

Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013
Humanity at a Crossroads
26 January 2013

Session 05

“Drones and Your Constitutional Rights”

(Are you targeted?)

Current Events Segment

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

Accepting the challenge

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

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

Program for TSS Meeting 16 February 2013

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (45 Minutes +/-) –
Curt Gibby
- 10:15 am - 10 Minute Break
- 10:25** am – Curt Gibby **Drones and Your Constitutional Rights**
- 11:55 am Closing Remarks and Feedback

- Next Meeting 23 March 2013 (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Third Saturday Seminars

To refer to an ancient Chinese saying, our world is in interesting times and individual citizens are assaulted with a blinding array of propaganda from every conceivable source. The Third Saturday Seminar is about demystification of what is going on around is. Time will also be spent on current events. 4 Sessions. No fee.

**LSC-M B102 February 16th, March 23rd (Need to check),
April 20th, and May 18th 9:30AM-12PM Gibby**

<http://wwwapps.lonestar.edu/flipbook/ALL/montgomeryfall11/montgomery.html>

Introduction

The Universe seems to be dead set on keeping us Americans, if not entertained, off-balance and puzzled that those responsible for governing the last of the world's great superpowers, can seem to be so "out-to-lunch." Then they double-down on their stupidity and risk our futures with their blind incompetence. (Where did they go to school?)

We have just endured a major election when both sides used unlimited funds to convince the voters that their opponent was a no good crook. Obama and his people were the better game players in the winner-takes-all the state's electors rules of most states. Barack Obama handily won the majority of electoral candidates of (all) the battleground states, but to me the more telling indicator is that he won 50.68% of the popular vote.

Next General Election is Nov 4, 2014

That is only 626 days from now.

All 435 Members of House of Representatives and 33 Senators will be elected or re-elected.

All 150 Members of Texas House of Representatives and 31 Texas Senators will be elected or re-elected. One-half of the Senate membership is elected every two years in even-numbered years, with the exception that all 31 Senate seats are up for election for the first legislature following the decennial census in order to reflect the newly redrawn districts. After the initial election, the Senate is divided by lot into two classes, with one class having a re-election after two years and the other having a re-election after four years.

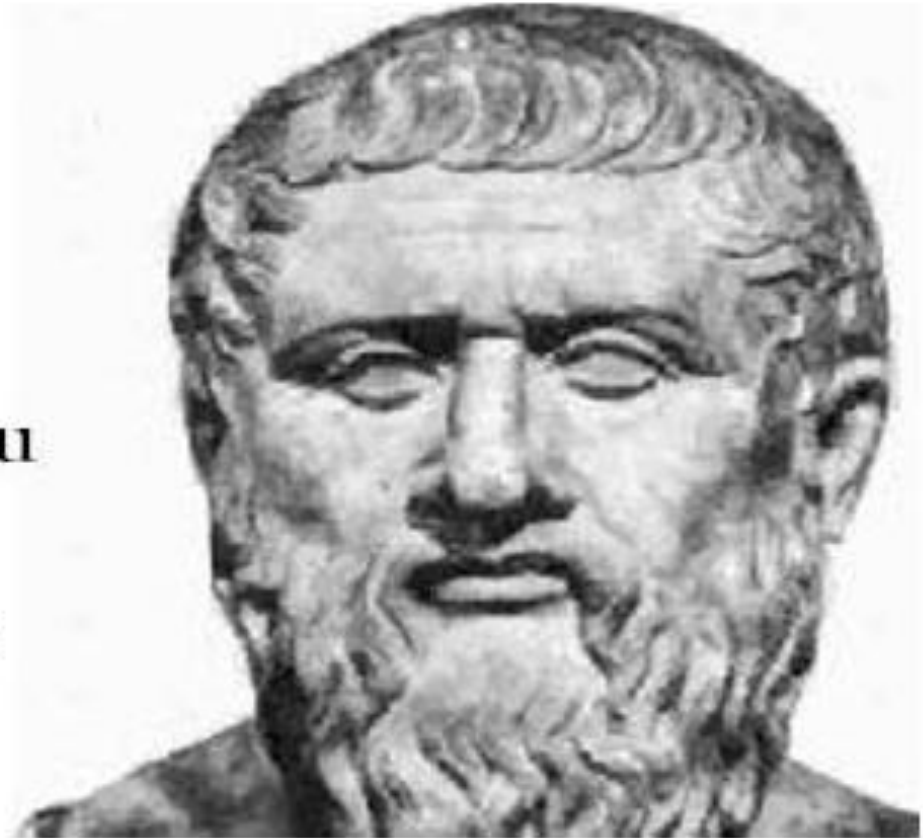
ARE YOU READY?

There is ONLY 1 Year, 9 Months and 17 Days until the next General Election. Tuesday, 4 November 2014

Do you know who you want to vote for?

Inferior Government

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics, is that you end up being governed by your inferiors,
Plato



