

**Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013**

**Humanity at a Crossroads**

**19 October 2013**

**Session 02**

**The Enlightenment 2.0 –Then and Now**

**Curt Gibby**

**Current Events Segment**

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

# **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**

# **Program for TSS Meeting**

## **19 October 2013**

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

# 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.

.

# In Memoriam – Shirley Engel



<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/woodlands/obituary.aspx?n=shirley-engel&pid=167420852>

## **Shirley Engel - Lived Life to the Fullest**

SHIRLEY I. ENGEL, 85, of The Woodlands, Texas, died on October 5, almost two weeks after suffering a stroke in her sleep. The fact that Shirley has been stopped, or even slowed down, by anything at all has come as a profound shock to her family, her many friends, and almost anyone who knew her. Shirley Engel was widely admired for her irrepressible spirit, wide-ranging interests, and never-ending thirst for knowledge.

Her death follows that of her husband of 56 years, Marvin, who passed away in 2004. Shirley is survived by their sons, Joe (Katey) and Brian; grandsons Andrew (Melissa), Nate (Kristin), Ian (Megan), and Jake (Stephanie); granddaughters Saler Axel (Eric) and Courtney Raskob (Ben); plus eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Ruth and brother Sidney, and predeceased by her sister Janet and brothers Irving and Herb.

# Current Events

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



# 8 Things Congress Is Still Screwing Up

By [Rick Newman](#) / [The Exchange](#) – Thu, Oct 17, 2013 8:27 AM EDT

<http://finance.yahoo.com/blogs/the-exchange/8-things-congress-still-screwing-122756856.html>

The government's back in business. Woohoo. As if we should all congratulate members of Congress for doing their jobs. Sort of.

The politicians, of course, will congratulate themselves for [ending the budget impasse](#). ... Here are eight big enduring problems that have only been getting worse as Congress overdoses on needless drama:

- 1. 14 million Americans can't find a good job.** Sure, companies hire a few people every month, but we're [stuck in a cycle of hesitancy](#)
- 2. The tax code remains a mess.** There used to be bipartisan agreement that the tax code was overcomplicated and unfair, ... The latest budget deal sets up a Dec. 13 deadline for ... agreement on tax and spending reform. That's similar to a "supercommittee" set up for the immigration bill
- 3. Medicare is still headed for insolvency.** It'll run [short of money in 2026](#)

# 8 Things Congress Is Still Screwing Up – Newman –Cont.

**4. Social Security still isn't fixed.** Modest changes, such as reducing benefits for wealthier seniors and more aggressively raising the retirement age, would put this retirement program on sounder footing.

**5. America is still falling apart..** Now, improving infrastructure is exclusively a Democratic fantasy that seems to have no hope of drawing needed Republican support.

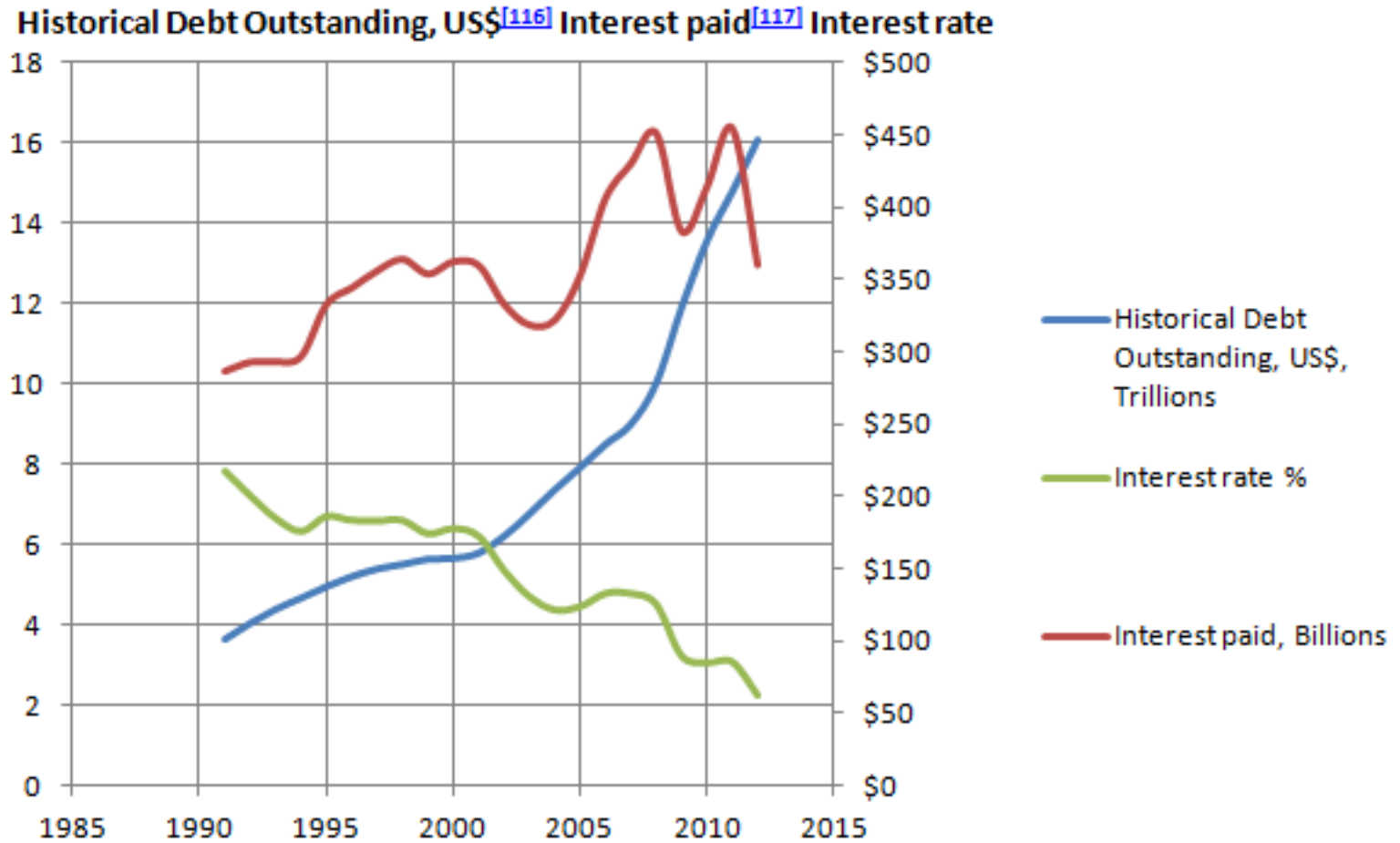
**6. Immigration remains unreformed.** Earlier this year, it looked as if Congress might actually pass a new law to deal with 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S., allow more skilled foreigners into the country and harness immigrants to help boost tax revenue and economic growth rather than detracting from it. Yet that effort seems to have died as if it were *Obamacare II: The Sequel*.

**7. Nobody trusts the U.S. government.** [Americans don't](#), foreigners don't, even U.S. politicians don't.

**8. Another budget standoff is imminent.**

*Rick Newman's latest book is [Rebounders: How Winners Pivot From Setback To Success](#). Follow him on Twitter: [@rickjnewman](#).*

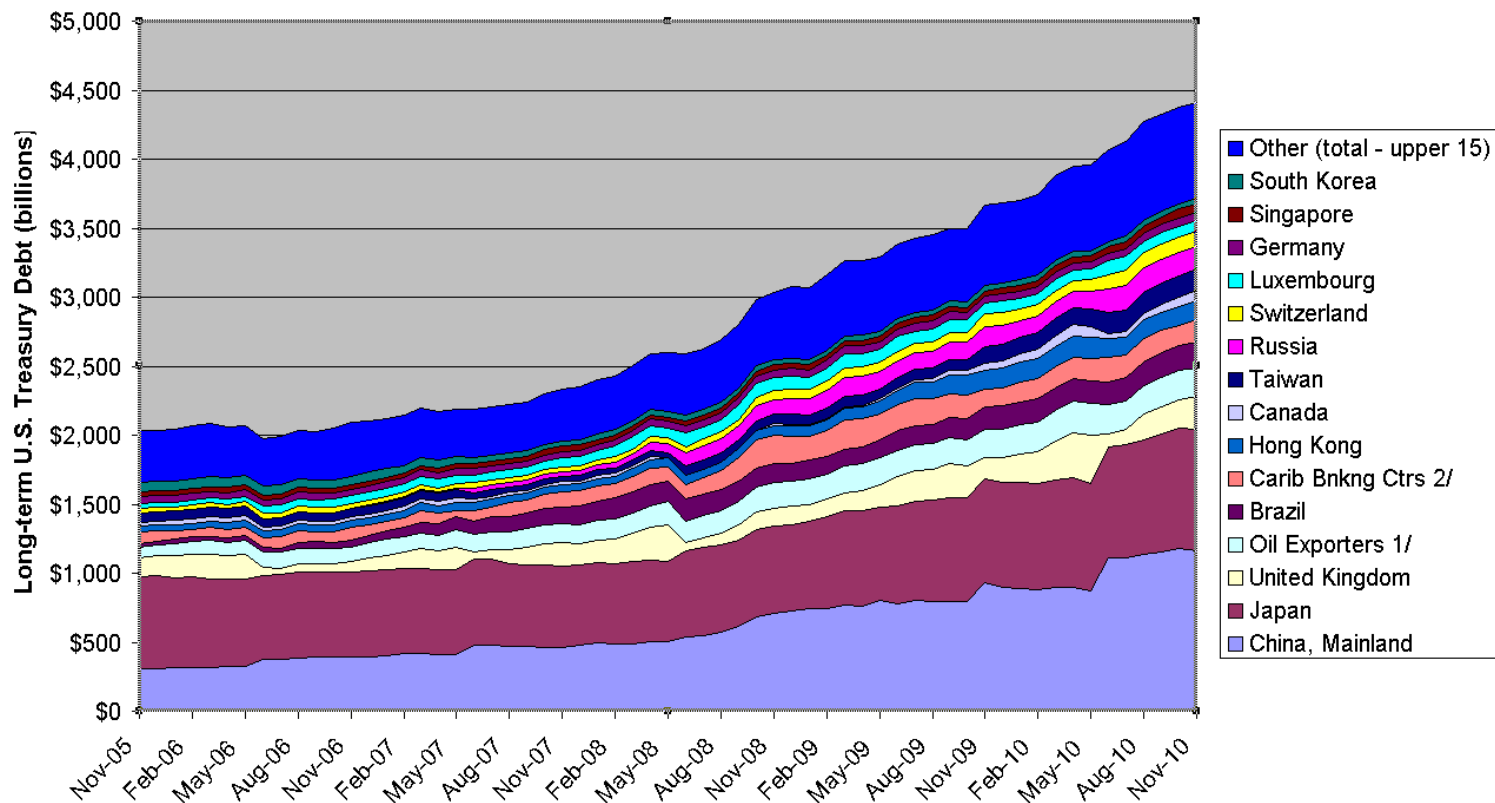
# Nat'l Debt (Tril\$), Int. Pd. (\$Bil), Int Rate (%)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_debt\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States#Foreign\\_holders\\_of\\_US](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States#Foreign_holders_of_US)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_debt\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States#Foreign\\_holders\\_of\\_US Treasury securities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States#Foreign_holders_of_US_Treasury_securities)

## Foreign Holdings of U.S. Long-Term Treasury Debt



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_debt\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States#Foreign\\_holders\\_of\\_US\\_Treasury\\_securities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_debt_of_the_United_States#Foreign_holders_of_US_Treasury_securities)

