

**Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011**  
**Humanity at a Crossroads**  
**Session 02**  
**16 Sep 2010**

**The Return of the Elders,**  
**Unleash Your Wisdom**  
**Curt Gibby**

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

# Change

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

**Aldous Huxley**

# **Our Middle Aged Brains**

**David Niesel and Norbert Herzog**

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

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

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

## **Program for TSS Meeting 16 Oct 2010**

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (45 Minutes +/-) –  
*Curt Gibby*
- 10:15 - 10 minute break
- 10:25 am **“Return Of the Elders, Unleash Your  
Wisdom,”** Curt Gibby
- 11:55 am- Closure
- 12:00 am Session ends
- Next Session 20 November 2010**

# 1. The old Coffee Pot is dead

And, we haven't had anybody volunteer to become the next "Director of Coffee Services" so for this next meeting may we suggest that there are excellent sources of very good coffee not far the college.

So, If you want coffee:

There are wonderful places to get coffee on Saturday mornings:

- Starbucks on the north side of Hwy 242 just east of Woodforest Bank.
- Caffe' Diem and/or Brooklyn Cafe, both on the south side in the College Park Plaza shopping center.
- There is also a McDonald's on the south side east of the shopping center and next to the Tradition Bank.

I will continue to bring donuts.

## 2. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academy For Lifelong Learning (ALL) at Lone Star College -Montgomery



- What:** 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academy For Lifelong Learning (ALL) at Lone Star College -Montgomery
- When:** October 23, 2010 3-5 PM
- Where:** Lone Star College-Montgomery  
Bldg. A/The Commons  
3200 College Park Drive  
Conroe, Texas 77384-4500

**936-271-6146 or MCall@lonestar.edu**

Kenne Turner has uploaded an 8:21 minute video (ALL10th Anniversary.MOV) retrospective of the last 10 years of ALL which can be viewed at:

<http://vodpod.com/watch/4537748-all-10th-anniversary-mov> or on Youtube at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMFlo9L\\_1zc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMFlo9L_1zc)

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Wisdom

### **3. “For Their Own Good? Children in the Adult Criminal Justice System.”** (Full-disclosure: I am the President of the Houston Chapter of the ACLU of Texas.)

**The Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center and the Houston chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas will co-host a symposium October 22** to discuss major issues confronting children when they are treated as adults in the criminal justice system.

Speakers include the Hon. Beverly Malazzo, Juvenile District Juvenile Courts of Harris County; the Hon. Mike Schneider, Judge, 315th Juvenile District Court of Harris County; Professor Ellen Marrus, Director of the Center for Children, Law & Policy; Christene Wood, Associate Attorney, Phelps Dunbar, LLP; Lisa Graybill, Legal Director, ACLU of Texas; and Chris Vogel, Staff Writer, the Houston Press.

**When: Friday, October 22, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

**What: Legal symposium, “For Their Own Good? Children in the Adult Criminal Justice System.”**

**Where: University of Houston Law Center, Krost Hall, 100 Law Center, Houston, TX 77204** IF you plan to attend, please Register: by email: [center4clp@uh.edu](mailto:center4clp@uh.edu) or

**phone: (713) 743-1967.**

## 4. Nov 2nd is the General election.

Early voting starts Monday, 18 October and ends 29 October. Texas Voters have the unique opportunity to vote for "None of the Above" in the gubernatorial election and in a very creative way. That is if neither the Republican nor the Democratic candidate for governor seems particularly attractive to you. You have two alternatives: Deb Shafto for the Green Party (Left) and Kathie Glass for the Libertarians (The real conservatives). If you vote for one of them, realistically, they won't win, but a significant percentage can send a message to the one that wins and the other major candidate that didn't win as to what the people feel. **I know Deb Shafto and she is a really good person and Progressive's Progressive. I don't know Kathie Glass, but this time I think I will enjoy the luxury of voting Libertarian.** Why? Because it is my opinion that neither of the major party candidates for governor has offered anything but platitudes, certainly no grasp of what faces the state of Texas in the future and how he will work with the legislature to make it better. As to the National off-year election, I do expect changes will be made, but won't waste time predicting what they might be. **What we will have is more Chaos** regardless (Which by now you should be getting used to.) Remember, DON'T PANIC (It won't do any good, and it could hurt you.)



# General election.

One parting thought: I am hearing a lot of disturbing FEAR (in the media - go figure) about unlimited corporate money being spent on commercials to support one side or the other. (Apparently for this election the Republicans have the upper hand money-wise.) **Folks, you don't have to watch or listen to what you don't want to!** (But what about my gullible neighbors?) Don't worry about your neighbors' gullibility, learn to control your own. This might be a good time to invest in a DVR or VCR that lets you record your favorite programs then watch them about 30 minutes later and fast forward through the political propaganda. And, remember political ads are no longer to inform, they are designed specifically to mis-inform you to get your vote, or get you to stay home. Definitely vote. Please.

# 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](mailto:gcgconsult@n-star.com)>**

# Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it might be to think so, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Please, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best, we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do. (Sept 22, 2005)

# 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.**

# “Cartoons of the Week”

We make extensive use of political cartoons in this presentation.

The Source of these Cartoons is TIME in cooperation with CNN. You can find the ones I’ve included and more at:

<http://www.time.com/time/cartoonsoftheweek>

**Curt Gibby**

# Current Events

18 Sept 2010

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

## Chile mine rescue: miners leave Copiapo hospital and go home



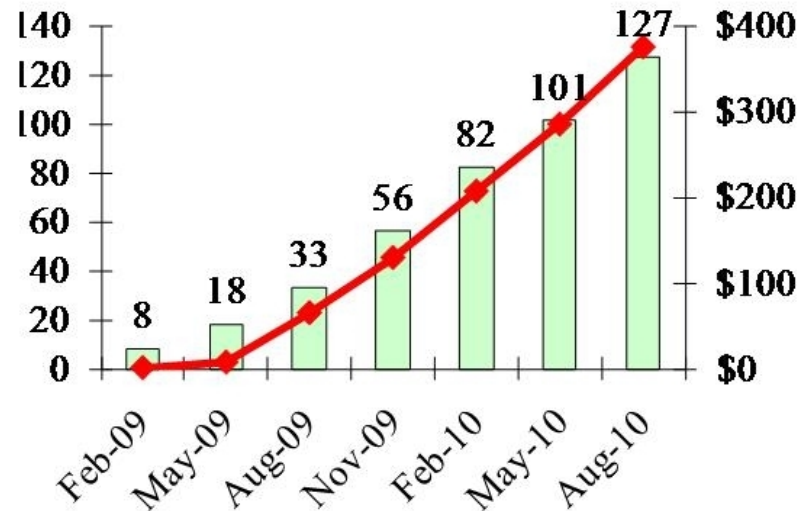
Some of the Chilean miners trapped for two months underground have rejoined their families at home. But before the group began to split up the 33 miners posed for a group photograph with Chile's president, Sebastian Pinera

Picture: EPA

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/picturegalleries/worldnews/8066344/>

# Deadbeat Banks

**The number of TARP banks not paying dividends or interest and the aggregate missed dividend and interest payments**



Source: Dr. Linus Wilson, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The vertical axis on left and the bar graph tracks the number of banks skipping dividends and interest. The line graph and the vertical axis on the right measures the cumulative dividend and interest payments not paid to taxpayers by TARP recipient banks.

[http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/forecasts\\_trends/archive/2010/09/14/obama-s-plans-to-help-small-business.aspx](http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/forecasts_trends/archive/2010/09/14/obama-s-plans-to-help-small-business.aspx)



## 5 Things You Should Know About the Foreclosure Moratorium

By [Chad Fisher](#)

Posted: October 15, 2010

JPMorgan Chase has suspended foreclosures in 23 states while the company looks at 115,000 mortgage foreclosure files to find potential errors in its documentation. Ally Financial and Bank of America are looking for errors in files for all 50 states and suspending foreclosures. Goldman Sachs' Litton Loan Servicing, PNC Financial, and OneWest Bank began are checking their files, but Wells Fargo and Citigroup are holding their ground, stating that their affidavits are valid and sound. Here are some things you should know about the foreclosure moratorium:

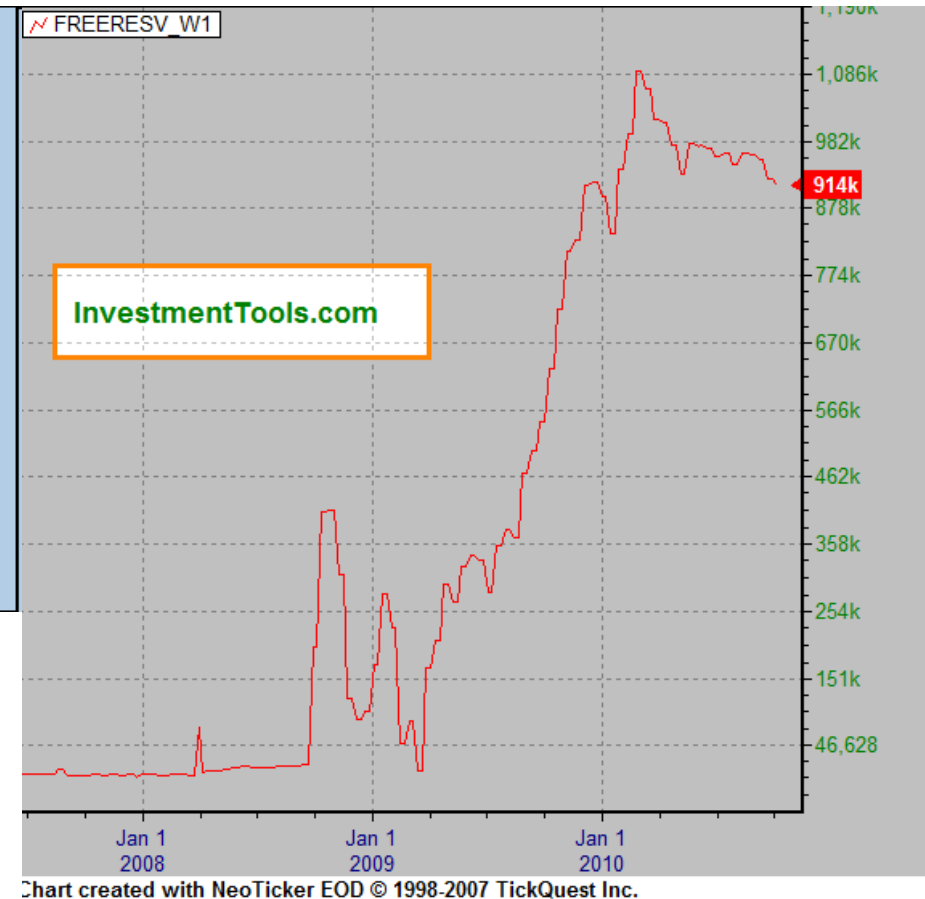
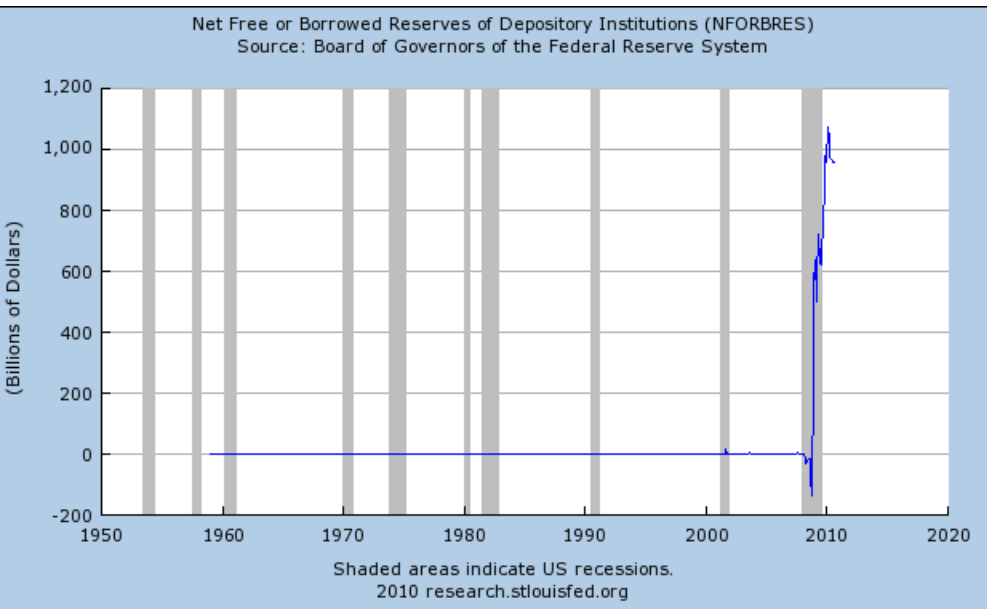
### **What's This All About?**

