

Third Saturday Seminar 2008-2009
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 09
16 May 2009

“War Without End”
The Cosmic? Divide
Curt Gibby

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

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

Grace Lee Boggs

**“Do not call for black power or
for green power. Call for
brain power.”**

Barbara Jordan

“You don't ever want a crisis to go to waste; it's an opportunity to do important things that you would otherwise avoid.”

Rahm Emanuel

Desire

**If you want the American
Dream you must take
back the Constitution**

Program for TSS Meeting 18 April 2009

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (30 Minutes +/-) –
Curt Gibby
- 10:15 am – “*War without end – the Cosmic Divide*”
- 10: 45 10 minute break
- 10:40 am *Curt Gibby* Discussion Continues
- 10:55 am- Closure – Feedback
- 11:00 am Session ends
- Next Session 20 June 2009**

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I usually try give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part; but, that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

The donuts are free to law enforcement.

PSAs (Public Service Announcements)

Thing's you might be interested in.

ALL Political Affairs lecture series

***NEW* -- LWV series on Local Government Issues**

The series will be held on Thursday afternoons 1-3 in Room 121 of the University Center from March 26th through April 30th (except for April 16th). Room 121, The University Center.

The series is sponsored by the League of Women Voters to inform voters about those county government entities with publicly elected boards of directors. Board of directors' elections for contested positions on the MUDs and the Community College District take place in May, 2009. Helen Bostock, League of Women Voters – Montgomery County, is the coordinator for the series.

<http://www.montgomery.lonestar.edu/all>

Current Events

21 February 2009

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

The First Celebrity Swine Flu Fatality



And we all know who the carrier is.

Cosmic Warrior?

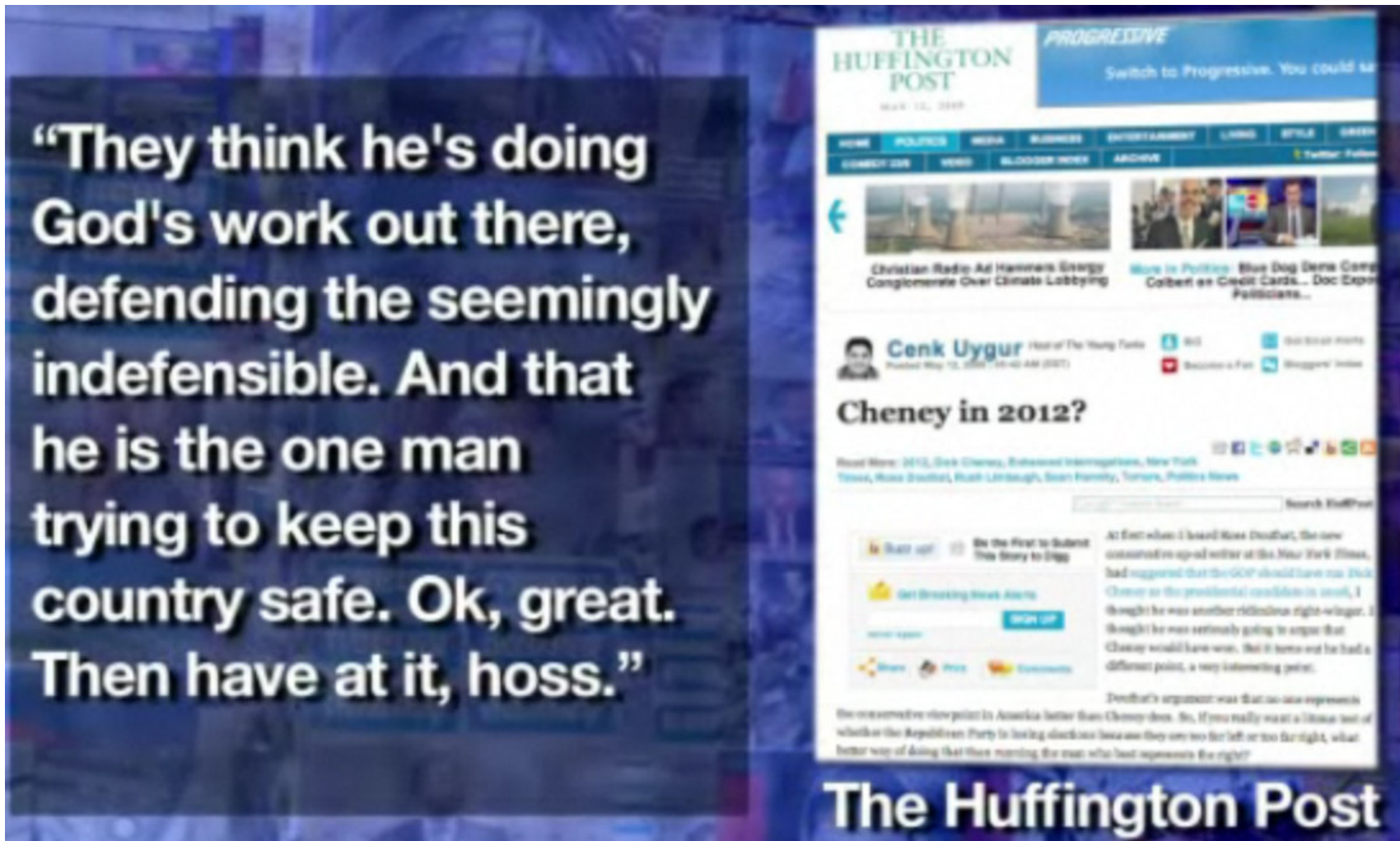


May 16, 2009

TSS 08-09 #9 -- War Without End

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There's still the cosmic war ...



The Truth will make you?

MAY 14, 2009

VOL. 108 • NO. 213 • \$1.00

OBAMA WILL BLOCK DETAINEE PHOTOS

■ Pictures of alleged abuses would put troops in danger, president says

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic reversal, President Barack Obama said Wednesday he would seek to block the release of dozens of photographs depicting alleged abuse of detainees by U.S. soldiers, arguing the disclosures would inflame anti-American

opinion and put "our troops in greater danger."

The decision — coming just three weeks after the administration agreed to release the images — set the stage for a confrontation with liberal advocacy groups that had been seeking the release of the pictures.

They accused Obama of violating his promises of openness and parroting the Bush administration's past justifications for secrecy that were rejected by courts.

"This is profoundly inconsistent with the promises of transparency that President Obama had made over and over and over," said Jameel Jaffer, director of the national security project at the Amer-

*Please see **OBAMA**, Page A8*

The seduction of Barack (The Re-Revolution)

Torture Photos

Don't ask, don't tell

Military Commissions

Rendition

Warrantless wire taps

Etc.

MEDIA Miss California To Guest Host "Fox & Friends"



[Quick Read](#) | [Comments \(83\)](#) | [Miss California](#)

Madoff Trustee Recovers About \$1B, Expects More For Clients Soon



[Quick Read](#) | [Comments \(14\)](#) | [Bernard Madoff](#)

FDIC economist robs bank

Jeff Walser, FDIC Economist, Charged With Attempted Bank Robbery

May 14, 2009 01:39 PM EST |

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — An economist on leave from the federal agency that insures bank deposits has been charged with the April 11 attempted robbery of a Kansas City-area bank.

Jeff Walser said he had a bomb in his briefcase and demanded money at the Bank of America branch in Independence, but did not take \$41,000 brought to him by an employee, according to an indictment filed Tuesday.

Walser, 51, surrendered to police and was being held in federal custody, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Walser told police that he has health problems and was "alone, discouraged and tired of working" and that his plan was to be arrested and not tell police he required thrice-weekly dialysis treatments to survive.