# [Memo to the Tea Party: The Government's Budget Is Actually Improving](#) - Rick Newman at [The Exchange](#)

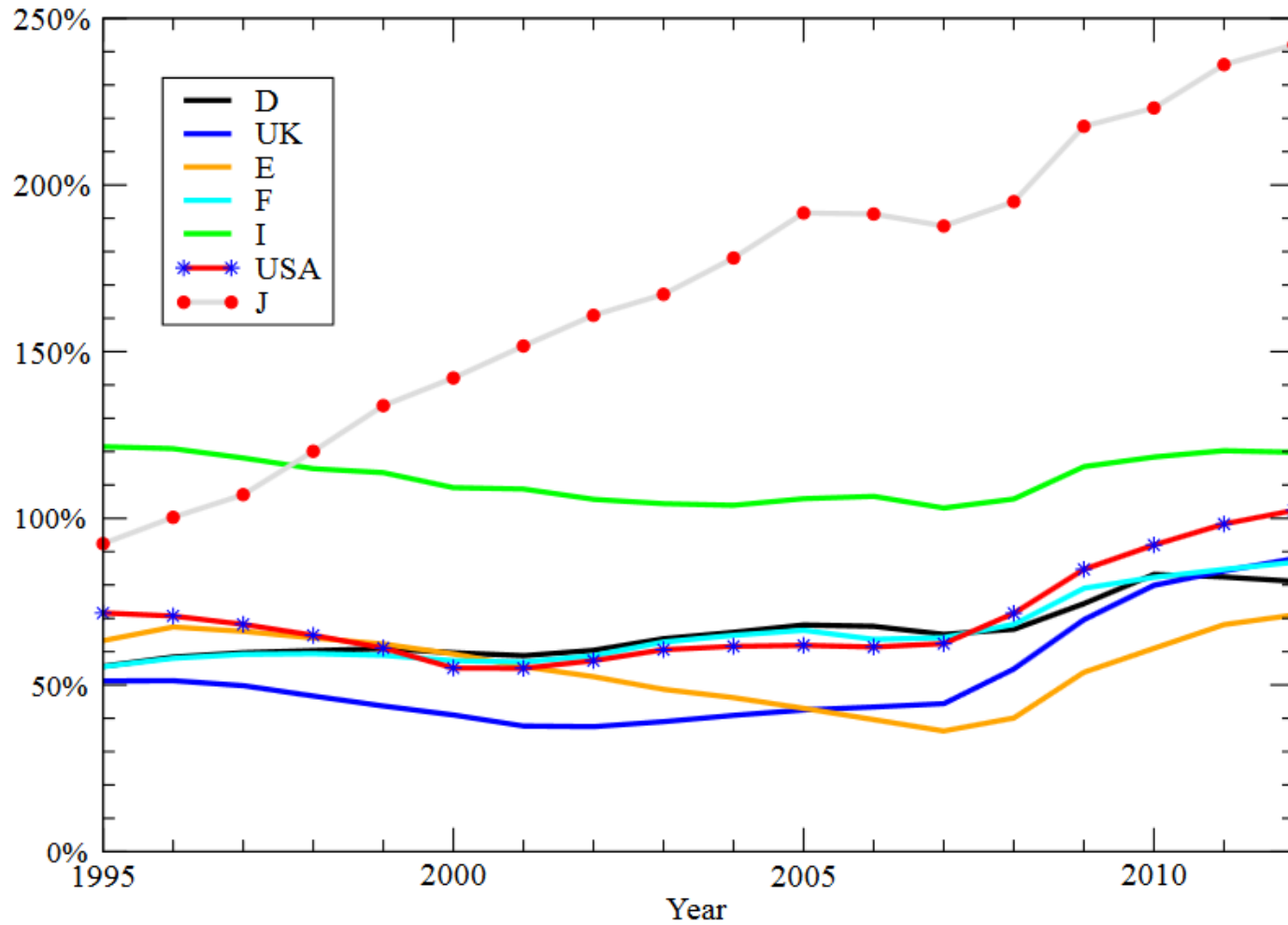
**We just went through a national poutfest over federal spending that's too high and government borrowing run amok. What's puzzling about the whole fiasco is that Washington's annual deficit has fallen to the lowest level since George W. Bush was president, with pressure from Tea Party budget hawks partly responsible for the improvement. The 2013 deficit was around \$650 billion, with final figures not yet available due to the shutdown. That's down from nearly \$1.1 trillion in 2012. Projection for 2014 deficit is \$568 billion.**

|             | Annual deficit as a % of GDP | Debt held by the public as a % of GDP |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2000        | 2.3                          | 33.6                                  |
| 2001        | 1.2                          | 31.4                                  |
| 2002        | -1.5                         | 32.5                                  |
| 2003        | -3.3                         | 34.5                                  |
| 2004        | -3.4                         | 35.5                                  |
| 2005        | -2.5                         | 35.6                                  |
| 2006        | -1.8                         | 35.3                                  |
| 2007        | -1.1                         | 35.1                                  |
| 2008        | -3.1                         | 39.3                                  |
| 2009        | -9.8                         | 52.3                                  |
| 2010        | -8.7                         | 61.0                                  |
| 2011        | -8.4                         | 65.8                                  |
| 2012        | -6.8                         | 70.1                                  |
| 2013 (est.) | -3.9                         | 73                                    |
| 2014 (est.) | -3.3                         | 74                                    |
| 2015 (est.) | -2.1                         | 72                                    |
| 2016 (est.) | -2.2                         | 70                                    |
| 2017 (est.) | -2.3                         | 69                                    |
| 2018 (est.) | -2.5                         | 68                                    |
| 2019 (est.) | -2.9                         | 69                                    |
| 2020 (est.) | -3.1                         | 69                                    |

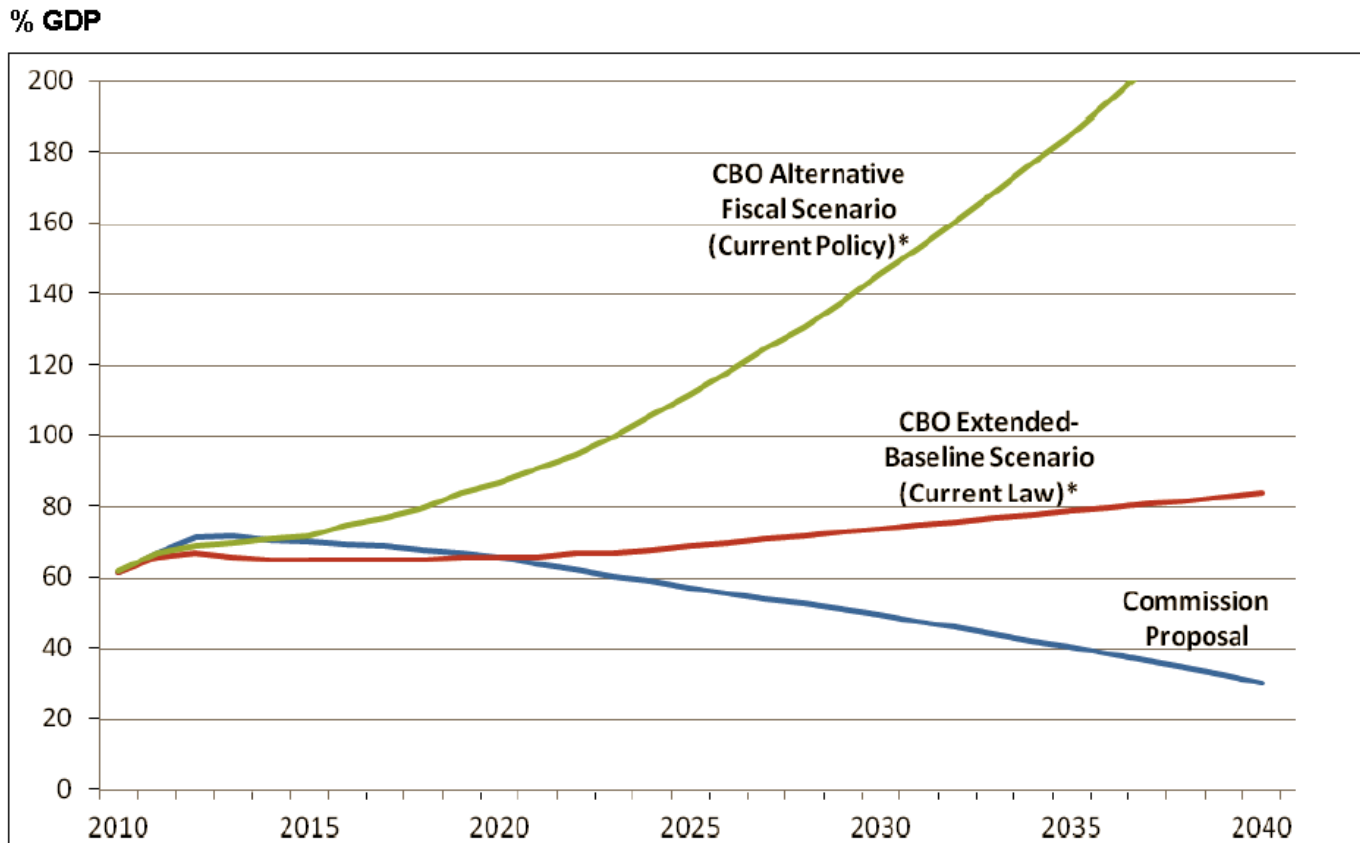
Source: Congressional Budget Office, Office of Management and Budget

# Debt

General government consolidated gross debt, percentage of GDP (source: EUROSTAT)



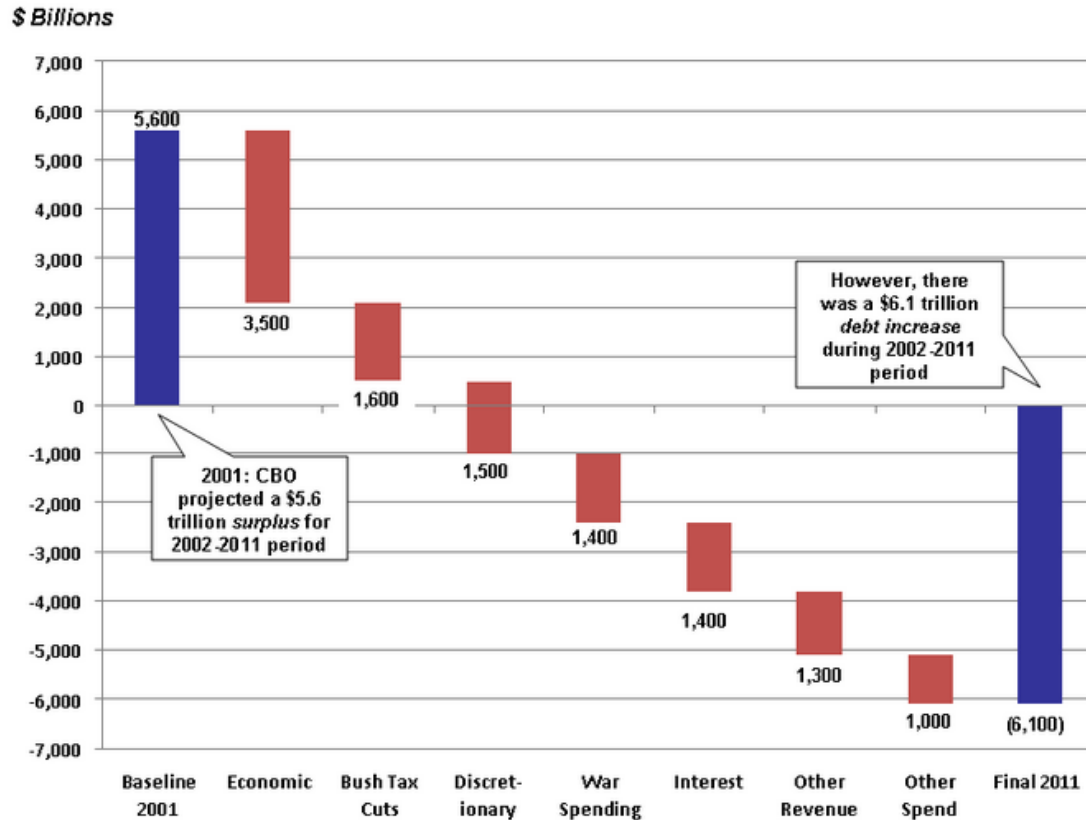
## U.S. Public Debt as a % GDP Under Various Scenarios



Source: *Report of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform* - December 2010

\*Note: Explanations of the Alternative and Baseline scenarios are included on graph's article page.