Current Events

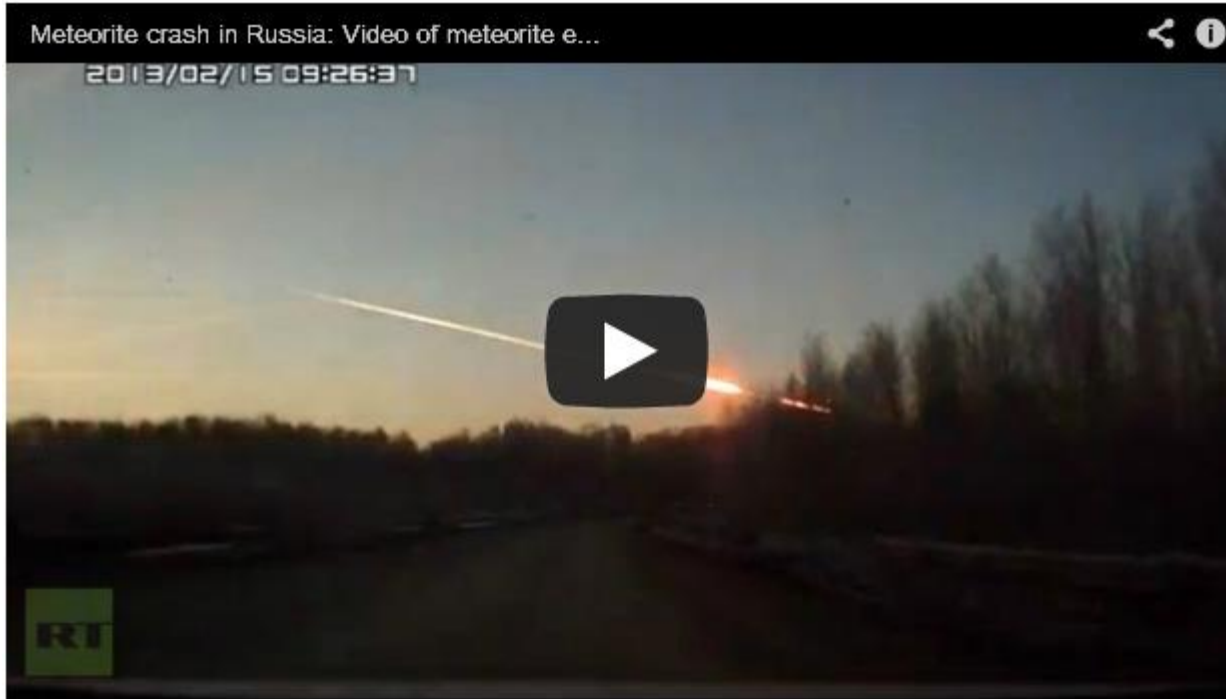
17 November 2012

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



CHELYABINSK, Russia (Reuters) - More than 500 people were injured when a meteorite shot across the sky and exploded over central Russia on Friday, sending fireballs crashing to Earth, shattering windows and damaging buildings. People in Chelyabinsk heard what sounded like an explosion, saw a bright light and then felt a shockwave 1,500 km (950 miles) east of Moscow.

<http://www.theworld.org/2013/02/meteorite-curator/>



The meteor explosion in Russia comes on the same day as an asteroid passes unusually close to Earth.

Anchor Carol Hills speaks with Denton Eble, curator of meteorites at the American Museum of Natural History in New York

Legal Loophole Could Hold Up \$1M Dorner Reward

By RUSSELL GOLDMAN | ABC News -- 18 hrs ago

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357

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25

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ABC News - Legal Loophole Could Hold Up \$1M Dorner Reward (ABC News)

A legal loophole could prevent good Samaritans, instrumental in ending the manhunt for a fugitive ex-cop accused of killing four people, from claiming more than \$1 million in reward money because Christopher Dorner died and was not captured.

Last weekend, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa pledged \$1 million, sourced from private individuals, companies and unions, "for information that will lead to Mr. Dorner's capture."

<http://news.yahoo.com/legal-loop-hole-could-hold-1m-dorner-reward-230004148--abc-news-topstories.html>

Christopher Dorner Wikipedia



Christopher Dorner
photograph, from an
[Irvine Police
Department](#) handout

Born Christopher Jordan Dorner
June 4, 1979

[New York, U.S.](#) Died February 12,
2013 (aged 33)

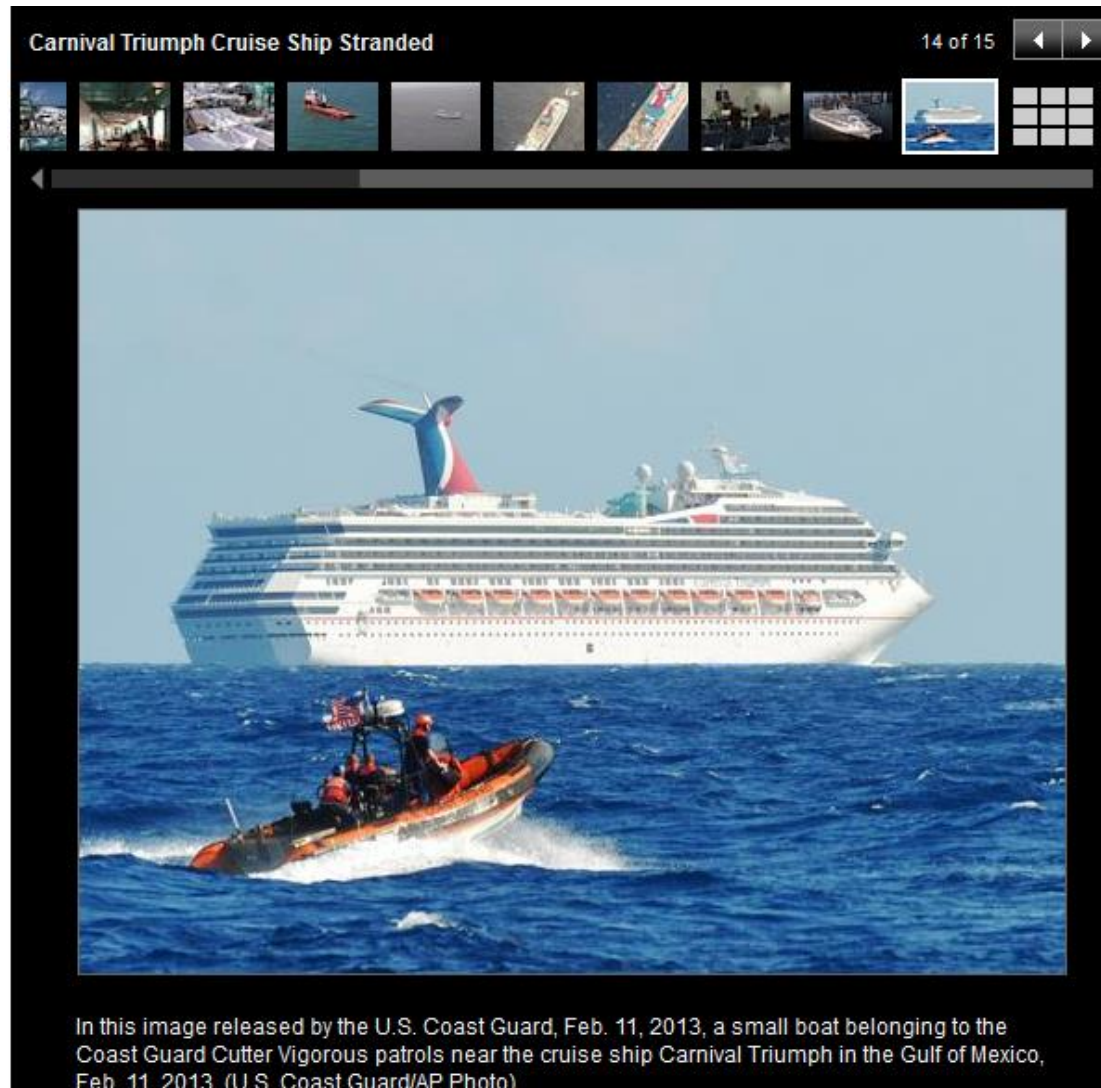
[Angelus Oaks, California, U.S.](#)

