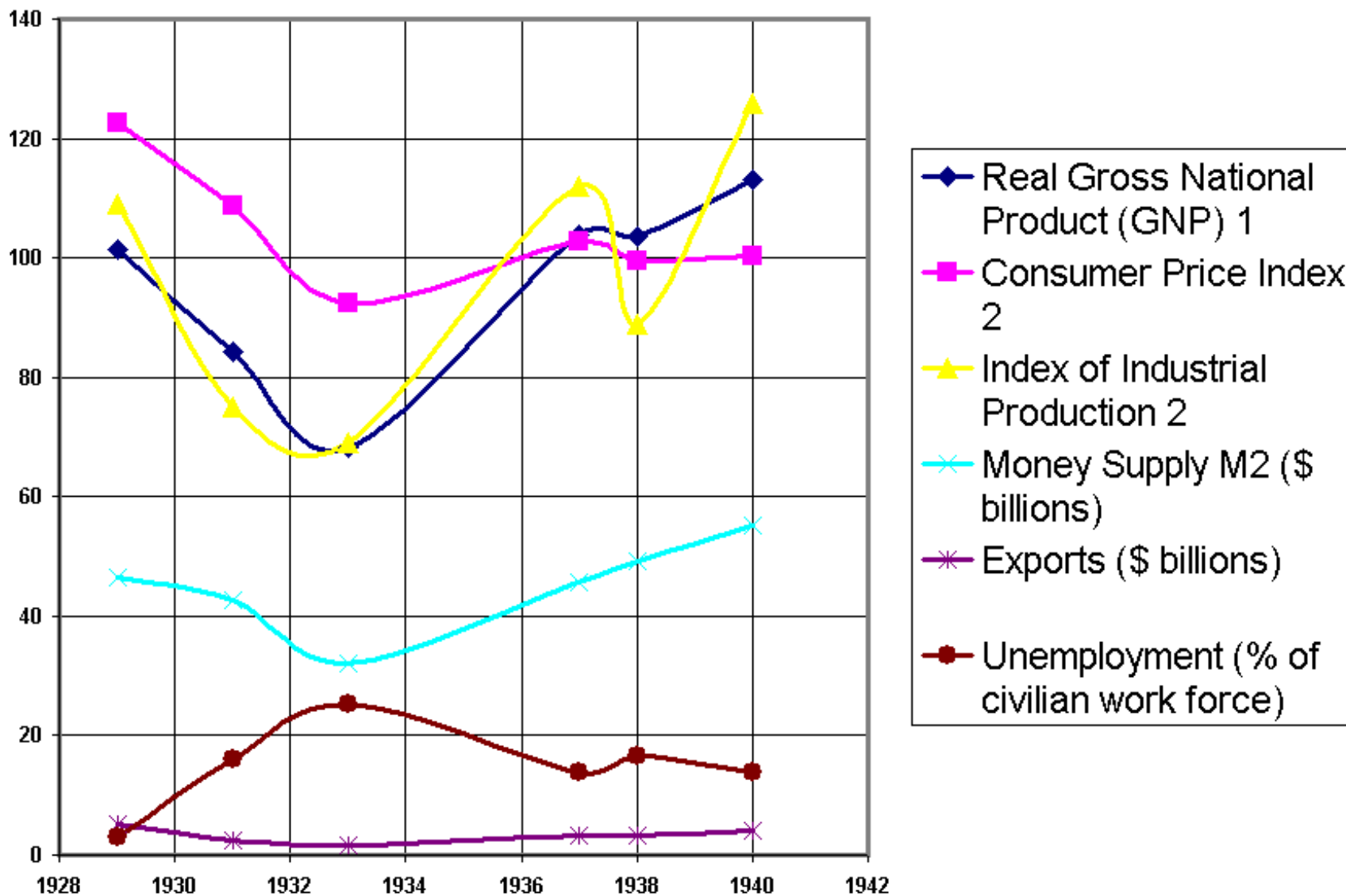
**Unale to anticipate what looks ovious in retrospect**