"I wanted to be arrested and I wanted to die," he is quoted as saying. "But after my arrest, I did not have the will to kill myself."

Walser worked for the Federal [Deposit Insurance](#) Corp.'s Kansas City office . Information from: The Kansas City Star, <http://www.kcstar.com>

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Soldier attacks soldiers.

Army IDs Sgt. John M. Russell as the shooter who killed 5 fellow soldiers at Iraq base

By Stephanie Gaskell
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Updated Tuesday, May 12th 2009, 2:05 PM

Military officials Tuesday identified the soldier accused of killing five of his comrades at a U.S. base in Iraq.

Sgt. John Russell, 44, of Sherman, Texas, is in custody at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. He is accused of opening fire at a combat stress clinic Monday, killing five U.S. soldiers.

Russell, who joined the Army in 1998, is assigned to the 54th Engineering Battalion in Bamberg, Germany.

It's unclear if Russell targeted his victims. Officials said the slain soldiers included an Army doctor and a Navy doctor who worked at the clinic and three enlisted personnel who happened to be there.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/>

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/us_world/2009/05/13/2009-05-13_alleged_shooting_victims_of_.html

May 16, 2009

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Russell is accused of killing five fellow soldiers in Iraq.

Dejavu or Air Force One?



The aircraft flying with the jet escort over Manhattan near Ellis Island, taken from a Battery Park City apartment



The low-flying plane with fighter jet escort over Lower Manhattan, as seen from underneath the aircraft

PAGE ONE | APRIL 28, 2009

A 'Classified' Photo Op Turns Into a Soaring Blunder for the White House

Mission to Get Beauty Shots of Presidential Jet at Statue of Liberty Panics 9/11-Wary New York

Article

Video

Slideshow

Comments (440)

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Text

By SUZANNE SATALINE, JONATHAN D. ROCKOFF and CHRISTOPHER CONKEY

As secret missions go, this one was a flop.

On Monday morning, one of the 747s used to ferry around the U.S. president was dispatched to the Statue of Liberty, escorted by a fighter jet. Assignment: Get some fresh glamour shots of the plane.

The Air Force said the flight needed to remain confidential. So while New York police knew about it, as did at least one person in the mayor's office, regular New Yorkers remained in the dark.

Readers' Photos



View Slides Now

• Send photos to yourphotos@wsj.com

As a result, to onlookers Monday all across downtown Manhattan -- where the World Trade Center once stood -- the photo shoot looked like a terrorist attack. People watched in horror as a massive aircraft, trailed closely by an F-16 fighter jet, banked and roared low near the city, in a frightening echo of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Fearing the worst, thousands of people streamed out of the skyscrapers and into the streets. Some buildings ordered evacuations. "Oh God, it was mayhem in here, just mayhem," says Rubin Shimon,



The *Hindenburg* flies over New York City just before it explodes.

Credits - Allstar Project

http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Lighter_than_air/zeppelin/LTA8G8.htm

<http://www.archive.org/movies/thumbnails.php?identifier=SF147>



Was this the effect they wanted?



May 16, 2009

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Healthcare reform?

Details emerging on House health care plan

Associated Press - May 14, 2009 4:43 PM ET

WASHINGTON (AP) - A plan that's in the works from House Democrats would require all Americans to carry health insurance. And it would help pay the premiums for families making less than \$88,000.

Employers would also have to pick up some of the cost.

President Barack Obama is trying to fix the U.S. health care system by getting the government more deeply involved. He predicted today that Congress will come up with a plan that will be a "vast improvement" over the current system.

A document obtained by The Associated Press offers an early look at where Democratic leaders in the House are heading.

The plan would include new obligations for individuals and employers to help pay for coverage. There would be stricter consumer protections for insurers. And the government would have a bigger role in setting insurance rules and providing financial help to low- and middle-income families.

**"Every government interference in the economy consists of giving an unearned benefit, extorted by force, to some men at the expense of others." --
-Ayn Rand**

Will the icecap melt before ...

TOP OF THE TICKET

POLITICS, COAST TO COAST, WITH THE L.A. TIMES

« Joe Biden, Obama's Mr. Fix-It, tells NATO time to talk to 'moderate' Taliban -- read full text here | Main | Here comes card-check/EPCA: Another bipartisan bridge to nowhere »

Coleman vs. Franken continues. Will Arctic ice cap melt before Minnesota gets new senator?



They are calling it the longest Senate election in U.S. history. So far, it's been 126 days since voters in Minnesota went to the polls to cast their ballots between incumbent **Norm Coleman** and Democratic challenger (and comedian) **Al Franken**. Actually, as you'll see from this clip, the election aftermath seems to have taken the funny out of Franken, who now looks and talks just like a politician.

Minnesota Supreme Court Hears Coleman v Franken on June 1

May 15th, 2009 The Minnesota Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in Coleman v Franken, A09-697, on Monday, June 1. The issue is whether 4,400 absentee ballots from last year's U.S. Senate election should be counted. Because Franken leads in the official recount by 312 votes, his attorneys argue that lower courts were correct to reject those uncounted absentee ballots. Even if the Supreme Court reverses the lower court and allows some or all of the uncounted absentees to be counted, no one knows whether counting them would be good or bad for Coleman. Thanks to Rick Hasen for this news.

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ARTEST'S (?)

THE NBA PLAYOFFS



JOHNNY HANSON / CHRONICLE

ROCKIN' A LOGO: "The school was obviously ready for the swine flu but not for Rockets fever," said Mike Mata, right, after Hamilton Middle School sent stepson Angel home for the logo in his hair.

A student's spirited hairstyle, inspired by a Houston Rockets player, gets him sent home

ARTEST'S DO IS A DON'T AT THIS SCHOOL

IT'S DO OR DIE



If they want their season to continue, the Rockets must recover from a 40-point drubbing and beat the Lakers tonight in Game 6 (ESPN, 8:30). **STORY ON PAGE C1**

News, news, news

DEA accuses late Mexican drug czar of accepting bribes from a cartel

■ Two other top officials it names in a memo face serious charges

By **DANE SCHILLER**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A highly trusted former deputy attorney general, who later became Mexico's drug czar and was embraced by Washington until his death, is accused in a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration report of taking bribes from



JAIIME PUERLA / AP

DIED IN CRASH: Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos was killed in a plane crash in November.

one of Mexico's oldest narcotics trafficking cartels.

Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, who was killed in November in a mysterious plane crash over Mexico City, is among three senior federal law-enforcement officials named in a 21-page DEA briefing in April on organized crime and drug trafficking south of the border.

Vasconcelos was never charged with a crime. The other two are being prosecuted by Mexico.

The report, prepared as a *Please see MEXICO, Page A8*

Craigslist cracks down on its own sex ads

By **BRAD STONE**
NEW YORK TIMES

Craigslist, the Web's largest classified advertising site, said Wednesday it would close its erotic services category, which critics have said is a forum that fosters prostitution.

To replace it, the company has created a category called adult services, in which postings will be reviewed by employees who will look for indications of activity that is illegal or violates the site's guidelines. The erotic services category would be deleted next Wednesday, Craigslist

said.

Craigslist has been under increasing pressure from officials in several states, as violent crimes involving people who had made contact through the site made national headlines. But the changes did not appear to go far enough to satisfy everyone in the growing ranks of Craigslist's detractors.

Andrew M. Cuomo, New York's attorney general, said his office had recently notified Craigslist about an impending prostitution case that involved the erotic services *Please see CRAIGSLIST, Page A8*

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15418291/IAH-runways>

Scribd More Q - + 1/1 Search

MORE RUNWAYS?