Nationality American Education

[Southern Utah University](#) Known for
Suspect in [2013 Southern California
shootings](#) Criminal status Suspect in

four homicides^[1] Parents Nancy
Dorner (mother)

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/slideshow/carnival-triumph-cruise-ship-stranded-18493518>



<http://abcnews.go.com/US/slideshow/carnival-triumph-cruise-ship-stranded-18493518>

Carnival Triumph Cruise Ship Stranded 2 of 15

Passengers from the disabled Carnival Triumph cruise ship arrive by bus at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Feb. 15, 2013. (Gerald Herbert/AP Photo)

Carnival Triumph passengers begin coming home

By Jayme Fraser | February 15, 2013 | Updated: February 15, 2013 12

Comments 21 | E-mail | Print

Recommen



Passengers from Carnival Cruise's Carnival Triumph cruise ship step off an airplane after being stuck on the ship since Sunday, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. The passengers will stay at a comfort station for snacks and drinks then put on a bus ride to Galveston or taken to a terminal for a flight. 4,200 passengers and ship crew were stranded when a fire in the engine room killed the ships power. The ship made land fall Thursday night in Mobile, Alabama. Photo: Nick De La Torre, Chronicle / © 2013 Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Carnival-Triumph-passengers-begin-coming-home-4281844.php#photo-4200713>

February 15, 2013 at 7:00 AM

Senate conflict over Violence Against Women Act

Posted by [Letters coordinator](#)

Share:



Recommend 0

Comments (1)

E-mail article

Print

Hasty Senate decisions bypass fiscal responsibility

It is disappointing that the Senate rejected Sen. Chuck Grassley's, R-Iowa, proposed amendments to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included some very modest financial accountability provisions for VAWA recipients [["Senate poised to renew Violence Against Women Act," seattletimes.com, Feb. 7](#)]. In its haste to pander to the women's vote, the Senate approved continued handouts of millions of taxpayer dollars without any strings attached.

Grassley's proposal recognized that a Justice Department audit of VAWA grantees found a high rate of irregularities in fund expenditures or record-keeping. It also provided for more protections against alleged victims using fraud and false allegations of abuse to take advantage of VAWA's "get a free green card" program.

Apparently, fiscal responsibility with taxpayer subsidies goes out the window when the money is earmarked for women/victims. Aside from the blatant gender bias inherent in the act, the least we should get is some financial accountability.

--Lisa Scott, Bellevue

The Gatekeepers: In New Film, Ex-Shin Bet Chiefs Denounce Occupation, Compare Israel to Nazi Germany



"The Gatekeepers."

The film brings together six former heads of Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, collectively speaking out for the first time ever. They detail their methods against Palestinian militants and civilians in the Occupied Territories, including targeted killings, torture, recruiting informants, and the suppression of mass protests during two intifadas. But in doing so, they also criticize the occupation they were assigned with defending and warn that successive Israeli governments have endangered their country's future by refusing to make peace.

"We are making the lives of millions unbearable, into prolonged human suffering, [and] it kills me," Carmi Gillon says in the film. "[We've become] a brutal occupation force similar to the Germans in World War II," adds Avraham Shalom.

The number of deaths attributed to terror attacks in 2012 decreased by circa 55% compared to last year: Ten fatalities as opposed to 22 in 2011. Six were civilian deaths and four were military deaths.

Most deaths this year (9) resulted from attacks which had originated in the Gaza Strip and Sinai (7 – Gaza Strip, 2 – Sinai). Six (4 civilians, 2 security personnel) were killed by high trajectory launchings of rockets and mortar shells from Gaza into Israel during Operation Pillar of Defense (Nov. 14-21).

Data on casualties

2012 has shown an increased casualty toll of 309 as opposed to 159 casualties in 2011.

STAMP © 2013 CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Oath Of Office

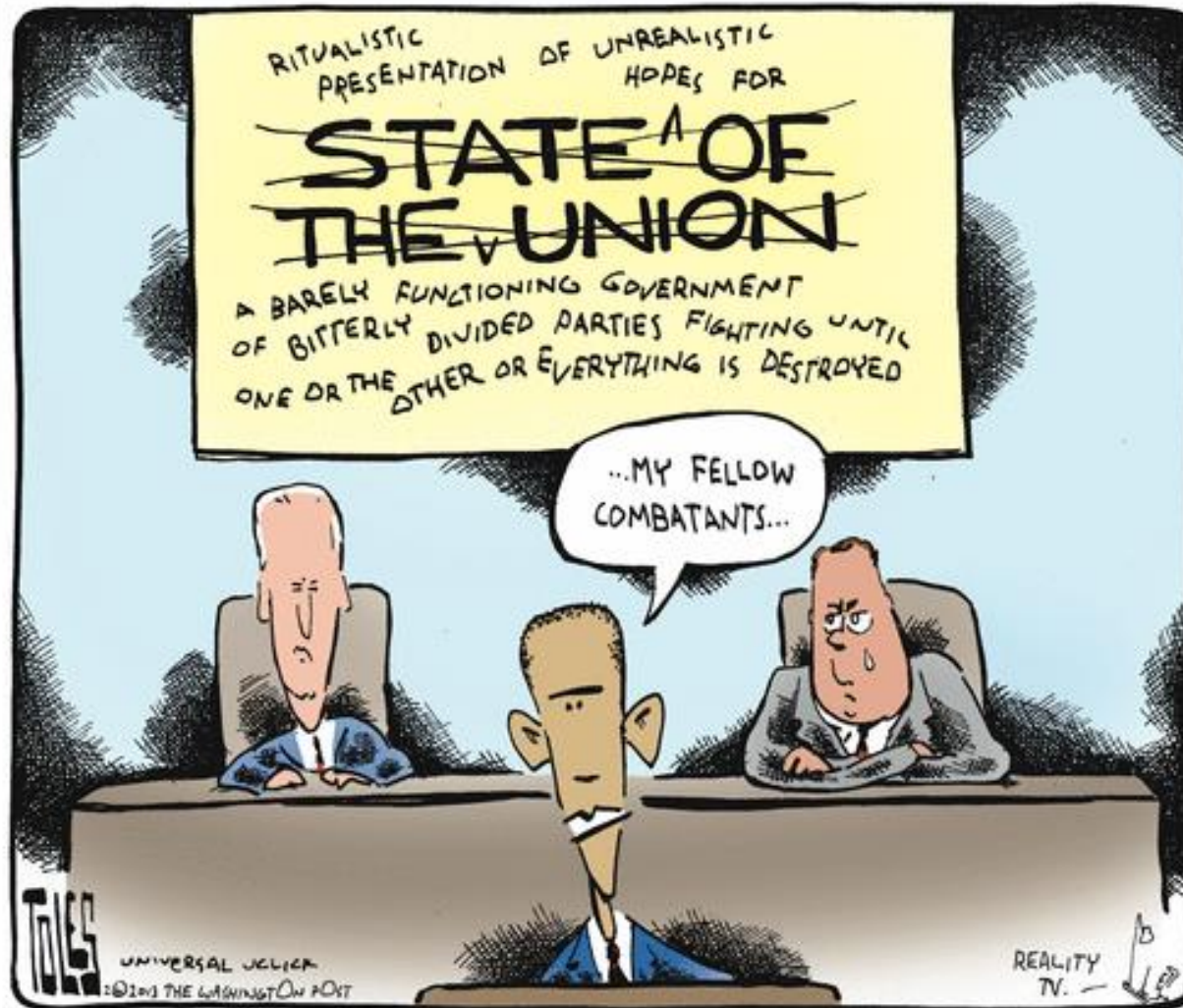
The wording is specified in [Article Two, Section One, Clause Eight](#):