**Trusting of Authority**

**Lacking critical aility/Education**

**Etc.**

# The Years of the Great Depression



**Don't just be a thermometer,  
be a thermostat**

**Jill Carroll**

**“...we are the leaders we've  
been looking for.”**

*Grace Lee Boggs*



# Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

## From: British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide

**Fear** - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

**Pain** - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

**Cold** - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

**Thirst** - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

**Hunger** - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

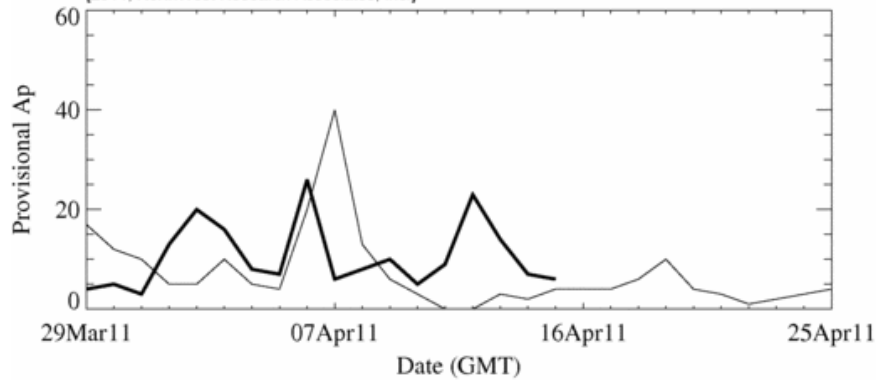
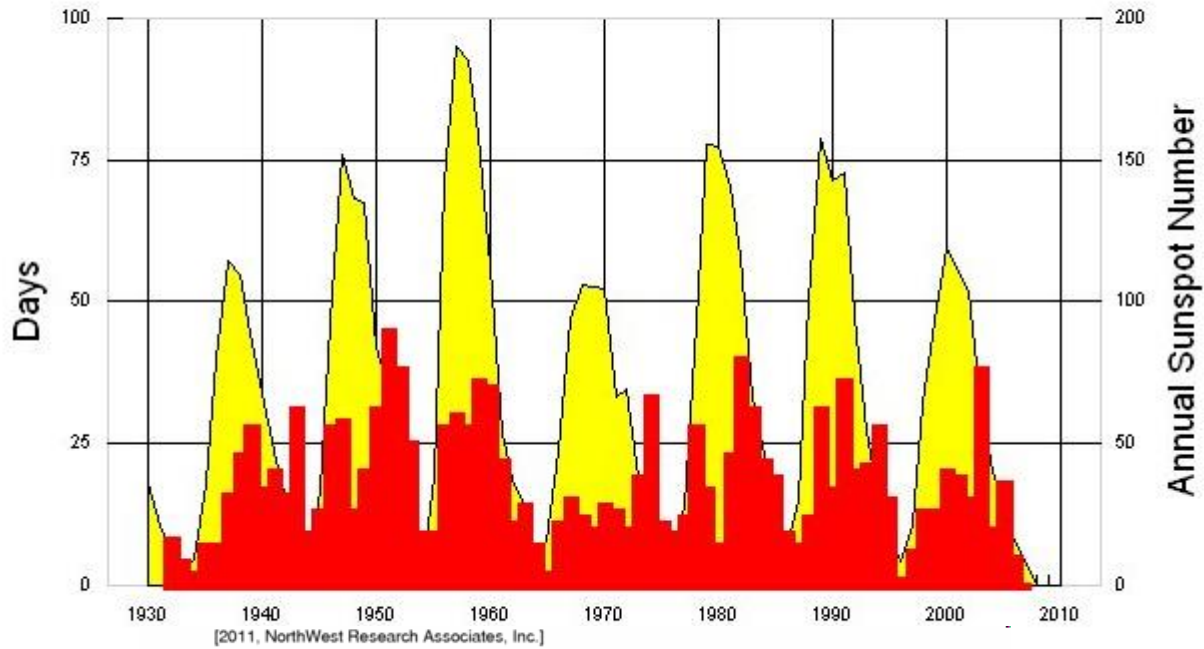
**Fatigue** - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

**boredom & Loneliness** - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.

htt

### Number of Days Ap\* $\geq$ 40 1932 - 2007

07.jpg



Money Multiplier (seasonally adjusted) 52 two week ROC (Rate of Change) blue (the data is bi-weekly)