Foreclosure moratorium. It almost sounds like 2007 again, with talk of a moratorium on foreclosures, but this buzz isn't coming from the federal government. This time the states are banding together to stop foreclosures based on illegal affidavits submitted by mortgage companies in foreclosure proceedings.

<http://money.usnews.com/>

# Federal Free Reserves

## Fed Free Reserves



## Net Free Reserves

### What Does *Net Free Reserves* Mean?

A statistic released in weekly Federal Reserve data showing the amount of money a bank holds above the required minimum deposit [banks](#) are required to keep a certain amount of cash on hand at all times. If banks have significantly more cash than stipulated by reserve requirements, they will lend it out. Investopedia.com

[http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/federal\\_reserve\\_free\\_reserves.htm](http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/federal_reserve_free_reserves.htm)

# Money Multiplier

[http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/money\\_multiplier\\_velocity\\_.htm](http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/money_multiplier_velocity_.htm)

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

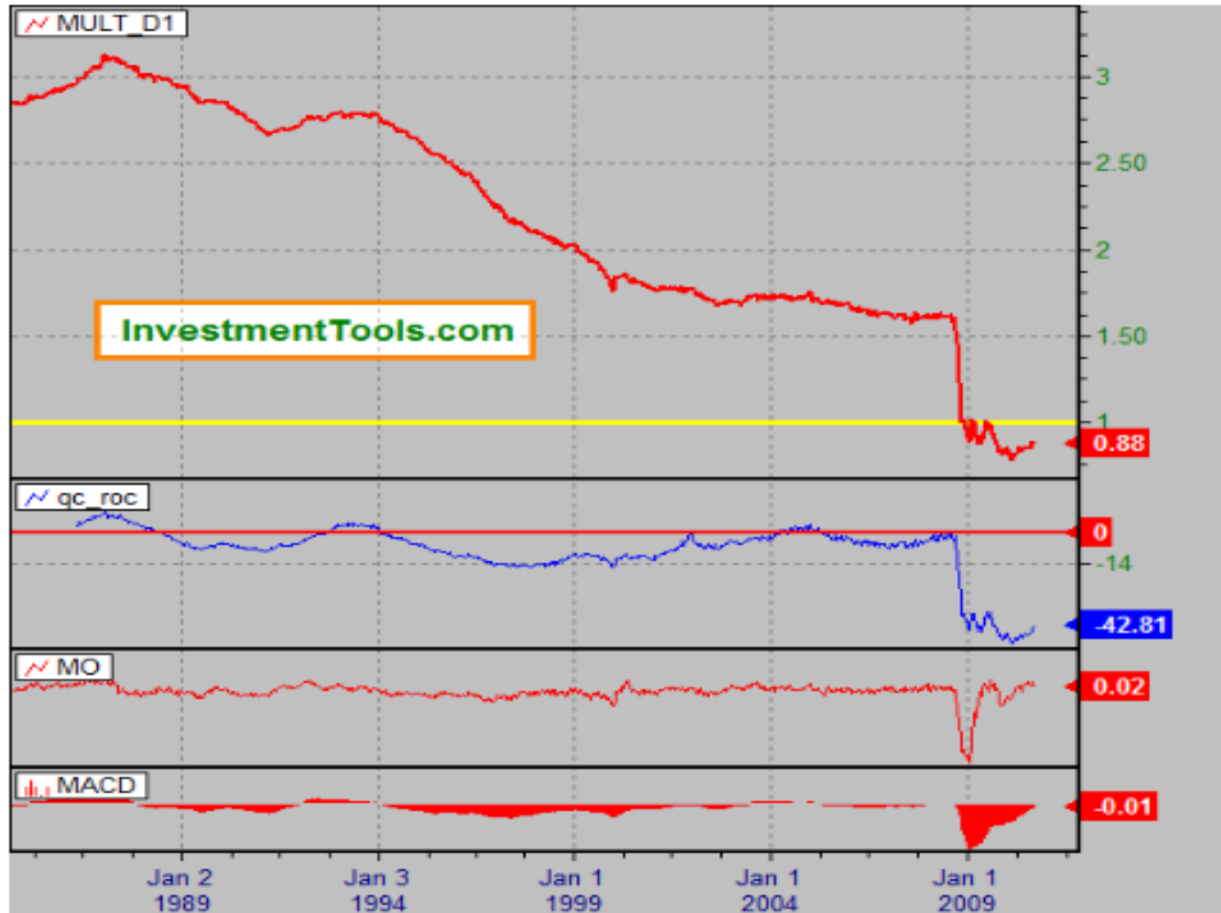


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

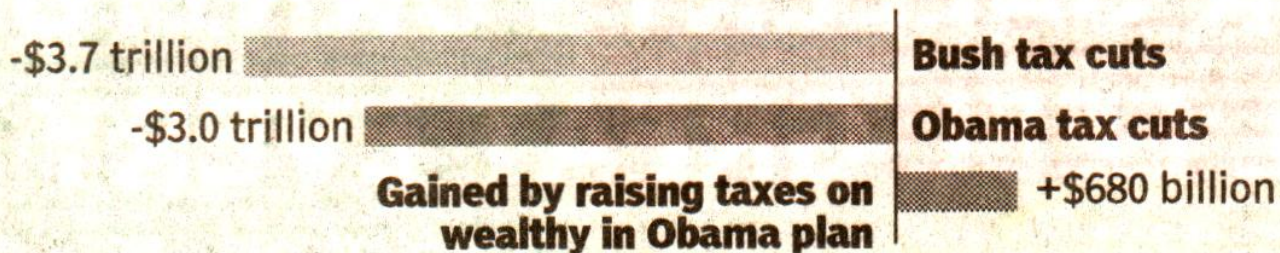
# Taxing the Rich

Chronicle, Sep 17, 2010

## TAXING THE RICH?

*Cost to the U.S. Treasury of the Bush-era tax cuts compared to President Barack Obama's proposed tax cuts, including the amount gained if taxes on the wealthy are returned to pre-Bush (higher) levels:*

### BUSH VS. OBAMA TAX CUTS for fiscal years, 2010-20



### THE RICH AND TAXES for the 2008 tax year

The top 1 percent\* of taxpayers earned this or more  
**\$380,354**

The top 10 percent\* of taxpayers earned this or more  
**\$113,799**

The number of taxpayers in the top 1 percent income bracket  
**1.1 million**

Sources: U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service; Tax Policy Center

\*Adjusted gross income  
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

# Astronomy Picture of the Day

## An Airplane in Front of the Moon



**Credit & Copyright:** Chris Thomas **Explanation:** If you look closely at the Moon, you will see a large airplane in front of it. Well, not always. OK, hardly ever. But if you wait for days with your camera attached to a Moon tracker in a place where airplanes are known to pass, you might catch a good photograph of it. Well, if you're lucky. OK, extremely lucky. The above image was taken two weeks ago over South East Queensland, Australia using an exposure time of  $\frac{1}{250}$ th of a second and, in the words of the photographer, "a nerve of steel".

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## Crashed Russian Army Helicopter Stranded Atop Mountain Forever?



Two months ago, a Russian military helicopter crashed on Mount Elbrus, Europe's highest mountain. It's still there, because the Russian military lacks the resources to cart it down 15,700 feet. It may stay up there forever.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Military/2010/0525/Now-that-the-X-37B-space-plane-is-spotted-what-is-its-mission>

## Now that the X-37B space plane is spotted, what is its mission?

**Amateur astronomers say they have found the X-37B in an orbit that takes it over Afghanistan and Iraq. A former Air Force missile officer offers up four possible uses for the space plane – and weapon is least likely.**



In a testing procedure, the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle taxis on the flightline on March 30 at the Astrotech facility in Titusville, Fla.

US Air Force/Sipa Press/Newscom/File

[+ Enlarge](#)

# Chinese Communist elders issue free speech appeal

*By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press Writer Christopher Bodeen, Associated Press Writer – Wed Oct 13, 6:47 am ET*

**BEIJING – A group of eminent Chinese Communist Party elders has issued a bold call to end the country's wide-ranging restrictions on free speech, just days after the government reacted angrily to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned dissident Liu Xiaobo.**

**In an open letter posted online, the retired officials state that although China's 1982 constitution guarantees freedom of speech, the right is constrained by a host of laws and regulations that should be scrapped.**

**"This kind of false democracy of affirming in principle and denying in actuality is a scandal in the history of democracy," said the letter, which was dated Monday and widely distributed by e-mail.**

**Wang Yongcheng, a retired professor at Shanghai's Jiaotong University who signed the letter, said it had been inspired by the recent arrest of a journalist who wrote about corruption in the resettlement of farmers for a dam project.**

**"We want to spur action toward governing the country according to law," Wang said in a telephone interview.**

**[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101013/ap\\_on\\_re\\_as/as\\_china\\_free\\_speech](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101013/ap_on_re_as/as_china_free_speech)**



## **Migration Bust: Fast-Growing U.S. Areas Show Big Income Drop, Census Reports HOPE YEN | 10/12/10 04:47 PM |**

Call it the migration bust: Many of the fast-growing U.S. areas during the housing boom are now yielding some of the biggest income drops in the economic downturn.

That could have broad impact on the political map in the coming weeks. Voters discontent over the economy and related issues such as immigration head to the polls on Nov. 2 to decide whether to keep Democrats in Congress.

Whites and blacks have taken big hits since 2007 in once-torrid Sunbelt regions offering warm climates and open spaces, including Florida, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada, according to 2009 census data. Hispanics suffered paycheck losses in many "new immigrant" destinations in the interior U.S., which previously offered construction jobs and affordable housing, such as Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina.