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:— “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

State of the Union

Tom Toles by Tom Toles

February 12, 2013



16 February 2013

Drones and Your Rights

24

State of the Union Speech

A Ritualistic Presentation of
Unrealistic Hopes for a Barely
Functioning Government of
Bitterly Divided Parties until one
or the Other or Everything is
Destroyed

Pope is pooped, Pax passe

Pope is pooped

People puzzled

Pundits posture prattle

Plutocracy political plotting erupts

Children still at risk

Anonymous

<http://www.businessweek.com/videos/2013-02-12/lightning-strikes-vatican-after-papal-resignation>



Bloomberg Businessweek
Lifestyle

Global Economics Companies & Industries Politics & Policy Technology Markets & Finance Innovation & Design Lifestyle

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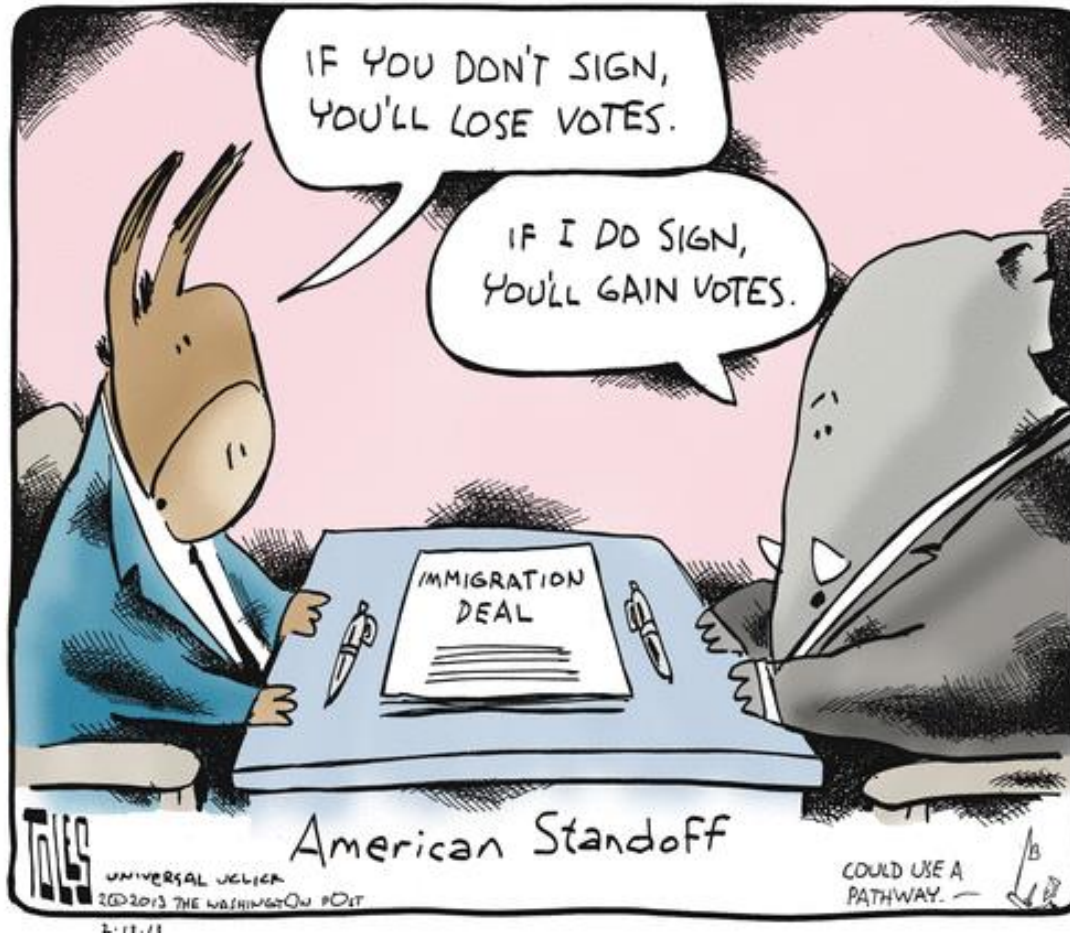
00:28 00:32

Feb. 12 (Bloomberg) – Lightning strikes St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in the hours following the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation on February 28 due to health reasons. The resignation is the first in nearly 700 years.

