

Third Saturday Seminar 2013-2014
Humanity at a Crossroads
19 October 2013

Session 02

Enlightenment 2.0 – Then and Now
(Resetting Society)

Presentation
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Age of Enlightenment 2.0

Not only is our world interesting in the Chinese sense, but **We the People** of the world, like Rip van Winkle, are waking up after a long siesta.

How else can you explain phenomena like:

"Occupy," "Arab Spring" and "Tea Party?"

Long oppressed peoples are apparently spontaneously finally rising up to express dissatisfaction with their rulers, and challenging the foreign policies of the rest of world to respond.

Everybody sincerely desires Democracy", "Justice" and "Freedom." But things don't quite seem to work out.

In the 17th and 18th centuries Western cultures experienced an "**Age of Enlightenment**" (the "**Enlightenment**") or "**Age of Reason.**" The idea was to substitute reason for the rules of tradition and faith. Our American independence was inspired by this energetic movement.

However, in the intervening 200 years, our Enlightenment has lost some of its energy. It's time to talk about it!

This year we will attempt to develop an appreciation of the progress of Western Civilization before and after the first “**Enlightenment.**” We will try to understand why, when so much of the world has embraced the principles of the enlightenment, an equally large part of the world has not. What about this “Pursuit of happiness” thing. Are we really free to pursue our happiness, whatever that might be? Or, are there conscious or unconscious forces at work that down deep inside sincerely feel they can and should be keeping our society and economy on the right track? **When a society is put under continued real or perceived stress it begins to feel insecure and that can make it receptive to ideas that are not necessarily helpful to bringing about a free and peaceful world.**

Here is the the Syllabus which we will continue to develop as we proceed

<u>Session 1 "Age of Enlightenment 1.0"/Introduction to</u>	September 21, 2013
Session 2 "Then and Now"	October 19, 2013
Session 3 "A Purpose for People"	November 16, 2013
No Session (Holiday Season)	December 2013
A.L.L. Open House - Special short Session 4 (9:30-11:00am)	January 26, 2014 (To be confirmed)
Session 5 "Economics-Justice-Rights-Morals"	February 22, 2014
Session 6 "Technology - Standards of Human Behavior"	March 22, 2014 (TBD)
Session 7 "Governance-Politics-Wars"	April 26, 2014
Session 8 "Enlightenment 2.0" (The Social Contract Renewed/Revised")	May 17, 2014

To help you get started may I suggest reading or skimming some the following short Wikipedia Articles: (your own sources are welcome too.)

1. **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment**
(First page)

2. **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age**
(Again, the first page)

The following short sections

3. **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#Renaissance_and_reformation**

4. **http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#The_reformation:_1500.E2.80.931650**

Sources (Continued)

5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#Rise_of_Western_empires:1500.E2.80.931800
6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_Ages_%28historiography%29#Enlightenment
7. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_revolutions#1500.E2.80.931699 (worth scanning to see just to see how being a revolutionary is a good business, also a convenient list of historic milestone of the ascent of man.)
8. <http://www.northstarinst.org/TSS/10-11/S02/TSS.10-11.Session.02.Econ.000.pdf> (Work in progress will be updated)

The Age of Enlightenment (or simply the Enlightenment or Age of Reason)

...was a cultural movement of intellectuals beginning in the late 17th and 18th century Europe emphasizing reason and individualism rather than tradition.^[1] **Its purpose was to reform society using reason, challenge ideas grounded in tradition and faith, and advance knowledge through the scientific method. It promoted scientific thought, skepticism and intellectual interchange.^[2] It opposed superstition and intolerance, with the Catholic church a favorite target.** Some Enlightenment *philosophes* collaborated with Enlightened despots, who were absolute rulers who tried out some of the new governmental ideas in practice. The ideas of the Enlightenment have had a long-term major impact on the culture, politics, and governments of the Western world.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment

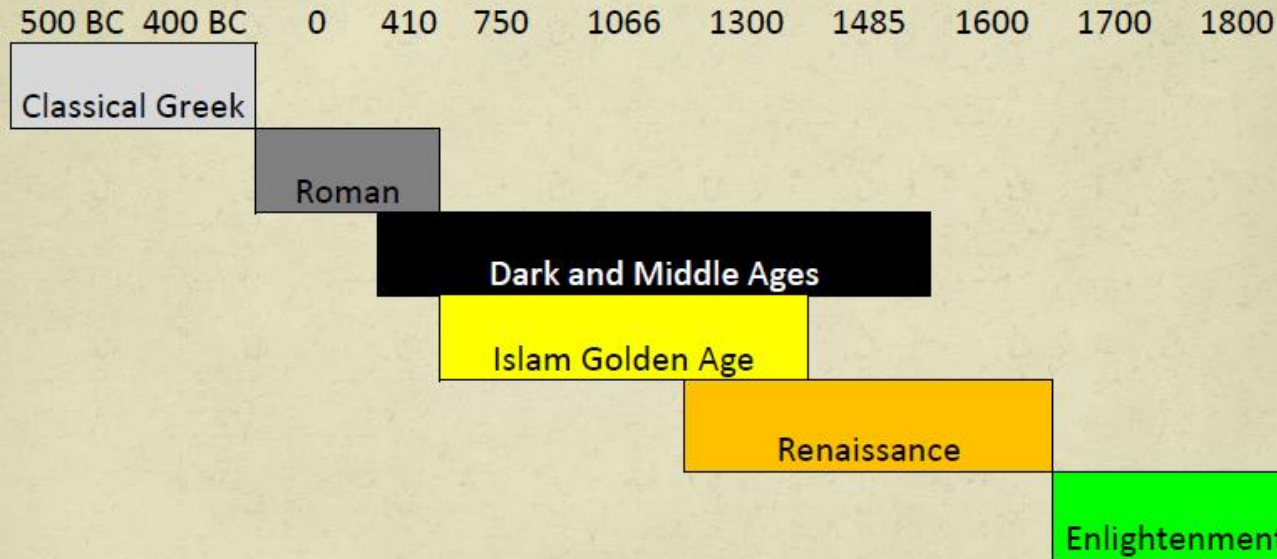
The Enlightenment

Originating about 1650 to 1700, it was sparked by philosophers Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677), John Locke (1632–1704), Pierre Bayle (1647–1706), Voltaire (1694–1778) and physicist Isaac Newton (1643–1727).^[3] Ruling princes often endorsed and fostered these figures and even attempted to apply their ideas of government in what was known as enlightened absolutism. The Scientific Revolution is closely tied to the Enlightenment, as its discoveries overturned many traditional concepts and introduced new perspectives on nature and man's place within it. The Enlightenment flourished until about 1790–1800, after which the emphasis on reason gave way to Romanticism's emphasis on emotion, and a Counter-Enlightenment gained force.^[4]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment

In France, Enlightenment was based in the salons and culminated in the great Encyclopédie (1751–72) edited by Denis Diderot (1713–1784) and (until 1759) Jean le Rond d'Alembert (1717–1783) with contributions by hundreds of leading philosophes (intellectuals) such as Voltaire (1694–1778), Rousseau (1712–1778) ^[5] and Montesquieu (1689–1755). Some 25,000 copies of the 35 volume set were sold, half of them outside France. **The new intellectual forces spread to urban centres across Europe, notably England, Scotland, the German states, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Italy, Austria, and Spain, then jumped the Atlantic into the European colonies, where it influenced Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, among many others, and played a major role in the American Revolution. The political ideals of the Enlightenment influenced the American Declaration of Independence, the United States Bill of Rights, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the Polish–Lithuanian Constitution of May 3, 1791.^[6]**

Historical Eras



Time Line

Pre Renaissance

- 551 479 BC Confucius
- 384 322 BC Aristotle
- 341 270 BC Epicurius
- 98 55 BC Lucretius

Renaissance 1300- 1599

- 1473 1543 Copernicus
- 1561 1626 Bacon
- 1564 1642 Galileo
- 1588 1679 Hobbes
- 1596 1650 Descartes
- 1632 1704 Locke
- 1632 1677 Spinoza

Enlightenment 1666 – 1799

- 1643 1727 Newton
- 1694 1778 Voltaire
- 1711 1776 Hume
- 1712 1778 Rousseau
- 1724 1804 Kant
- 1743 1846 Jefferson

**From: “The Roots and Enduring
Legacy of the Enlightenment” by
John Haydel
Presented Nov 16, 2011**

21 September 2013

The Enlightenment 2.0

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#Renaissance_and_reformation

The Renaissance: 14th to 17th Century

Main article: [Renaissance](#)

[Italian Renaissance](#) – The Italian Renaissance was the earliest manifestation of the general European Renaissance, a period of great cultural change and achievement that began in Italy around the end of the 13th century and lasted until the 16th century, marking the transition between Medieval and Early Modern Europe.

