

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 04
19 February 2011

The Cosmic War Revisited
Presentation
Curt Gibby

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

The Cosmic War – Revisited

It is no secret to those who have bothered to understand that the jihadi have no plan for success, only a desire for retribution. To fight an apocalyptic war, to become martyrs in the cause.

We have one war in Afghanistan but each side has a different objectives. We need need to understand. They don't need to defeat us, their goal is for us to weaken ourselves.

Christiane Amanpour



<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/374399/february-15-2011/egyptian-democracy---christiane-amanpour>

2/19/2011

The Cosmic War Revisited -
Presentation

3

Roots

The world is rightly amazed at the recent events in North Africa and then Egypt where demonstrators apparently convinced the dictator (our ally), Mubarak to step down and turn the reins over to the Army, with very little violence. Al Qaida has some its roots in Egypt. The event of the assassination of Anwar Sadat, which led to Mubarak taking power, is part of the road to al Qaida and the Cosmic War.

Cosmic War?

In this cosmic war, somehow, those we would call fundamentalists, extremists, jihadists somehow reason that they can violate all the teachings of their faith, in order to protect their faith, including suicide and killing innocents.

Somehow this dovetails into a greater conflict of good versus evil that continues in the cosmos

Martyrs

The earliest martyr I can think of is Sampson, who prayed for strength to bring down the Canaanite temple on his tormentors and himself. But there has been no shortage of others down through history. Many, like the young woman recently in Egypt, and a Buddhist Priest in Vietnam, and a man outside the Pentagon, did this as a last desperate cry to the conscience of others.

Al Qaeda fuels and exploits this anger and desperation of its members to become martyrs to strike out at those who in their understanding oppress and humiliate them and their brothers. In doing this, it is all right to murder the innocent and even the faithful ...

Dominoe Theory?

Well, it appears that this chain of events is rocking the North Africa and the Middle East. If this democracy thing can find a way to actually happen, this could make al Qaida irrelevant (redundant?), and confuse everybody else's relationships. For instance, Israel's. As the people in each country break loose of their despotic governments, perhaps, much in the same way as the signers of our Declaration of Independence and Our Constitution and it's Bill of Rights, purposely leaving behind the feudal baggage of the "Old Country".

Enter Advanced Technology

Who could know the part that digital technology and social networking could and did play in bringing things to a boil, even after the internet was shut down. It started a chain reaction, that seems to be growing, even though the technology was shut off.

I had no idea that Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Iran and Bahrain, etc. would be experiencing a democratic awakening when, months ago I felt it would be worthwhile to revisit "The Cosmic War" that we featured in May 2009 Session

<http://northstarinst.org/TSS/08-09/S09/TSS.08-09.Session.09.Meeting.Notice.html>

Third Saturday Seminar 2008-2009

"War Without End"

The Cosmic Divide

Curt Gibby, Director

9th Session

Saturday, 16 May 2009

9:30 am -12:00 noon

Room B-102, Lone Star College - Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive - Conroe, TX - 77384 - 936.273.7000

A War Against _____?

There just seems to be no end to the war in Afghanistan. *Is there anything we can do about it?* Back in May 09 among other things we learned from Reza Aslan's, *How to Win a Cosmic War*, that Al Qaida and its franchisees have no plan to win, in the normal sense, other than to humiliate America, and cause us to weaken ourselves in endless warfare in return for the humiliation of having Crusader troops on Arab ground (Initially, to chase Iraq out of Kuwait)

Map of Islamic world today



eaglesofpakistan.blogspot.com

A Jihadist Narrative

By our deeds and blunders we have given birth to such a hell that whoever is living inside it, he's burning in its dazzling heat and it's ill-smelling smoke is choking his breath. And those who leave from here, no matter how much pain they are put into then, no matter how homeless they feel, no matter how much discrimination they have to undergo by the local citizens of that foreign territory, no matter how much they fear the misleading of their children, yet they feel more at comfort there than in this hell. **They cry missing their homeland yet they fear while coming back home. ...**

<http://eaglesofpakistan.blogspot.com/2011/01/eopwest-where-technology-darkness.html>