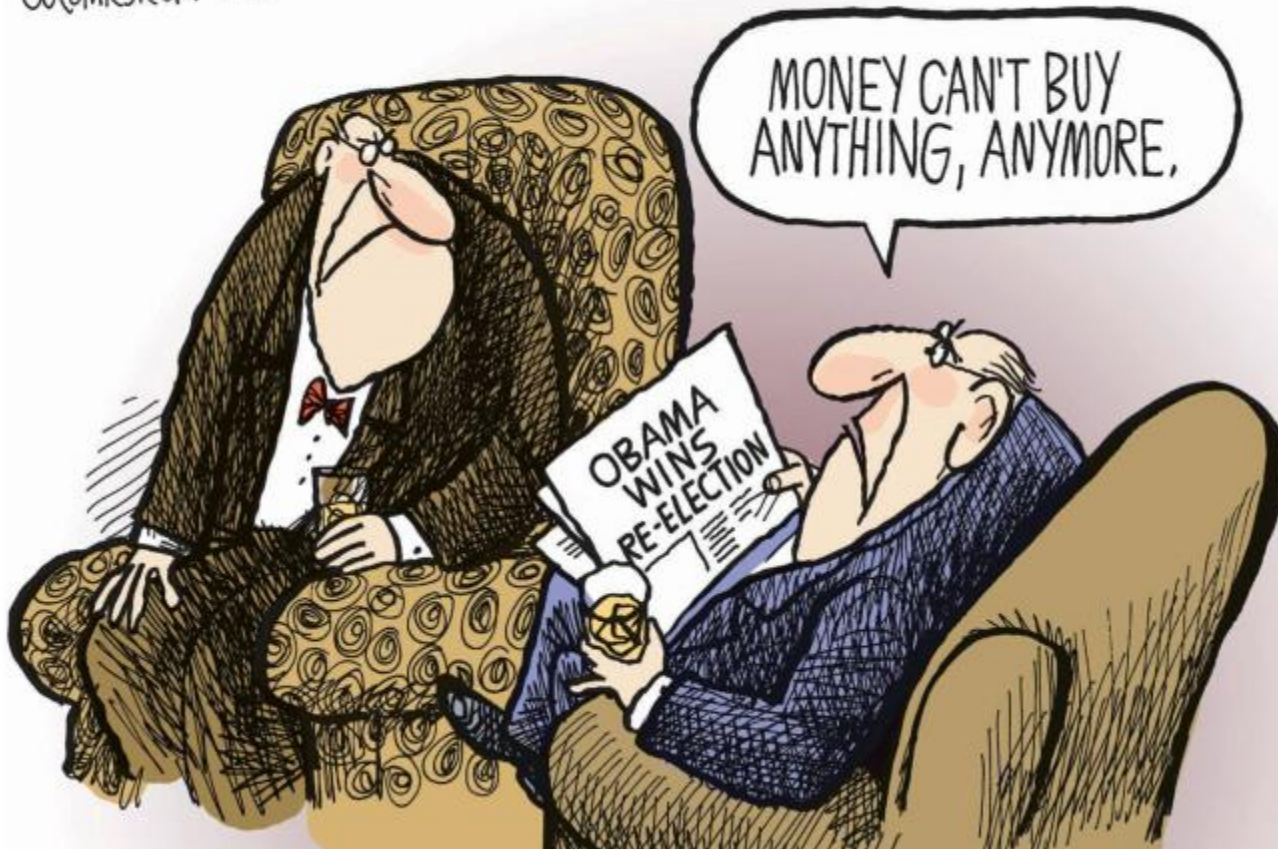
Immigration (Reform?)

Tom Toles by Tom Toles

February 13, 2013



STAHLER.
60COMICS.COM 2012



<http://ideas.time.com/2012/11/16/cartoons-of-the-week-november-10-16/photo/cartoon4-19/>

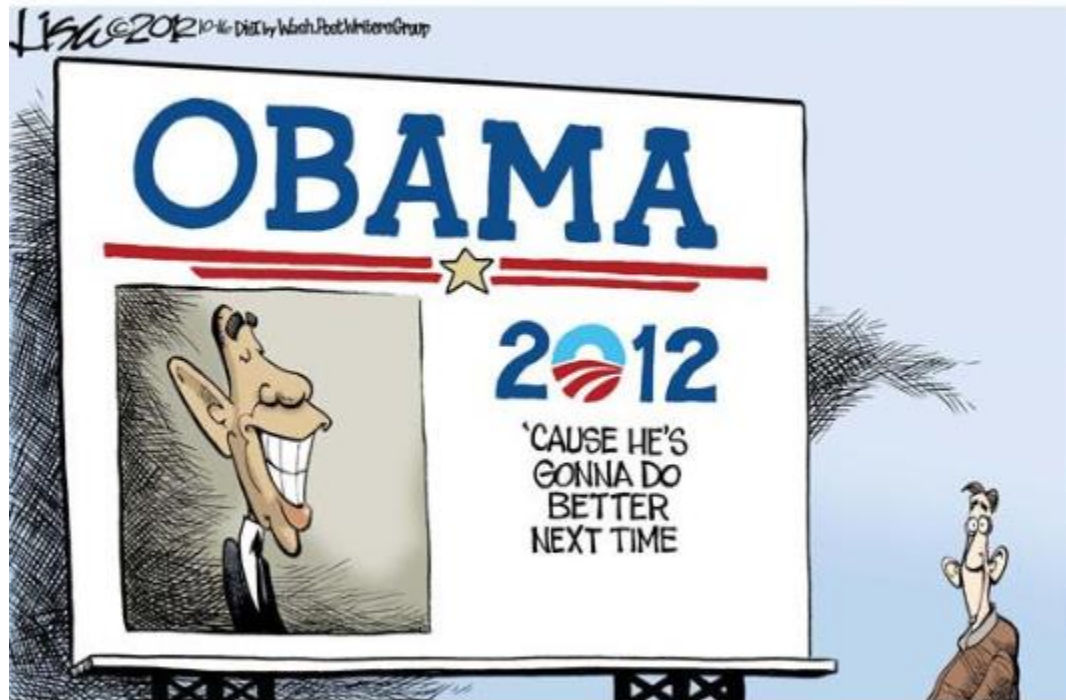


MARGULIES
©2012 THE RECORD
www.northjersey.com

He is?

Cartoons of the Week #5

Tuesday October 16th, 2012



Copyright Lisa Benson

By Lisa Benson

<http://ideas.time.com/2012/11/16/cartoons-of-the-week-november-10-16/photo/cartoon8-15/>



US gun sales soar

US guns sales soar after Barack Obama's re-election

Gun sales in America are soaring in the wake of President Barack Obama's re-election with weapons retailers reporting AK-47s flying off shelves "like hotcakes."




In October the number of background checks on people applying to buy guns, an indicator of future sales, increased by 18.4 per cent. Photo: GETTY IMAGES





By **Nick Allen, Los Angeles**

5:58PM GMT 11 Nov 2012

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 Share 28K

 Facebook 26K

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/9670585/US-guns-sales-soar-after-Barack-Obamas-re-election.html>

The "Tree of Liberty" letter --- From Thomas Jefferson to William Smith, Paris, November 13, 1787

<http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/96oct/obrien/blood.htm>

“What country before ever existed a century & a half without a rebellion? & what country can preserve it's liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? **Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon & pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants.** It is it's natural manure. Our Convention has been too much impressed by the insurrection of Massachusetts: and in the spur of the moment they are setting up a kite to keep the hen-yard in order. I hope in God this article will be rectified before the new constitution is accepted.”