The census data show that Hispanics, the nation's largest and fastest-growing minority group, are helping drive growth in several Southern states.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/10/12/migration-bust-fast-growing-income-drop-census\\_n\\_760464.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/10/12/migration-bust-fast-growing-income-drop-census_n_760464.html)

# Navy Advancement Slow Down

Navy Times Oct 18, 2010

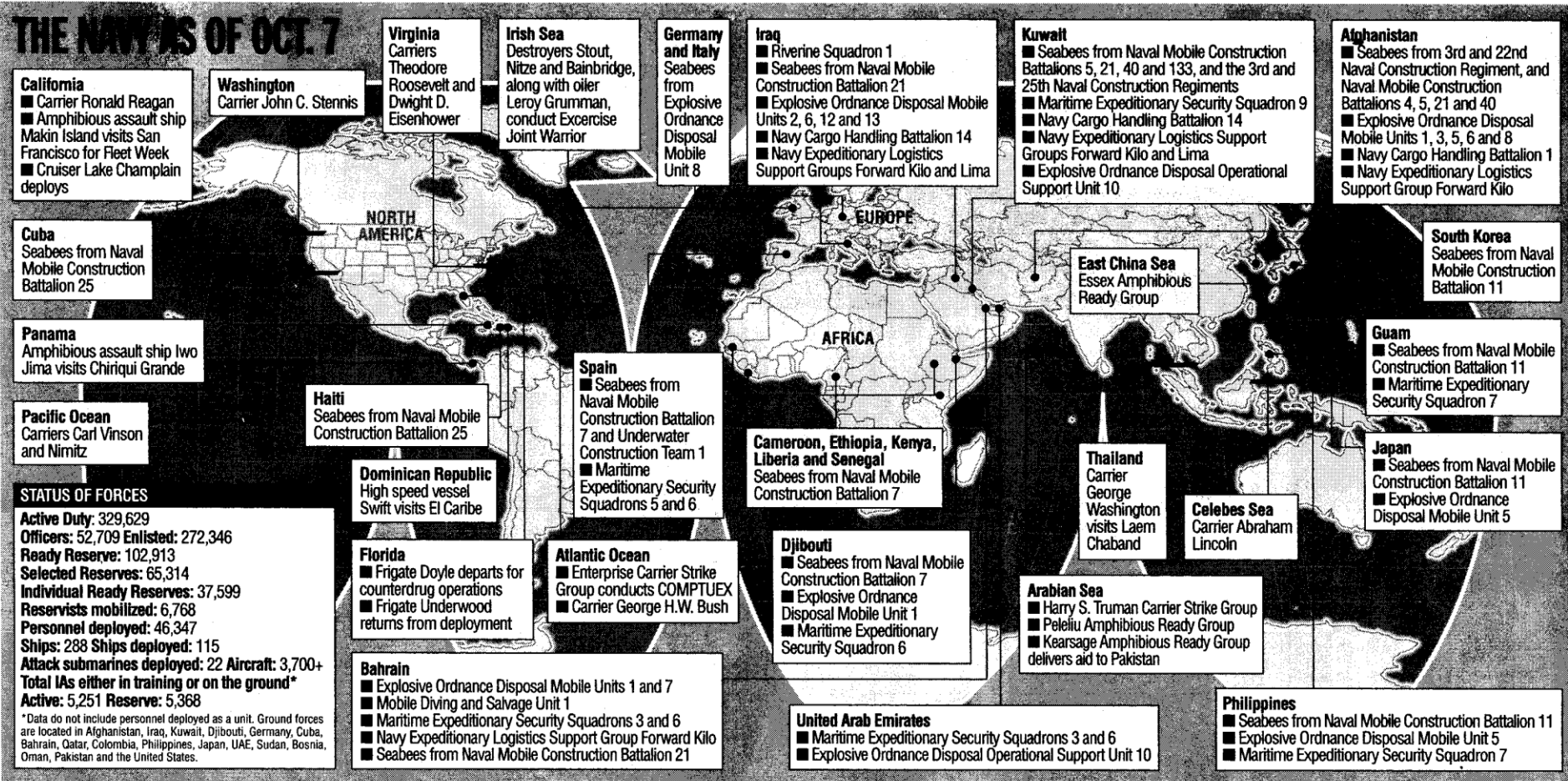


MC2 JAMES EVANS/NAVY

**Across the fleet, thousands of sailors put on khaki for the first time for their pinning as chief petty officers Sept. 16. Most won't get paid at their new rate until next August under a new enlisted advancement plan.**

# US Navy Around The World

NAVY TIMES, 18 Oct 2010



# Rockets in China

## Rockets in China

The Houston Rockets and New Jersey Nets are in China to play two exhibition games, with Houston winning the first.



Oct 12 2010 10:24AM

Billy Smith II / Chronicle

Yao Ming greets fans at a ceremony that was held to start off the China Games and welcome the Houston Rockets and the New Jersey Nets. The teams will meet in two exhibition games this week.

# Obama, Palin Related? You Betcha!

## President Also Distantly Related To Rush Limbaugh

JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

Posted: 12:56 am EDT October 13, 2010 Updated: 11:09 am EDT October 13, 2010

**NEW YORK** -- And you thought it was strange to hear that Barack [Obama](#) was related to Dick Cheney. Well, betcha can't guess who he's related to now!

Yup - the president has family ties to none other than Sarah Palin, according to the genealogists at Ancestry.com, a discovery the family history site made when looking for connections between political foes.

And that's not all - Obama also is apparently related to radio host and relentless critic Rush Limbaugh. Might you want to reconsider some of your recent comments, Mr. Limbaugh, now that you're apparently family?

A genealogist at the Utah-based Ancestry.com, Anastasia Tyler, said Obama and Palin are 10th cousins through a common ancestor named John Smith, a pastor and early settler in 17th-century Massachusetts. Obama is related to Smith through his mother, as is Palin, Tyler said.

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/25373804/detail.html>

# **Administration lifts 6-month oil drilling freeze**

*By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press Writer Matthew Daly, Associated Press Writer –*

**WASHINGTON – The Obama administration on Tuesday lifted the deep water oil drilling moratorium that the government imposed in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the disastrous BP oil spill. ----**

**Companies also will be required to develop comprehensive plans to manage risks and improve workplace safety.**

**Todd Hornbeck, CEO of Covington, La.-based Hornbeck Offshore Services, said lifting the moratorium would leave the industry in a "de facto moratorium stage" until the government fully explains how new drilling permits will be issued.**

**"We're still in the dark," said Hornbeck, who heads up one of the companies that sued to block Interior's initial moratorium. His company provides vessels and other services for the offshore industry.**

**"The devil is in the details, as they say, and the industry hasn't seen the final requirements for what we would have to do to be able to actually get a permit issued," he added. "Until that is done, lifting the moratorium may be just a moot or perfunctory act. ... Right now, I'm skeptical that it will be anytime soon that permits will be issued even if the moratorium is lifted."**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us\\_obama\\_drilling\\_moratorium](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_obama_drilling_moratorium)

# Ten Races That Have Democrats Worried for 2010

*A look at the 10 elections that have Democrats most concerned*

## **Full List**

### **VULNERABLE DEMOCRATS**

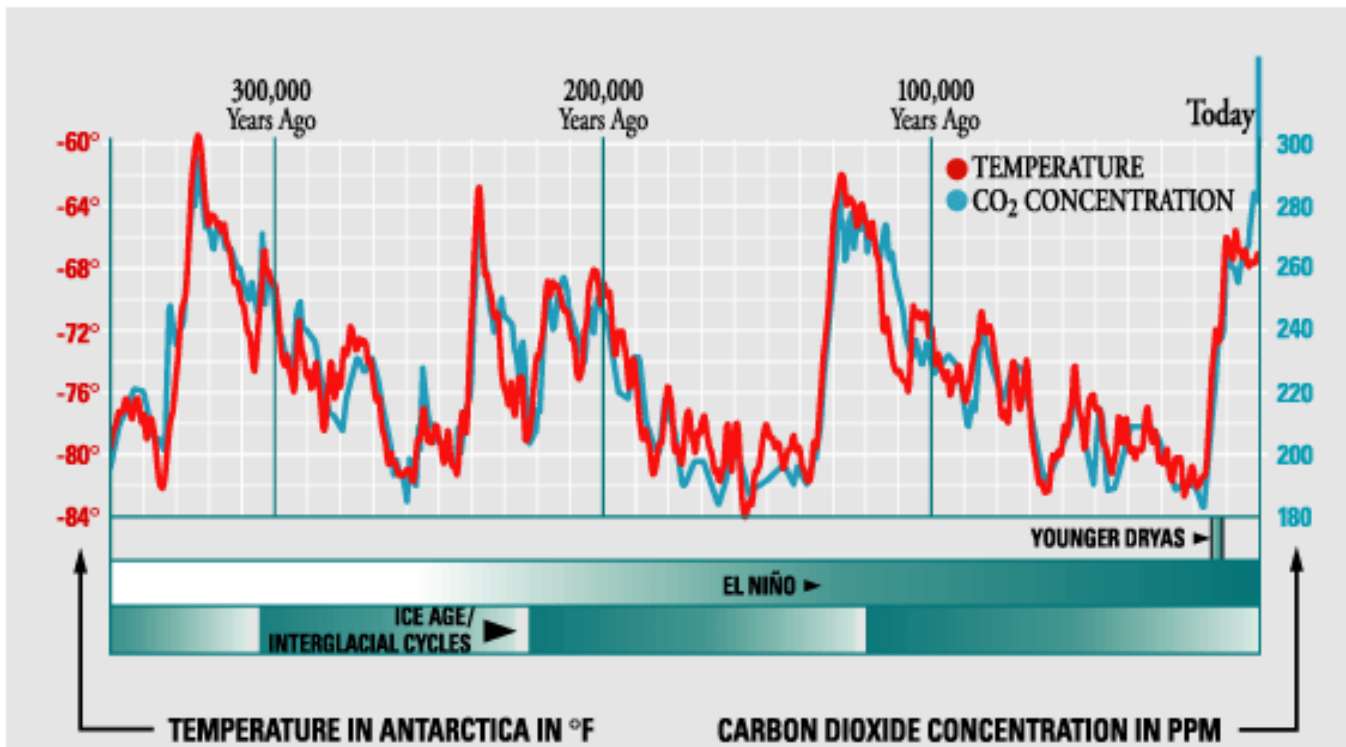
1. What's at Stake
2. Chris Dodd (Connecticut)
3. The Obama Seat (Illinois)
4. Harry Reid (Nevada)
5. Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania)
6. The Biden Seat (Delaware)
7. Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas)
8. The Salazar Seat (Colorado)
9. Byron Dorgan (North Dakota)
10. The House
11. The Governors

CAGLECARTOONS.COM





This graph is based on ice cores drilled in Vostok, Antarctica. It shows temperature changes near the South Pole, which were more extreme than in the middle latitudes.