[Romanesque architecture](#) – Romanesque architecture is an architectural style of Medieval Europe characterized by semi-circular arches.

[Johannes Gutenberg](#) – Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg was a German blacksmith, goldsmith, printer, and publisher who introduced printing to Europe. ^{[51][52]}

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#Renaissance_and_reformation

Desiderius Erasmus – Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus, known as Erasmus of Rotterdam, was a Dutch Renaissance humanist, Roman Catholic priest, social critic, teacher, and theologian.^[53]

Thomas More – Sir Thomas More, known by Catholics as Saint Thomas More since 1935, was an English lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman, and noted Renaissance humanism|Renaissance humanist.^{[54][55][56]}

Christopher Columbus – Christopher Columbus was an explorer, colonizer, and navigator, born in the Republic of Genoa, in what is today northwestern Italy.^{[57][58][59][60]}

More at Link

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_the_history_of_Western_civilization#The_reformation:1500.E2.80.931650

The reformation: 1500–1650

Main article: [Protestant Reformation](#)

[Protestantism](#)— a denomination of [Christianity](#) formed by [Martin Luther](#), which split from [Catholicism](#) in the early 16th Century, causing much conflict and strife.

[Reformation](#)— a term referring to the process by which [Protestantism](#) emerged and gained supporters.

[Counter Reformation](#)— the backlash to the [Reformation](#) by [Catholicism](#), resulting in a great deal of fighting, most notably the [30 Years War](#).

[30 Years War](#)— a conflict fought mainly in the [Germanic States](#) involving virtually all countries in [Europe](#), fought over religious preeminence.

Rise of Western empires: 1500–1800

Age of Discovery – The Age of Discovery, also known as the Age of Exploration and the Great Navigations, was a period in history starting in the early 15th century and continuing into the early 17th century during which Europeans engaged in intensive exploration of the world, establishing direct contact with Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceania and mapping the planet.^{[64][65][66]}

Colonial empire – The Colonial empires were a product of the European Age of Exploration that began with a race of exploration between the then most advanced maritime powers, Portugal and Spain, in the 15th century.

Mercantilism – Mercantilism is the economic doctrine in which government control of foreign trade is of paramount importance for ensuring the prosperity and military security of the state.^[67]

Ideas

Enlightenment

Divine right of kings – The divine right of kings, or divine-right theory of kingship, is a political and religious doctrine of royal and political legitimacy.

Age of Enlightenment – The period during which superstitions were rejected in favor of science and logic, typically thought of as the dawn of modern science.

Revolution: 1770–1815

United States Declaration of Independence – The Declaration of Independence was a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire. ^[68]

American Revolution – The American Revolution was the political upheaval during the last half of the 18th century in which Thirteen Colonies|thirteen colonies in North America joined together to break free from the British Empire, combining to become the United States|United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence

– *the main idea*

Locke “Man... hath by nature a power to preserve his property - that is, **his life, liberty, and estate - against the injuries** and attempts of other men.”

George Mason “That all men ...have certain inherent rights, namely, the enjoyment of **life and liberty,and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.**”

“The pursuit of happiness” came from

Lucretius (99 – 55 BC)

Jefferson “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

From John Haydel, presentation, “The Enlightenment,” Nov 16, 2011

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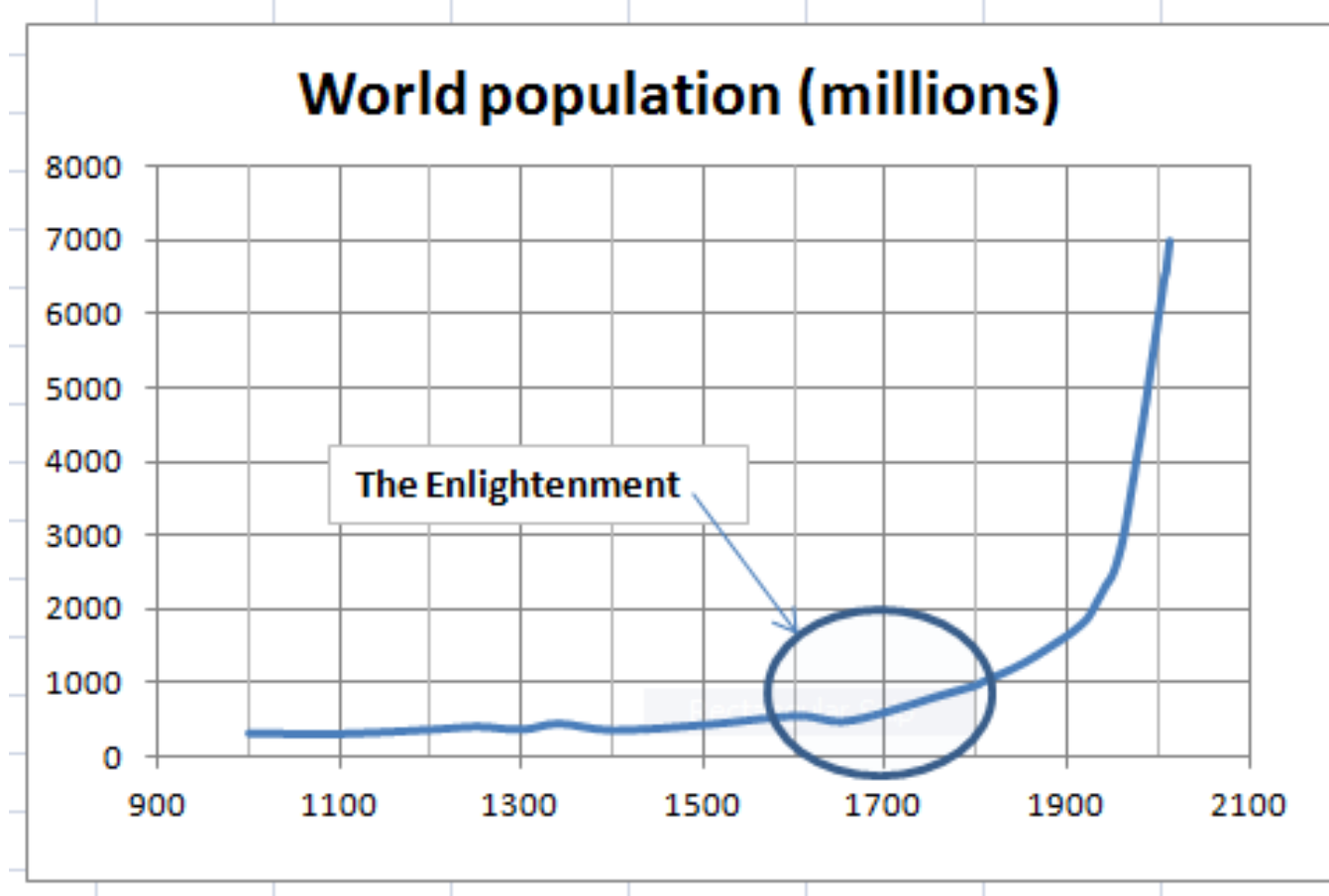
Revolution continues

French Revolution – The French Revolution, was a period of Political radicalism|radical social and political upheaval in France that had a major impact on France and indeed all of Europe.

Mary Wollstonecraft – Mary Wollstonecraft was an 18th-century British writer, philosopher, and advocate of women's rights.