The FAA is reviewing a proposal to add two new runways or to construct taxiways to improve air traffic flow at Bush Intercontinental Airport. Neighborhoods that would be affected by new runways include Heather Ridge Village and Glen Lee Place.

— Existing runways — Possible locations for new runways

The map displays the layout of Bush Intercontinental Airport. Existing runways are shown as black lines, while proposed new runways are shown as red lines. The map includes labels for various neighborhoods and roads: Heather Ridge Village, Glen Lee Place, Buckow Drive, Greens, Rankin, Green Manor, Lee, Aldine Westfield, and JFK. A scale bar indicates 1/4 mile. The map also shows the location of the airport relative to the surrounding area, including the highway 59 and the highway 8.

As goes the economy ...

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 [Comments](#)  [Recommend](#)

Declining immigration slows Asian, Hispanic growth

By HOPE YEN Associated Press Writer © 2009 The Associated Press
May 14, 2009, 5:39AM

WASHINGTON — Deterred by immigration laws and the lackluster economy, the population growth of Hispanics and Asians in the U.S. has slowed unexpectedly, causing the government to push back estimates on when minorities will become the majority by as much as a decade.

Census data released Thursday also showed that fewer Hispanics were migrating to suburbs and newly emerging immigrant areas in the Southeast, including Arkansas, Tennessee and Georgia, staying put instead in traditional gateway locations such as California.

The nation's overall minority population continues to rise steadily, adding 2.3 percent in 2008 to 104.6 million, or 34 percent of the total population. But the slowdown among Hispanics and Asians continues to shift conventional notions on when the tipping point in U.S. diversity will come — estimated to occur more than three decades from now. Black growth rates remain somewhat flat.

Thirty-six states had lower Hispanic growth in 2008 compared with the year before. The declines were in places where the housing bubble burst, such as Nevada and Arizona, which lost construction jobs that tend to attract immigrants.

Other decreases were seen in new immigrant destinations in the Southeast, previously seen as offering good manufacturing jobs in lower-cost cities compared to the pricier Northeast. In contrast, cities in California, Illinois and New Jersey showed gains.

In Arkansas, manufacturing and poultry companies have cut hours and workers, leaving a growing number of Hispanics unable to cover their mortgage payments, said Maribel Tapia, a housing counselor in Fayetteville, Ark. Fathers are moving out of state, where other relatives have lines on menial jobs that support the families they leave behind, she said. Police in northwest Arkansas created an immigration task force with the help of U.S. immigration agents.

Drugs for chimps?

Conn. chimp that mauled woman had Xanax in system

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN Associated Press Writer © 2009 The Associated Press

May 13, 2009, 1:32PM

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A chimpanzee that mauled a Connecticut woman had the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in its system, according to toxicology tests, but investigators haven't determined whether the drug played a role in the attack, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

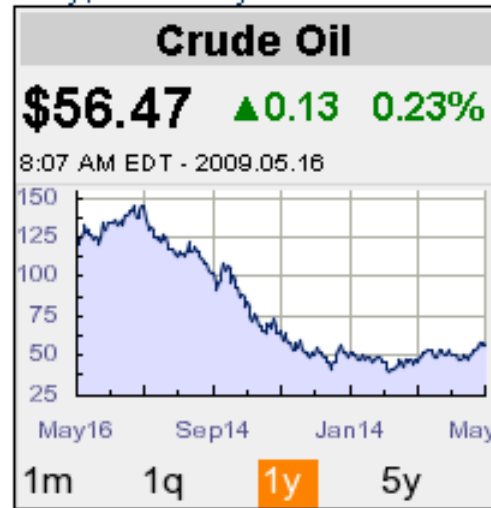
Authorities are still weighing whether to file criminal charges against the chimpanzee's owner, Sandra Herold, said Stamford State's Attorney David Cohen.

The 200-pound chimp, named Travis, attacked Stamford resident Charla Nash on Feb. 16. She lost her hands, nose, lips and eyelids in the attack. Doctors at Ohio's Cleveland Clinic say she is blind and faces two years of surgical procedures.

Crude Oil Price

Oil Dashboard

May, Saturday 16 2009 - 08:12:02

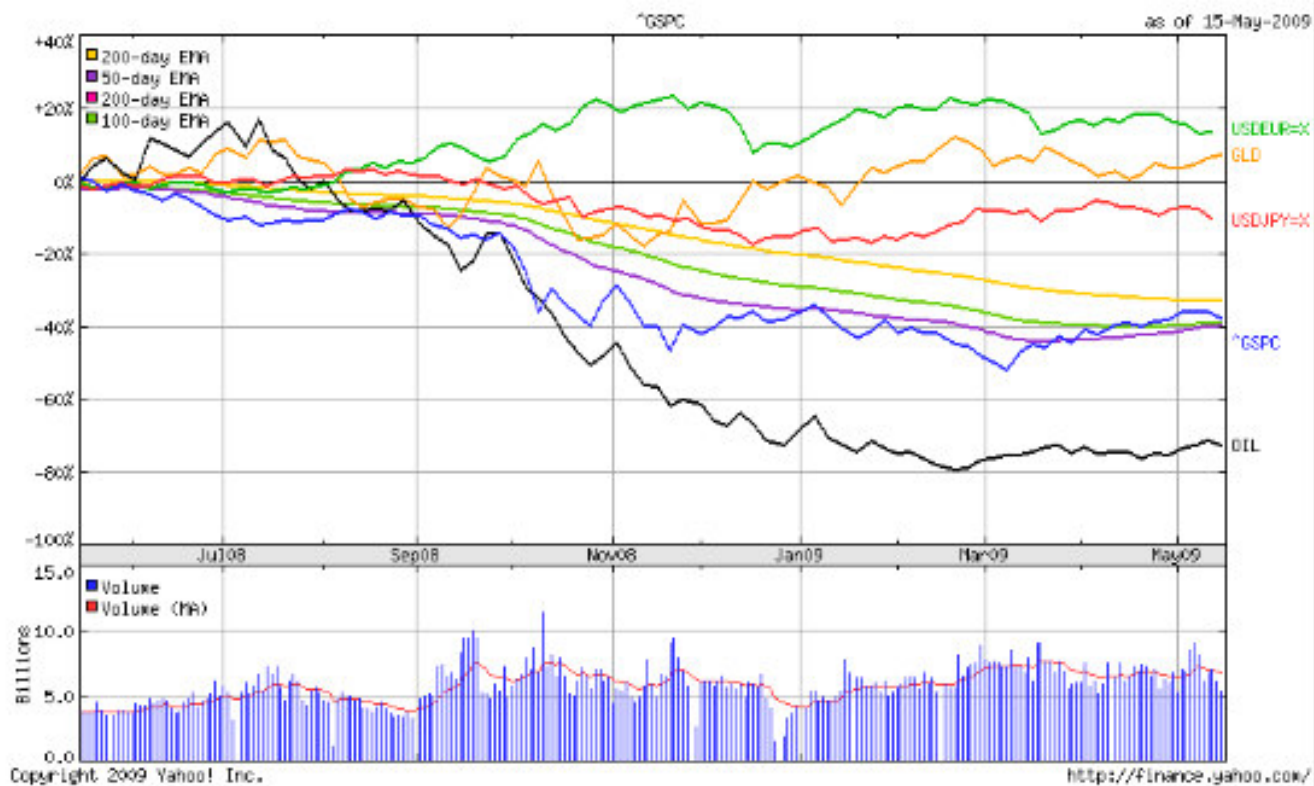


Crude Oil Price by OIL-PRICE.NET ©

Price		Change	Trades	Volume
08:07 - \$ 56.47		▲0.13 0.23% ▲	67,216	187,140
Range	Open	52 Wk Range	1 Year Forecast	
56.07 - 58.88	58.54	32.41 - 147.27	\$ 65 / Barrel	