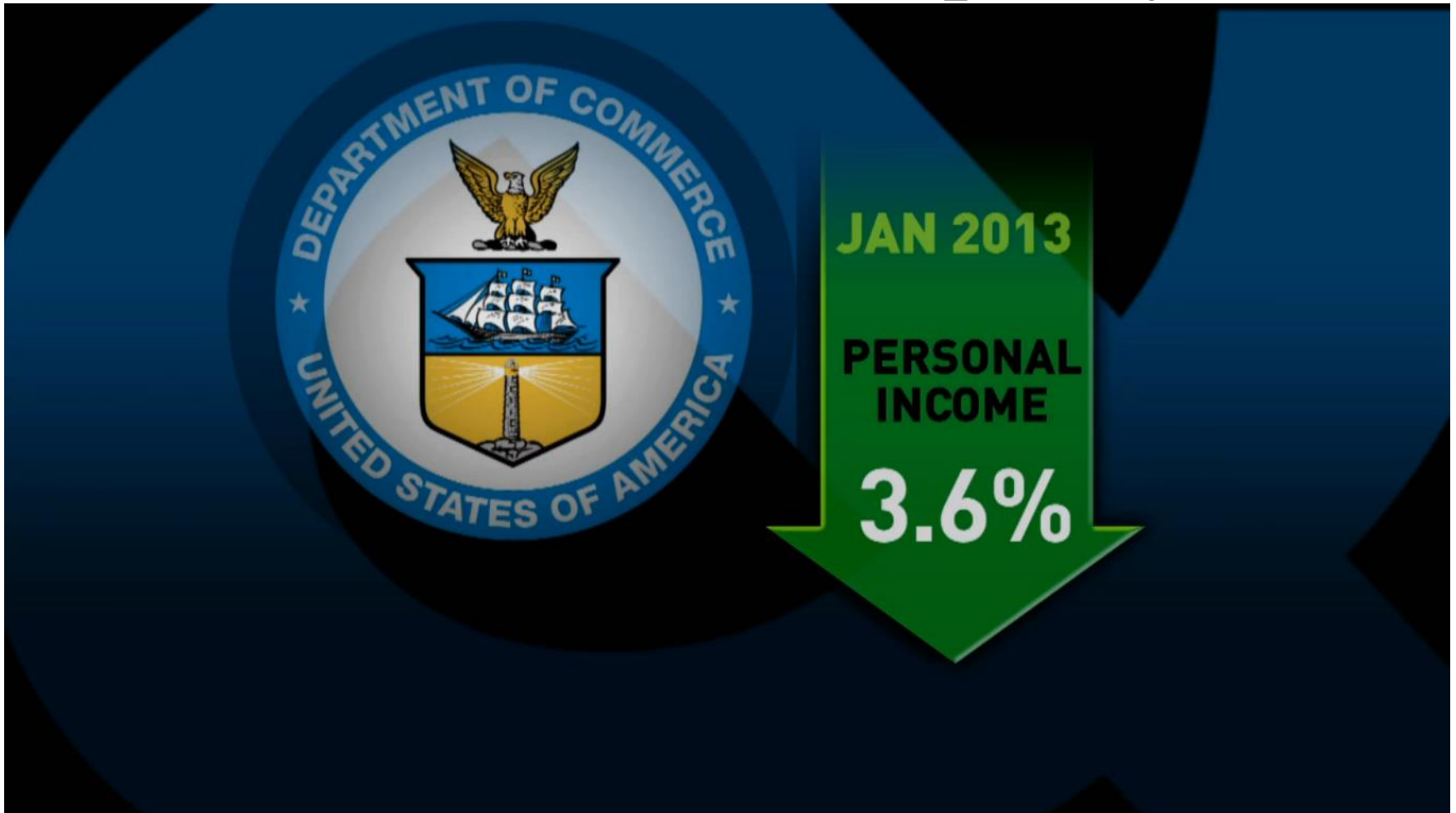
## Cause of Change in U.S. Debt Position (2001 Projected vs. 2011 Actual)



Source: CBO Data



# United States of Inequality



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

# Progress Report

**For comparison's sake I copied the same issues from September --- What news have you heard of any of these?**

**Syria -What effect will Assad's decision to destroy his chemical weapons have?** Things are still serious in **Syria**. I am hearing numbers like 7 million Syrian Refugees, 2 million external and the rest internal. 100,000 dead from bombs and bullets. Did we let Assad throw us a bone to chew on while he reestablishes control over Syria.

**Immigration bill** went to the floor of the Senate. Will it be resurrected?

Will the term “**super power**” ever be applicable again? Will a country's strategic military assets ever be sufficient to dominate another country or regions? Since Korea, America's enemies has yet accomplish a clear victory or success. Limited war or pseudo wars have only drained America of her resources and her lives,

# Progress Report –Cont.

The **Arab Spring**, wasn't our idea, but we cheered them on. None that I know of have come anywhere close to a peaceful existence and the elimination of oppression of the weak by the powerful and a peaceful lives for all their citizens.

Richard Haass, was interviewed recently by Diane Rehm last 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 wit**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.**  
hin.

**Surveillance Nation: President Dilma of Brazil cancelled her state visit to Washington until the Brazilian people get satisfactory response from the Administration regarding the digital eavesdropping on the government and national oil company.**

# Why Investing in Pro Athletes Is for Suckers

By [Rick Newman](#) / [The Exchange](#) - October 18, 2013

In investing (and in life) it's the one question people never ask often enough.

Investors and sports fans have an intriguing new opportunity to cheer, thanks to [Fantex](#), a [startup that plans to offer public shares in professional athletes](#) and other celebrities, as a way for members of the public to cash in on the future success of their favorite stars. The first POA (publicly owned athlete) will be Arian Foster, the charismatic Houston Texans' running back who has become one of the NFL's leading rushers as well as a prosperous pitchman for brands such as Under Armour and Kroger.

The scheme works like this: Fantex will raise \$10.6 million from investors in a public offering of its own shares, and give \$10 million to Foster, 27, while keeping the rest as the firm's cut. The \$10 million is Foster's, no matter what.



# Why Investing in Pro Athletes Is for Suckers

[Rick Newman](#) – *Cont.*

In exchange, Foster has signed a contract agreeing to pay Fantex 20% of his future earnings.

None of that money will go back to shareholders, but in theory, the more the running back pays to Fantex, the higher the firm's stock will go, benefiting the investors who put up the original \$10 million. As [BusinessWeek points out](#), simple math dictates that the break-even point is \$50 million in future earnings, with Foster coming out ahead if his earnings fall below that and Fantex winning if they're higher. The risk of Foster getting injured or ending his career early for some other reason would be part of the gamble for shareholders.

What could possibly go wrong? Oh, only about a million things

...

**“We have to pass the bill so you  
can find out what is in it”**

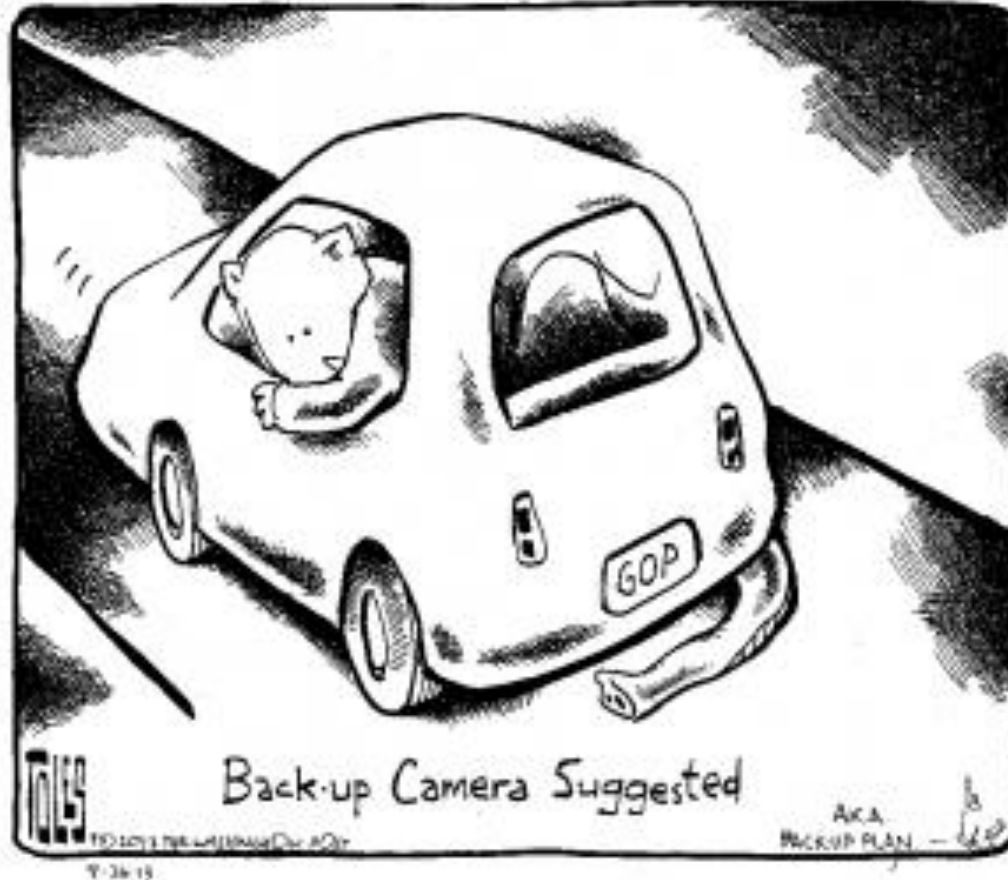
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV-05TLiiLU>