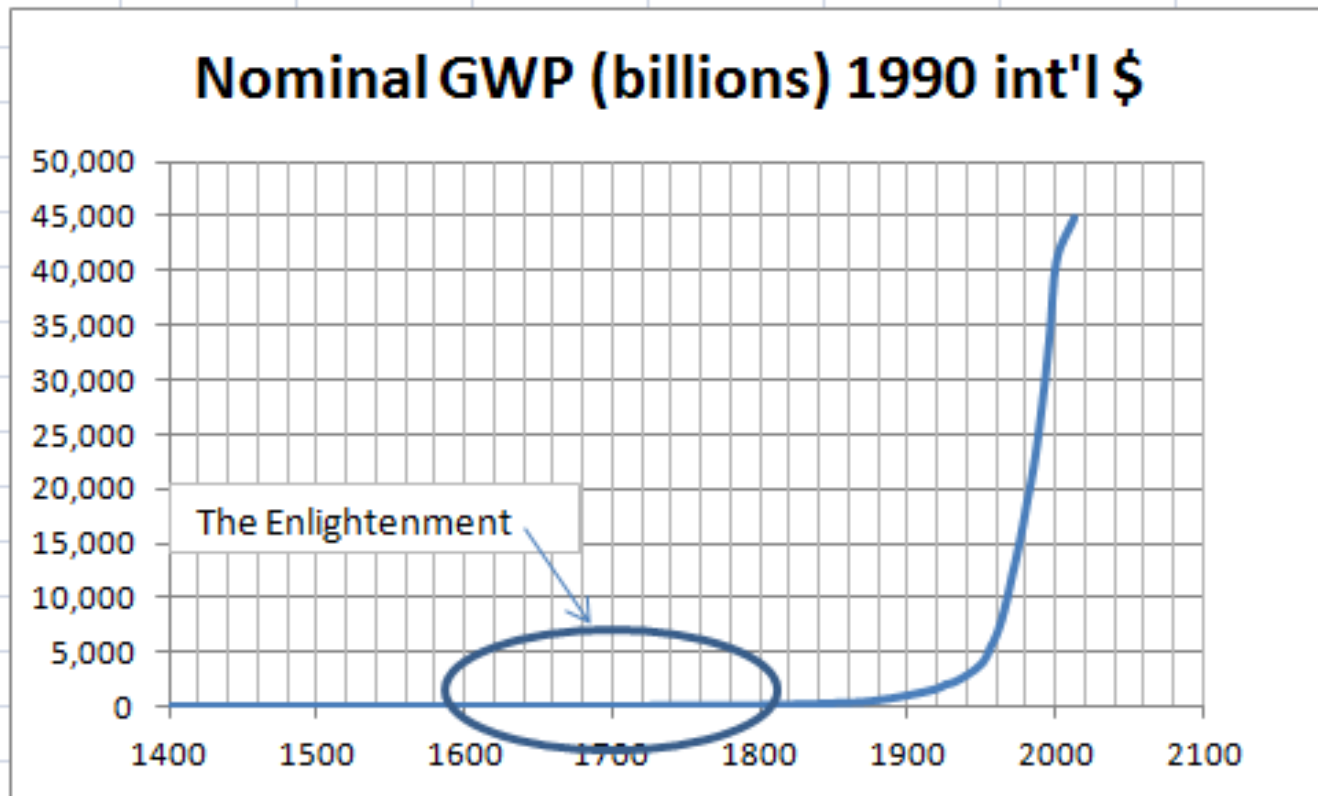
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman – *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*, written by the 18th-century British feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the earliest works of feminist philosophy.

Population



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_growth

Gross World Product (GWP)



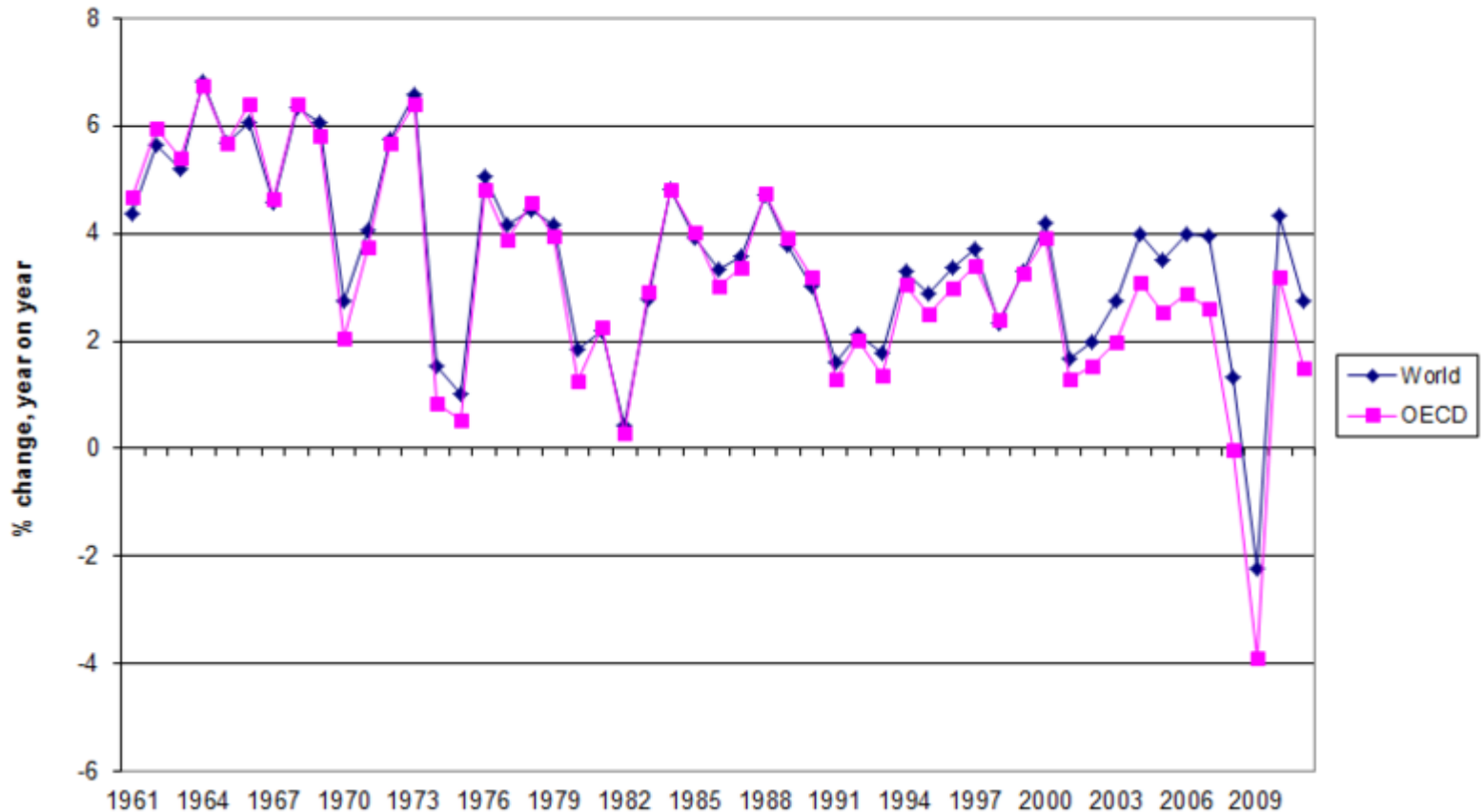
Historical and prehistorical estimates [\[edit source | edit beta \]](#)

In 1998, J. Bradford DeLong of the Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley, estimated the total GWP in main years between one million years BCE and 2000 CE, as shown below.^[7] The 2012 nominal GWP estimate is also shown according to the CIA World Factbook.^[2] "Billion" in the table below refers to the short scale usage of the term, where 1 billion = 1,000 million = 10^9 .

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_GDP

The World Economy

Gross domestic product, constant prices
- World and OECD, total -



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_growth

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/US_county_household_old_median_income_2009.png