<http://oil-price.net/>

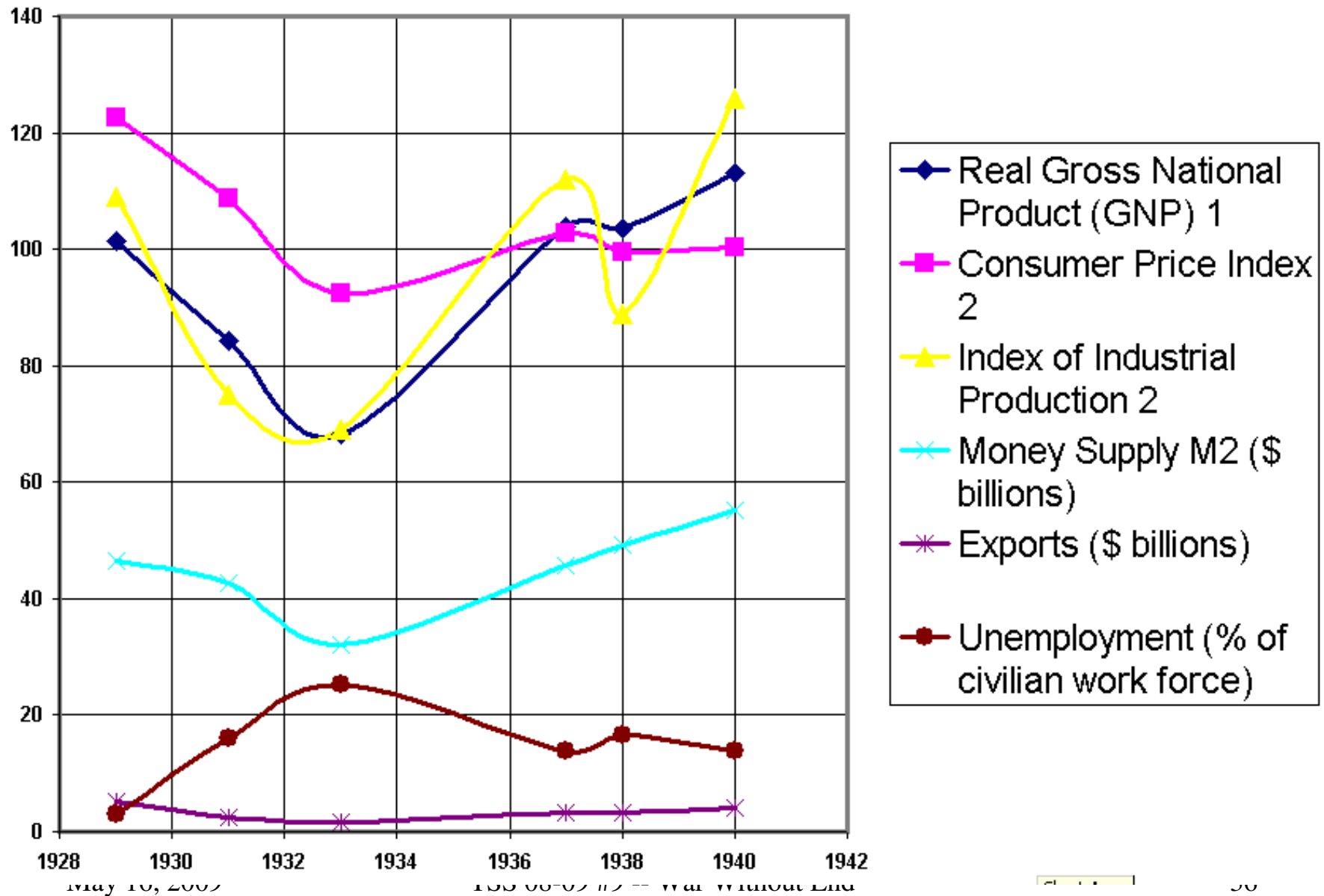
S&P 500 – 1 Year



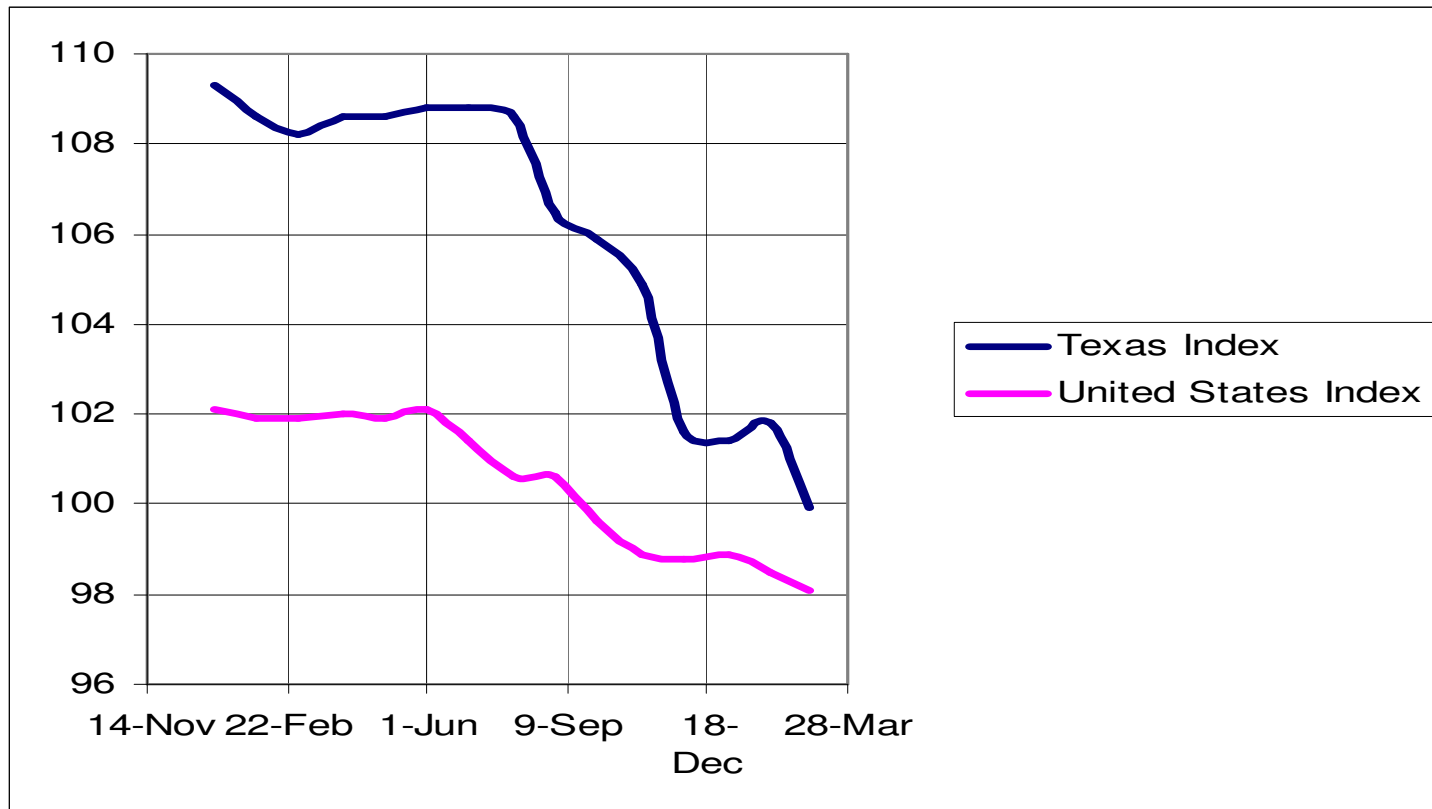
Copyright 2009 Yahoo! Inc. <http://finance.yahoo.com/>