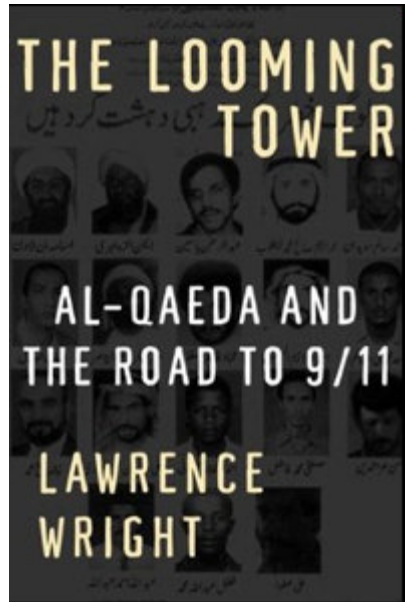
A Brighter Future

Even though the potential continual spread of democracy and civil rights may make the whole world a nicer place, nothing at this point is certain. There is a lot to do. A lot of groups who claim to have similar interests, will find they all have different opinions of how to achieve them. Will the need to negotiate compromise cool the flame of freedom? We all need to care, and, if it's not al Qaida, there will be similar forces who will try disrupt the peace that needs to grow. (For instance arms merchants.)

My Trip to Al Qaida

Then I saw the HBO video, Lawrence Wright's, *My Trip to al Qaida*. It gave me much more context of what is going on and importantly through the eyes and experience of an American, that to me brings out many things that bridge the two worlds.

In 2006 Wright wrote, *The Looming Tower, al Qaida and the road to 9-11*. The video relates the experiences that brought him to write the book.



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>

2/19/2011

The Cosmic War Revisited -
Presentation

15

The Seige

Wright also co-wrote the screenplay for the film *[The Siege](#)* (1998), which tells the story of a [terrorist](#) attack in [New York City](#) that leads to curtailed [civil liberties](#) and rounding up of Arab-Americans.^[3] (Wikipedia)

"What the movie is most deeply about — it's about our own latent possibilities of repression, stereotyping and prejudice," says Zwick. "To see Americans rounded up in the streets, to see Americans put into stadiums, to see people held without [habeas corpus](#) — to have their rights violated in such a way is such a chilling and just terrifying thing to see — that is what one takes away, I believe, from this film."^[7](Wikipedia)

Run Excerpt Video “My Trip” 20 ~minutes

From the video ...

At the heart of Al Qaida there is rage. There is a longing for revenge. There is a desire to humiliate the West and reverse the cycle of history. But, there is no plan for success. There is only destruction. Perhaps al Qaida can best be understood as an engine that runs on the despair of the Muslim World, especially its their young men whose lives are so futile and unexpressed. We think of al Qaida as a terror organization, but from their point of view it is really a suicide machine . "We love death", the call that summoned the Arabs to Afghanistan in the first place.

Video continued

Al Qaida offers them a chance to make history all they have to do is die and they did die in and die they they did in Tunisia, Bali, Mombasa, Read, Casablanca, Jakarta, Istanbul, Madrid, London, Amman, Algiers, Ankara, Glasgow, Karachi, Islamabad, and Sanaa. Most of these attacks were in Muslim countries. Indeed, the number of Muslims who have died at the hands of Al Qaida in Iraq alone far exceeds the number of Americans who died on 9-11.

Islam, A Short History

©Karen Armstrong (2000, 2001), ISBN 9781842125830

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 12/3/2001

I also picked up a copy of Karen Armstrong's, *Islam, A Short History*, and learned that Muhammad's message was simple and ethical: (From Chapter 1, "Beginnings", p4)

He taught the Arabs no new doctrines about God: most of the Quraysh were already convinced that Allah had created the world and would judge humanity in the Last Days, as Jews and Christians believed. Muhammad did not think that he was founding a new religion, but that he was merely bringing the old faith in the One God to the Arabs, who had never had a prophet before. It was wrong, he insisted, to build a private fortune, but good to share wealth and create a society where the weak and vulnerable were treated with respect. If the Quraysh did not mend their ways, their society would collapse (as had other unjust societies in the past) because they were violating the fundamental laws of existence.

Recitations

This was the core teaching of the new scripture, called the quran (recitation), because believers, most of whom, including Muhammad himself, were illiterate, imbibed its teachings by listening to public readings of its chapters (surahs). The Quran was revealed to Muhammad, verse by verse, surah by surah during the next twenty-one years, often in response to a crisis or a question that had arisen in the little community of the faithful.

...

Some were concerned about the fundamental injustice of their society. All pre-modern civilizations were based economically upon a surplus of agricultural produce; they therefore depended upon the labour of peasants who could not enjoy their high culture, which was only for an elite.