Mar 9, 2010 - Uploaded by PoliJAM



# Tom Toles Draws Republicans

Washington Post



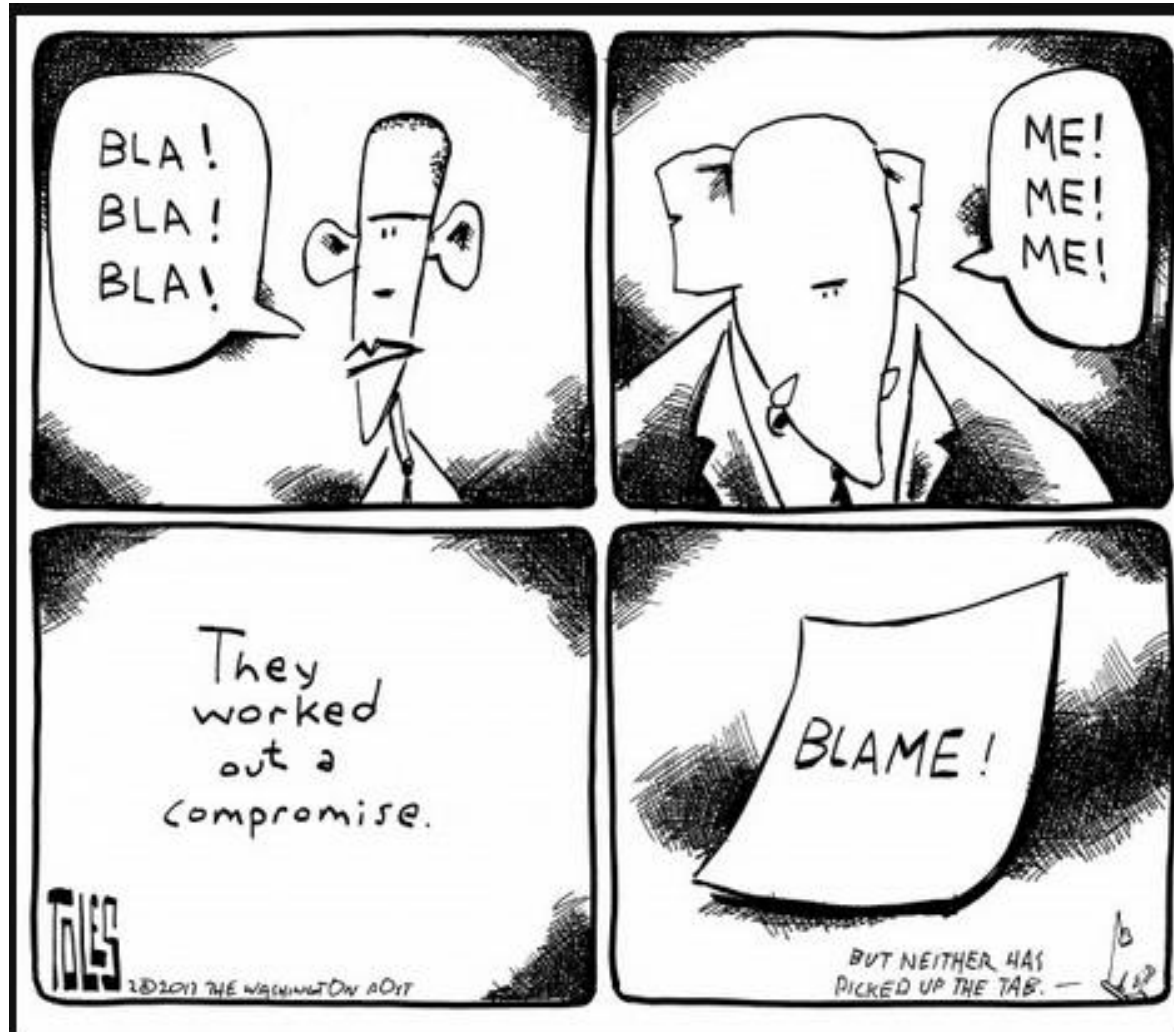
Gallery

[Tom Toles draws Republicans: A collection of cartoons about the GOP.](#)



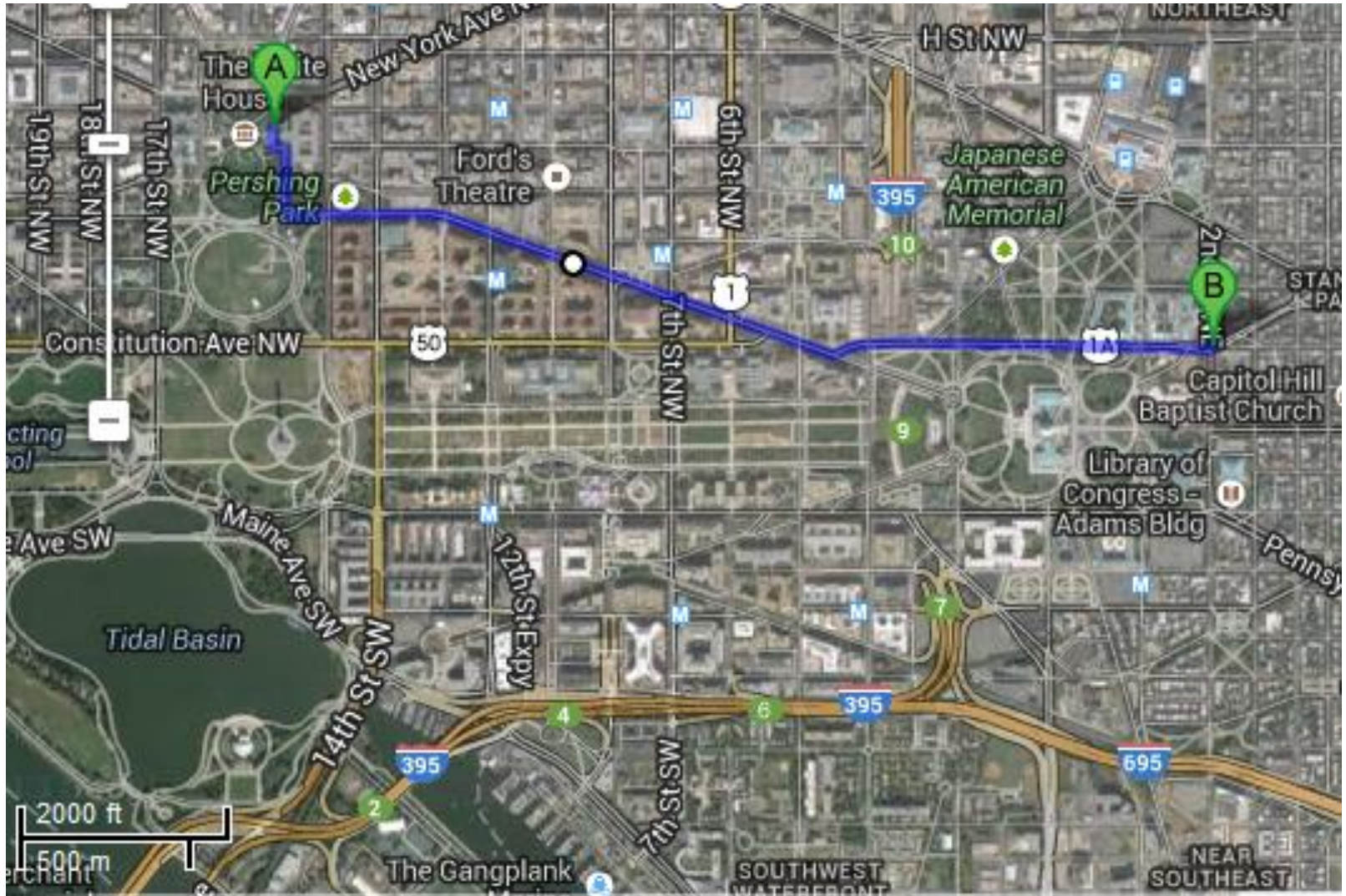
# Tom Toles Draws Republicans

Washington Post





# The Route of a Confused Lady from Conn





# Maryland Ave NE at 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE (B)



# How much does The Lone Star Card pay?

Linda Edwards Gockel is a spokeswoman for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. *“The Lone Star card is what is used at retailers to purchase food items, and that card automatically has balances added to it each month.”*

Every month, the commission loads the Lone Star cards with \$400 million in federal funds. About 3.5 million Texans have the cards.

Gockel says the federal government did fund SNAP for October.

**\$400,000,000 / 3,500,000 recipients = \$114.29 /recipient**

# 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.

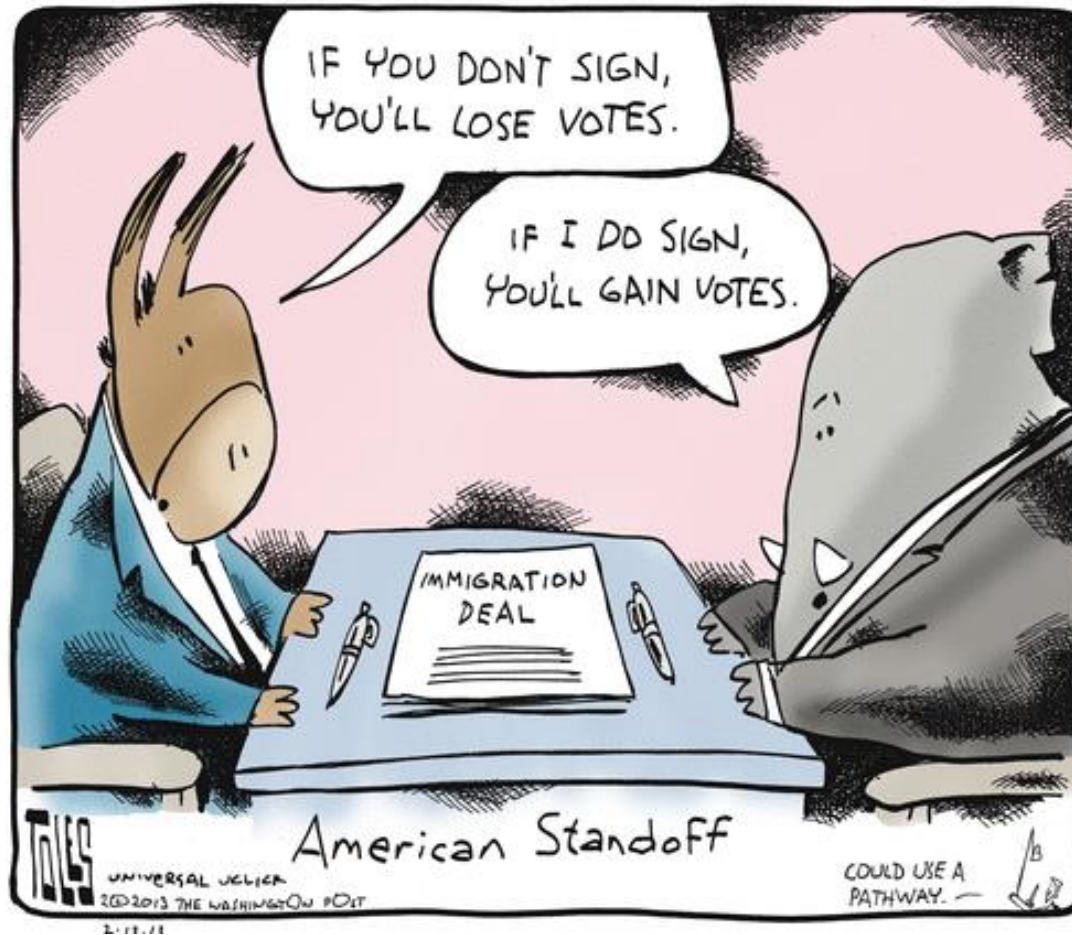
Read more:

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2013/09/20/house-republicans-quit-bipartisan-immigration-group-weaking-chance-legislation/#ixzz2fUgbjyDv>

# Immigration (Reform?)

Tom Toles by Tom Toles

February 13, 2013





# Texas Gubernatorial Election 2014

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas\\_gubernatorial\\_election,\\_2014](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_gubernatorial_election,_2014)

## Republican primary Candidates - Declared

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

Lisa Fritsch, author and radio show host<sup>[2]</sup>

[Larry Kilgore](#), perennial candidate and [Texas secessionist](#)<sup>[3]</sup>

Miriam Martinez, former [Univision](#) personality<sup>[4]</sup>

[Tom Pauken](#), former [Texas Workforce Commissioner](#) and former Chairman of the [Republican Party of Texas](#)<sup>[5]</sup>

| Poll source                  | Date(s) administered | Sample size | Margin of error | Greg Abbott | Larry Kilgore | Miriam Martinez | Tom Pauken | Ot he r | Un deci ded |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------------|
| <a href="#">Texas Lyceum</a> | September 6–20, 2013 | 279         | ± 5.87%         | 22%         | 2%            | 1%              | 0%         | —       | 74%         |

# Democratic Candidate

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas\\_gubernatorial\\_election,\\_2014](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_gubernatorial_election,_2014)