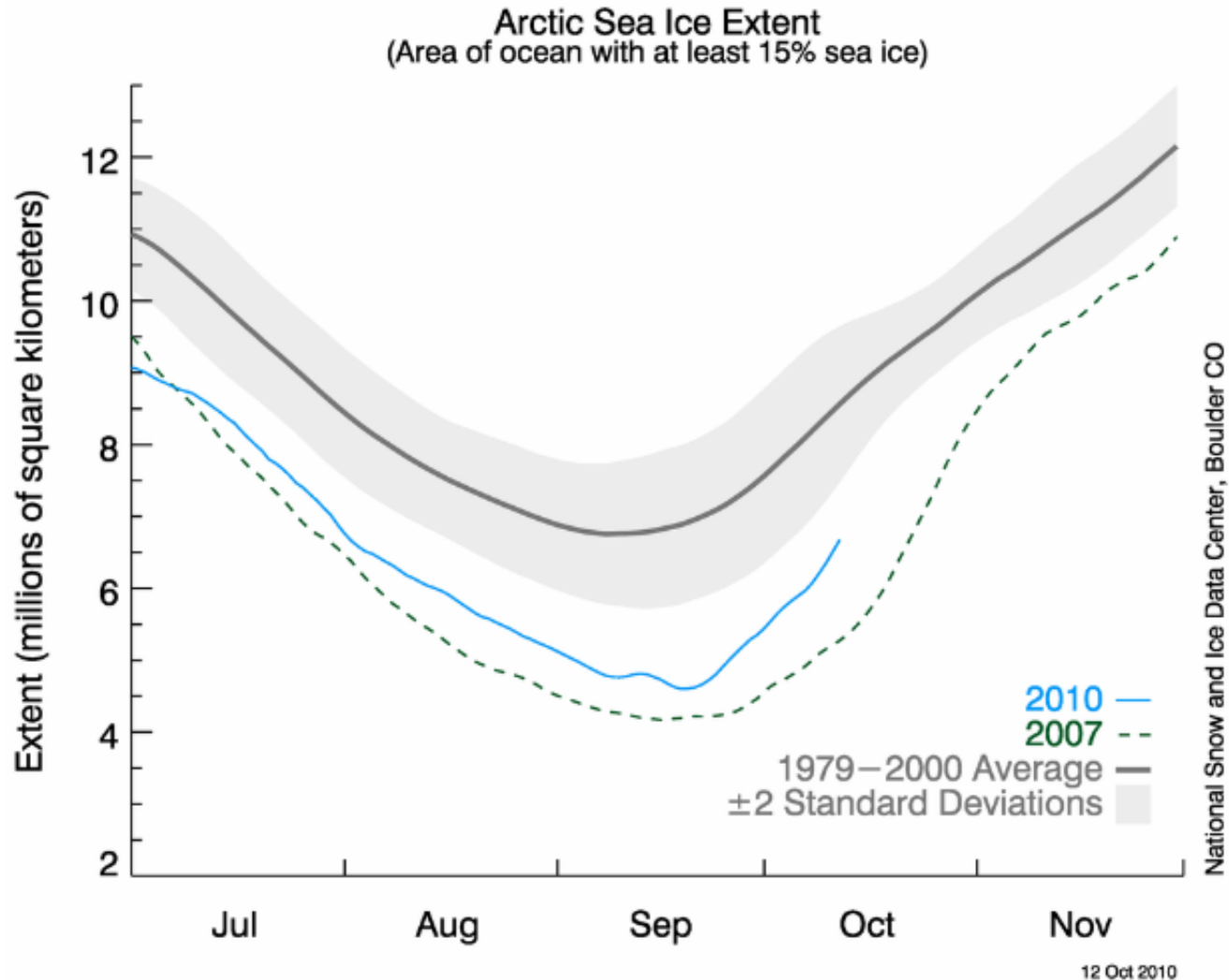


As recorded in ice cores from Vostok, Antarctica, the temperature near the South Pole has varied by more than 20 degrees Fahrenheit during the last 350,000 years. There have been peaks of warmth approximately every 100,000 years. The temperature and the carbon dioxide concentrations at the south pole parallel each other. The rise and fall of temperatures gives rise to the ice age/interglacial cycle.

<http://www.koshland-science-museum.org/exhibitgcc/historical02.jsp>

# National Snow and Ice Data Center

[http://nsidc.org/data/seaice\\_index/images/daily\\_images/N\\_stddev\\_timeseries.png](http://nsidc.org/data/seaice_index/images/daily_images/N_stddev_timeseries.png)



# Currency Rift With China Exposes Lost Clout of U.S.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Currency-Rift-With-China-nytimes182426222.html?x=0&sec=topStories&pos=main&asset=&ccode=>

**SEWELL CHAN, On Sunday October 10, 2010, 9:44 pm EDT**

**WASHINGTON — At a private dinner on Friday at the Canadian Embassy, finance officials from seven world economic powers focused on the most vexing international economic problem facing the Obama administration.**

**Over seared scallops and beef tenderloin, Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner urged his counterparts from Europe, Canada and Japan to help persuade China to let its currency, the renminbi, rise in value — a crucial element in redressing the trade imbalances that are threatening recovery around the world.**

**But the next afternoon, the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund ended with a tepid statement that made only fleeting and indirect references to the simmering currency tensions.**

**The divergence between the mounting anxieties over Chinese policy and the cautious official response was a striking display of the difficulty of securing international economic cooperation, two years after the financial crisis began.**

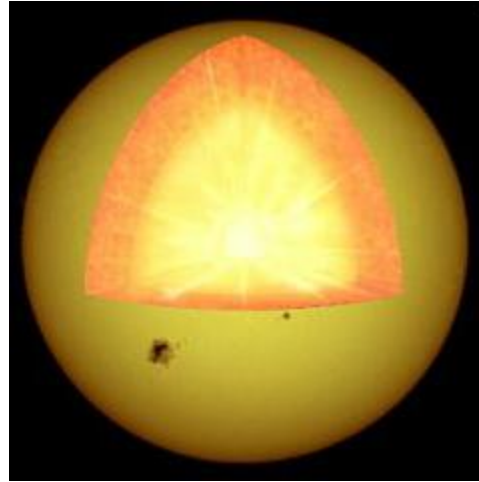
**Above all, officials say, the crisis has shifted influence from the richest powers toward Asia and Latin America, whose economies have weathered the recession much better than those of the United States, Europe and Japan.**

# The Next Solar Maximum the Smallest in 100 Years?

**05 March 2005** | The latest research results[1] by Drs. Leif Svalgaard, Yohsuke Kamide at the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University (Japan) and Edward W. Cliver at the Space Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Hanscom Air Force Base (Massachusetts) suggest that the Sun may be less active during the next solar cycle than it has been during the last 100 years.

These results are based upon one of the most successful solar cycle prediction methods in existence. The "Precursor Method" is capable of predicting the magnitude of the next solar maximum up to about 7 years before the solar maximum occurs. This is possible by examining the strength of the magnetic fields that congregate in the polar regions of the Sun a few years before the solar minimum of each solar cycle and relating the strength of those fields to the observed sunspot numbers during the next solar maximum. The polar magnetic fields provide the "seed" magnetic flux necessary to drive the sunspot activity during the next solar cycle.

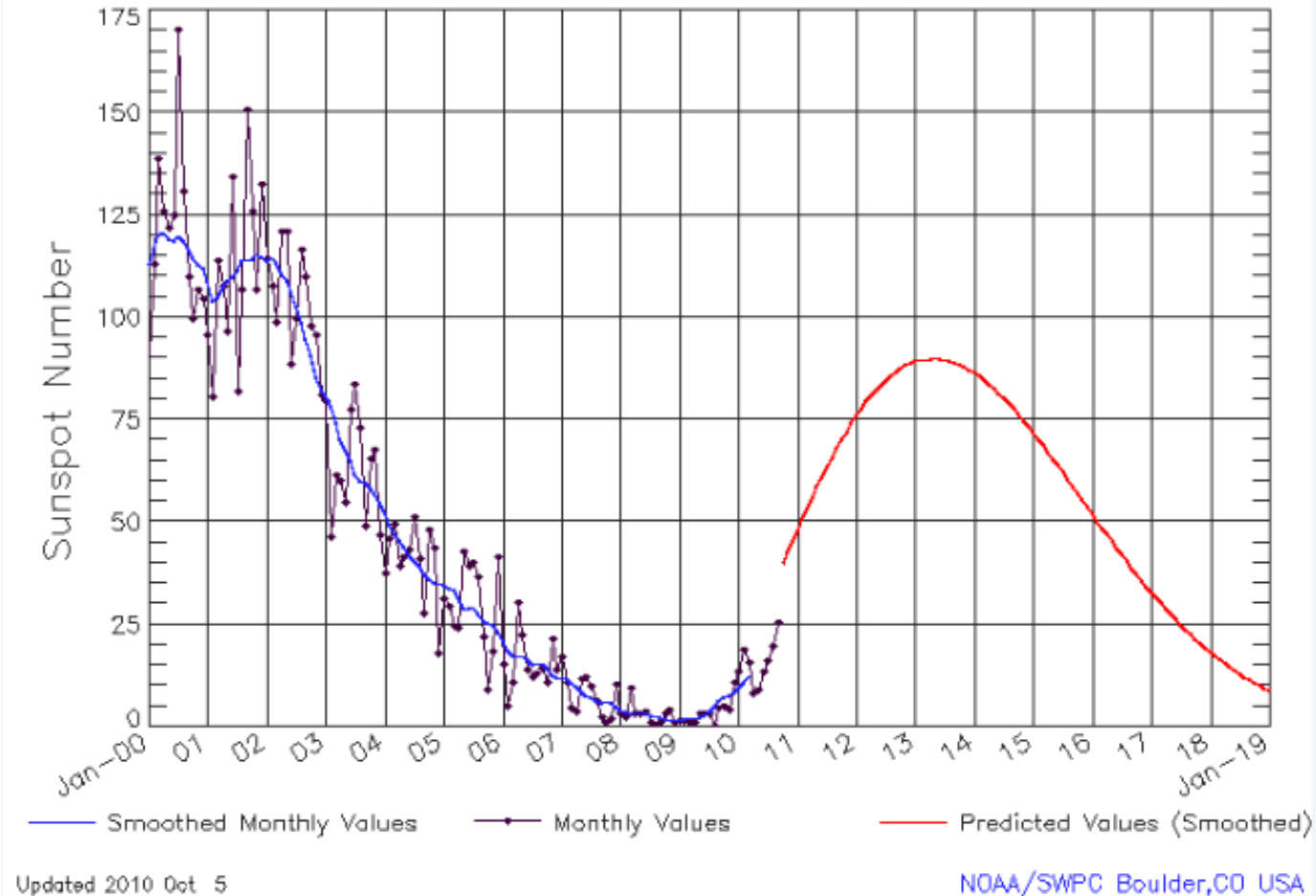
The interior of the Sun holds the key to predicting the strength of each solar cycle. Internal magnetic fields are twisted up and wrapped around the Sun due to the Sun's differential rotation. These fields are thought to be what gives rise to the formation of sunspots and related space weather activity.