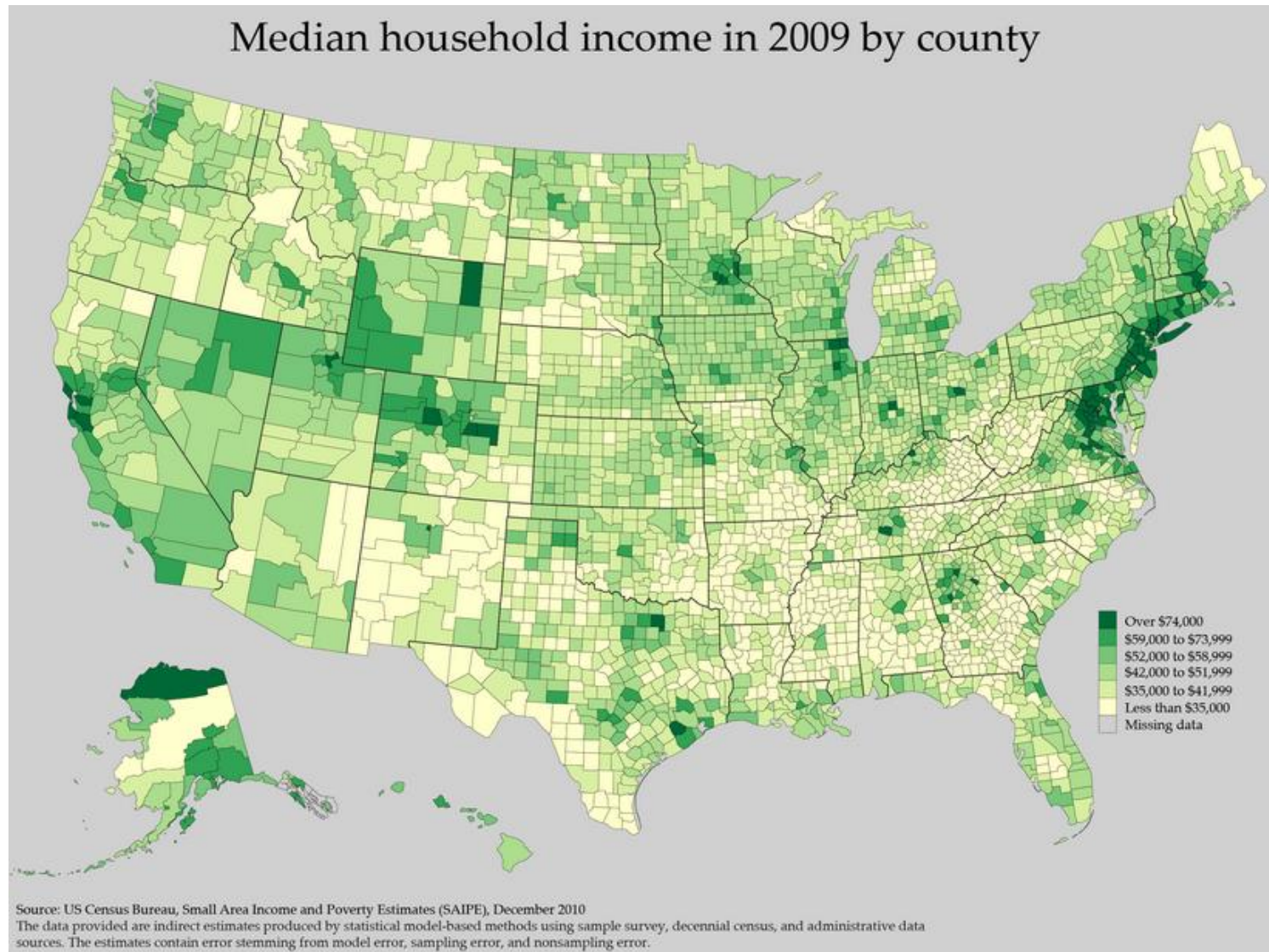
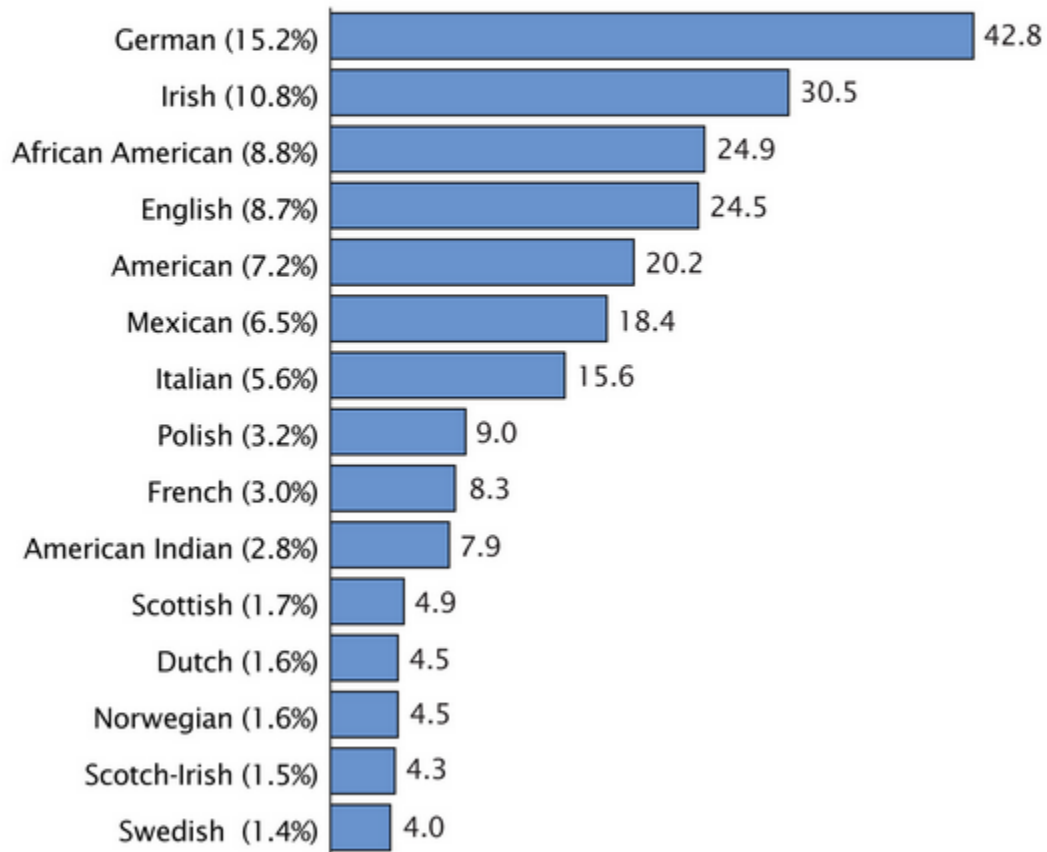


Figure 2.

Fifteen Largest Ancestries: 2000

(In millions. Percent of total population in parentheses.
Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection,
sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see
www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

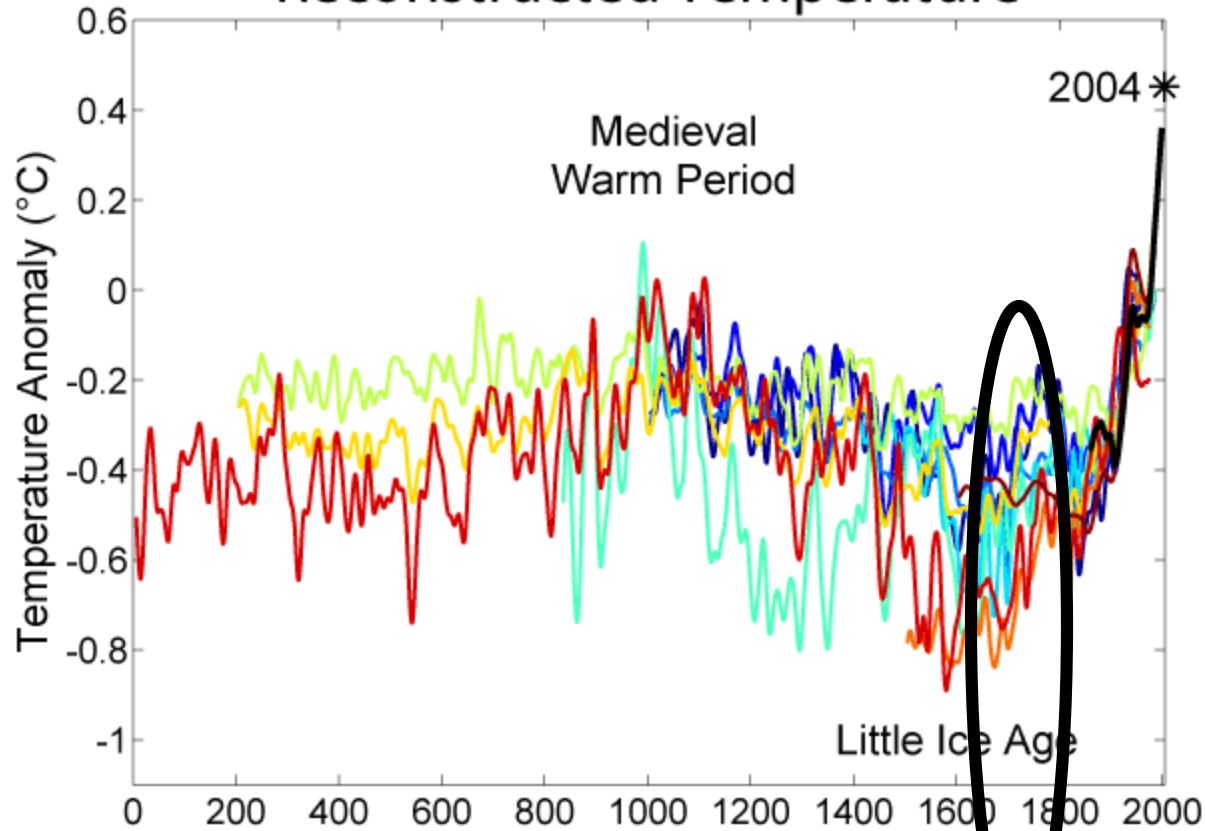


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_United_States

Climate ?

Reconstructed Temperature



No higher resolution available.