Market Economy and Monotheism

To counter this, the new faiths stressed the importance of compassion. Arabia had remained outside the civilized world. Its intractable climate meant that the Arabs lived on the brink of starvation; there seemed no way that they could acquire an agrarian surplus that would put them on a footing with Sassanid Persia or Byzantium. But when the Quraysh began to develop a market economy their perspective began to change. Many were still happy with the old paganism, but there was a growing tendency to worship only one God; and there was, as we have seen, a creeping unease about the inequity of the new civilization that was developing in Mecca. The Arabs were now ready for an Axial Age faith of their own.

déjà vu all over again

Our interest in Afghanistan is not as recent as many think, and it wasn't just *Charlie Wilson's War* either.

I also stumbled on this (in several places):

Zbigniew Brzezinski

Zbigniew Brzezinski



10th United States National Security
Advisor

10th United States National Security Advisor

In office

January 20, 1977 – January 20, 1981

President	Jimmy Carter
Deputy	David L. Aaron
Preceded by	Brent Scowcroft
Succeeded by	Richard V. Allen

Born March 28, 1928 (age 82)
Warsaw, Poland

Political party Democratic

Alma mater McGill University
Harvard University

Profession politician, critic

US policy to support radical Islamists to undermine Russia

<http://www.infowars.com/al-qaeda-grand-wizard-brzezinski-advises-obama-on-foreign-policy/>

From the History Commons:

In an interview, Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Adviser, admits that it was US policy to support radical Islamists to undermine Russia. He admits that US covert action drew Russia into starting the Afghan war in 1979. Asked if he has regrets about this, he responds,

Regret What?

“Regret what? That secret operation was an excellent idea. It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap and you want me to regret it? The day that the Soviets officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter: We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam war.” Then he is asked if he regrets “having given arms and advice to future terrorists,” and he responds, “What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred-up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?”

Nonsense!

The interviewer then says, “Islamic fundamentalism represents a world menace today.” But Brzezinski responds, “Nonsense! It is said that the West had a global policy in regard to Islam. That is stupid. There isn’t a global Islam....” [Le Nouvel Observateur (Paris), 1/15/1998]

What do you think of that! Jimmy Carter actually baited the Soviet Union into invading Afghanistan which did, as *Brzezinski predicted become it's Vietnam*. Even though Ronald Reagan got the credit for bringing down the wall with a little help from "Star Wars," the anti missile defense system that never worked.

By Way of Review

There just seems to be no end to the war in Afghanistan. *Is there anything we can do about it?* Back in May 09 among other things we learned from Reza Aslan's, *How to Win a Cosmic War*, that Al Qaida and its franchisees have no plan to win, in the normal sense, other than to humiliate America, and cause us to weaken ourselves in endless warfare in return for the humiliation of having Crusader troops on Arab ground (Initially, to chase Iraq out of Kuwait)

Tunisia struggles to tame revolutionary spirit

Tue, Feb 15 2011

By Christian Lowe, Reuters

TUNIS (Reuters) - Tunisians found the experience of forcing out their president so exhilarating that they are finding it difficult to stop. A month after a tide of popular protests pushed authoritarian leader Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali from office, many people are taking the principle of people power and applying it to every corner of their life.