The most recent findings by Dr. Svalgaard et al. are based on only the first of three years of data during the current decline of solar cycle 23. At least two more years of data (through the solar minimum) are required to provide a more accurate prediction. Nevertheless, sufficient data is now available to make an initial reasonable prediction. They predict that the next solar maximum (the time during which the proliferation of sunspots is greatest) will be associated with a sunspot number of only 75

# Sun Spots

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression  
Observed data through Sep 2010



<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>



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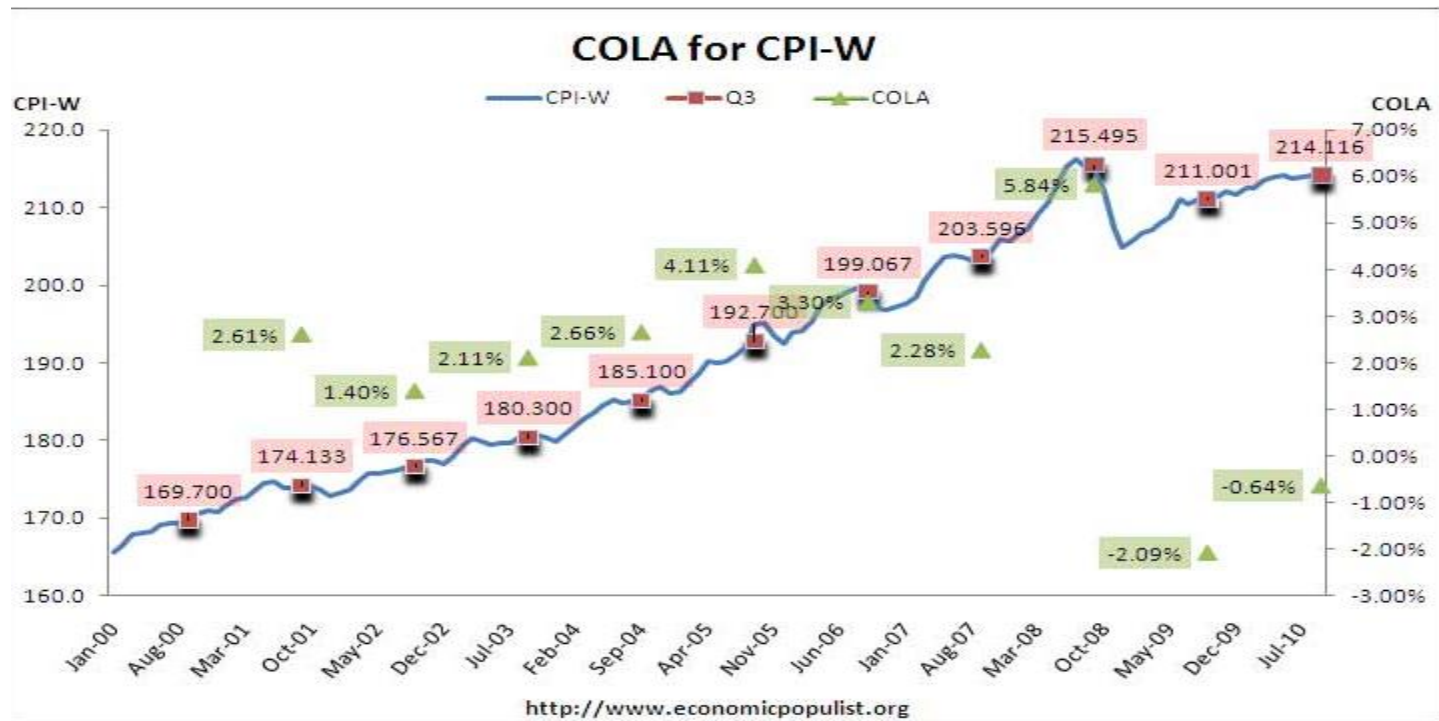
MATT DAVIES DANES.COHOODBLOGS.COM  
© 2009 THE WAR IN IRAQ BLOGS  
8/24





# CPI for August 2010

[Robert Oak](#) on Fri, 09/17/2010 - 11:23



If COLA was adjusted by the 2009 Q3 average, 211.001, this would give a COLA adjustment of **1.48%**.

Yet **the adjustment is against 2008, not 2009**. Calculating the COLA for that time period used by the social security administration, namely Q3 2008, gives a percentage change of **-0.64%**. Since COLA adjustments are never negative, this gives a cost of living adjustment for 2011 of **zero**.