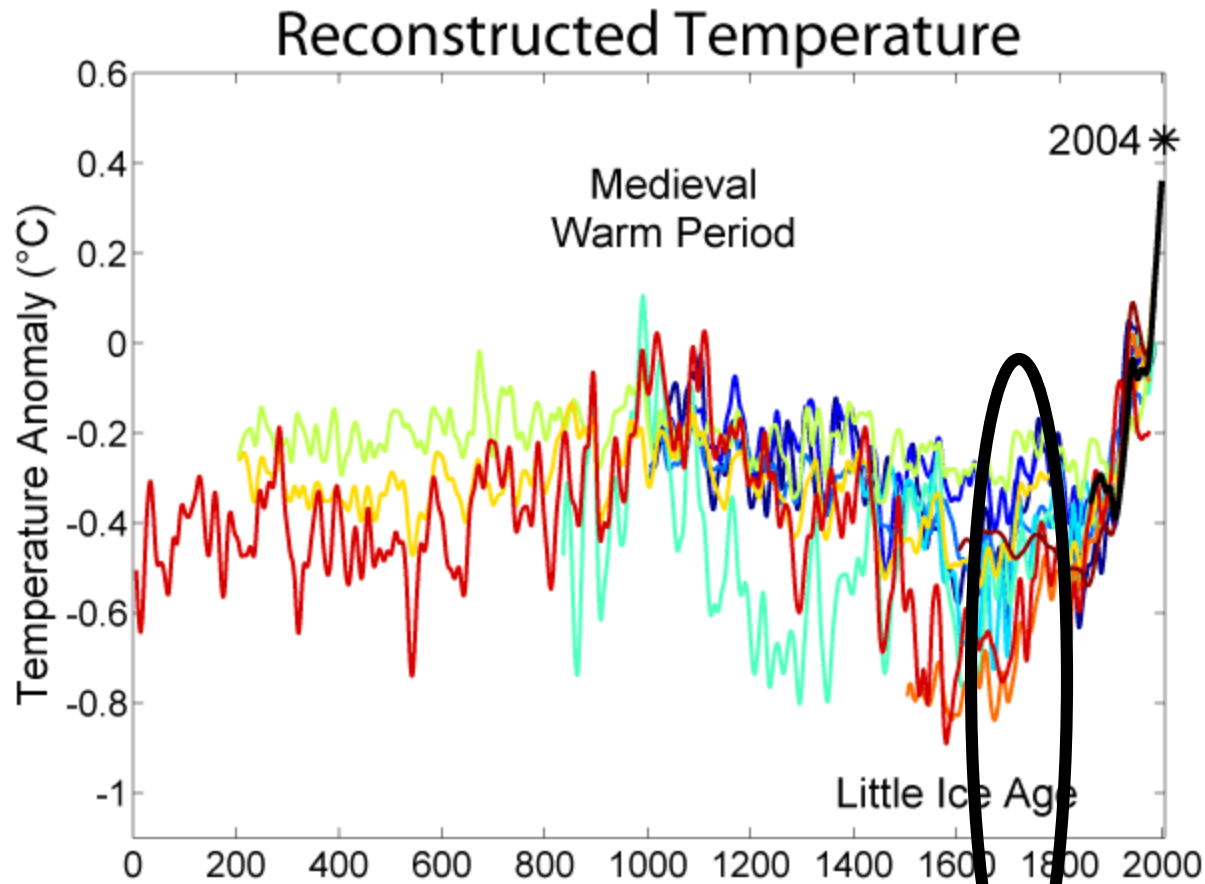
## Democratic primary Candidates

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

### Polling Davis v Abbot

| Poll source                           | Date(s) administered | Sample size | Margin of error | Greg Abbott (R) | Wendy Davis (D) | Other | Undecided  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| <a href="#">Texas Lyceum</a>          | September 6–20, 2013 | 798         | ± 3.47%         | <b>29%</b>      | 21%             | —     | <b>50%</b> |
| <a href="#">Public Policy Polling</a> | June 28–July 1, 2013 | 500         | ± 4.4%          | <b>48%</b>      | 40%             | —     | 12%        |
| <a href="#">Public Policy Polling</a> | January 24–27, 2013  | 400         | ± 4.9%          | <b>46%</b>      | 34%             | —     | 20%        |

This page was last modified on 18 October 2013 at 16:54.



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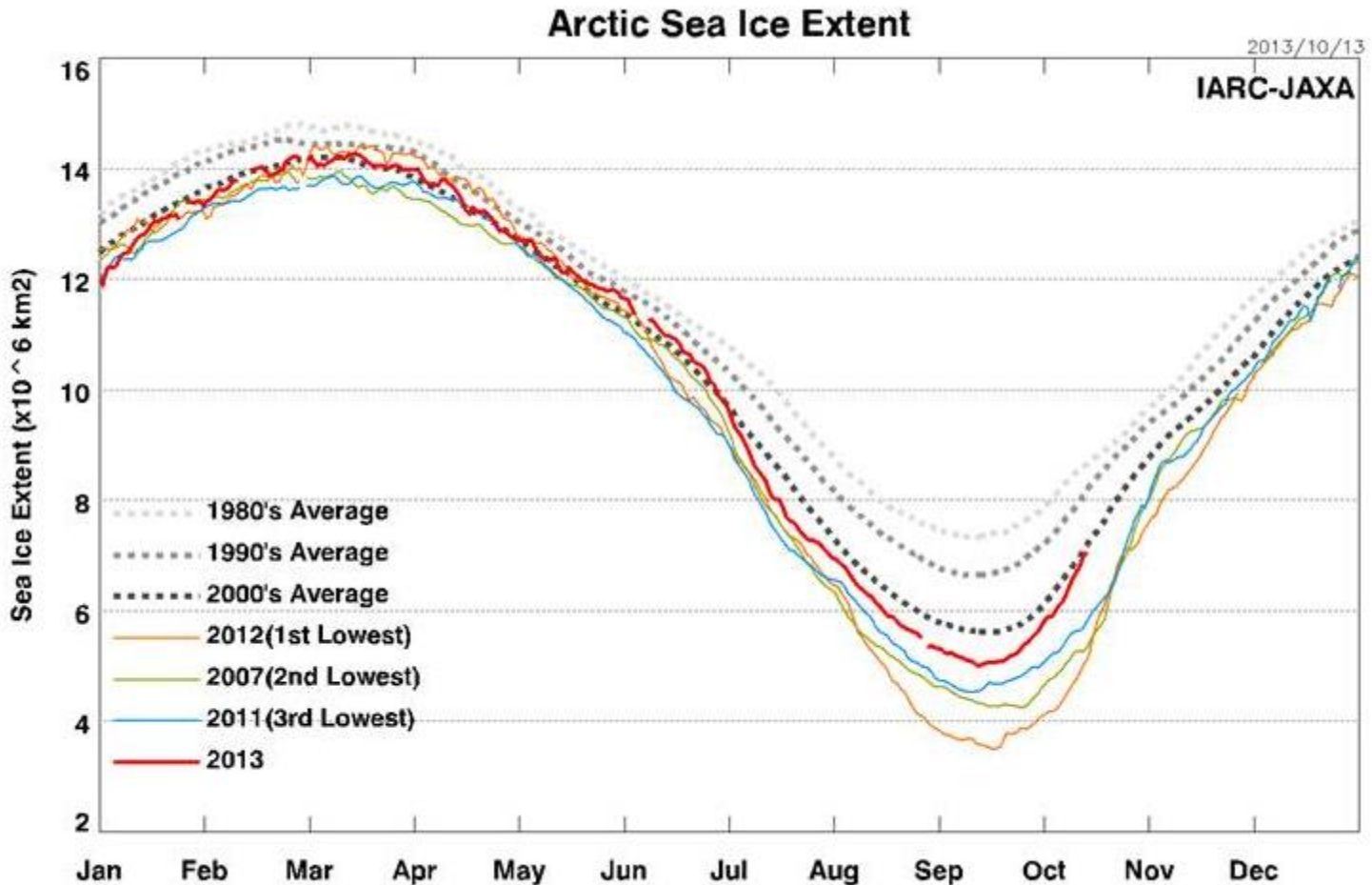
2000\_Year\_Temperature\_Comparison.png (600 × 443 pixels, file size: 39 KB, MIME type: image/png)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little\\_Ice\\_Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age)



# Arctic Sea Ice Extent

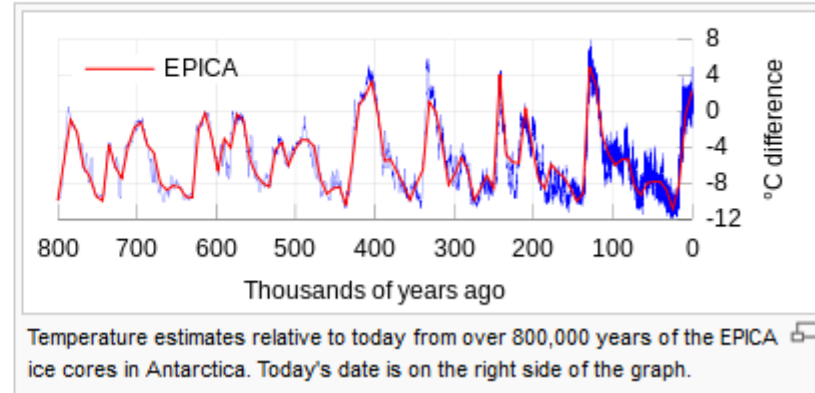
October 16, 2013



[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)

## The long term ice core record: the last 800,000 years

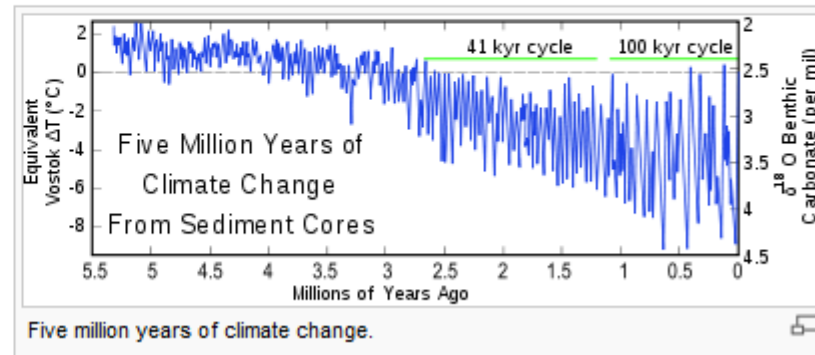
Even longer term records exist for few sites: the recent Antarctic EPICA core reaches 800 kyr; many others reach more than 100,000 years. The EPICA core covers eight glacial/interglacial cycles. The NGRIP core from Greenland stretches back more than 100 kyr, with 5 kyr in the Eemian interglacial. Whilst the large-scale signals from the cores are clear, there are problems interpreting the detail, and connecting the isotopic variation to the temperature signal.



## Geologic evidence of past temperature changes

*Main article: Geologic temperature record*

On longer time scales, sediment cores show that the cycles of glacials and interglacials are part of a deepening phase within a prolonged ice age that began with the glaciation of Antarctica approximately 40 million years ago. This deepening phase, and the accompanying cycles, largely began approximately 3 million years ago with the growth of continental ice sheets in the Northern Hemisphere. Gradual changes in Earth's climate of this kind have been frequent during the Earth's 4500 million year existence and most often are attributed to changes in the configuration of continents and ocean sea ways.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperature\\_record](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperature_record)

**ARCTIC ICE COMEBACK**

- ENVIRONMENTALISTS WARNED
- BBC PREDICTED ALL ICE WOULD MELT
- OPPOSITE HAPPENED

PHOTO: NASA

THE DAILY MAIL

DOWNLOAD PLAY NOW

© 2013 Microsoft

The image shows a video player interface with a dark blue background. At the top, a title bar reads 'ARCTIC ICE COMEBACK'. Below the title, there is a list of three bullet points: 'ENVIRONMENTALISTS WARNED', 'BBC PREDICTED ALL ICE WOULD MELT', and 'OPPOSITE HAPPENED'. To the right of the text is a satellite image of the Arctic region, showing the ice cap and surrounding landmasses. Below the image, the text 'PHOTO: NASA' is visible. At the bottom left of the video frame, 'THE DAILY MAIL' is written. At the bottom center, there are two buttons: 'DOWNLOAD' with a blue downward arrow icon and 'PLAY NOW' with a red play button icon. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for '© 2013 Microsoft'.

# 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>

# 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 !





# Why should you care about Bluffdale, Utah?



19 September 2013

The Enghement 2.0 - Then and Now



# 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.

# 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/>



# **A comment from last time**

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

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#>**

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

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

# Next General Election is Nov 4, 2014

That is only **381 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.

**Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013**  
**Humanity at a Crossroads**  
**19 October 2013**

**NEXT - 10 Minute BREAK**

***Then the Presentation***

**Session 01**

**Enlightenment 2.0 – Then and Now**

**Curt Gibby**

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

# **Don't panic!**

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

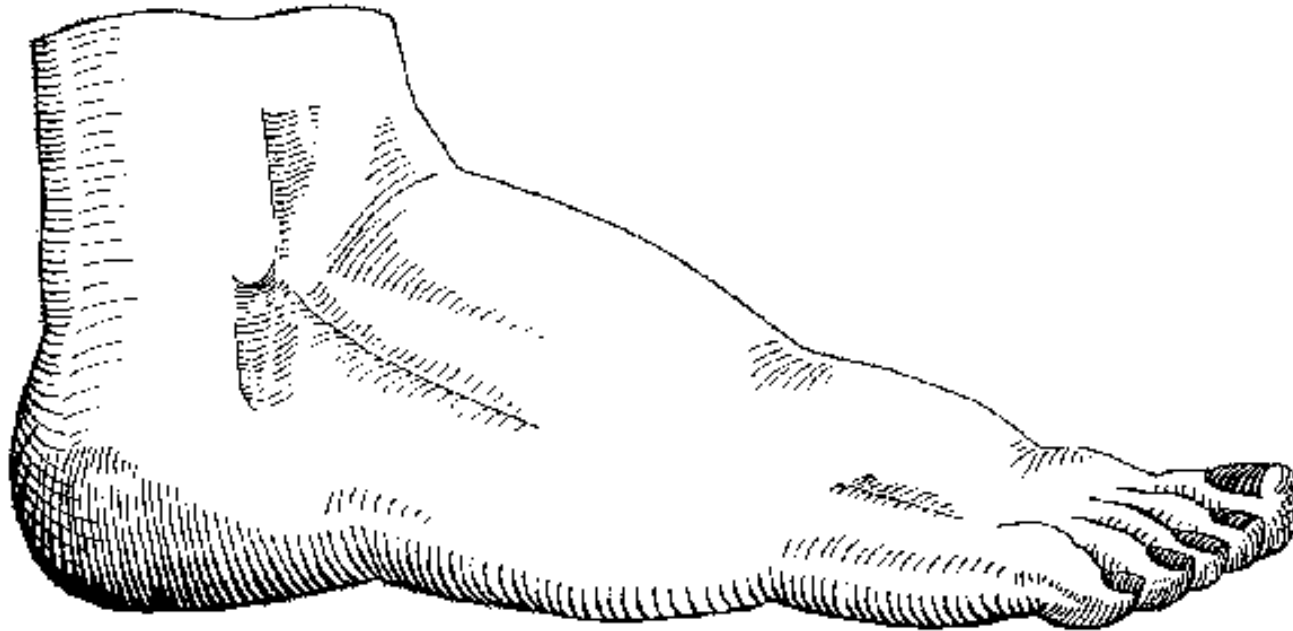
# **Welcome back to interesting times !**



## **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)

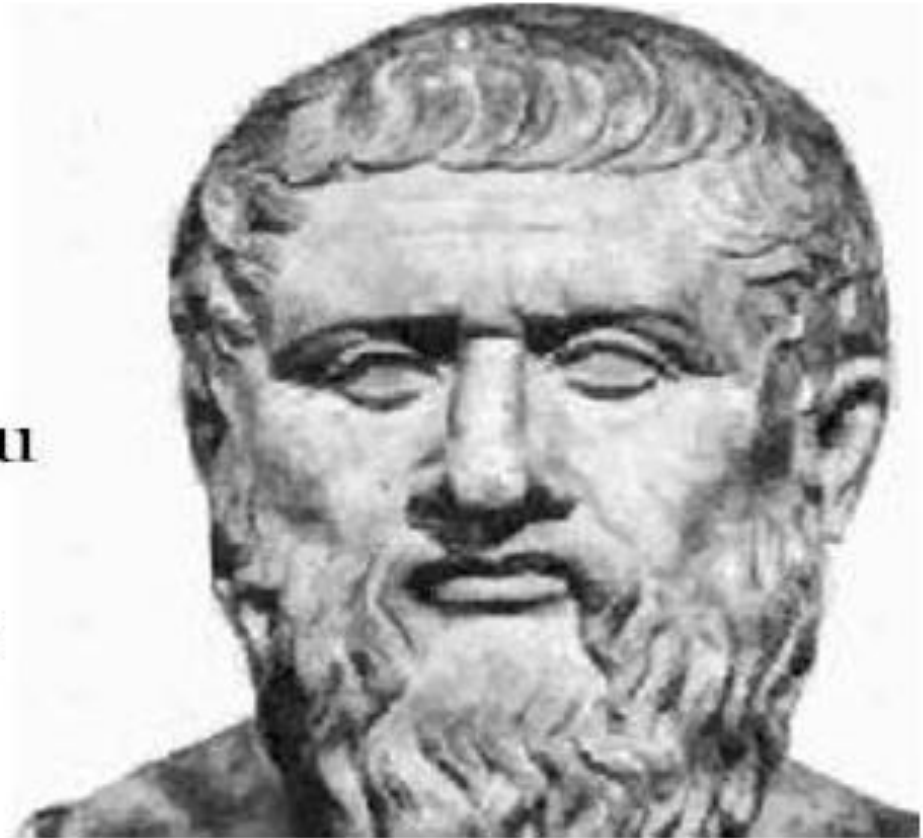
When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

# 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

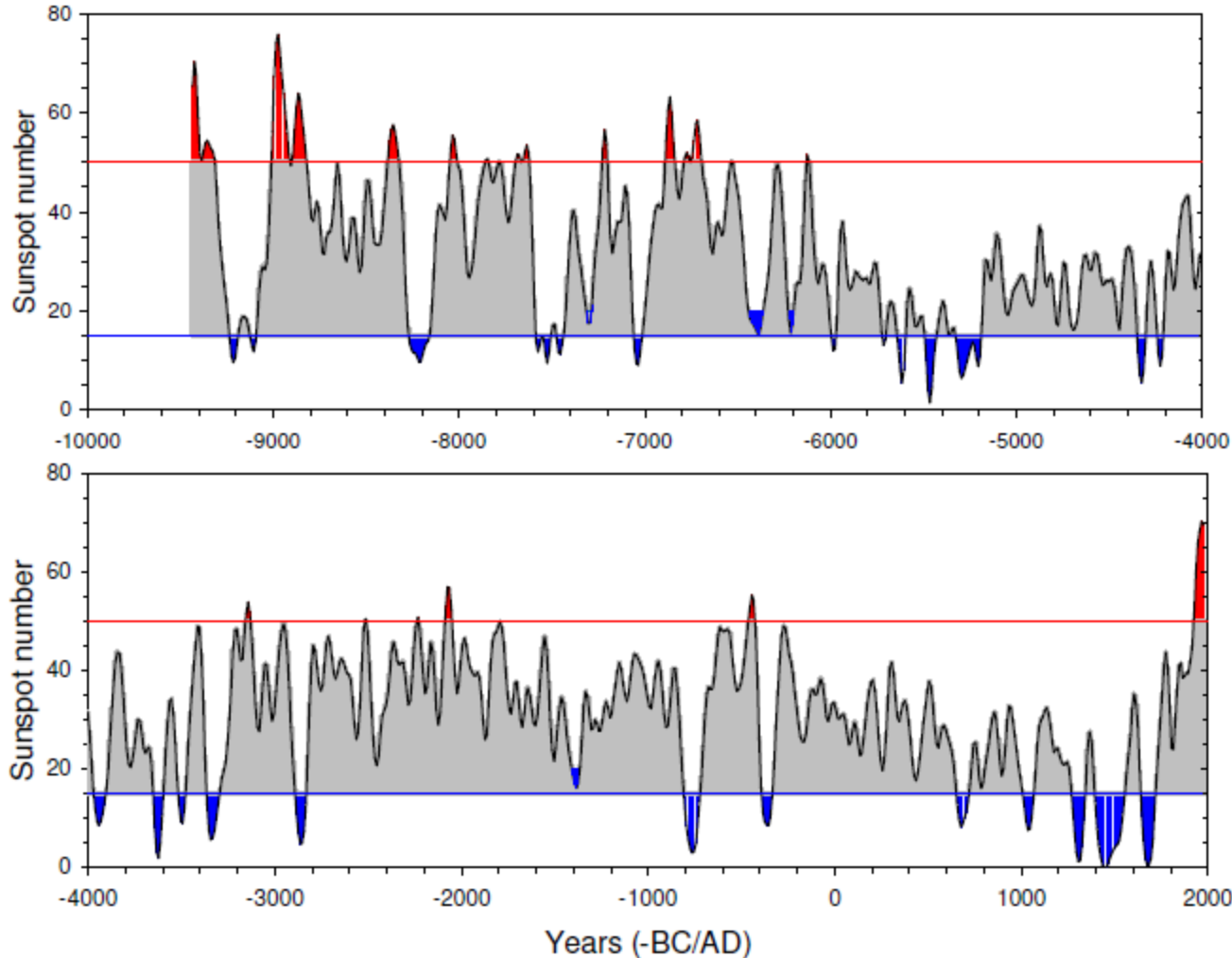
Plutocracy political plotting erupts

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 ( $e^{10}$  and  $C^{14}$ ) 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

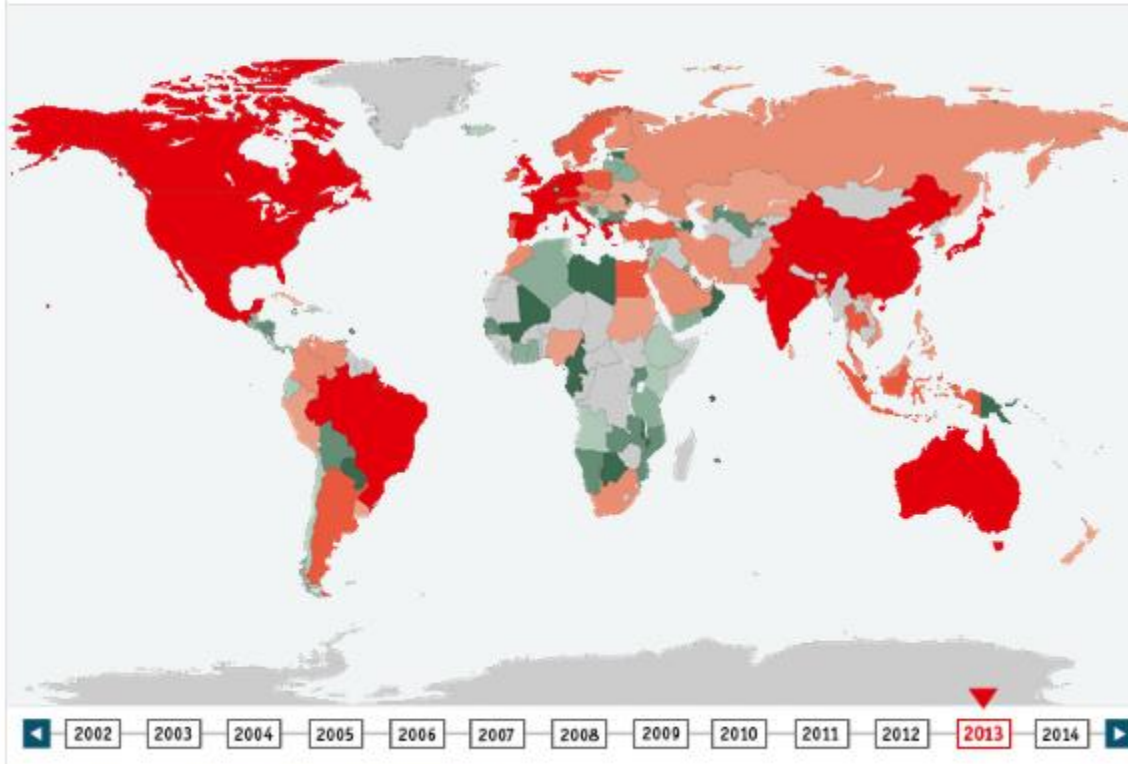
Like 664 Tweet 5,588

\$ 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.