[2000_Year_Temperature_Comparison.png](#) (600 × 443 pixels, file size: 39 KB, MIME type: image/png)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age

Characteristics of an Enlightenment

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment

Israel argues that until the 1650s Western **civilization** "was based on a **largely shared core of faith, tradition and authority**".^[13]

"For Kant, Enlightenment was **mankind's final coming of age**, the **emancipation of the human consciousness** from an immature state of ignorance."^[8] In his famous essay "[What is Enlightenment?](#)" (1784), [Immanuel Kant](#) described it simply **as freedom to use one's own intelligence**.^[56] More broadly, the Enlightenment period is marked by increasing empiricism, scientific rigor, and [reductionism](#), along with increasing questioning of religious orthodoxy.

According to [Bertrand Russell](#), however, the enlightenment was **a phase in a progressive development, which began in antiquity, and that reason and challenges to the established order** were constant ideals throughout that time.^[9]

Outram notes, the Enlightenment comprised " ^[55] **many different paths, varying in time and geography, to the common goals of progress, of tolerance, and the removal of abuses in Church and state.**"

Characteristics of an Enlightenment – Cont.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment

This period saw the shaping of **two distinct lines of enlightenment thought**.^{[15][16]}

Firstly the *radical enlightenment*, largely inspired by the one-substance philosophy of [Spinoza](#), which in its political form adhered to: "**democracy; racial and sexual equality; individual liberty of lifestyle; full freedom of thought, expression, and the press; eradication of religious authority from the legislative process and education; and full separation of church and state**"

Secondly the *moderate enlightenment*, which in a number of different philosophical systems, like those in the writings of [Descartes](#), [John Locke](#), [Isaac Newton](#) or [Christian Wolff](#), expressed some support for critical review and renewal of the old modes of thought, **but in other parts sought reform and accommodation with the old systems of power and faith**.^[18] These two lines of thought were again met by the conservative Counter-Enlightenment, encompassing those thinkers who held on to the traditional belief-based systems of thought.

Power Corrupts

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.”

John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton, first Baron Acton (1834–1902). The historian and moralist, who was otherwise known simply as Lord Acton, expressed this opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/absolute-power-corrupts-absolutely.html>

If you lived and worked --- in a time of an emerging and popular Enlightenment ...

What could make you wish to remain subject to “**faith, tradition and authority?**”

Or, if you were one of “enlightened” what could tempt you to support “critical review and renewal of the old modes of thought, and “**in other parts**” seek “**reform and accommodation with the old systems of power and faith.**”[18]

The End?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_enlightenment

The Enlightenment flourished until about 1790–1800, after which the **emphasis on reason** gave way to Romanticism's emphasis on **emotion**, and a Counter-Enlightenment gained force.^[4]

Yet the principles of the Enlightenment have lived on in our Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights --- Making us powerful and an example to the rest of the world and a reason for others to hope.

Or, do they?

We are the 25 %

Approx. 1 in 4 are wage earners in the USA. 310 million people living here and only 77,500,000 are actually earning a wage or have a reportable income!

You and I who are working are paying all the bills, taxes, national debt, or any and all expenses incurred by the Government and or any other entity spending money, including our own needs!!!

http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_many_wage_earners_are_there_in_the_US

Next Time

Saturday, 16 Novemeber 2013

The Theme = **A Purpose for People**

Think about it --- Why should this question be relevant today ?

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)

A disclaimer

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, we can distinguish possibilities given what we all see going on. We just may see some of the things we talk about become part of our reality in the future. And, if they do, then I hope by our talking about them now, we will avoid being surprised and the temptation to (be) panic(ked).

Our leaders love to manipulate us emotionally into crises and panic us into an irrational fear response. Please don't let them. Know the difference between possibilities and probabilities., Curt Gibby

In closing ...

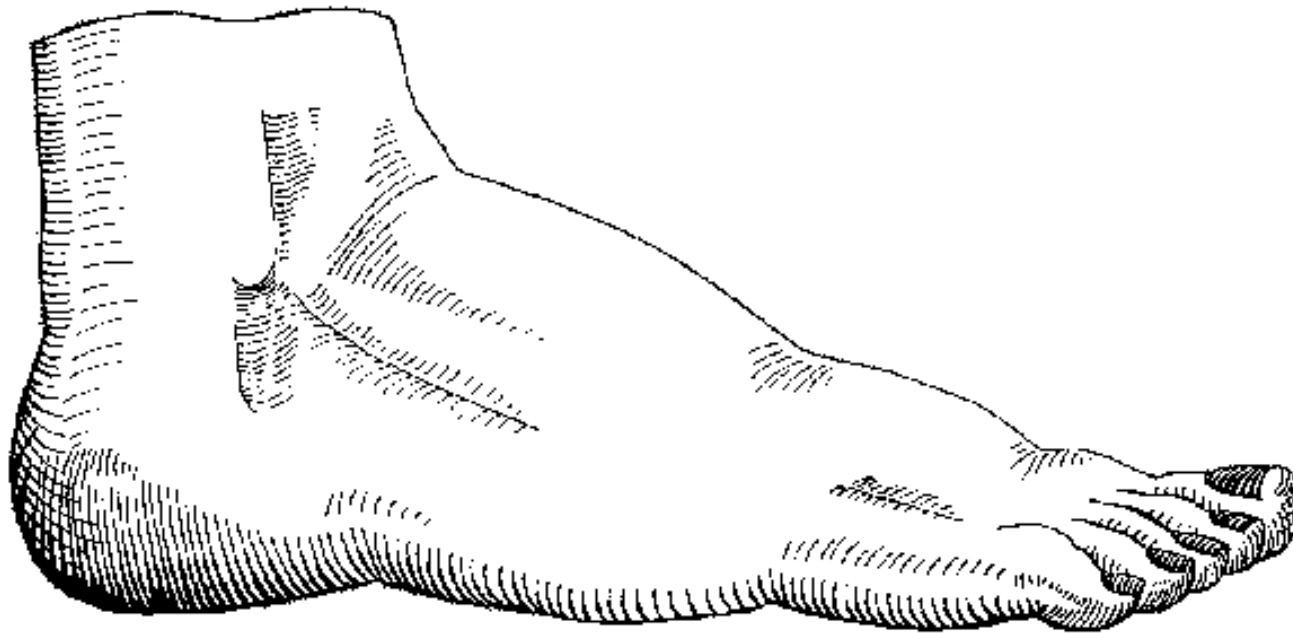
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The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~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.

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.

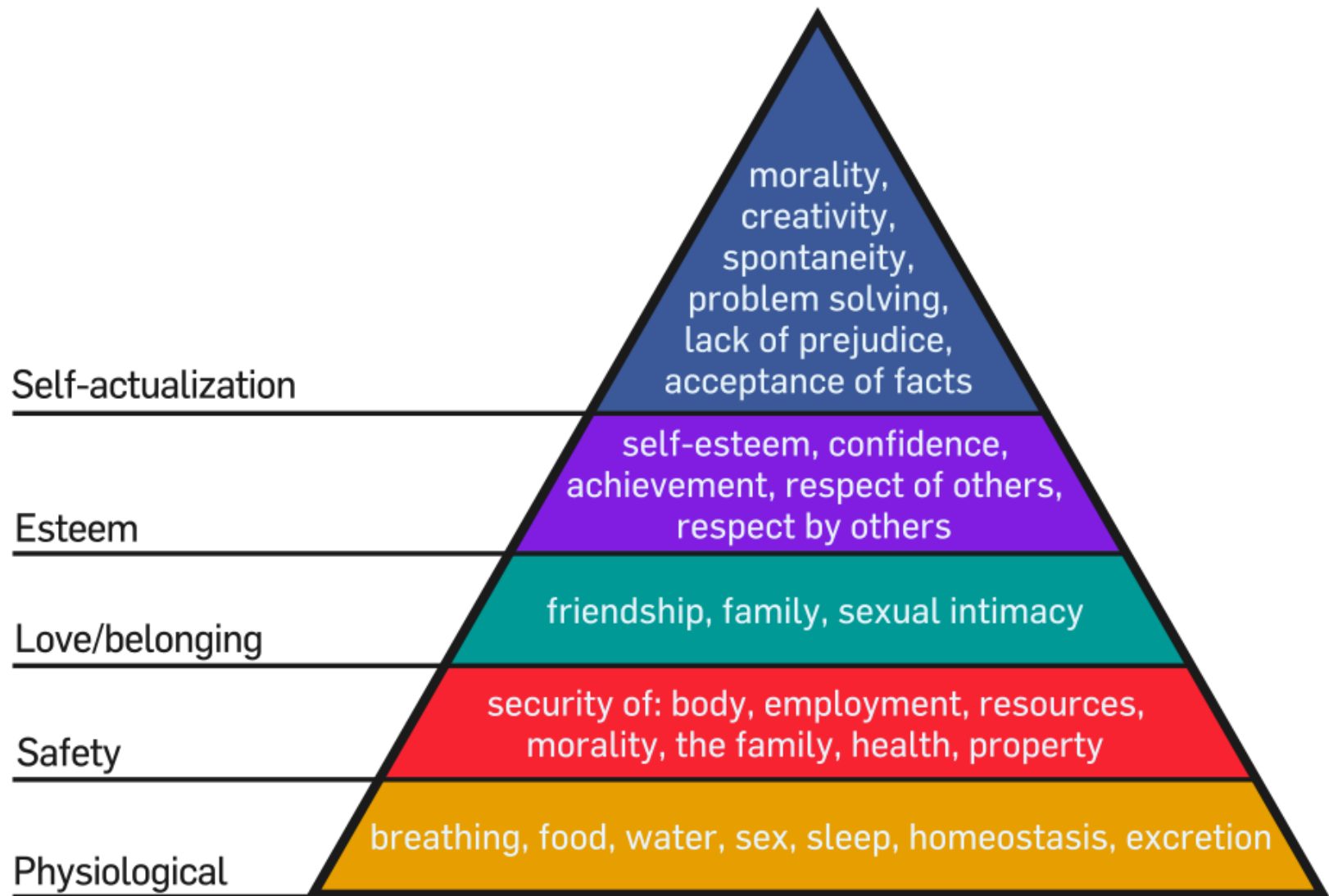
Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

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.