Students protest Teachers, Teachers complain pupils run wild

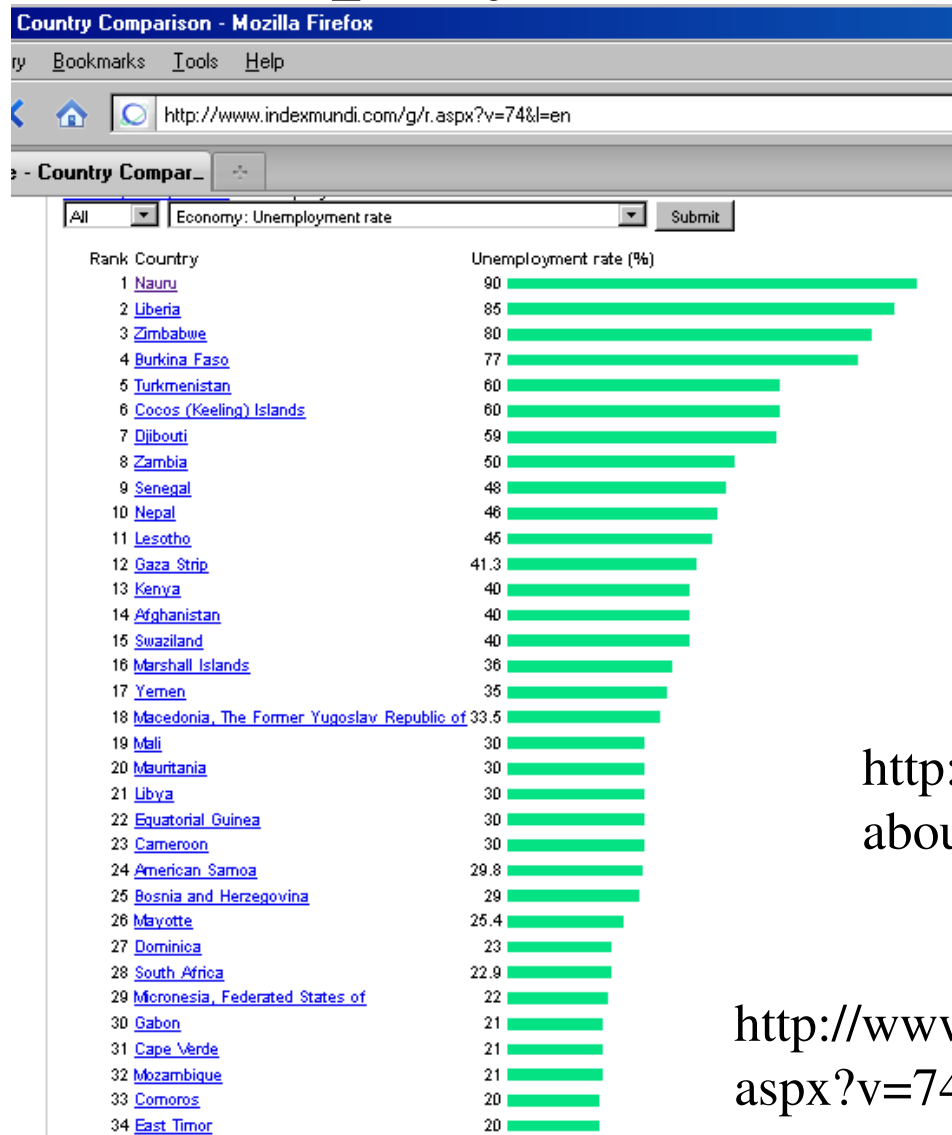
Hotel workers have refused to clean guests' rooms until they get more pay, telecoms workers threatened to strike over a plan to privatize their company, and disgruntled airport workers have halted international flights.

School pupils protested against their teachers, and then the teachers rallied outside the education ministry to complain that the pupils were being allowed to run wild.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFLDE71D13W20110215?sp=true>