Index Value:	882.88
Trade Time:	May 15
Change:	↓ 10.19 (1.14%)
Pre Close:	893.07
Open:	892.76
Day's Range:	878.94 - 896.97
52Wk Range:	666.79 - 1,440.24
	N/A

The Years of the Great Depression



Texas Leading Economic Indicators



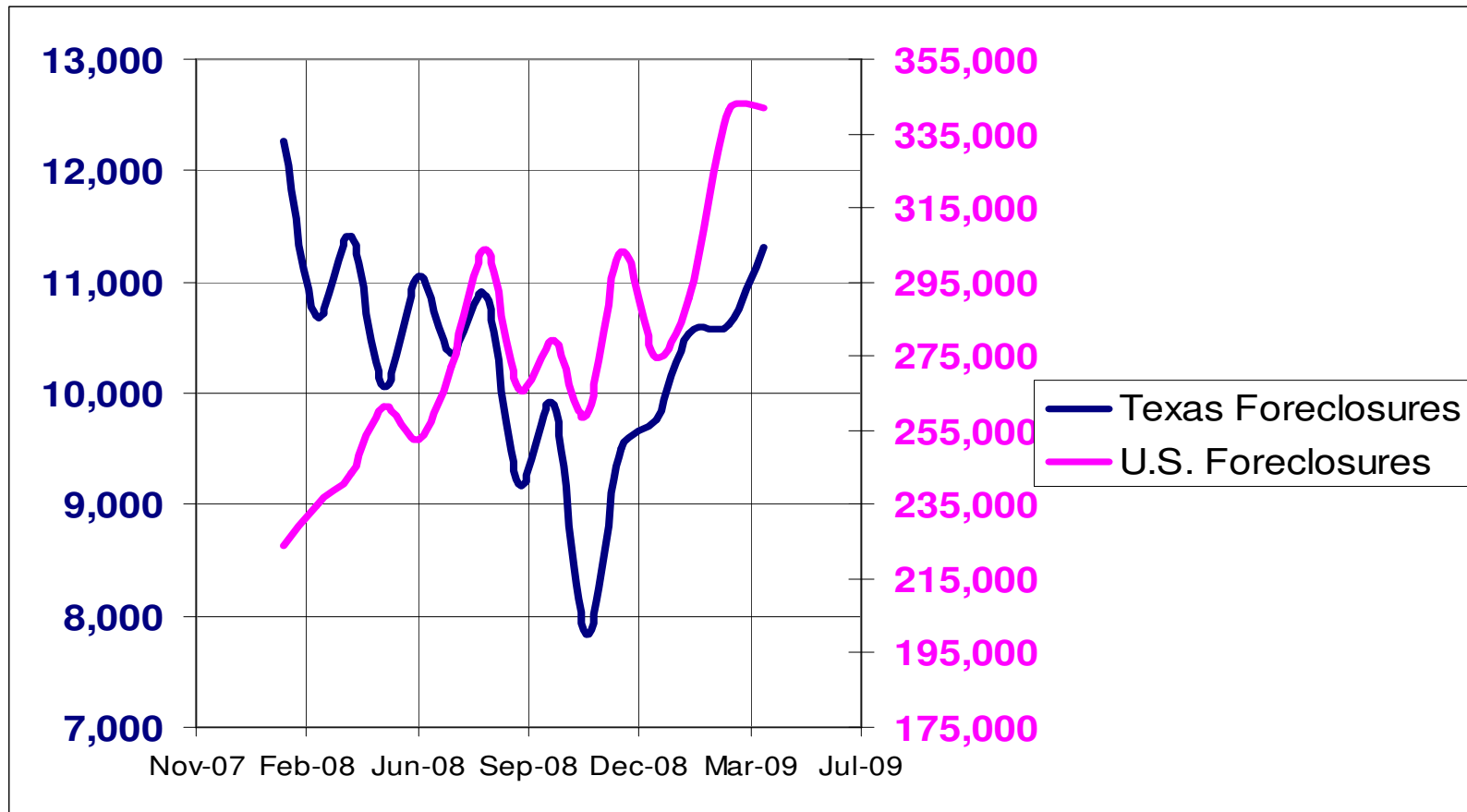
Change from previous year:

The leading indicators for Texas are down 7.3%

The leading indicators for the United States are down 3.3%

<http://www.texasahead.org/economy/tracking/>

Mortgage Foreclosures



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“War Without End”
The cosmic war
Curt Gibby

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

What do you want us to do?

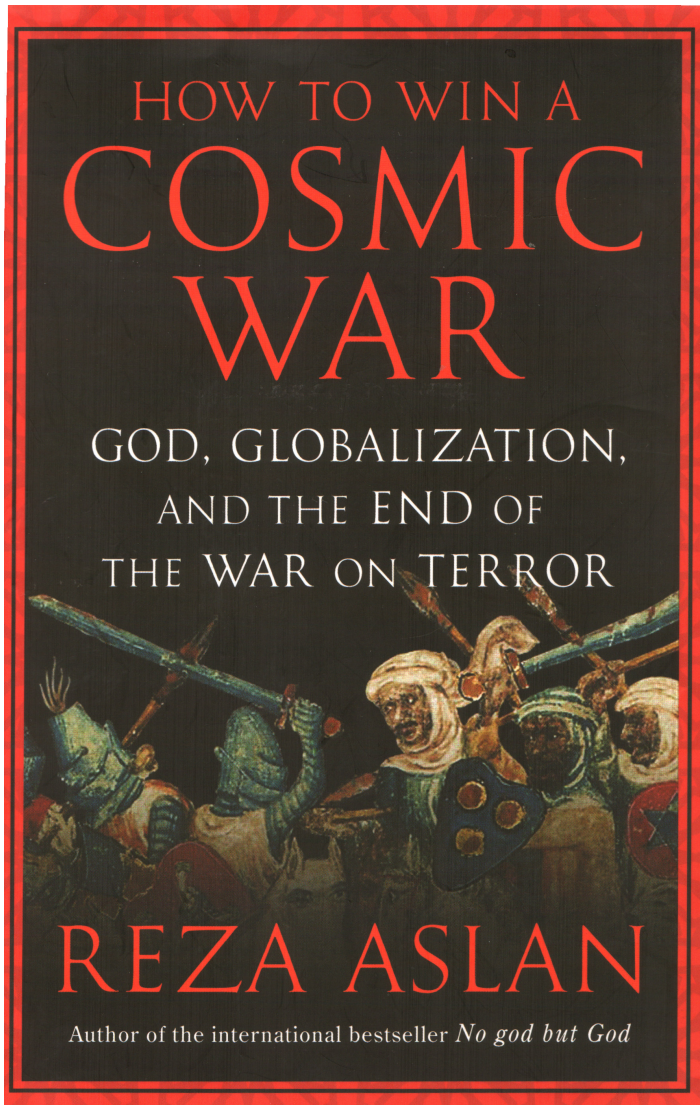
President Thomas Whitmore: ***What do you want us to do?***

Captured Alien: ***Die. Die.***

From the movie Independence Day ([1996](http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi3465609497/))

<http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi3465609497/>

How to Win



REZA ASLAN is assistant professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside, and senior fellow at the Orfalee Center for Global & International Studies at UC Santa Barbara. His first book, *No god but God*, has been translated into thirteen languages and was short-listed for the Guardian First Book Award.