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Humanity at a Crossroads
16 February 2013

NEXT - 10 Minute BREAK

Then

“Drones and Your Constitutional Rights”

(Are you targeted?)

Curt Gibby

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

Don't panic!

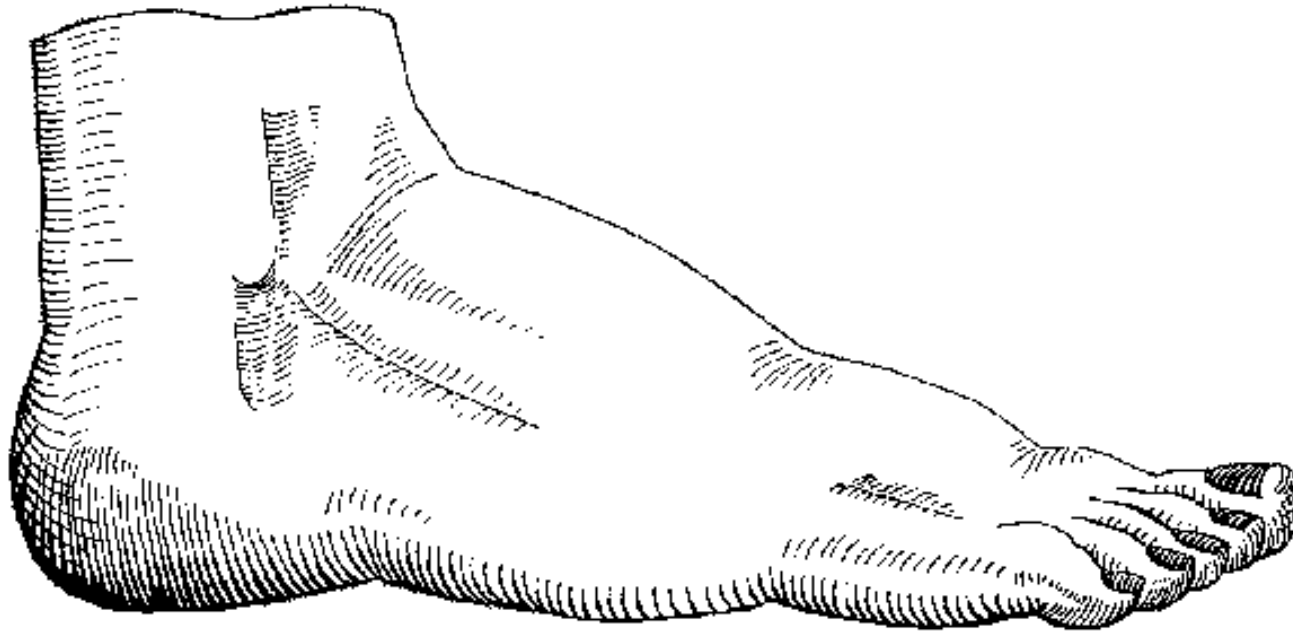
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You Next Time

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



The famous Python Foot can here 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.

One of life's persistent questions:

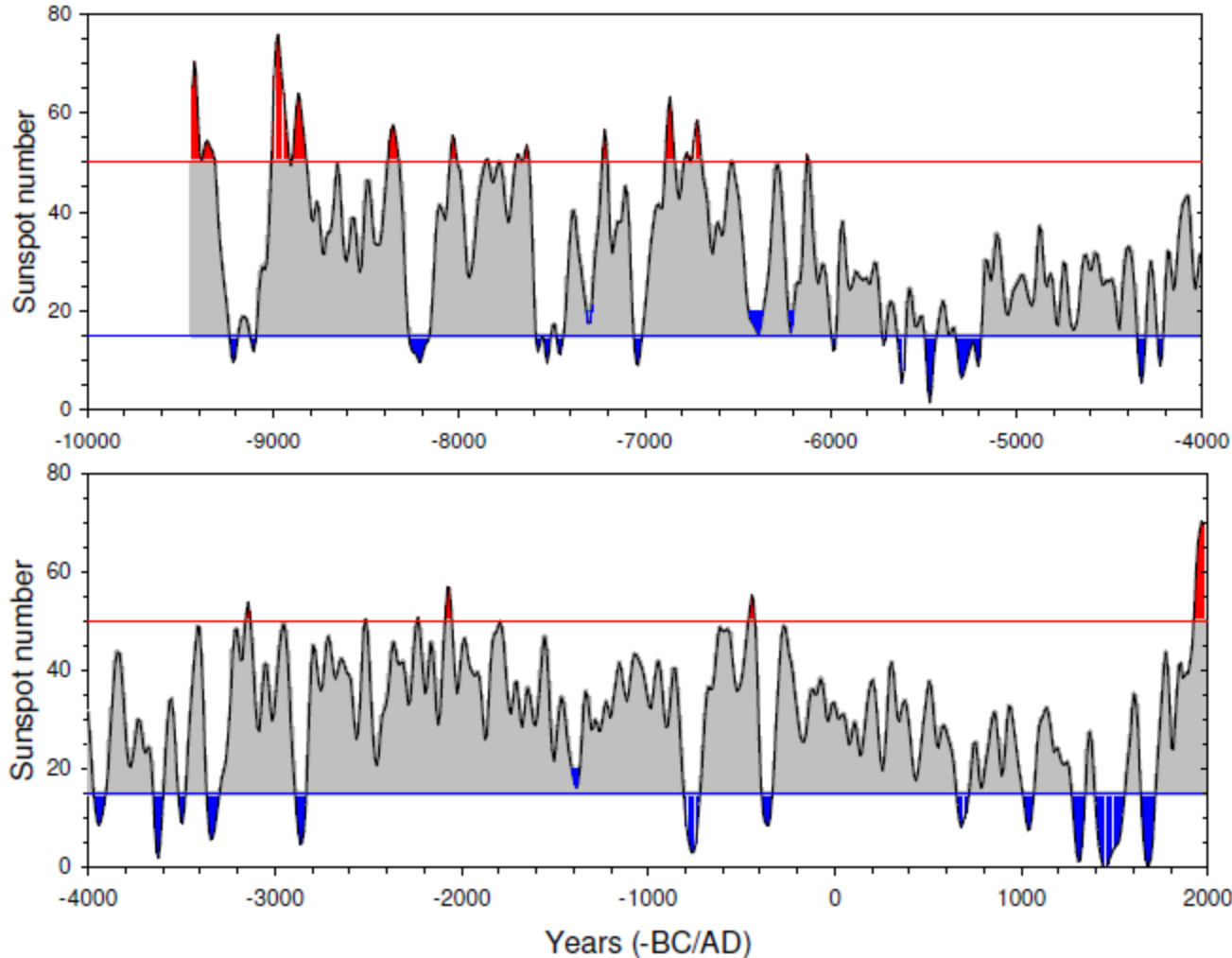
“Why do cockroaches roll over before they die?”