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USLDE71D13W20110215>

Unemployment Rates

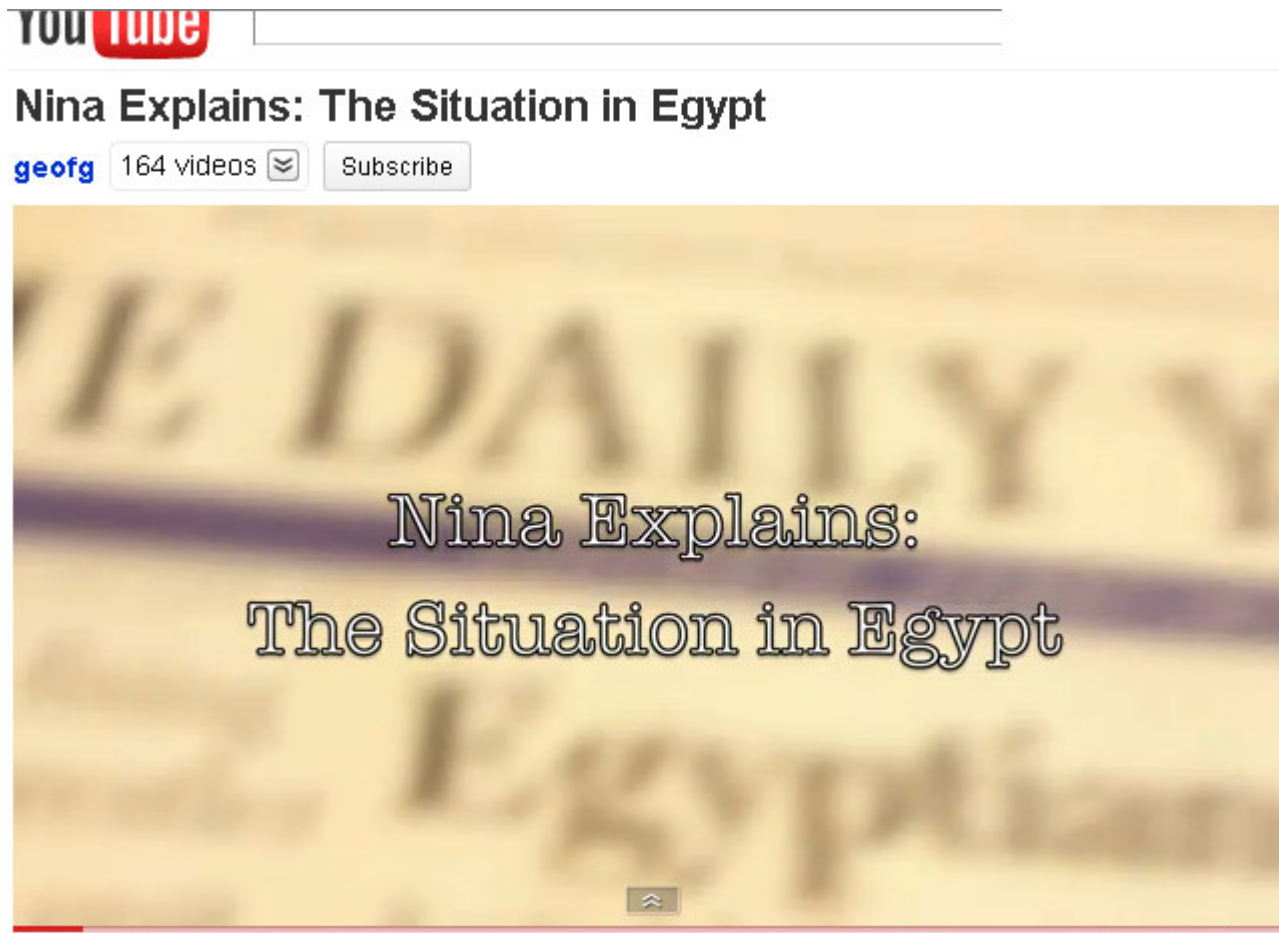


<http://www.indexmundi.com/about.html>

<http://www.indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?v=74&l=en>

Nina Explains: The Situation in Egypt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyYMVbk2zHg>



Questions?

Don't panic!

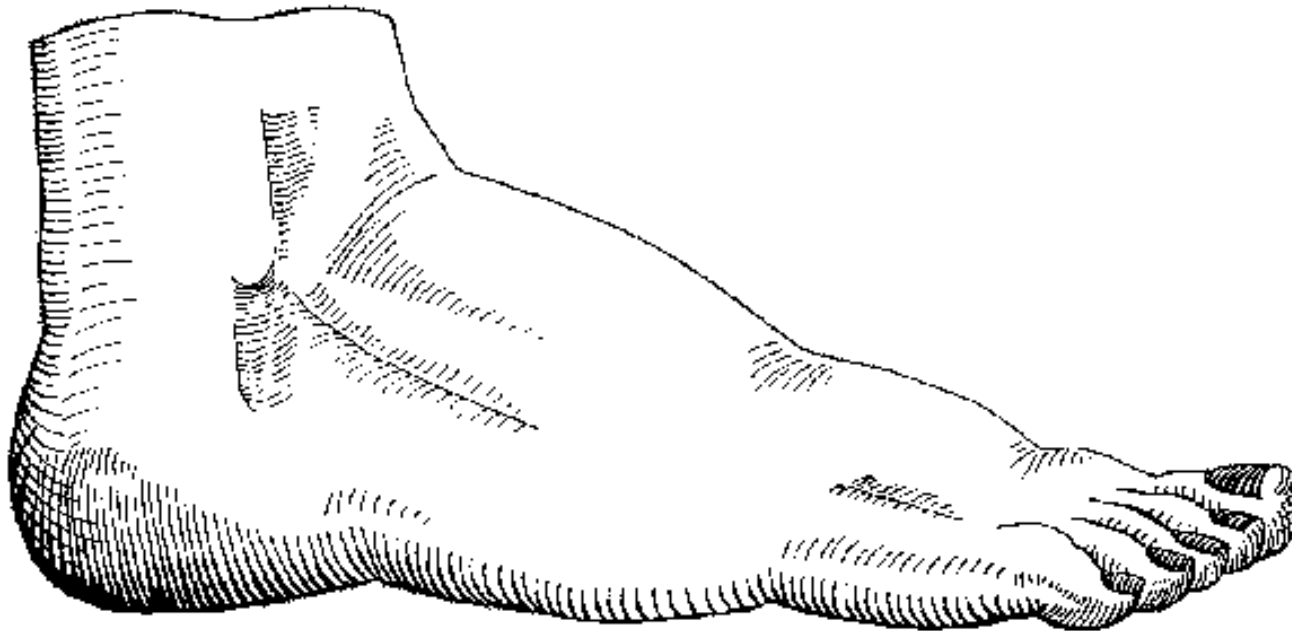
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 26 March 2011 4th Saturday, Spring Break