[The Daily Show April 20 2009](#)

Ritual acts p 102

Nevertheless, there is no question that killing and dying are always easier to justify if they can be framed as ritual or ceremonial acts, which is why Jihadists refer to suicide terrorism as “martyrdom operations.” This is not a euphemism but an earnest attempt to infuse death with a sense of cosmic significance. It seems not to matter that, on the topic of suicide, the Qur’an is absolutely clear: “Do not kill yourself; if someone does so [shall cast him into Hell” (4:29—30). Nor does it seem important that countless sayings (Hadith) of the Prophet Muhammad refer to the gruesome punishment that awaits those who take their own lives: “Whoever purposely throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, he will forever be falling into the fire of Hell, wherein he will abide eternally; whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will forever be carrying his poison in his hand and drinking it in the fire of Hell, wherein he will abide

attacks against fellow Muslims p102

whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will forever be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his abdomen with it in the fire of Hell, wherein he will abide eternally.” The Qur’an is equally unambiguous in its injunction against killing women, children, the elderly, protected minorities, and, most significantly, other Muslims. Some Jihadist ideologues go to great lengths to try to justify both suicide terrorism and attacks against fellow Muslims or civilian targets (“**If the unbelievers kill young and old,**” argues Yusuf al-Ayiri, the Saudi Jihadist who was once bin Laden’s bodyguard, “**then Muslims should be permitted to do the same**”). Yet even bin Laden has stated that “the one issue on which all people are agreed, even if they themselves have been the victims of oppression and hostility; is that you cannot kill innocent children.”

al-wala' wal-bara' p 103

There is a term in Islam for this uncompromising moral dichotomy:

al-wala' wal-bara'. It is difficult to render this phrase into English. Al wala' wal-bara' can mean “loyalty and enmity,” “allegiance and dis avowal,” or even “love and hate.” According to the al-Qa'ida ideologue Muhammad Saeed al-Qahtani, “Wala' inspires intimacy, concern and help. Bara' provokes obstruction, enmity and rejection.”

However the phrase is translated, al-wala' wal-bara' suggests a cosmic duality, in which the whole of creation is partitioned into “believers”—by which Jihadists mean themselves—and “unbelievers”—a category that includes non-Muslims; Shi'ite Muslims; Muslims living in Europe or America, which Jihadists refer to as dar al-kufr (“the land of unbelief”); the rulers and governments of the Arab and Muslim world; the clerical leaders of Islam's traditional religious institutions and schools of law (“imams of infidelity,” Jihadists call them); and anyone who accepts such political or religious authority “The difference between the unbelievers and believers,” Maulana Masood Azhar, founder of Jaish-e Mohammed, writes in his book *Virtues of thejihad*, “is similar to the difference between light and darkness.”

The power of al-wala' wal-bara' as a religious doctrine derives from its ability to unilaterally proclaim someone an infidel, or kafir—a practice known in jihadist circles as takfir. Islam has no means of excommunicating a Muslim. There is not, nor has there ever been, a centralized religious authority with the power to declare who is and who is not a Muslim. The practice of takfir, however, places that authority into the hands of individual believers, allowing them to simply declare their Muslim enemies to be “unbelievers,” thereby avoiding any religious prohibitions against shedding Muslim blood. Jihadists use takfir with remarkable skill, applying it to those who disagree with any aspect of their worldview, for example Muslims who vote or take part in the political process: “Those who believe in democracy and they vote and they don’t mind being elected or to make laws when they have a chance. These people are kuffar [plural of kafir],” writes al-Masri in his book Beware of Takfir. “It does not matter how much worship they do or how many times they go on Hajj [they cannot come an inch closer to Islam because of this action.”

2005 Fatwa

Over the centuries, numerous fatwas, or religious declarations, have been issued by Muslim clerics denouncing the practice of takfir as a usurpation of God's judgment (the practice has no basis in the Qur'an). In 2005, one hundred seventy of the world's leading clerics and religious scholars, representing every sect, schism, and school of law in Islam, gathered in Amman, Jordan, to issue a joint fatwa "to reaffirm there is no such thing as takfir and that Muslim is allowed to label any other Muslim an apostate for any reason. The response from the Jihadists was to proclaim everyone who took part in the Amman conference an apostate deserving of death. Almost four months to the day in which the declaration against takfir was issued, four suicide terrorists, sent from Iraq by Zarqawi, blew themselves up in a series of coordinated attacks in Amman, killing sixty people, most of them Muslims.

“Why do they hate us?”

In the years since the creation of the World Islamic Front, in the aftermath of the attacks of 9 / 11 and the launch of the War on Terror, throughout the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Americans have repeatedly asked the same question: “Why do they hate us?” An entire cottage industry has arisen to answer this question.

There may have been numerous grievances that inspired the attacks, but the strategic purpose behind 9/11 is quite clear: “to awaken the Islamic Nation, which has been drugged, put to sleep and been absent from the confrontation. . . by imposing a confrontation between us and our real enemy [West],” in the words of Abu Musab al-Sun. Al-Sun’s assertion reinforces a fundamental truth about terrorism. These are not so much actions in pursuit of specific ends as they are symbolic statements of power directed at a carefully selected audience. Whatever political, economic, or military agenda may lie behind

the act of terror is often secondary, and sometimes even irrelevant, to the more elemental aim of terrorism, which is, quite simply, to terrorize.

“Excuse me Mr. Zawahiri,”

To its credit, the U.S. military has had a fair measure of success rooting out and killing al-Qa’ida’s cosmic warriors. In fact, as an international criminal conspiracy, al-Qa’ida faces nothing short of an existential crisis. Its infrastructure has been destroyed, its rank and file almost totally decimated. Although al-Qa’ida may maintain some level of operational control over a few of the Jihadist attacks that have taken place around the globe, and it has proven it can still perpetrate horrific acts of violence, it no longer possesses the resources it enjoyed before 9/11. Its achievements since then have been chimerical at best. Not a single country has fallen into its hands. Iraq’s Sunni insurgents, once allies of al-Qa’ida, have turned their backs on the organization because of its complete disregard for Islam’s rules of war.

“Excuse me Mr. Zawahiri” Concl.

The possibility of a reconstituted global Caliphate under the group’s command is at this point too laughable to be taken seriously. It has in no way inspired the global Muslim uprising it intended when it changed its focus from the Near Enemy to the Far Enemy. On the contrary, poll after poll across the Muslim world has revealed overwhelming majorities among all classes, ages, and sectors of society condemning al-Qa’ida’s actions. “Excuse me Mr. Zawahiri,” read a recent post on a popular Jihadist website, “but who is it who is killing with Your Excellency’s blessing, the innocents in Baghdad, Morocco and Algeria?” p 120

Global Jihadism as a social movement p 121

Yet whatever military success the United States and its allies have had in disrupting al-Qa'ida's operations and destroying its cells have been hampered by their utter failure to confront Global Jihadism as a social movement. Ultimately, the War on Terror is not ideological but is aimed not at seasoned militants but at a broad array of young, mostly middle-class, politically active, and socially conscious Muslims who, while they may view the conflict with the United States as a cosmic war against Islam, and while they may consider militant groups like al-Qa'ida to be the only forces in the Muslim world giving voice to their grievances, are nevertheless unlikely to actually take up arms and join the jihad (though, as we shall see, with the right mixture of incentive and indignation, they can be coaxed into action).