Enrichment Material

A History of Solar Activity over Millennia

Ilya G. Usoskin, Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory (Oulu unit), University of Oulu, Finland



The paper examines records from two isotope proxies (Be10 and C14) and finds that solar activity at the end of the 20th century was at the highest levels of the past 1200 years.

We're all niggers to the 1%

DICKERSON: Now, the duty of all black people who—especially those of us who came after the Civil Rights Movement, what are we being called upon to do? We don't have to go out and face Bull Connor. All we have to do is step into the freedom that our ancestors won for us

...**DICKERSON:** They're niggerizing white people. The great thing about that statement 'We're all niggers to the 1%' is that when I say that to white people in the movement they just go, 'Word,' you know, they get it.

STEELE: When we talk about poor we immediately jump to black or we immediately jump to Hispanic and what we need to talk about when we talk about poor is American people living in poverty regardless of the color of their skin.

LOPEZ: I think what's interesting, you know, about the Occupy movement is, is this language of the 99 versus the 1. Um and if people identify with the 99 that's a different type, that's a different type of consciousness altogether.

<http://race2012pbs.org/the-film/transcript/>

The Middle Class Is Broke: Pew Study Reveals Real Problem With Economy

By Henry Blodget / Daily Ticker – 23 Aug

<http://www.businessinsider.com/income-inequality-2012-8>

One of the most important stories in the U.S. economy these days is the rise of extreme inequality.

Over the past 30 years, a [larger and larger portion of America's income growth has gone to those in the top 10%](#) of incomes, and especially those in the top 1%. This is a major change from the prior 60 years, in which the top 10% and the bottom 90% shared in the income gains.

A stark and startling example of this trend is the fact that, adjusted for inflation, "average hourly earnings" in this country have not increased in 50 years.

A recent Pew study confirms that America's middle class has recently experienced a "lost decade."

Since 2000, the Pew says, "the middle class has shrunk in size, fallen backward in income and wealth, and shed some—but by no means all—of its characteristic faith in the future." Pew cites statistics showing that middle class earnings and net worth have plummeted since the mid-2000s and that about 85% of the middle class say it is harder to maintain their standard of living than it was 10 years ago.

Collectively, the middle class represents enormous buying and spending power, and in the past 60 years this spending power has helped the U.S. economy become the envy of the world.

\$ 048,851,172,464,012

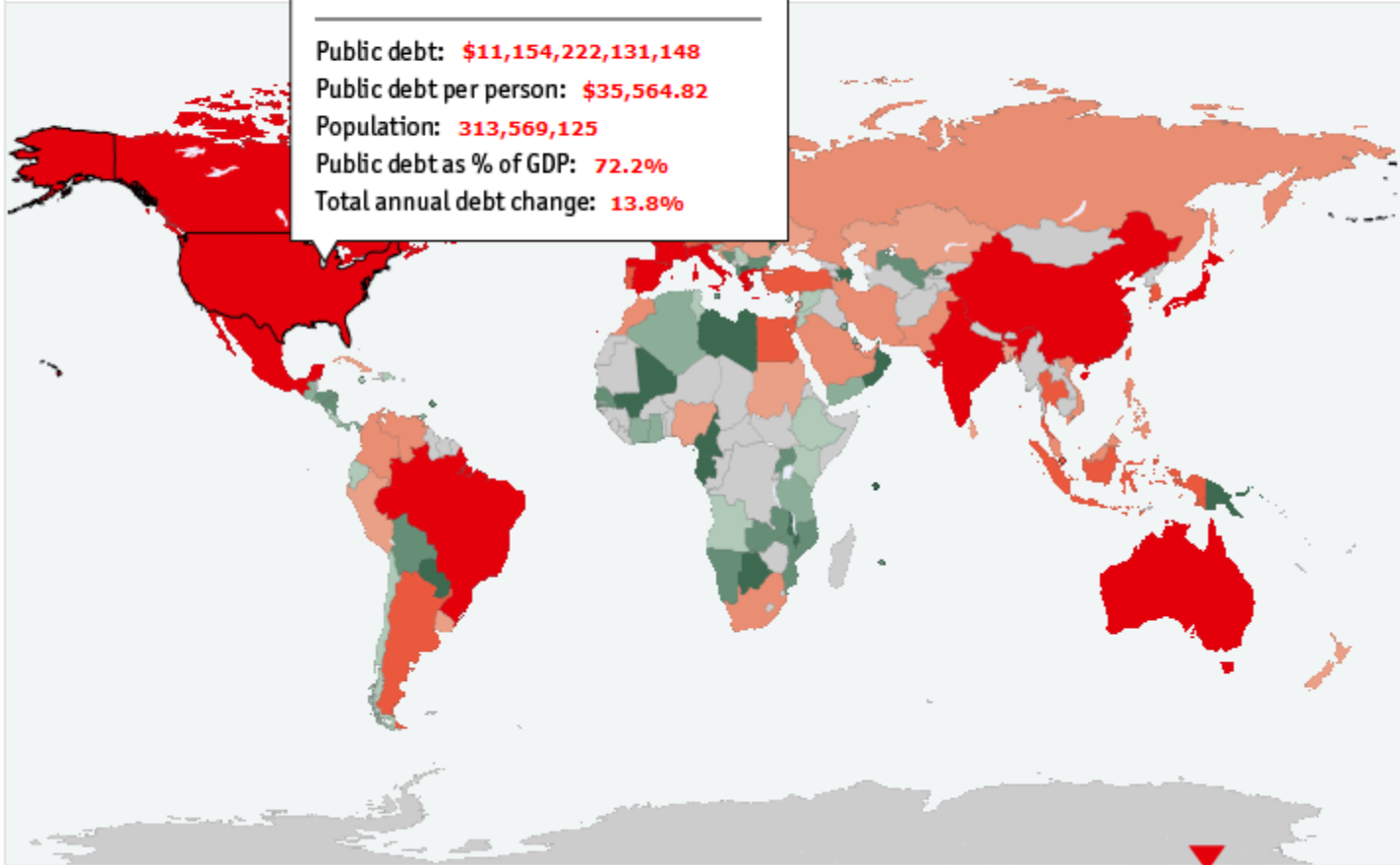
CURRENT GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT

Total public debt

United States

Public debt: **\$11,154,222,131,148**
Public debt per person: **\$35,564.82**
Population: **313,569,125**
Public debt as % of GDP: **72.2%**
Total annual debt change: **13.8%**

Lower debt



COMPARE

Choose a country

Choose a country

Choose a country

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

Greatest Threats in 2012

On Iran: We Don't Know If They'll Go for The Bomb, 'Concerned' About Attack on U.S.