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

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/>

2/19/2011

The Cosmic War Revisited -
Presentation

37

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.

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/>

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.

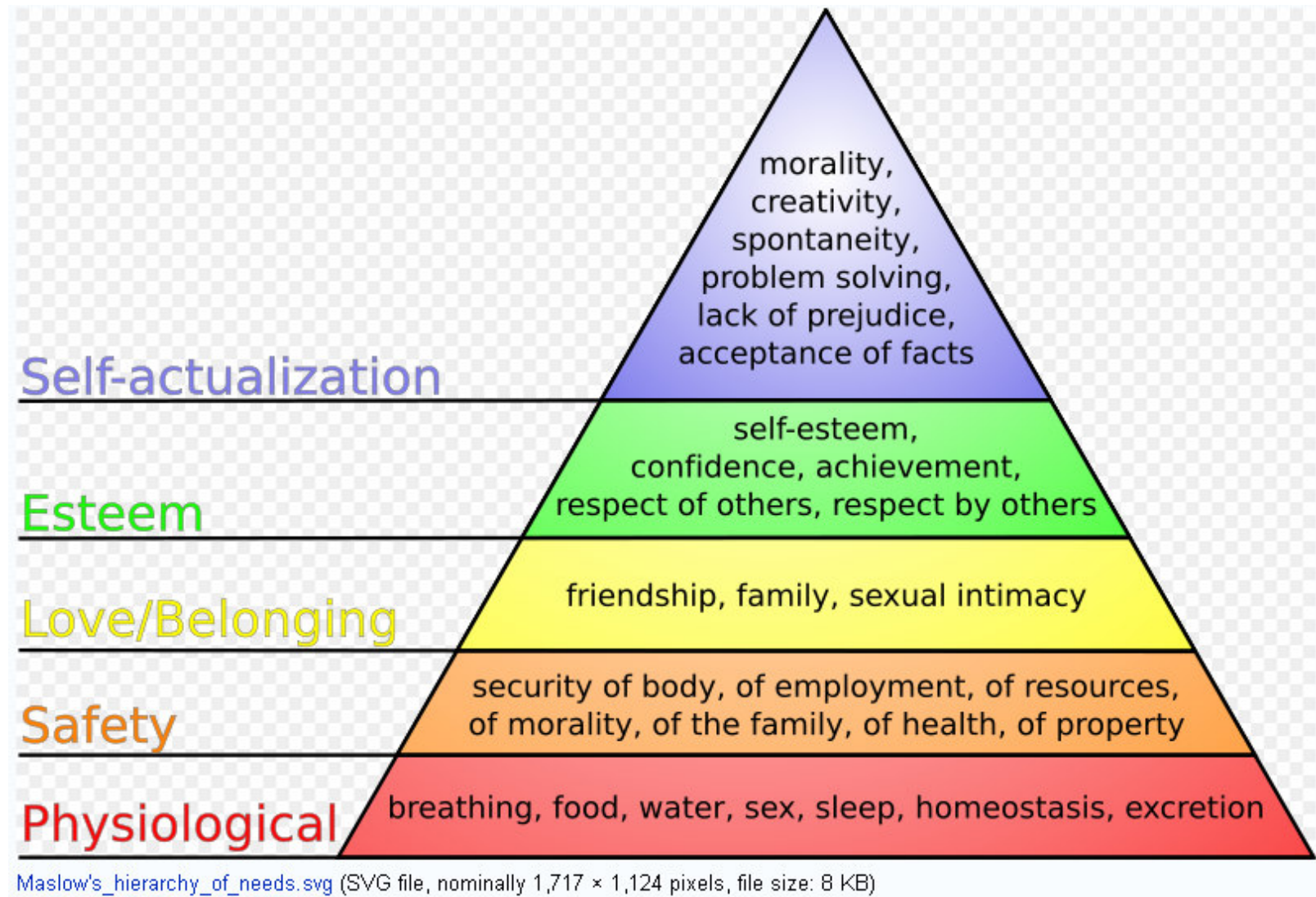
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