Mazlow's Hierarchy of Needs



DON'T PANIC!

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See you 21 Sep 2013 (TBD)

Have a great and safe Summer Season

ARE YOU READY?

There is ONLY 1 Year, 5 Months and 21 Days until the next General Election. Tuesday, 4 November 2014

Do you know who you want to vote for?

They seduced the public again!

It really hurt to see grown bankers pouting like two year olds, stamping their feet and demanding our money, after they ran they ran the ship aground in the first place.

And it really even more when they succeeded! They seduced the public again!

And Of course when something doesn't work, the Fed doubles down with QE3 (Qualitative Easing 3) to pour even more money into an economy that no use for it.

Let market forces work

If we had let market forces work, we would have been a lot healthier a lot sooner, because we would have removed a lot of deadwood from the financial gene pool.

The community of investors who still had money would have been a lot smarter when they went to reinvest and chosen more worthy investments.

The Agony of the America

What the Princes of Princeton and all their sycophants in government have done is to guarantee that America's Agony (and that of people of the world) will continue for a lot longer.

They have put us at risk of inflation unless they can claw back the money that hasn't found a valid use.

Who Does The President Work For? Report To? (Art. II)

I suppose you could say the “electors” but most Presidents will tell you they were elected by “The People”

I agree. He works for and is responsible to the People. The incumbent promised the people transparency.

The executive power is vested in him. That mean he runs the government, but not he people.

He is the C-in-C of the military Forces, but not the people

He makes treaties, appoints supreme court judges, and all officers of the United States all with Advice and Consent of 2/3 of the Senators.

A Limerick to go

If you wonder why our world is in such confusion and chaos - - - sing this, but , cover your children's ears.

There once was a queer from Khartoum
Took a lesbian up to his room
They argued all night
As to who had the right
To do what
And with which
And to whom

Politics makes strange bedfellows

There once was a Conservative on a dare
Invited a Liberal up to its lair
They argued all night
As to who had the right to vote which way for what
and for whom

The Mentality Revolution

An ever-consuming and ever-moving population — with access to more resources and information than ever before — has also undergone a massive cognitive and emotional transformation. **The World Values Survey, for instance, has identified an increasing global consensus regarding the importance of individual freedoms and gender equality, as well as popular intolerance for authoritarianism.** Dissatisfaction with political systems and government institutions is also a growing and global phenomenon.

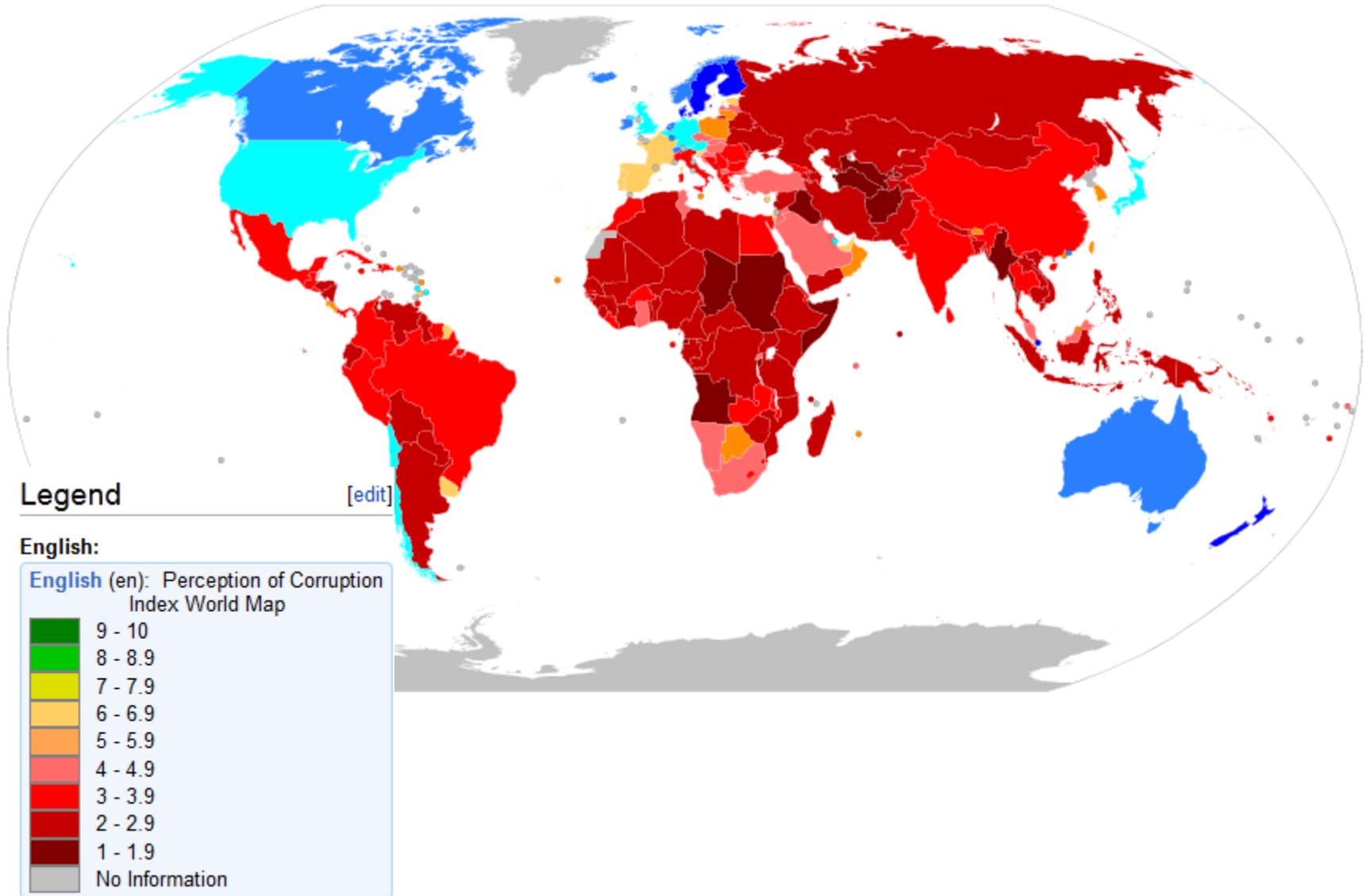
Together, these three revolutions are eroding the barriers that have shielded the powerful from challengers. The More Revolution helps the challengers overwhelm the barriers, the Mobility Revolution helps them circumvent them, and the Mentality Revolution helps them undermine them.

decline of traditional power

Should we embrace this decline of traditional power? In some ways, yes — it has given us freer societies, more elections and options for voters, new ways of becoming politically active, more investment and trade, and more choices for consumers.

But the decay of power also poses dangers to our wallets, families and lives. It explains why the U.S. economy is at the mercy of self-inflicted crises in Washington. It explains why European nations struggle to act together in the face of crippling economic problems, despite spending decades developing institutions geared toward collective action. It explains why fragile states that have difficulty delivering basic services are proliferating. It explains why the world is paralyzed in the effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Perception of Corruption Index World Map By Transparency International, 2009 in Wikipedia.org



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***“We will use your democracy to destroy
your democracy”***

Omar Bakri Mohammed, is a Syrian-born cleric who has promoted and praised violence against Israel, America and Britain for years.

Exploiting democracy

In 2000, Bakri told Cybercast News Service in an interview: "We will use your democracy to destroy your democracy."