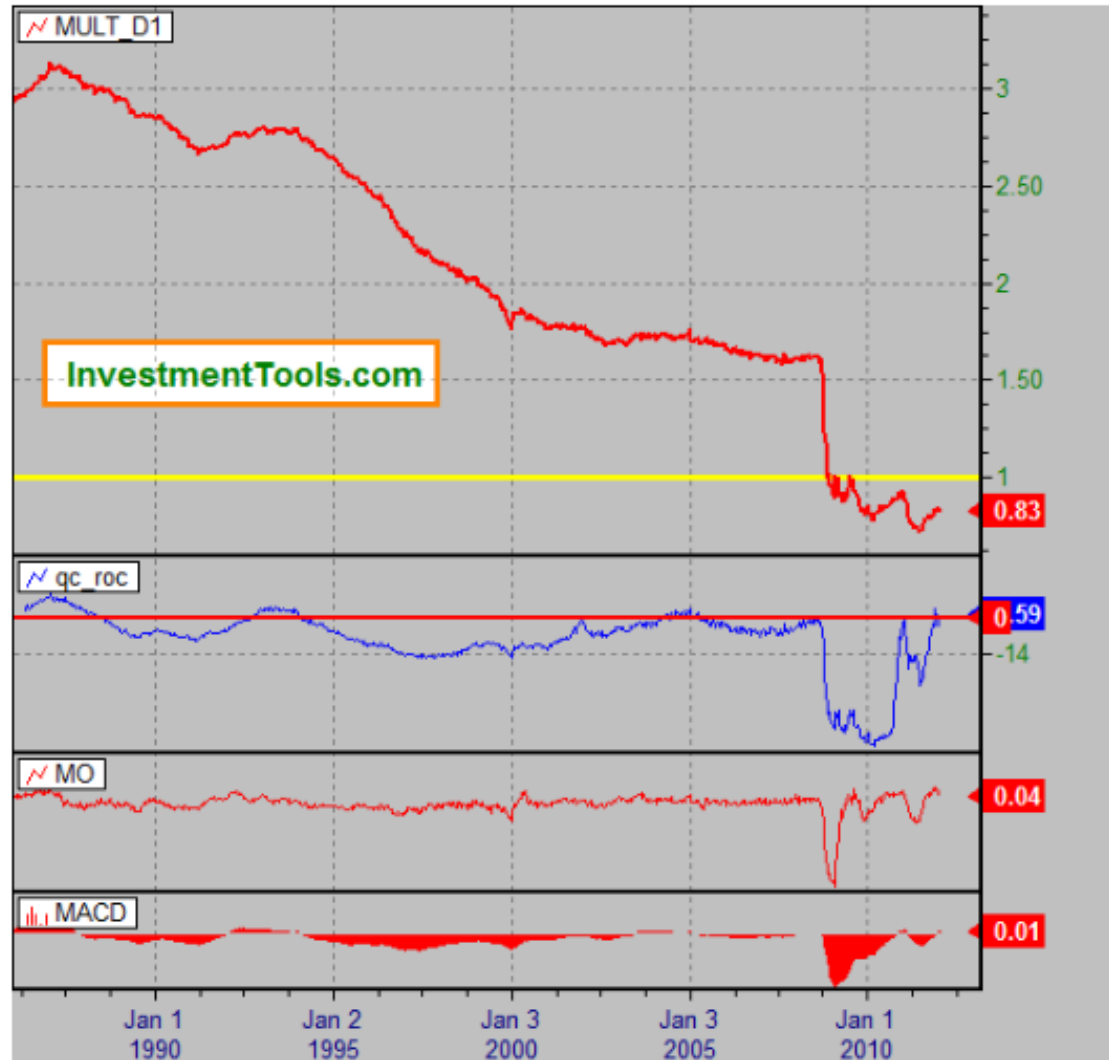


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

utions (NFORBRES)  
serve System

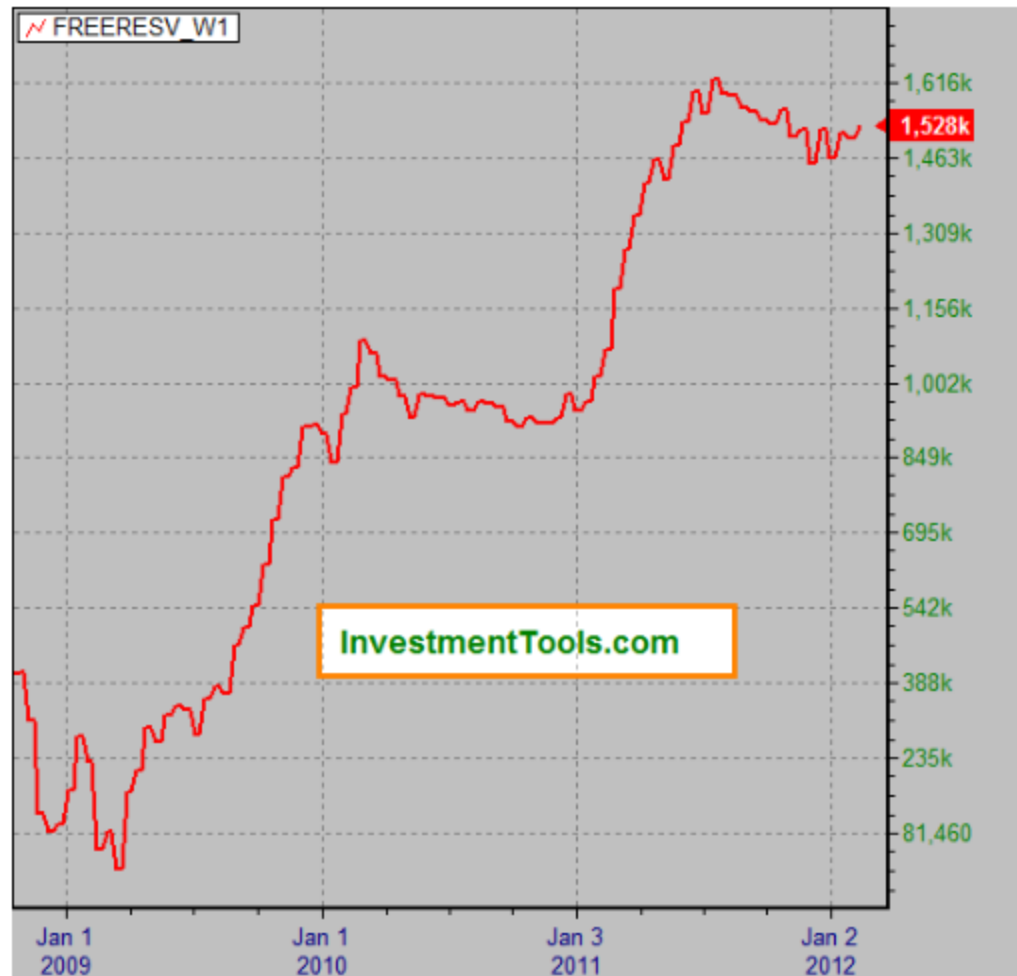
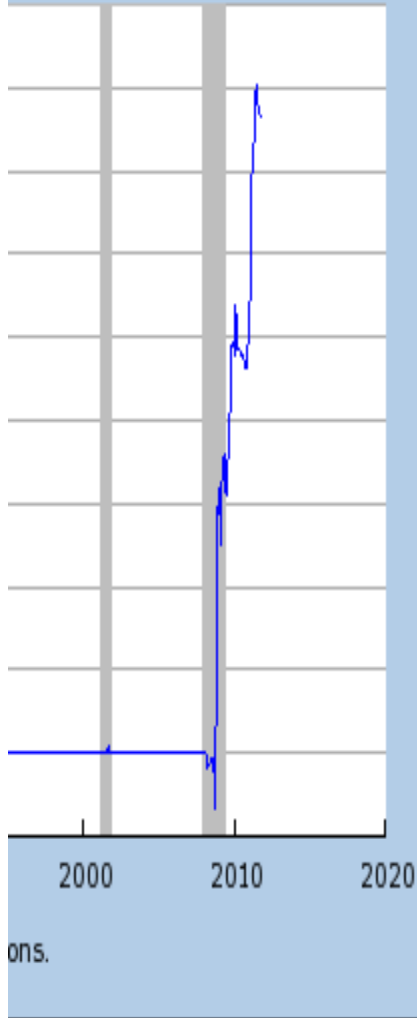


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

# Bad Credit - Cognitive Dissonance

Nelson: "I've been on welfare and food stamps, but did anybody help me out? No!"

**The Daily Show with Jon Stewart**



June 2, 2009  
**CRAIG T. NELSON**  
ACTOR

Tuesday May 8, 2012  
**Bad Credit**  
Instead of having to find reasons to criticize President Obama for things he's done right, Mitt Romney finds ways to claim those achievements as his own.

**Tags:** Osama bin Laden, Barack Obama, bailouts, Mitt Romney, lying, Republicans, assassinations, Indecision 2012, pundits, candidates, Donald Rumsfeld, photos, military, business, campaigns, montages, Joe Biden, war on terror, impressions, media, No Disrespect impression, Martin Luther King Jr., Craig T. Nelson, driving

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-may-8-2012/bad-credit>

# Scalia: You don't count pregnant women twice.

"It has nothing to do with how I decide cases," Scalia replies.