“Third World War, which the Crusader-Zionist coalition began against the Islamic nation.”P 121

For the Jihadist militants of al-Qa’ida, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have become central fronts in what bin Laden calls a “Third World War, which the Crusader-Zionist coalition began against the Islamic nation.” But while these wars, and the human rights abuses at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, have provided Jihadist ideologues with an invaluable recruiting tool, one perhaps on a par with the occupation of Palestine, for those Muslim youths who identify with Global Jihadism as a social movement there is no central front to the War on Terror because their identity cannot be confined to any territorial boundaries. Rather, theirs is a transnational identity linked together not by language, ethnicity, or culture but by a set of grievances— both local and global, real and imagined—that has created a shared narrative of oppression and injustice at the hands of the West.

religion has certain qualities P 134

The truth is that religion has certain qualities that make it a particularly useful tool for promoting social movement activism. Religion can tap into a person's deeper sense of self—the existential self—giving members a profoundly personal and emotional stake in the success of the movement. At the same time, religion brings to a social movement the hierarchal structures, financial resources, communication channels, and manpower that are so vital in getting the movement off the ground. A huge part of the success of the civil rights movement in the United States came from its ability to use black churches as venues for disseminating information from the pulpit to the streets.

Social movements must provide ...

Social movements must provide participants with certain “selective incentives” to convince them they have something to gain from joining. When religion is involved, these incentives become easier, since people of faith are usually willing to sacrifice earthly rewards for the promise of a heavenly one. And one must not forget that those who claim the mantle of religious leadership, even if they are not officially recognized by their religious institutions (indeed, especially if they are not recognized by their religious institutions), tend to enjoy an automatic sense of authority and legitimacy that would otherwise take years for social movement leaders to develop on their own.

**It was the collars they wore around their necks,
..., that drew ... an army of poor ...p 135**

Think of the leftist priests who led Latin America's Liberation Theology movement, many of whom were excommunicated by the Vatican for doing so (Pope John Paul II referred to them as the "internal enemy" of the Church). It was the collars they wore around their necks, not the guns they carried in their belts, that drew to these priests an army of the poor and dispossessed.

The intersection of religion and violence p137

Violence can be as essential an element in religion as love, charity, or any other aspect of the human condition. Unless a religion aspires to nothing more than metaphysical contemplation or choice but to contend with societies other “group forming mechanisms” ethnicity, culture, politics, nationalism—all of which (like religion) create boundaries between in-groups and out-groups, and all of which (like religion) regularly employ violence in doing so. The intersection of religion and violence over time and across cultures has less to do with the logic or substance of religion itself than with the fact that both religion and violence function as durable markers of collective identity: the simplest, most effective means of saying who is us and who is them.

no choice but to turn to violence p138

Yet when these regimes responded to the Liberation Theology movement with indiscriminate and unrestrained state-sanctioned violence. when soldiers began raping and murdering nuns with impunity and executing priests during Mass, when it became clear that the international community would do nothing to curb the brutality (Ronald Regan actively supported the actions of these regimes, calling Liberation Theology “a threat to U.S. National Security), The Christian revolutionaries felt they had no choice but to turn to violence themselves. As Father Ernesto Cardenal, who joined the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, bluntly declared, “[Christ] says we must love the enemy, but he doesn’t say we can’t fight them. . . . Christ forbade the sword but not the machine gun.”

Scared Somalis running out of food as battles rage



AFP – A Somali woman carries her wounded son into the Medina Hospital in Mogadishu.

Cosmic warriors at Work

By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN, Associated Press Writer MOGADISHU, Somalia –
Hundreds of foreigners fighting alongside Somali Islamic insurgents have driven this week's fierce battles against government forces, which have killed more than 100 people, the U.N. envoy to Somalia said Friday.

Concern that the government might fall is mounting. Observers fear that if the al-Qaida linked insurgents seize the capital, they will gain a safe haven on the Horn of Africa.

The government controls only one major road in the capital, Mogadishu, along with some government installations, with the assistance of about 4,350 African Union troops.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

These were shocking words for many Christians, particularly those living comfortable, middle-class lives in the peaceful suburbs of North America and Western Europe. But as Archbishop Oscar Romero, perhaps the most famous of the countless martyrs of Latin America's Liberation Theology movement, argued, if there can be no peace without justice, and injustice must sometimes be fought for, the Church "can not simplistically say it condemns any kind of violence."

deradicalization of the Liberation Theology movement, p 139

.... This is the great paradox of social movements, whether religiously inclined or not: the more violent the reaction to the movement, the more violent the movement may become. What ultimately led to the deradicalization of the Liberation Theology movement—or, for that matter, the environmental movement, the antiglobalization movement, the feminist movement, the black power movement, and so on—was the gradual co-option of their members’ grievances into mainstream society. Indeed, when it comes to dealing with a social movement, society has only two options: either it can address the members’ grievances, thereby making the movement irrelevant, or it can deflect those grievances and further radicalize the movement. Or as Sidney Tarrow puts it, “actions that begin in the streets [be] resolved in the halls of government or by the bayonets of the army.”

The global Caliphate

.... it employs the language of European civil rights, demands the political freedoms and privileges afforded to it by the European Constitution, speaks almost exclusively in European tongues, and relies on the fundamental principles of European civil society to freely preach a message that would lead to prison and torture of its members were they to try the same in their fathers' countries. The members of Hizb ut-Tahrir who rally against British foreign and domestic policy in universities throughout the United Kingdom, who march and hold seminars propagating their religio-political beliefs, are doing so, whether they recognize it or not, as children of the Enlightenment. It is Europe that most clearly informs their political ideology; not Islam. In fact, the world they seek—a world without borders—is the world in which they already live. The European Union is the model of the global Caliphate.

beloved schoolteacher p142

In any case, lack of integration is hardly an issue for Europe's Jihadists. Hasib Hussain was, by all accounts, well integrated into British society as was the leader of the 7 / 7 attacks, Mohammed Siddique Khan, a beloved schoolteacher known to his non-Muslim friends as "Sid." Jamal Zougam, the man thought to be responsible for placing the explosions on a Spanish commuter train that killed 191 people on March 11, 2004, was a fairly successful businessman in Madrid. Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the murderer of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, was a highly educated British-born Pakistani from a well-adjusted middle-class family.

doctors, lawyers, and engineers

These men are doctors, lawyers, and engineers, the best and brightest of their communities, the pride of their immigrant families. They are precisely the kind of well-educated, socially conscious people who tend to flock to social movements: people who have the material and mental resources to mount collective challenges to the accepted social order. Jihadism attracts the same kind of person who, in other circumstances and with different challenges, would have joined an antiglobalization or civil rights movement. That Jihadists like Hasib Hussain are extreme in their views and violent in their tactics does not take away Jihadism's legitimacy as a social movement. As Tarrow writes, "Extremism is an exaggerated form of the frames of meaning that are found in all social movements. . . [as] violence is an exacerbation of collective challenges."

Madrasahs p 143

Hasib was an average student, more interested in sports than in his studies, but he did finish high school and go on to earn a degree in an advanced business program. Neither he nor any other 7 / 7 bomber was a product of a madrasah—one of the Islamic schools that, in the West, are often viewed as terrorist factories where young Muslim children are trained to hate “the infidel.” Worldwide, only about 13 percent of Jihadists have had any kind of religious education (not a single 9/11 hijacker attended a madrasah), which makes sense, considering that madrasahs tend to be the preserve of the poor, who cannot afford any other kind of education. And if there is one thing that Jihadists— whether in Europe or in the Middle East—have in common is that **they tend not to be poor.**

between the two worlds

Almost seven years to the day since George W. Bush warned the world that there would no longer be any “neutral ground” between us and them, Obama’s very presence on that stage was a proclamation that the clash of civilizations mentality, which had partitioned the world into imaginary categories locked in a cosmic war, could no longer be sustained. In fact, Obama seemed to be placing himself in between the two worlds, as the bridge linking Islam and the West together as one united civilization. “My job is to communicate to the American people that the Muslim world is filled with extraordinary people who simply want to live their lives and see their children live better lives,” Obama declared a few months after his election, in an interview with the Arabic news channel Al-Arabiya—the first interview he gave as president. “My job to the Muslim world is to communicate that Americans are not your enemy.”