<http://www.economicpopulist.org/content/cpi-september-2010>

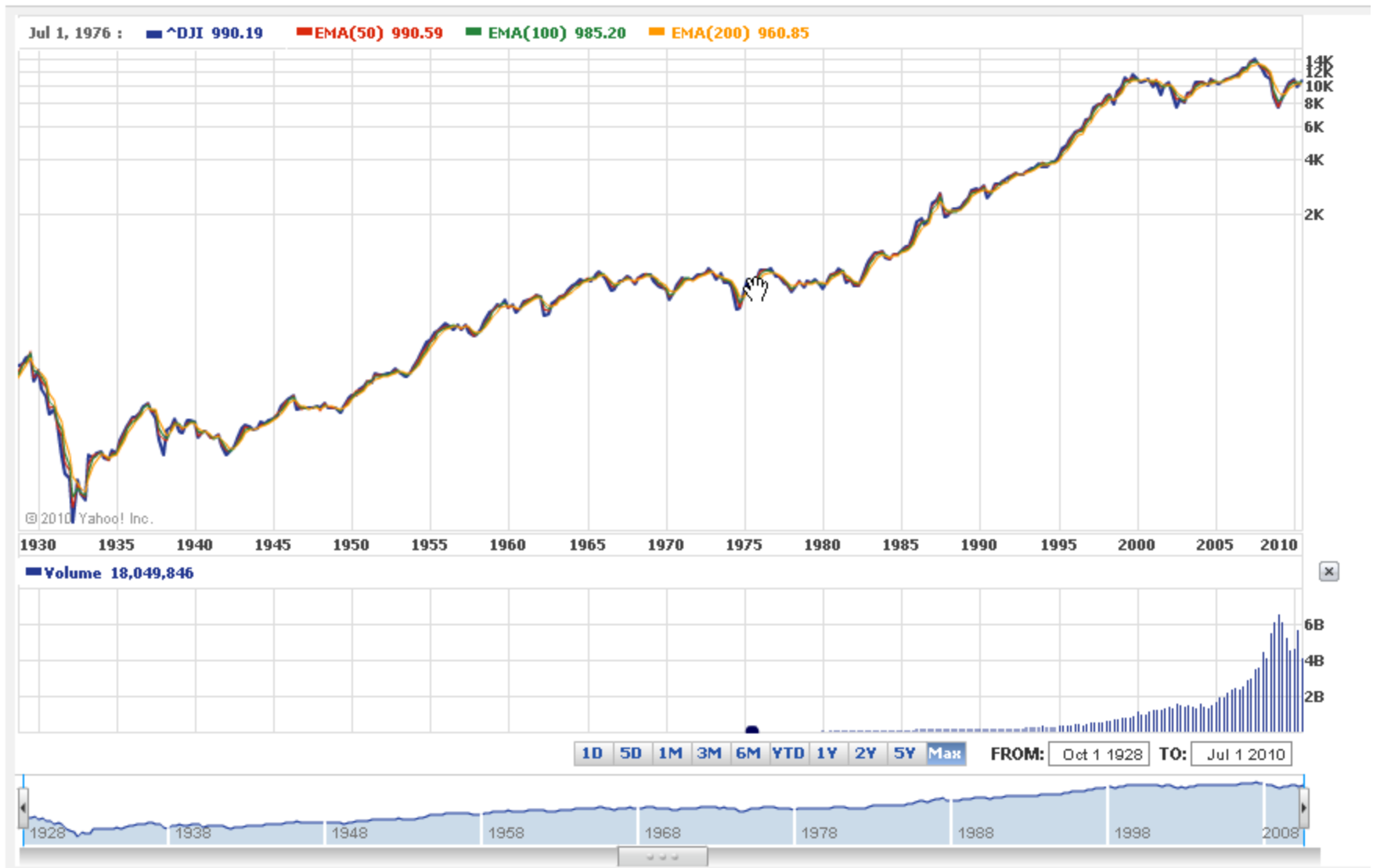
# S&P 500 – 2 Years



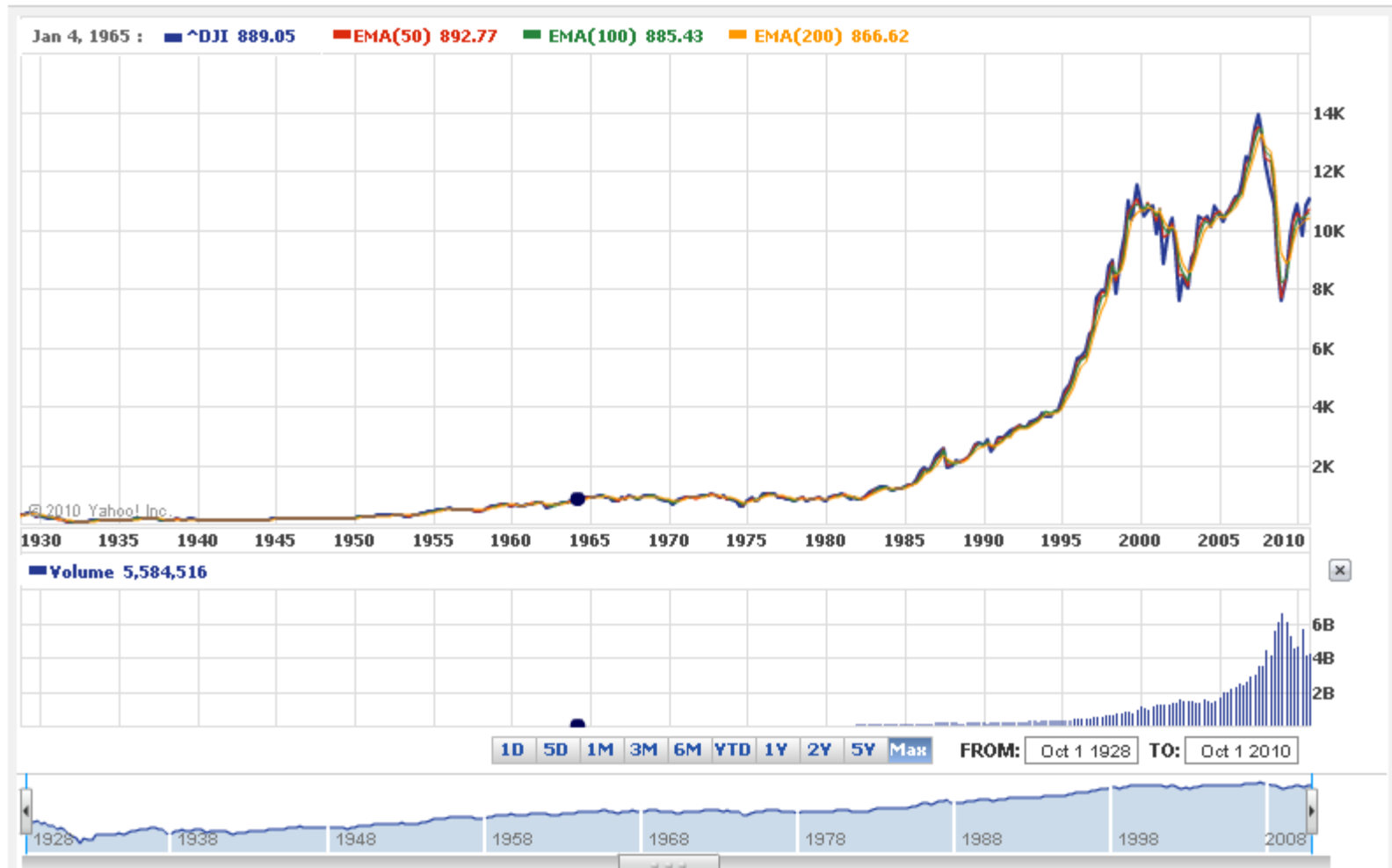
# 27 Years after Black Friday

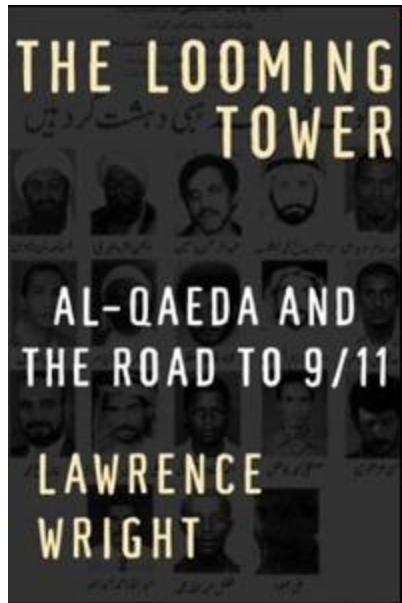


# Dow since 1928



# The Dow from 1928 to Now





**It's Worth watching ...**

# **My Trip to Al Qaida**

## **Lawrence Wright**

### **HBO Documentary**

**“Moreover, it also overextends American forces. It makes them weak and ineffective elsewhere. So it's a double victory for them. The tasks that they would like to do, which are destroying of Western economies and overextending American forces and Israeli forces as well, would be easily accomplished by these proxies. “**

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5770651&ps=rs>

# Texas on the Brink

**Eliot Shapleigh**, a State Senator from El Paso, compiled a report each legislative session called [Texas on the Brink](#). Shapleigh's little book of horrors comes fully footnoted to avoid being attacked by partisans. His staff gathered data from the Census Bureau and TX govt agencies. examples about Texas:

2. 1st in the percentage of people over 25 without a high school diploma
3. 41st in high school graduation rate
4. 1st in percentage of uninsured children
6. 1st in percentage of population uninsured
7. 1st in percentage of non-elderly uninsured
8. 3rd in percentage of people living below the poverty level
9. 49th in average Women Infant and Children benefit payments
10. 1st in teenage birth rate

[http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting\\_document/file/255/Texas\\_on\\_the\\_Brink\\_2009\\_website\\_final.pdf](http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting_document/file/255/Texas_on_the_Brink_2009_website_final.pdf)

**Third Saturday Seminar 20010-2011**

**Humanity at a Crossroads**

**Session 02**

**16 Oct 2010**

**The Return of the Elders, Unleash Your Wisdom**

**Curt Gibby,**

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



■ **Scam Alert**  
Taking Aim at  
Old Soldiers PAGE 26

■ **Airline Fees**  
Save Money—Ship  
Your Luggage PAGE 29

■ **The Law**  
Debt Collectors Out  
Of Control PAGE 34

# AARP Bulletin

YOUR HEALTH • YOUR MONEY • YOUR WORLD

OCTOBER 2010 Vol. 51 No. 8 aarp.org/bulletin



**THE REAL POWER**

**80 percent** of 50+ Americans plan to vote. How you cast your ballot will determine

- Who runs Congress
- What happens to your taxes
- The fate of Social Security PAGE 18

**+ Could the Health Care Law Unravel?** PAGE 14

**12** Top Vitamins And Minerals PAGE 10

■ **Working**  
Go to Church, Get a Job PAGE 22

■ **Renewal**  
Make-Believe Helps You Heal PAGE 42

■ **Outrage**  
Where Did You Put My Uncle? PAGE 8

**10** TV Moments That Changed America PAGE 43



**AARP Bulletin** What's Wrong With Political Lies? Plenty. PAGE 38

# Elder vs Elderly

**eld·er**<sup>1</sup> (ul“d...r) *adj.* **1.** Greater than another in age or seniority. **2.** Superior to another or others, as in rank. **--eld·er** *n.* **1.** An older person. **2.** An older, influential member of a family, tribe, or community. **3.** One of the governing officers of a church, often having pastoral or teaching functions. **4.** *Mormon Church.* A member of the higher order of priesthood. [Middle English *eldre*, from Old English *eldra*. See **al**-<sup>2</sup> below.] **--el“der·ship”** *n.*

**eld·er·ly** (ul“d...r-l¶) *adj.* **1.** Being past middle age and approaching old age; rather old. **2.** Of, relating to, or characteristic of older persons or life in later years. **--eld·er·ly** *n.* **1., pl.** **eld·er·lies.** An elderly person. **2., pl.** **elderly.** (used with a pl. verb). Older people considered as a group. Often used with *the*: *special recreational programs for the elderly.* **--el“der·li·ness** *n.*

# Why

Since WWII we have seen our country turn great and respected by the world.

Over the last 20 – 30 years we have seen our country be misled and our culture weakened .

Our leaders political, business, academic have made decisions that involved us in military conflicts and unwise economic adventures which have weakened us while we the people have gone about our business thinking that our leaders had some modicum of judgment, knowledge, intelligence, ability, integrity.

What we see today is a country near exhaustion economically and spiritually. We are now being openly challenged by countries and factions who just a few years ago would not have dared. In some openly boast that they will use our protected liberties to destroy what we have built and replace it with oppressive tyrannies.

We can no longer ignore, that those who are sworn to protect us are not only not up to the job but that subvert responsibility and authority into personal power and advantage at our expense. We should not be too surprised. We have been puzzled by the machinations of our government thinking they could perform magic if we only trusted them while we pursued our version of the good life.

We have become so enamored of our technically advanced consumer based society, two income families, and modern ideas of education and values that we thought there were plenty of safeguards.

Korea, Vietnam and now two wars followed by the “The Great Recession, with it’s “socialization” of corporate losses brought about by an incredibly dishonest housing finance industry which had turned “Neighborhood Reinvestment” into a river of cash to those who were running the scam. While putting millions out of work and lowering the wages of those who still have jobs.

If there were wise and dissenting they couldn’t be heard above the din. And, there were not enough of them.

By the time a person acquires the wisdom that might waken the conscience and common sense of the population he was either retired and headed for the good life for his golden years, or as is often the case today, he is busy trying to hold body and soul together.

Somehow, during our lifetime, we have managed to marginalize those of us with the seniority to not only have knowledge and experience but wisdom as well. More importantly he knew what he doesn't know, and at a personal level he has developed developed the sixth sense to know when things are too good to be true, and when a public policy isn't a policy at all but political scraps being thrown from the tables of the anointed to keep us puppies quiet.

Like the unionized workers in the automobile industry found out that hay ride doesn't last forever, it is time for the Edlers to return to an active role in society and the economy and the culture.

Not to take charge, but to mentor those who are in charge.

Not to have all the answers but to see the unforeseen consequences and communicate them to those in charge in a manner they can accept and understand, because it is offered with the authority (not the power) of the Elder

To demonstrate that life doesn't need to be a zero sum game where you take advantage to those who trust you, but how everyone can add value to a community and it's future.

Where laws and ethics will be respected, promises kept and trust can eventually be restored. Where adults naturally gravitate towards becoming responsible adults and not overgrown children.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Hutchinson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Hutchinson)

...you have no power over my body, neither can you do me any harme, for I am in the hands of the eternall Jehovah my Saviour, I am at his appointment, the bounds of my habitation are cast in heaven, no further doe I esteeme of any mortal man than creatures in his hand, I feare none but the great Jehovah, which hath foretold me of these things, and I doe verily beleieve that he will deliver me out of our hands, therefore take heed how you proceed against me; for I know that for this you goe about to doe to me, God will ruine you and your posterity, and this whole state.

– *Anne Hutchinson at trial*

*Adams, Charles Francis, ed (1894). Antinomianism in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, 1636-1638. The Prince Society.p. 175.*



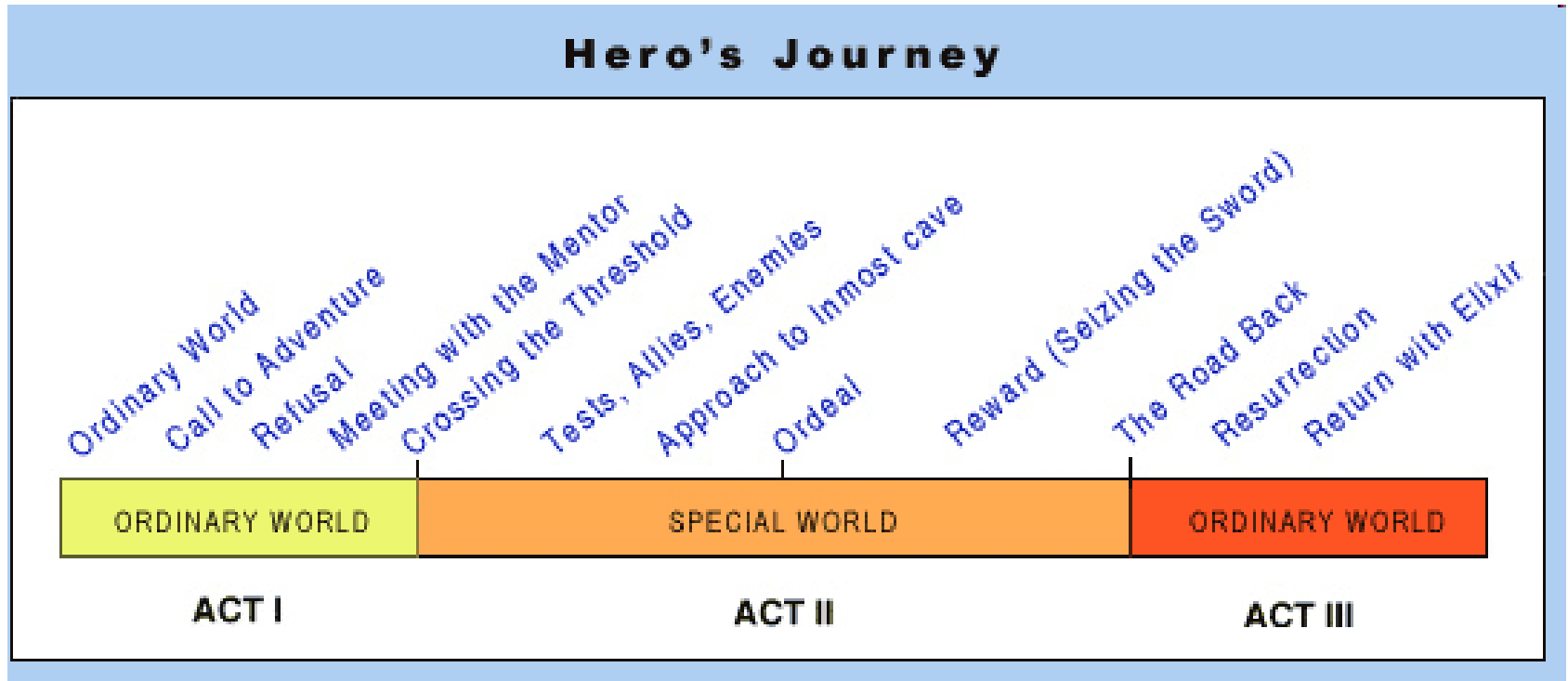
# Accepting the challenge

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

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

## The 12 Stages of The Hero's Journey

A popular form of structure derived from Joseph Campbell's Monomyth from his book *The Hero With A Thousand Faces* and adapted by Christopher Vogler is the *Twelve Stage Hero's Journey*. This is essentially a more detailed **Character Arc** for your story's hero which is overlaid onto the more traditional three-act structure that many successful Hollywood movies such as *Star Wars* and *The Wizard of Oz* when analyzed appear to follow.