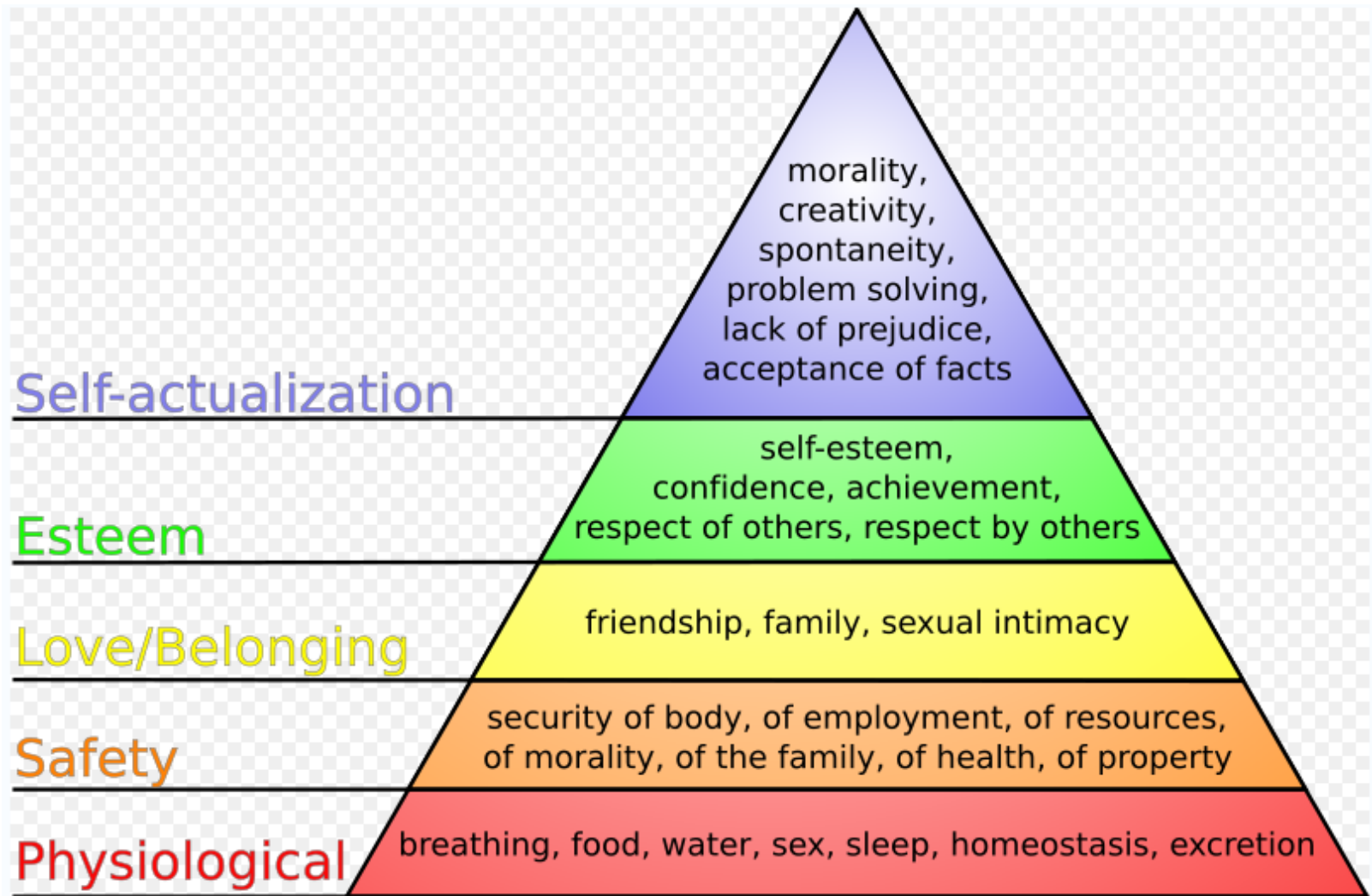
Some people may recognize your authority and some others may not.

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**

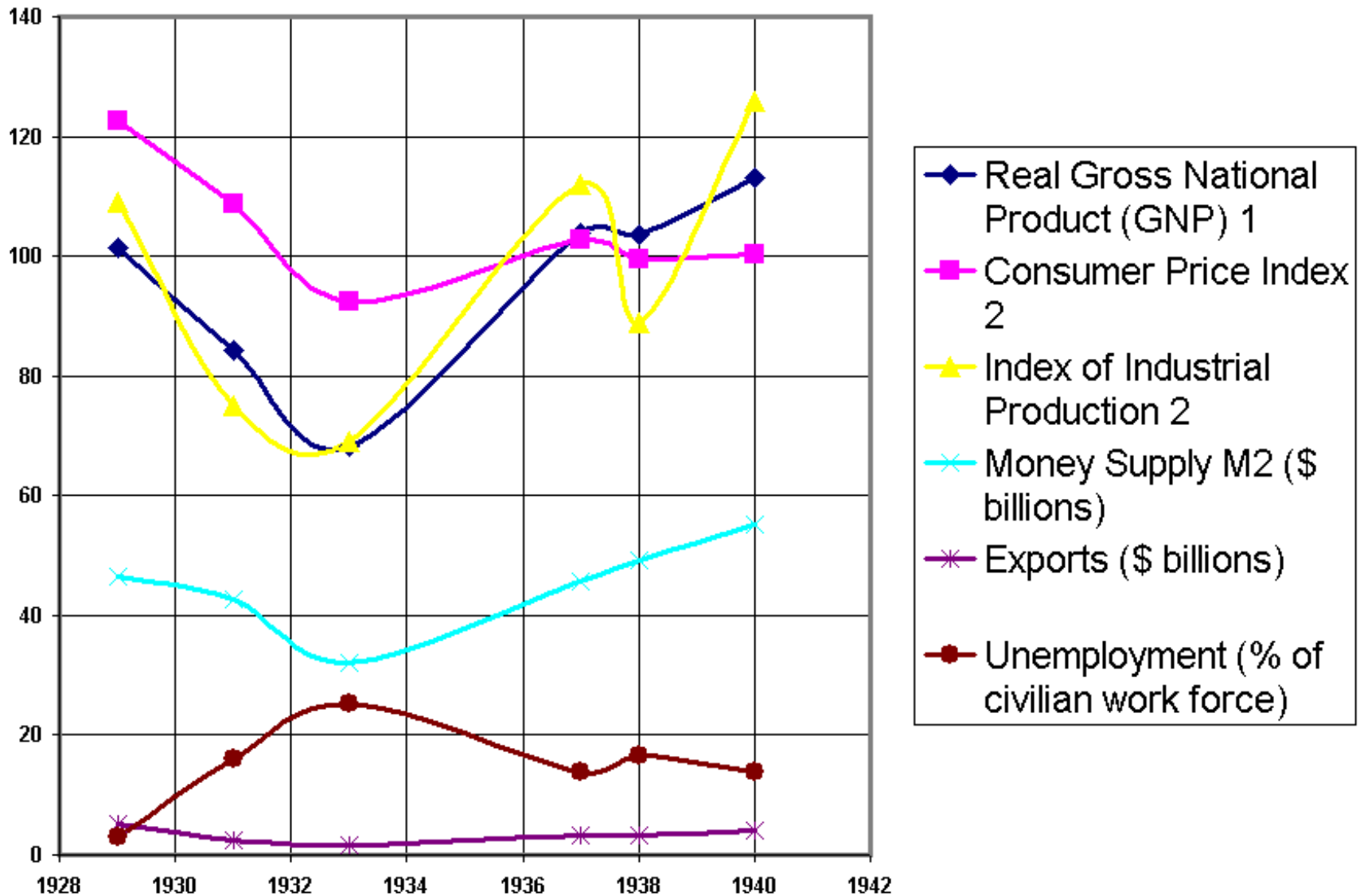
**Unale to anticipate what looks ovious in retrospect**

**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.

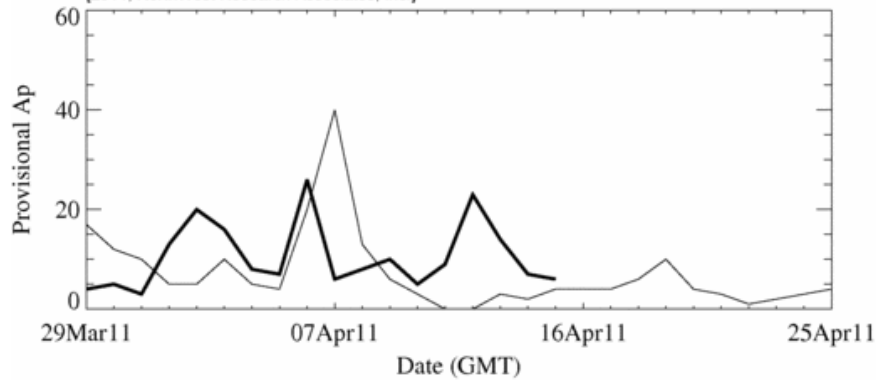
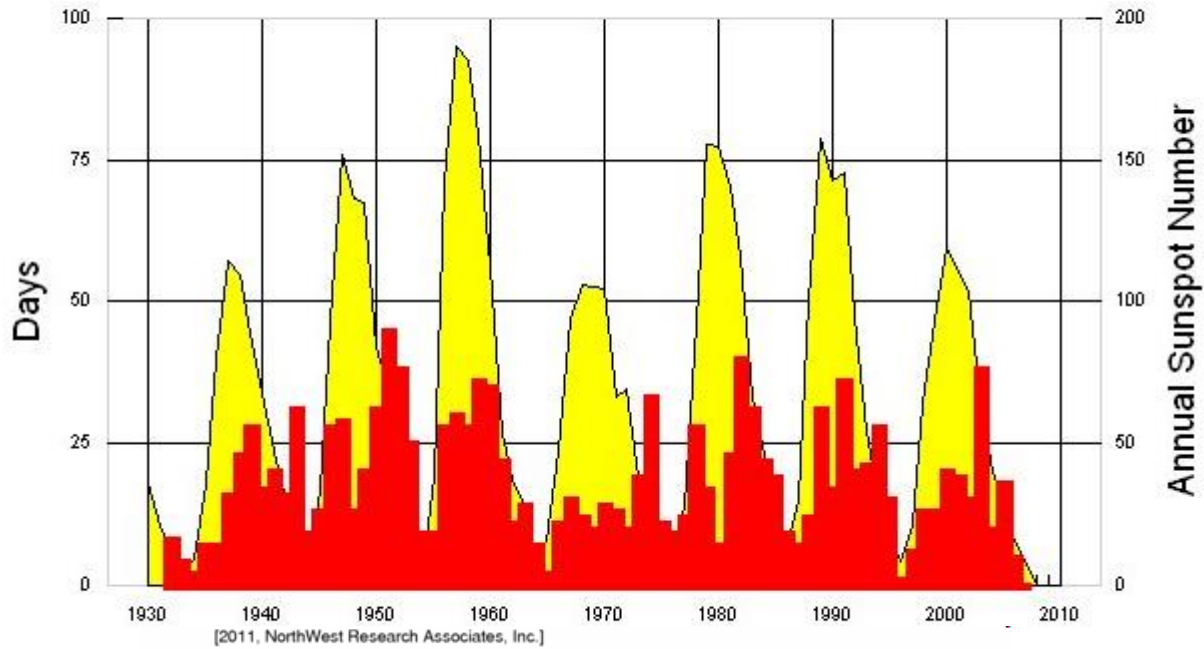
**Fatigue** - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