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

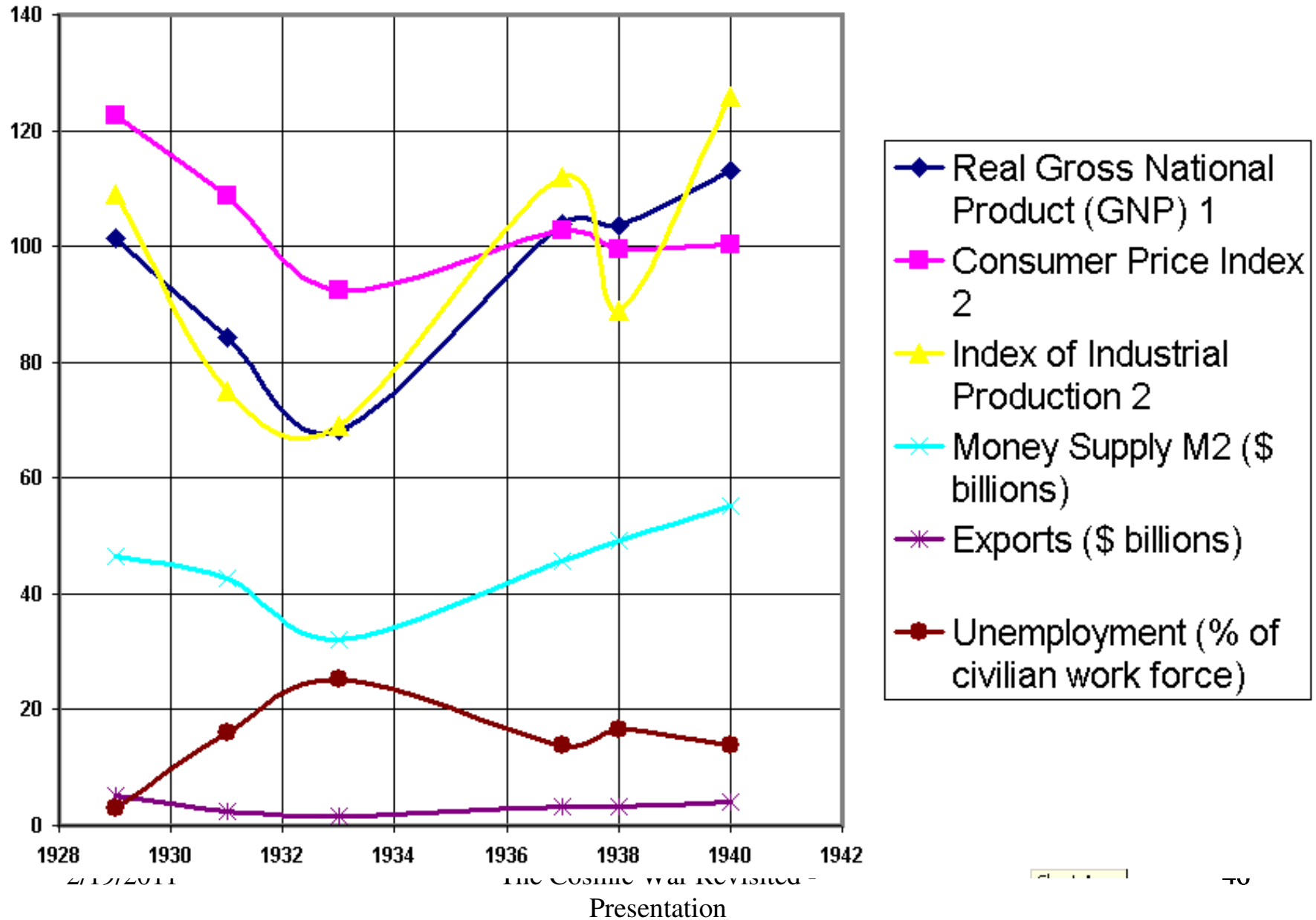
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



© 2011

70

Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

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

Grace Lee Boggs

Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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