# What does Authority mean?

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

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

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

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

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

So your authority depends on those who look at you.

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

And you cannot do anything about it.

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

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

# What makes you an Authority?

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

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

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

## What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

## Authority and Inner Power:

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

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

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

# Authority and Inner Power:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's always the others' choice.

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

# Authority and Knowledge:

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

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

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

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

## Authority and Knowledge:

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

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

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

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

**Power inspires fear.**

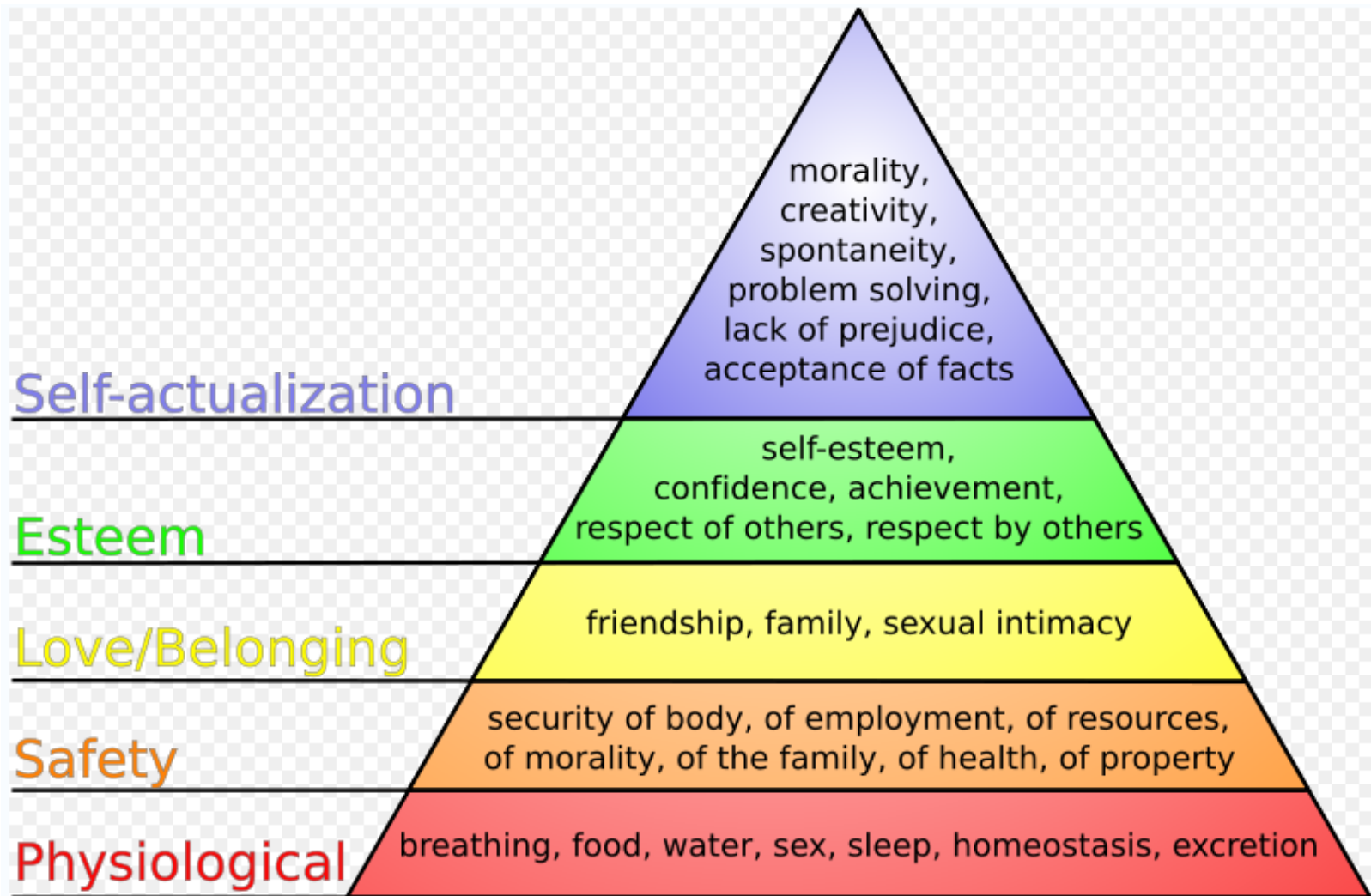
**Authority inspires respect.**

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

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

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

# Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



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



# 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?**

***Don't panic!***

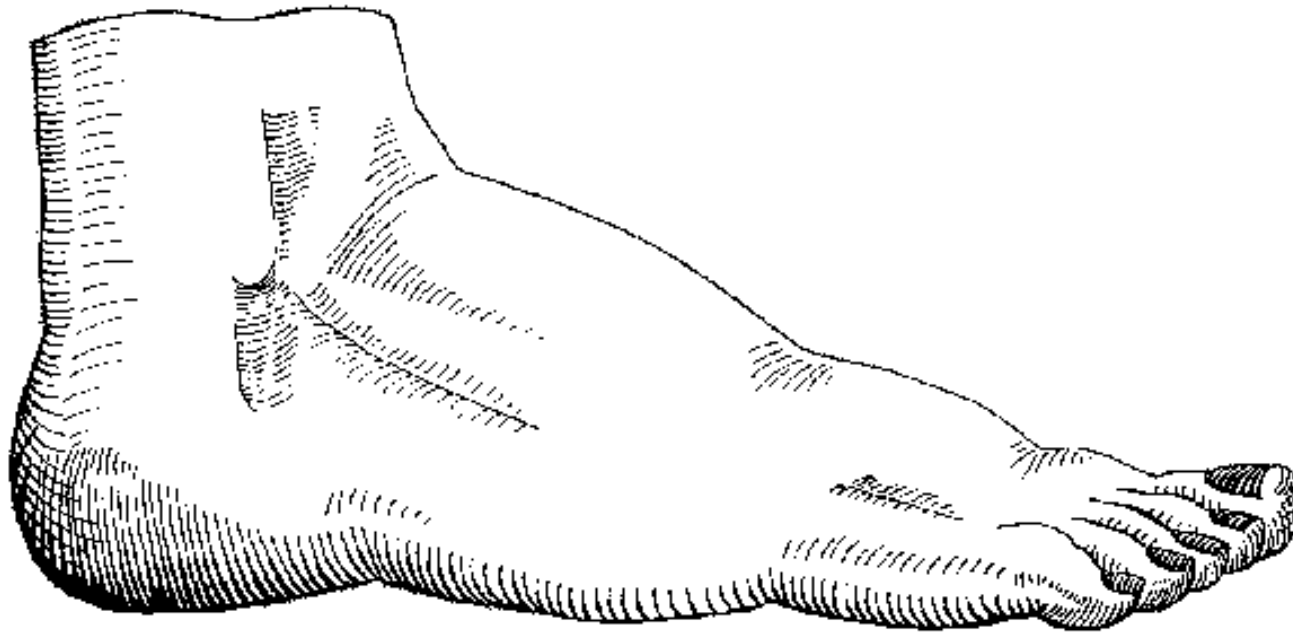
***Don't be Panicked!***

**Welcome back to interesting  
times !**



**See You 20 November 2010**

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.

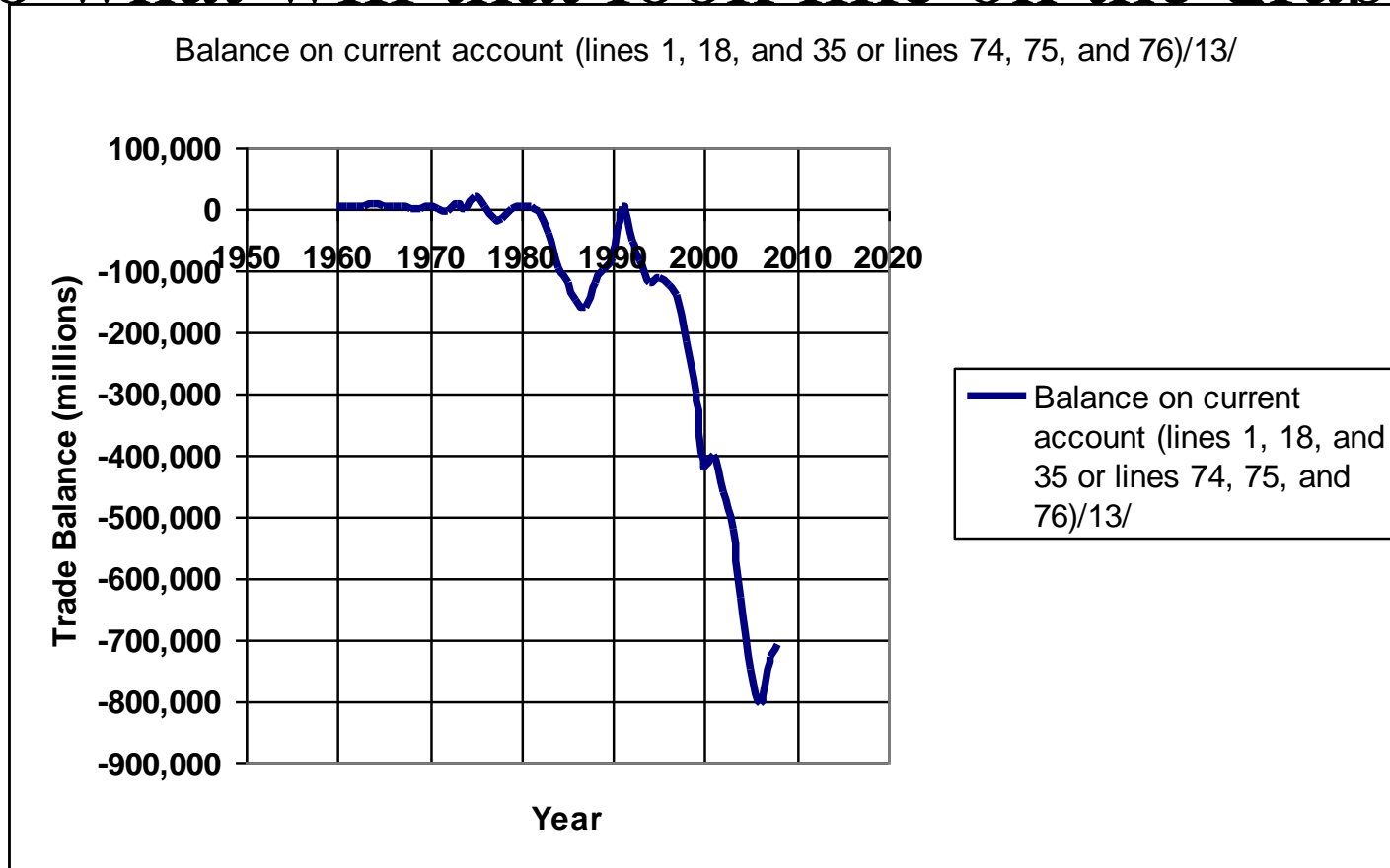
# Enrichment Material

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

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



# So what will that look like on the graph?



# **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.**

**Today's stock market bears about as much resemblance to the real economy as a game of poker or Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit.**