**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)

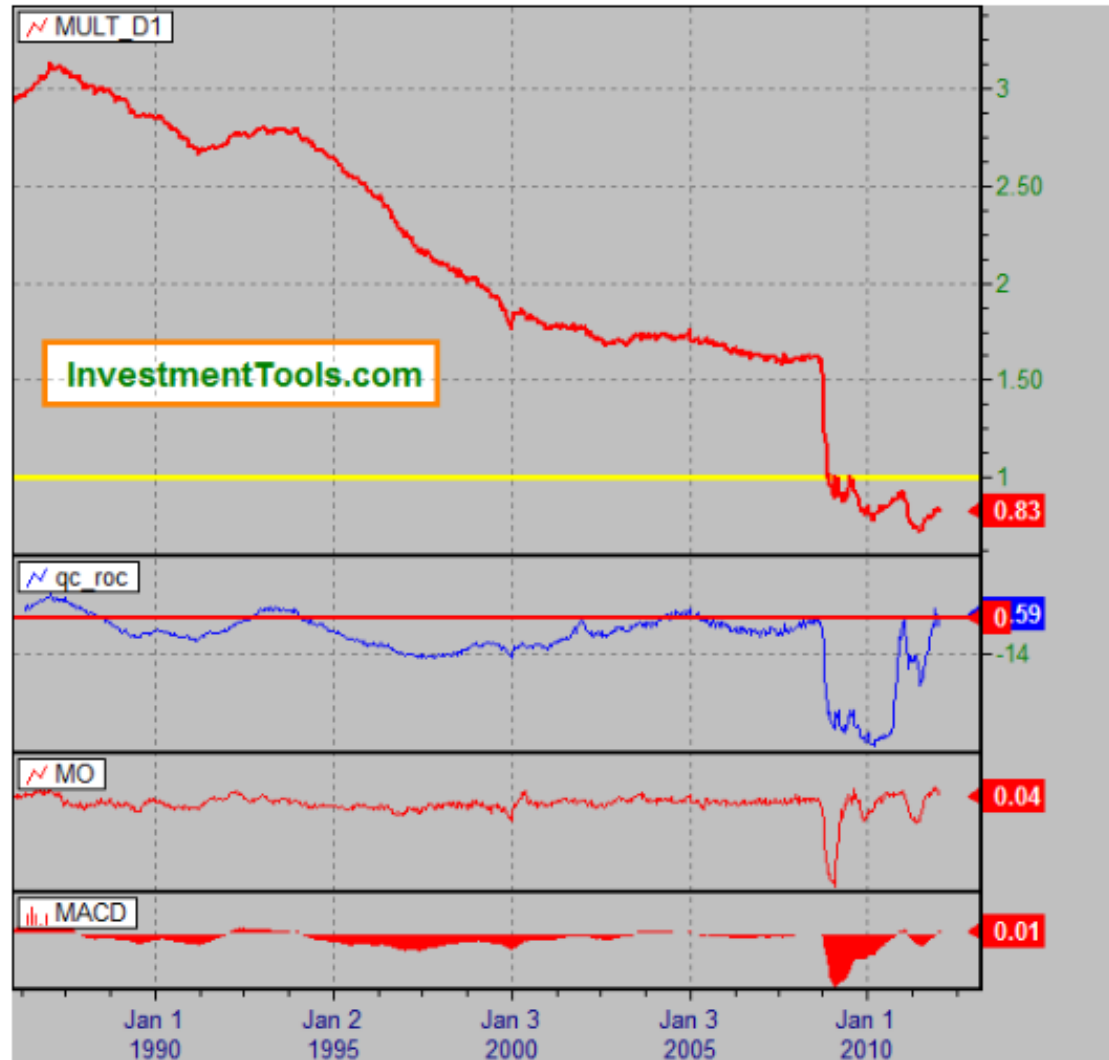


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

utions (NFORBRES)  
serve System

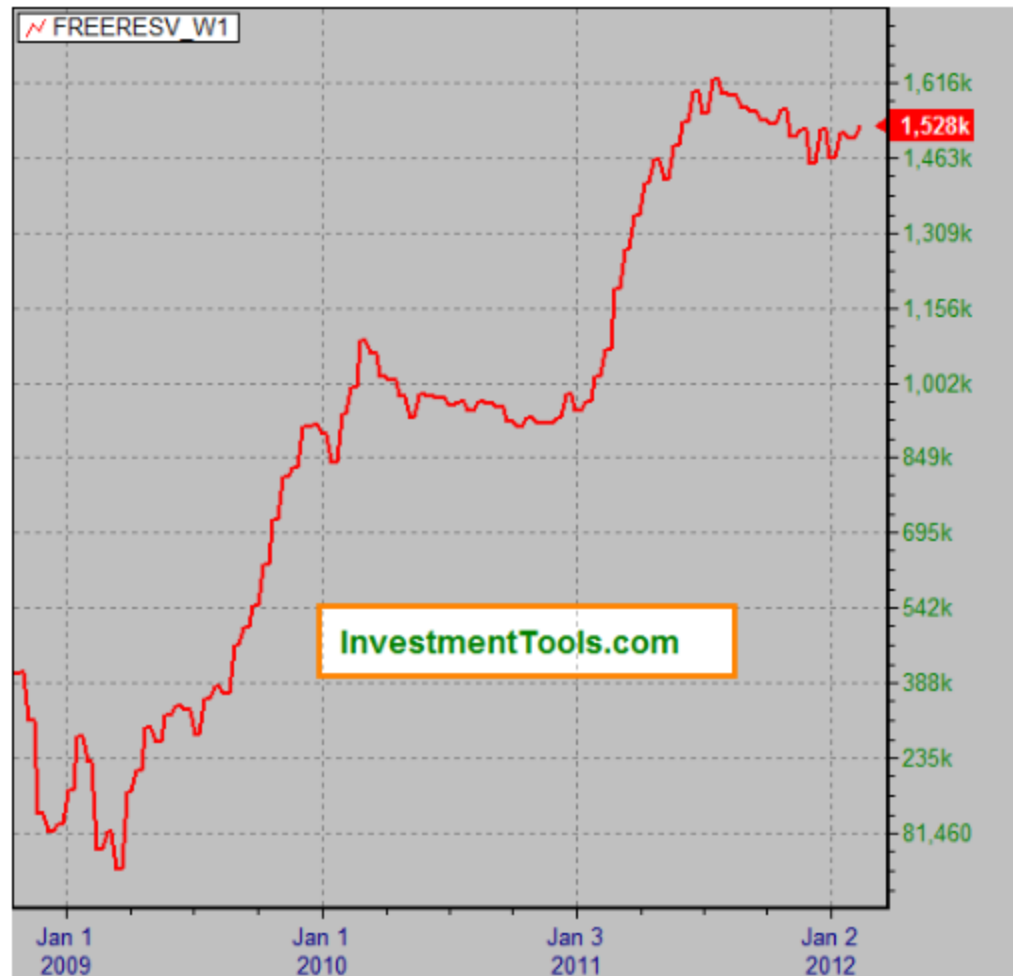
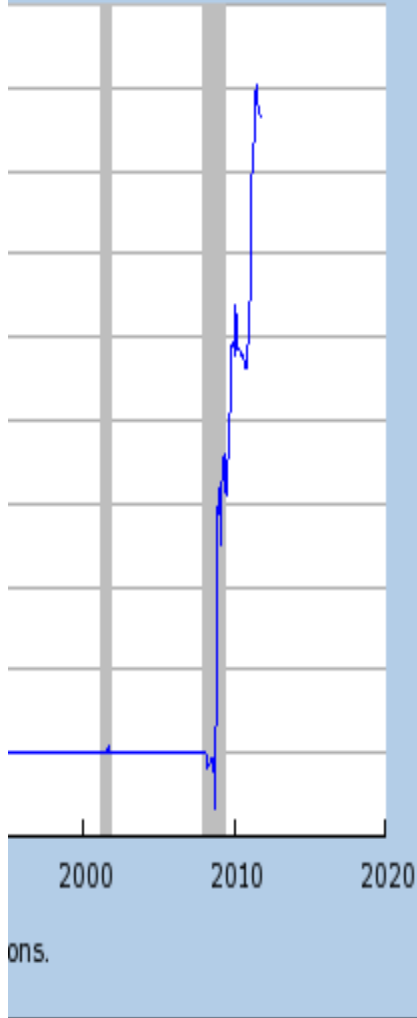


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

# 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. The believe the middle class should always ail 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.

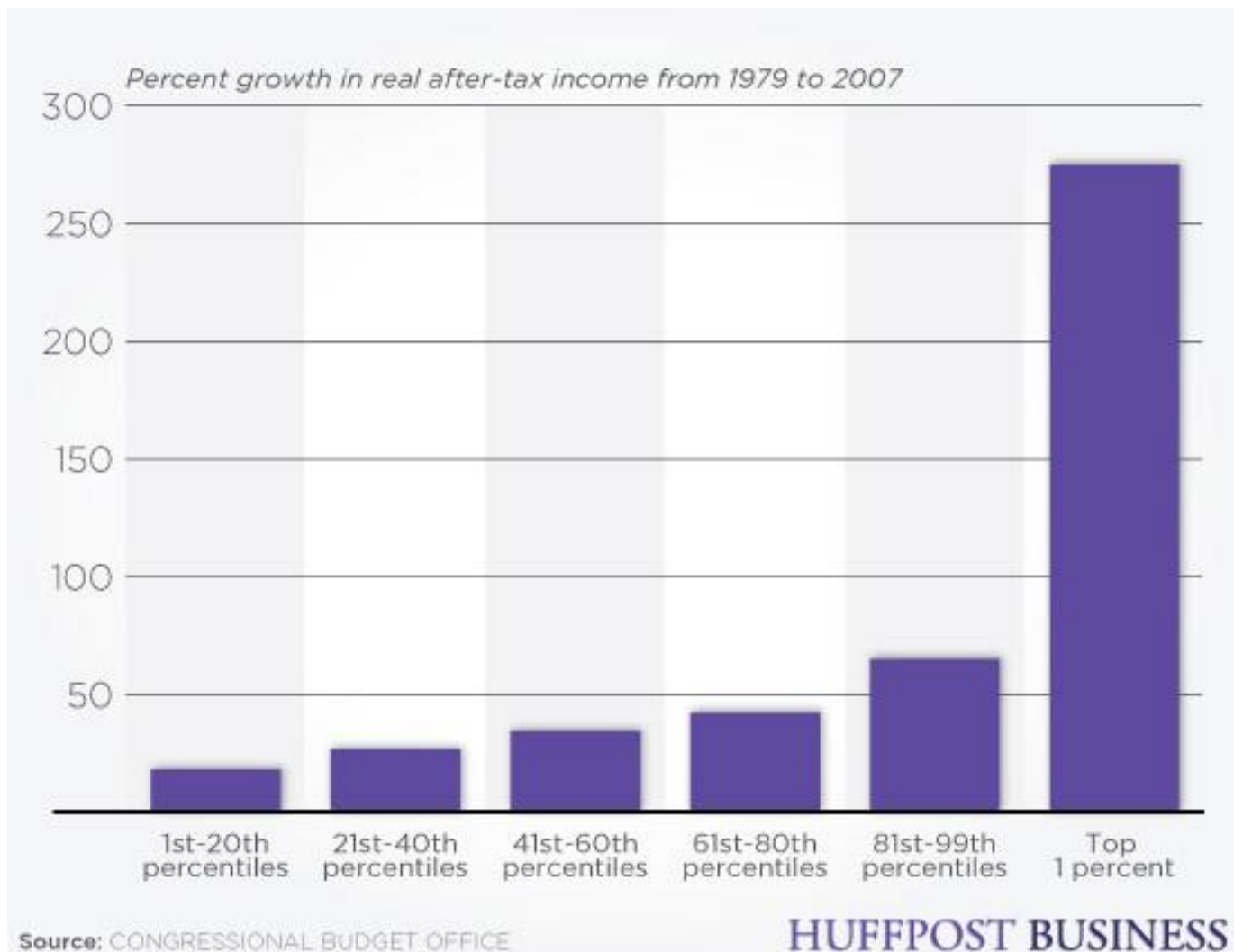
Last year, half of Americans earned less than \$26,000 while CEOs at top 500 companies raked in an average of \$11 million.

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?

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.

# 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>