Egypt wants Obama to speak from historic mosque

By SALAH NASRAWI, Associated Press Writer Salah Nasrawi, Associated Press Writer – 1 hr 13 mins ago

CAIRO – When President Barack Obama addresses the Muslim world from Cairo next month, Egyptian officials hope he will choose 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar mosque, the heart of a revered institution for Islamic study, as his backdrop to convey U.S. respect for Islam.

The American Embassy in Cairo said no decision has been made yet on a venue for Obama's June 4 speech on U.S. relations with the Muslim world. But two Egyptian security officials said Thursday that an American advance team scouted five potential sites this week and narrowed it down to a short list of three — the Al-Azhar mosque and two other locations connected to it.

Al-Azhar is one of the oldest, most prestigious and most influential institutions of higher learning for Sunni Islam.

Delivering his message from the 10th-century mosque would convey the American president's regard for Islamic religion, culture and history, Al-Azhar officials said.

the only way to win a cosmic war p 172

Such words have thoroughly rattled Jihadist ideologues like Zawahiri and bin Laden, who have been scrambling to find some response to an American president who can proudly proclaim, “I have Muslim members in my family. I have lived in Muslim countries”; a president who recognizes, as he himself has said in repudiation of the religiously polarizing rhetoric of his predecessor, that “the language we use matters”; a president who finally understands that the only way to win a cosmic war is to refuse to fight in one.

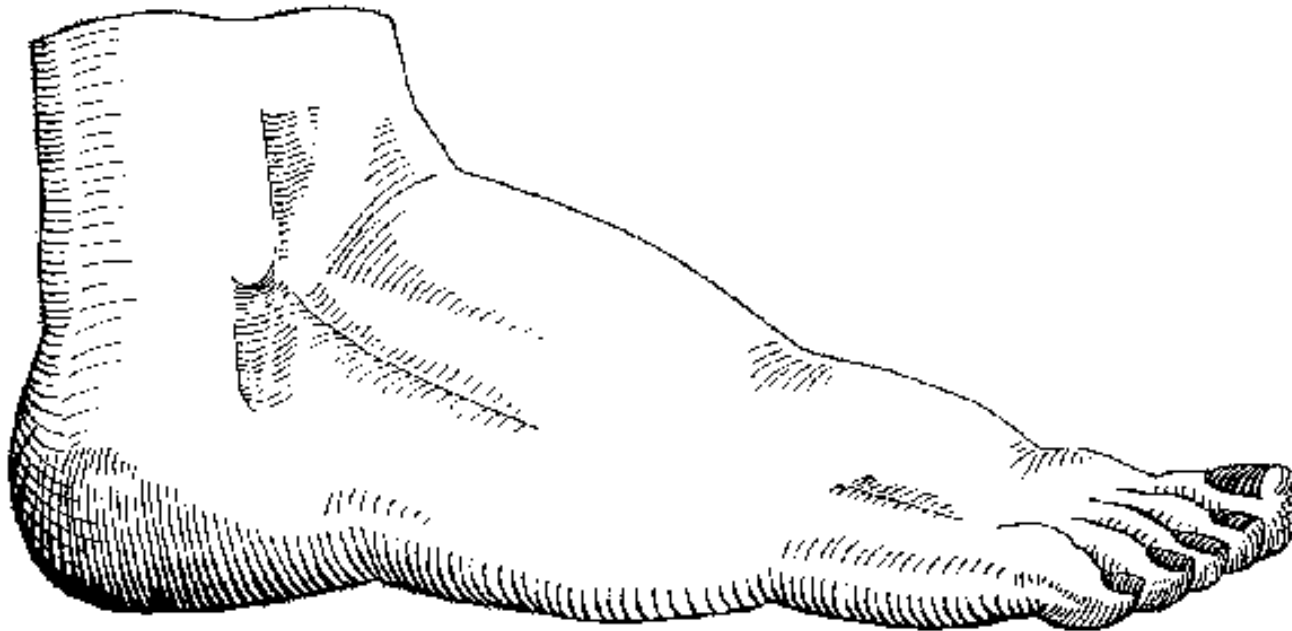
Don't panic!

Don't be Panicked!

Seriously

See You 20 June 2009

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.

Enrichment Material

Don't be Panicked

Can you take responsibility for yourself and others close to you?

Can you stay calm and assess a changing or changed situation?

Can you tell the difference between fact and fabrication.

Can you delay panicking until the threat has passed?

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 disposable income

Oil is a limited resource

Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

The greater fool theory

The greater fool theory (sometimes the bigger fool theory, also called survivor investing) is the belief held by one who makes a questionable investment, with the assumption that they will be able to sell it later to "a bigger fool"; in other words, buying something not because you believe that it is worth the price, but rather because you believe that you will be able to sell it to someone else for an even better price.^[1]

Wikipedia.org

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Getting Warmer?



May 16, 2009

TSS 08-09 #9 -- War Without End

75

We have it in our power...

**"We have it in our
power to begin the
world over again."**

Ronald Reagan quoting Thomas Paine

January 18, 2008 Bill Moyers talks with Harvey J. Kaye

Übermensch

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, Oct 15, 1844 – Aug 25, 1900)

The Übermensch (German; English: **Overman, Superman**) is a concept in the Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. Nietzsche posited the Übermensch as a goal for humanity to set for itself in his 1883 book Thus Spoke Zarathustra (German: Also Sprach Zarathustra).

The book's protagonist, Zarathustra, contends that "man is something which ought to be overcome:"

All beings so far have created something beyond themselves; and do you want to be the ebb of this great flood and even go back to the beasts rather than overcome man? What is the ape to man? A laughingstock or a painful embarrassment. And man shall be just that for the overman: a laughingstock or a painful embarrassment...

There is no consensus regarding the precise meaning of the Übermensch, or even the overall importance of the concept in Nietzsche's thought.



If Nietzsche is right ...

**Would the Übermensch we will create
have the natural ability to get along with
each other?**

**And will “man” (we) be a laughingstock
or a painful embarrassment for the
overman that we create?**

For Further Reading

Superhero

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

Masters of Evil

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

Joseph John Campbell (March 26, 1904 – October 30, 1987) was an American mythologist, writer and lecturer, best known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. His work is vast, covering many aspects of the human experience. His philosophy is often summarized by his phrase: **"Follow your bliss."**

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

(Charlie Rose) A conversation (30 minutes) with Malcolm Gladwell, author of “Outliers.” [Outliers](#), defined by Gladwell as people who do not fit into our normal understanding of achievement,^[3] *Outliers* deals with exceptional people, especially those who are smart, rich, and successful, and those who operate at the extreme outer edge of what is statistically possible.^[2] In statistics, an **outlier** is an observation that is numerically distant from the rest of the [data](#). (Intro gleaned from Wikipedia.org)

<http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/9855>

(Karen Armstrong)"... if you want to make God laugh, tell Him, or Her, your plans. A self-proclaimed "freelance monotheist," Karen Armstrong is now on a mission to bring compassion, the heart of religion, as she sees it, back into modern life. "Do not do to others what you would not like them to do to you."

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03132009/watch.html>

Bill Moyers Interviews Karen Armstrong

http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript_armstrong.html

A BULLY PULPIT
IS FOR
BULLIES