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FairfieldLife/message/60810>

(Jul 8, 2005)

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Realistically

Realistically, the president is one individual, albeit backed up by his authority over the myriad departments and resources of government, but who actually has to deal with the 100 senators and the 435 member of the House of Representatives who represent the interests of 350 million citizens and are pledged protect our inalienable rights from the excesses of those in power, the majority, and infringement by governments; to preserve us as a nation of laws and not of arbitrary oppression by officials, both powerful and petty.

Promises Unfulfilled

Then, why do political promises go unfulfilled, and when issues seem to be clear to the majority of the people, the laws and regulations that result never live up to expectations. How did we wind up in two undeclared wars? How did we wind up \$15 Trillion dollars in Debt and nothing to show for it. Why did our Congress lift the regulations that had protected our economy for so long, bringing on “The Great Recession.” Why has the Dodd Frank act been mostly emasculated, so that it still preserves banks that are too big to fail (Why didn’t they just reinstate the laws and regulations that they done away with?) Why are the very rich able to shield themselves from paying their share of the expenses of running the country which supports and protects them?

Justice for Whom

Why has there been no prosecution for the frauds that had to take place to precipitate the crash?

Because corporations, trade unions, religious organizations, charitable organizations, etc. immediately send their lobbyists into the breach whenever, they think their interests are the least bit threatened. Of course, not surprisingly, being among the *self*-anointed, their interests always take precedence over those of the people. It never seems to enter their minds that they may be killing the golden goose.

The Important Questions for the future

- There were apparently numerous requests by diplomatic staff, even the ambassador to improve security at the consulate and CIA compound(?) why weren't they honored,
- Why didn't we know something was up. There are still a number in independent and militia actors who are not loyal to the new government.
- Where was the agent and technical surveillance network to give the heads up when something is afoot.
- Why isn't there a ready fast reaction force in the area to provide security when something is afoot, and to repulse attacks when there was no warning.

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/1/29/the_gatekeepers_in_new_film_ex

Are things getting better re gateways democracy now

You can be intelligent or you can be a politician

The Center for Responsive Politics

www.OpenSecrets.org is your nonpartisan guide to money's influence on U.S. elections and public policy. Whether you're a voter, journalist, activist, student or interested citizen, use our free site to shine light on your government.

The National Institute on Money in State Politics

is the only nonpartisan, nonprofit organization revealing the influence of campaign money on state-level elections and public policy in all 50 states.

<http://followthemoney.org/Institute/index.phtml>

Questions

- Tax cuts, enforce austerity on all departments of government?
(Sequestration = In U.S. law, a procedure by which an automatic spending cut is triggered, introduced to the federal budget in 1985 by the **Gramm–Rudman–Hollings Balanced Budget Act** , most recently implemented in the Budget Control Act of 2011)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequestration>

After the House passed the bill by a vote of 233-187 on February 4, 2010, the bill was sent to Obama's desk. He signed it into law on February 12, 2010.^{[2][3]}

New Exemptions

The Act under section 11 lists out programs and activities exempt from PAYGO rules.^[4] Outlays not subject to offsetting revenues include Social Security payments, all programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, net interest on the debt, and income tax credits. Over 150 additional programs, funds, and activities are listed under section 11 as exempt from the law including outlays to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the FDIC, Health Care Trust Funds, the Postal Service Fund, low-rent public housing loans and expenses, and the Special Inspector General for the TARP program.

Options

- What options will the people have? What could lighten the load of a debt brought on by 12 or more years' fiscal and political irresponsibility on the part of our political and economic leadership and consumers alike?
- Will the dynamic of “top down” pipe dream leadership be continuing? That is, all those entities who have real control of the minds of our elected politicians, continue to flood us with their ideologies and ideologically driven ideas which they will continue to force on to the people whether its more bailouts paid for by the victims for banks and corporations or an “Affordable” health care plan, that is not affordable to a large chunk of the population and preserves all the prerogatives of the medical industry, insurance companies and pharmaceuticals, that are driving the cost of health care through the roof.?
- Will our savings accounts and money market ever start to pay us interest?

Creative Solutions to some Very Complex Problems

We The People of the United States need to start seriously and cooperatively looking for Creative Solutions to the Complex Problems we will face. We have seen our leaders promising us Grandiose Schemes of World Power and Leadership for as long as we can remember, yet they cannot or will not figure out how to pay our bills, nor will they rein in those who see the American worker as a beast of burden ...

Detail from *Corrupt Legislation* (1896) by [Elihu Vedder](#). Library of Congress [Thomas Jefferson Building](#), Washington, DC



Why Won't We be Happy

For some time you have heard me casually predict: It doesn't matter how the upcoming Presidential and Congressional Elections come out, very few people will be will be happy.

It's kind of a four part problem.

There are two major parties Republicans and Democratic. If one says, "Yes," the other says "No!" (It's not a matter of reason or belief, just who spoke first.)

Last election's winner was determined by the "winner take-all rules" of most states. The popular vote gave the winner only a small plurality.

Again, neither party's base is showing an overwhelming enthusiasm for their candidates. It seemed the real enthusiasm came from the "self-identified independents." (Some say 40% of those who voted were independent) Many voting for the first time, or finally (bravely) reengaging with the political process. How will they vote this time (if at all.)

A Faustian Pact (leading to A Perfect Storm)
may nurture unexpected threats to our tranquility

South African Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool on Confronting Islamophobia in the U.S.

http://www.democracynow.org/2012/9/7/south_african_ambassador_ebrahim_rasool_on

“... that part of my challenge to Muslim communities in the U.S.A. and all over the world is that we must equally, forcefully denounce Islamophobia and, with the same amount of force, denounce extremism done in the name of Islam, that we are creating a Faustian pact of Islamophobes and Muslim extremists who need each other to survive. **The Islamophobes need the extremists in order to drive an anti-Muslim agenda, and the extremists need the Islamophobes in order to keep up an anti-Western rhetoric.** It’s a Faustian pact. And somehow, we can’t be propping up one side or the other, but we’ve got to collapse both extremes and recognize them as mirror images. They are both fundamentalists.”

If Destiny Calls ...

Being realistic, none of us has serious delusions of starting a revolution. On the other hand, I don't believe Rosa Parks was planning a revolution either, but when destiny called, she responded. She was ready. I wonder if she was surprised when she realized just how many other people were as hungry (or hungrier) as she was for it to happen. Did she consciously give herself permission? (Or, like other American heroes, just took the appropriate action ...)

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

Grace Lee Boggs

Motivation

There are three main categories of extremist aggressors, and usually one is the primary element with an offender, with at least one other playing a secondary supporting role:

. The Ideologically Motivated (Religious, Political or Hybrid)

. The Psychologically Dangerous (Sociopath or Cognitively Impaired)

. Personal Benefit or Revenge

Manicheans Rule

It's turned into a war between good and evil. By definition one side is pure and the other side is impure. It's OK to believe ideological propaganda about the other side, to totally disrespect them and their concerns. To see them only as EVIL. Reality, common sense, intelligence are not in the equation, only the party line and a reason to hate.

Each side has its own media processing resources which with feigned “Church Lady” superficiality seems able to keep advertisers and viewers, listeners and readers motivated and inspired(?)

The Country

The deadly thing is for we citizens to allow ourselves to believe that we and all our fellow citizens can never defend against the incompetence, simple mindedness of the leadership country from that of the leadership.

That we cannot expose them as they engage in pettiness and trade intelligence, common sense and wisdom for ideology.

We the people must first realize that we have the ability to see through these pipe dreams that in reality turn out to be designs to fail by our decision makers. We must learn to share them with each other and then have the courage to hold our elected leaders accountable, at least in our hearts and minds. AND, AT ELECTION TIME

They are actually a minority , as are those of many of the governments in the troubled countries of the world.

We are governed by a small cadre of self servers who keep promising change but the change they bring is rarely what we had in mind ...

"We will use your democracy to destroy your democracy."-Muslim cleric Omar Bakri Moha

In 2000, Bakri told Cybercast News Service in an interview

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1439130/posts>

More unconventional leaders of democracy, people like **Nelson Mandela** in South Africa and Myanmar's **Aung San Suu Kyi**, made headway because they were able to mobilize the energies, hopes, desperation and political power that were against the more dominant structures of power -- South Africa's apartheid and Myanmar's military junta

China offers another complicated picture. It has succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, he continued, **but now has an emerging middle class that is placing strains and demands on the government that "are in many ways undermining its ability to be that superpower that people fear."**

In 2009, during his first address before a joint session of Congress, President Obama championed a budget that (**he thought**) would serve as a blueprint for the country's future through ambitious investments in energy, health care and education. "This is America," the new president proclaimed. "We don't do what's easy."