"My job is to interpret the Constitution accurately. And indeed, there are anti-abortion people who think that the constitution requires a state to prohibit abortion. They say that the Equal Protection Clause requires that you treat a helpless human being that's still in the womb the way you treat other human beings. **I think that's wrong. I think when the Constitution says that persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws, I think it clearly means walking-around persons.**

**Justice Antonin Scalia, CS 60 Minutes, Sept. 14, 2008**

**[http://www.csnews.com/stories/2008/04/24/60minutes/main4040290\\_page6.shtml](http://www.csnews.com/stories/2008/04/24/60minutes/main4040290_page6.shtml)**



# *Not too hopeful*

*Houston Chronicle Dec 5, 2012*

**The fiscal cliff is a straw-bogeyman meant to titillate the small minds of the media and those who ingenuously choose to believe them.**

**What happened in 2009 was truly an economic supernova which has been made worse by the very economic holy men whose bad advice brought on the crash in the first place. So much for self-curing "free markets." Crooks will be crooks. If the sequestration provision goes into effect, it will only create a few small whirlpools in the space-time continuum. Cans will again be kicked down the road. Names will be withheld to protect the guilty and the chaos will continue. Nothing that is being discussed today will delay an economic disaster because that has already happened.**

# *Not too Hopeful – Cont.*

**Raising taxes on the rich and lowering taxes on the middle class and closing a few loopholes will not have any real effect of getting the country's finances back into any kind of sustainable economic balance.**

**What it will do is burden the taxpayers (not the rich ones) and their children with a life of crushing debt that the banks will demand from us.**

**There is no interest in finding a real solution. Nothing that is being discussed even vaguely represents a plan with real and realistic goals and timing.**

**There is not a hint of a pending cultural change that would indicate a return to sanity, intelligence and integrity of government and the financial industry, nor the willingness of "We the People" to understand what has happened and why.**

*Curt Gibby, Spring*

Read more: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Letters-Grappling-with-the-fiscal-cliff-4091305.php#ixzz2EE6Dd1mD>

# Numbers

1 % income 225 times bigger than the wealth of the typical household. They believe the middle class should always bail them out if they screw up.

99 % (everybody who is not in the 1%)

62 % Obama's share of the electoral vote.

63 % of People want Roe v Wade to stand.

50.6 % Obama's share of the Popular vote

47.8 % Romney's share of the Popular vote

55 % Democrat in Senate

54% Republicans in House.

75 % of the people want illegal immigrants to leave (Chris Cuomo)

# Who Are The 1 Percent

Frane New Foundation

In just the last generation, the richest 1% almost quadrupled their incomes.

The average wealth of the 1% is 225 times bigger than the wealth of the typical household – the highest it's ever been.

Three decades ago, CEOs made about 40 times as much as an average worker – now CEOs make almost 200 times as much as regular employees.