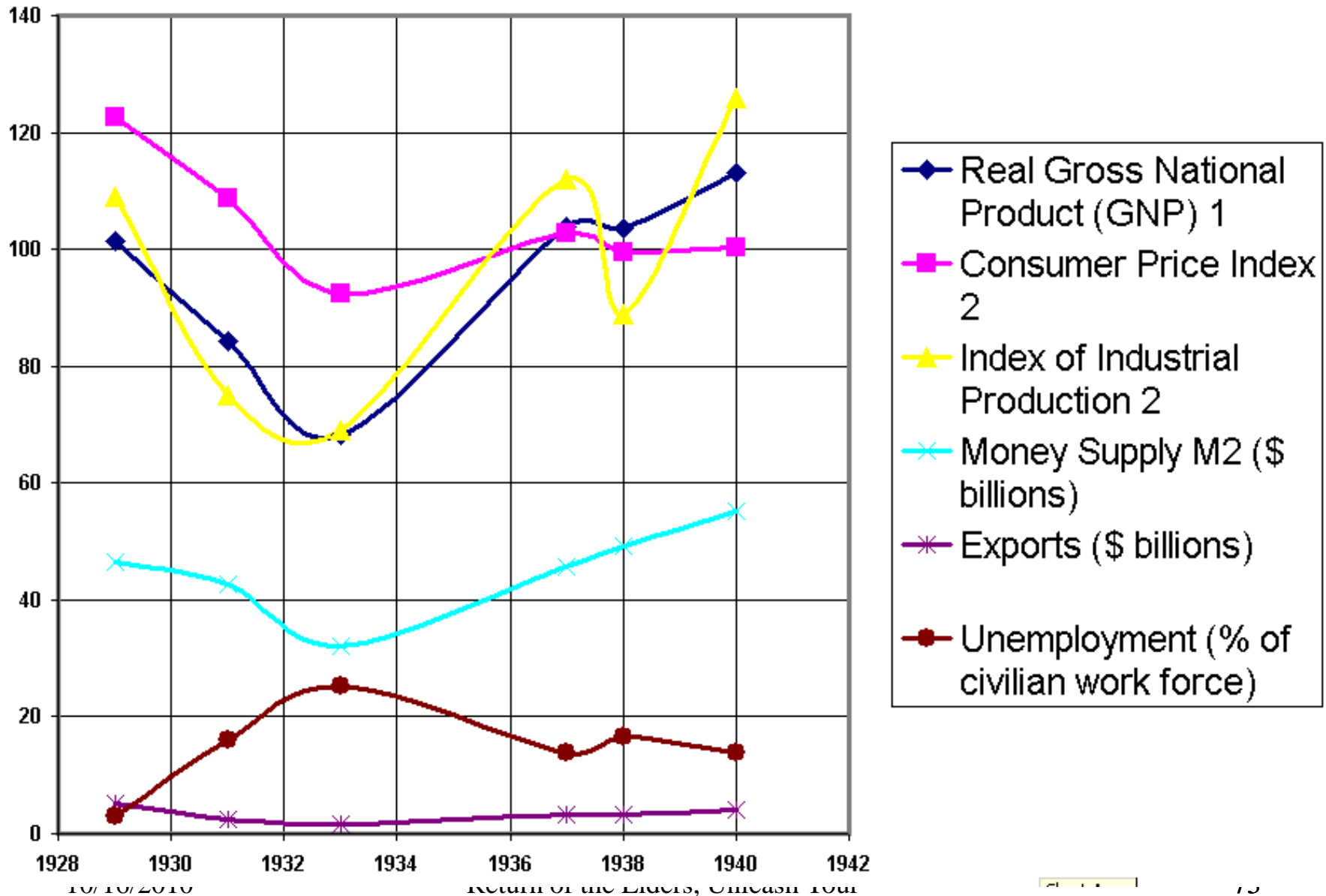
**Instead of the market indexes, keep tracking employment, wages, and the gross domestic product (GDP). When they return, we will have recovered. Not Before**

**The stock market may be a game but it is being played with dollars. The rise in stock prices without an increase in productivity or dividends is not an indication of growth but of inflation and instability!**

**This is the result of an oversupply of money that has been pumped into the pockets of market players and not into the economy.**



# The Years of the Great Depression



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

**Jill Carroll**

# Getting Warmer?



10/16/2010

Return of the Elders, Unleash Your  
Wisdom

75

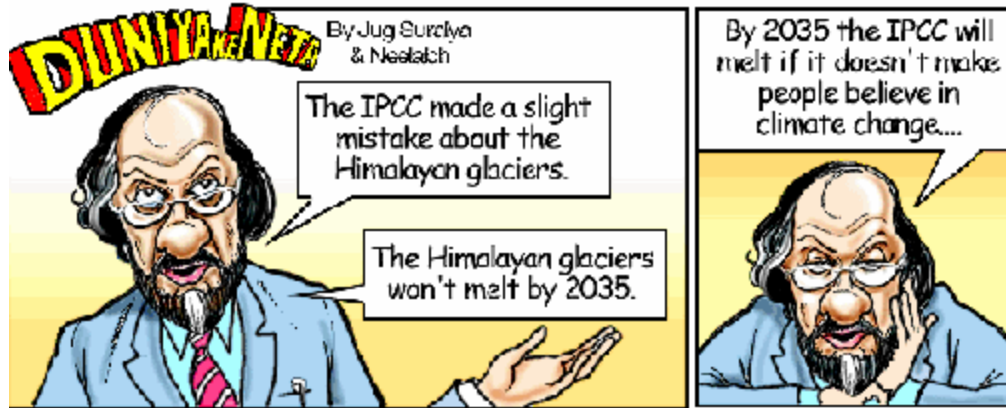
We have it in our power...

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

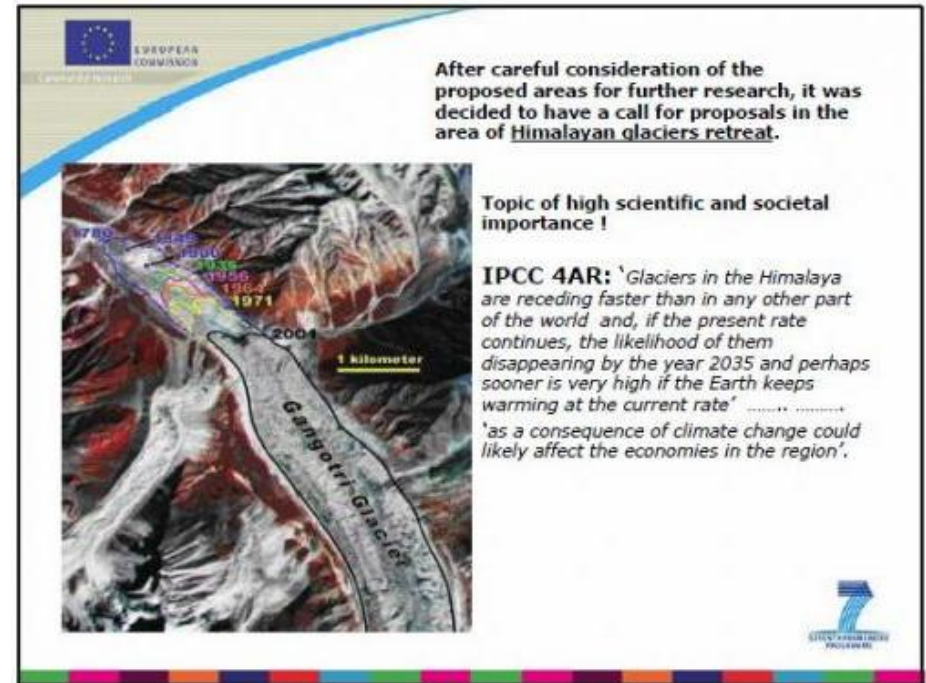
**Ronald Reagan quoting Thomas Paine**

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

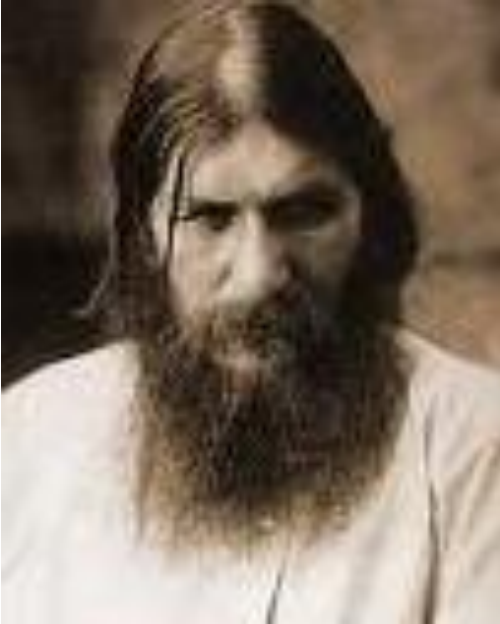
# Inconvenient Opinions



<http://epaper.timesofindia.com>



# Rasputin or Pachauri



Grigory Rasputin, the "devil monk", is the most mysterious figure in the Romanov tragedy. Born a poor Siberian peasant, Rasputin became Alexandra's closest advisor due to his ability to alieve her son's sufferings. A powerful and a alcoholic, Rasputin attended orgies and church services with equal devotion. The police and family friends warned the royal couple about Rasputin. The Tsar did nothing. Alexandra dismissed the tales and their tellers as lies and liars. Because Alexis' illness was secret, St. Petersburg assumed Rasputin was or might be her lover. Of course whoever thought this must have been crazy, cause with a hideous monk like him, and a beautiful tsarista like Alexandra it MUST be a rumor!! The rumor was false (of course!). Rasputin influenced the Tsar's political decisions, and his meddling and advice crippled the Imperial government. With the Tsar's power in danger, the aristocracy (includes wealthy Russian politicians) acted. On December 30, 1916, the night before New Years Eve, Prince Yussoufov and his well-born friends invited Rasputin to a drinking party where they poisoned, then shot and finally drowned the monk. Rasputin's corpse was later recovered on the bank of the icy river. The damage Rasputin inflicted helped topple the Romanov dynasty two months later -- an event the monk foresaw and predicted in a letter addressed to the family and delivered to them after his death.

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

*Grace Lee Boggs*

# Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

## From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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