Four years later, even easy seems impossible. "Let's agree right here, right now, to keep the people's government open, pay our bills on time and always uphold the full faith and credit of the United States of America," Obama pleaded during his State of the Union address.

By having to exhort Congress to execute even the most basic functions of government, Obama — fresh off the "fiscal cliff" fight and facing yet another showdown with lawmakers over massive automatic spending cuts — revealed just how limited the powers of the highest office in the land have become.

The Mobility Revolution

Not only are there more people today with higher standards of living, but they are also moving more than at any other time — and that makes them harder to control. The United Nations estimates that there are 214 million migrants across the globe living somewhere other than their country of origin, an increase of 37 percent in the past two decades. **Ethnic, religious and professional diasporas are changing the distribution of power within and among populations.** An interesting case: In 2007, a Nigerian-born man was elected in Portlaoise, Ireland, a commuter town west of Dublin, as that country's first black mayor

What do you think?

Preamble to the Constituion

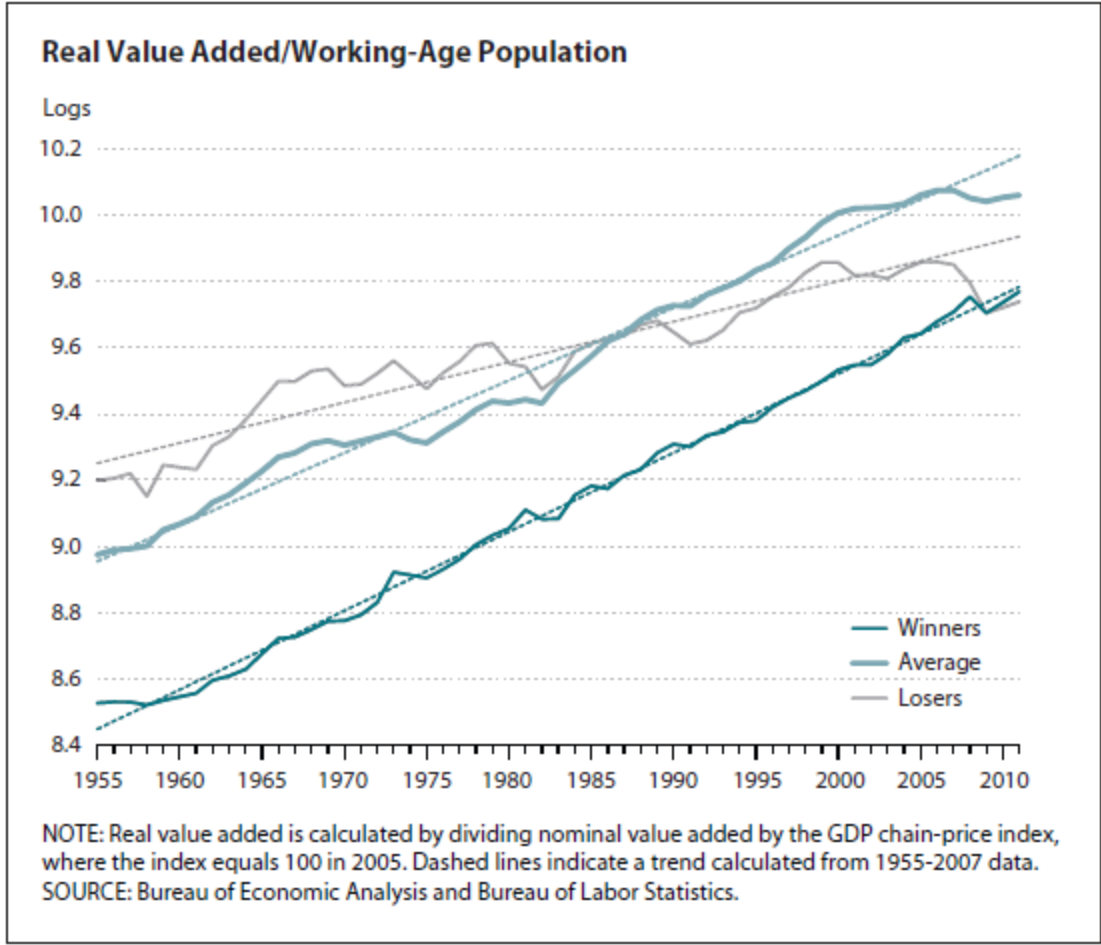
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

@GlobeWasserman's media
chron.com, Outlook 7 Feb 13



To lead by example

Even shortly after the Revolutionary War, naysayers, some well-meaning, were predicting that Democracy in America would be short-lived. They just couldn't see how a government of humans could hold this radical idea together and predicted a return to, if not a monarchy, some dictatorial form of government. I understand that Lafayette on his last visit to the United States to receive the thanks of a grateful country begged our leaders to do everything in their power to preserve our democracy, so it would become a model for other nations, and so it has.



Punish Americas prudent savers!

I was raised believing strongly in the principles of a Free Market. I was vocal when our executive and Congressional policymakers, with the vicious bullying harassment of Paulson and Barney Frank fell all over themselves to grant the financial corporations \$800 billions followed surreptitiously by Fed issuing \$16 trillion of freshly printed money by the Fed which has inflated the stock market and punished all of Americas prudent savers by not letting them make and interest on their savings and investments.

Democracies committing Suicide?

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#>

We have seen how government left to its own devices can make grievous and costly decisions. It is our task to not let ourselves be fooled again and again.

The same hubris that allowed us to go back into the Middle East without a plan also drove our response to the Credit crunch.

The Bailout Solution served the interests of the banking community, but not the people.

“Inclusive Economy”

In the past sessions we have talked about an “Inclusive Economy”

A society structured so that every individual contributes and has status.

How would we avoid the pitfalls of that have brought down previous attempts at creating Utopian.

This Libertarian, thinks that we still have some things to learn from Adam Smith and John Locke.

Perhaps an Alternative

What are people here for? Where does our species fit into the scheme of things (I keep asking this question ...) We could start with the Golden Rule ...

Whatever happened to that “dominion” over the Earth people are supposed have?

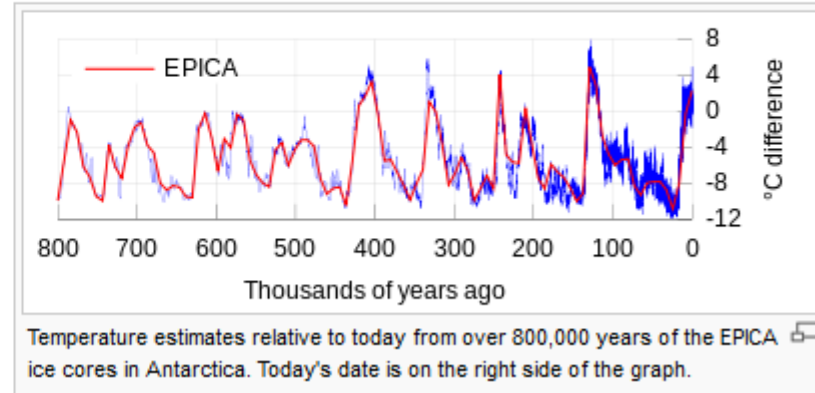
Did we lose that when Adam and Eve got kicked out of the Garden of Eden?

What do you do when you have nothing to do? (Take a page out of Seinfeld’s book?)

Or have we or can we progress to the point that mankind is welcome back into a Garden, that we have built for ourselves.

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

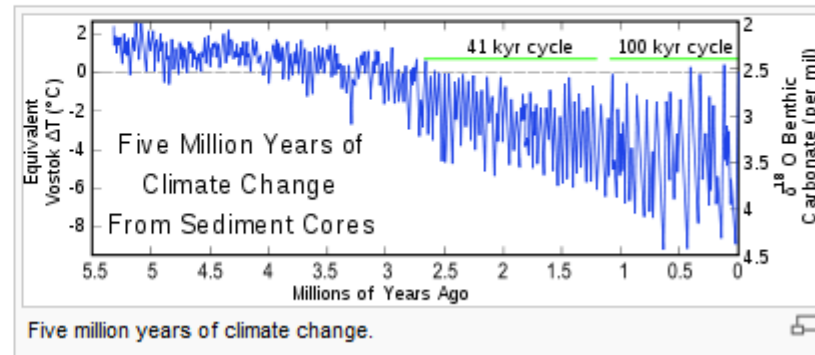
Even longer term records exist for few sites: the recent Antarctic [EPICA](#) core reaches 800 kyr; many others reach more than 100,000 years. The EPICA core covers eight glacial/interglacial cycles. The [NGRIP](#) core from Greenland stretches back more than 100 kyr, with 5 kyr in the [Eemian interglacial](#). 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