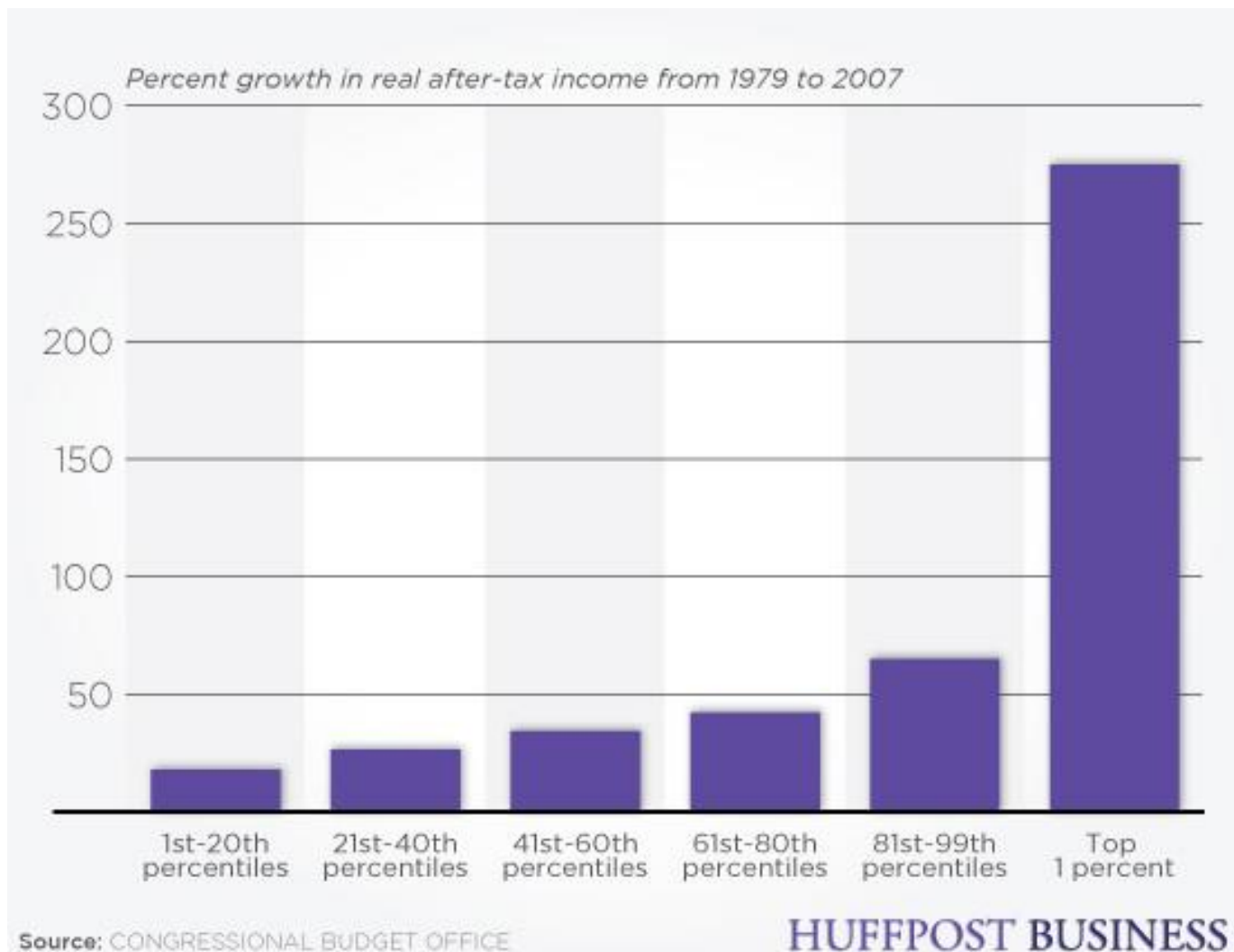
Last year, half of Americans earned less than \$26,000 while CEOs at top 500 companies raked in an average of \$11 million.

Over the past decade, earnings for middle-class Americans actually fell. In fact, working Americans' wages are now a lower percentage of our economy than they've ever been.

The divide etween the richest and the poorest is worse in America than it is in nearly all of Europe and Asia and much of Africa. It's about as bad as in Rwanda and Serbia – and it's bad for our economy.

The 1% is not an accident – it is the result of policies our government chose to pursue.

# The 1% after tax income growth over 28 years



# Conspiracy Theory

**clear your minds ...**

**If it looks like CONSPIRACY think  
BUREAUCRACY**

**OR**

**Hanlon's razor: Don't chalk up to  
CONSPIRACY that which can be easily  
explained as INCOMPETENCE.**



# Introduction

**The Universe seems to be dead set on keeping us Americans, if not entertained, off-balance and puzzled that those responsible for governing the last of the world's great superpowers, can seem to be so “out-to-lunch.”** Then they double-down on their stupidity and risk our futures with their blind incompetence. (Where did they go to school?) In the last major election both sides used unlimited funds to convince the voters that their opponent was a no-good crook. Obama and his people were the better game players in the winner-takes-all of the state's electors rules of most states. Barack Obama handily won the majority of electoral candidates of (all) the battleground states, but to me the more telling indicator is that he won only 50.68% of the popular vote.

# Intro - 2

That says that he has no strong mandate, except as allowed by the Constitution. In the popular election he squeaked y Romney, because Romney and his advisors couldn't separate confirmation bias from reality, and shot themselves in the foot with two major minorities, women and factory workers. (Why did they call them battleground states? because, they were potentially fed up with the Obama administration, which the Romney camp correctly surmised as an opportunity, which it was. but then when you let you own dogmas blind you to reality.

# Intro -3

We were so smart during the Carter Administration when we somehow enticed the Russians into invading Afghanistan, (and got the ISI to invent the Taliban to fight the Russians) so it could become their Vietnam (Which it did and probably contributed greatly to the breakup of the USSR). What cruel irony that it is now us and our NATO Allies that have taken our own bait. We get to enjoy the Vietnam experience all over again. Fortunately(?) we have lost less than 10 percent of the troops we lost in Vietnam, but we are spending more and borrowing heavily to keep it going. Where will that lead us?