On Terrorism: Al Qaeda 'Core' Weakening, Affiliates and Homegrown Terror Greater Threats

On Afghanistan: Taliban Still Has 'Safe Haven' in Pakistan

On North Korea: Too Early to Judge New Leader, Two Nuclear Weapon Tests

On the Arab Spring: Turmoil Will 'Challenge' U.S. Influence, Terrorists Could Exploit Unrest

On the Cyber Threat to the U.S.: Governments Can't Keep Up with Technology

On Drinking Water Resources: Shortages, Floods Will Hurt U.S. National Security

George Carlin – “Must die TV”

... suicide could become "the ultimate makeover" reality show - "Must die TV." He envisions mass suicide to capture ratings during the sweeps: homeless people (including half a million military veterans), condemned prisoners, self-selected depressed people with "hopeless minds," and the terminally ill. Sell it to the 18-to-24 male audience as "extreme living," featuring 500 of these losers "holding hands and jumping into the Grand Canyon," each wearing a hat with camera (for friends and family to watch the video afterward) and sponsor T-shirt. Perhaps fundamentalist Christians could be induced to "Jump for Jesus." If instead of cable TV you want the networks, go with advertising from Budweiser and automobile manufacturers (drink and drive responsibly) on FOX.

What makes you an Authority?

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

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

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

What makes you an Authority?

Your personal abilities:

1. Your Inner Power
2. Your knowledge

Authority and Inner Power:

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

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

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

Authority and Inner Power:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's always the others' choice.

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

Authority and Knowledge:

You can be considered an authority for thousands of characteristics:

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

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

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

Authority and Knowledge:

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

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

This means authority does not claim for obedience, never!

Only someone who feels that his authority may be at stake will claim for obedience 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.

Return of the Elders, Unleashing Your Wisdom

Our Middle Aged Brains

David Niesel and Norbert Herzog

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

No kidding! It's actually true that our 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.

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.

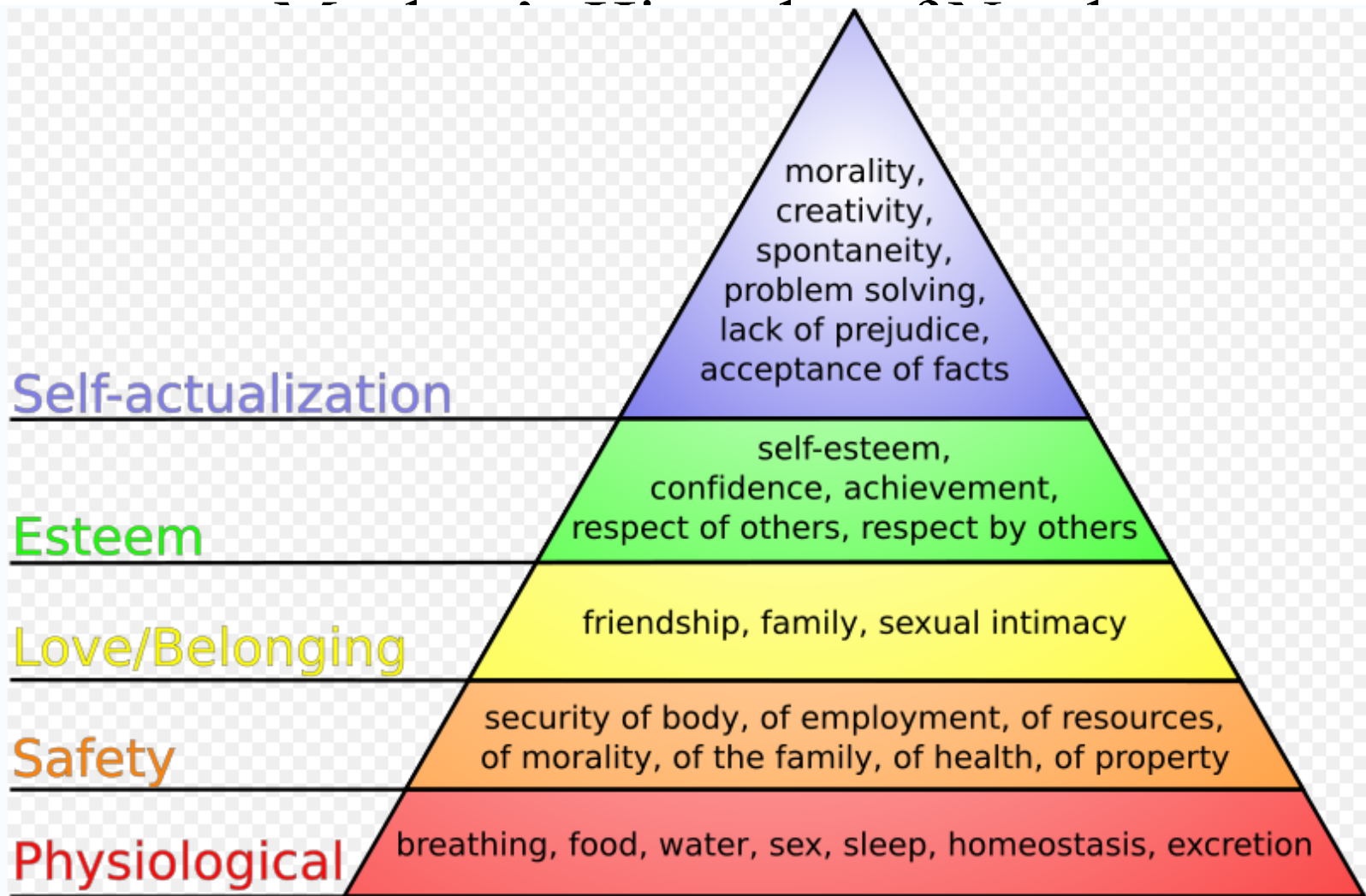
So your authority depends on those who look at you.

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/>



Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs.svg (SVG file, nominally 1,717 × 1,124 pixels, file size: 8 KB)

It all connects

Fear, War, Greed

To much capital in the hands of the few

Too little money in the hands of the consumers.

Credit is not a replacement for disposable income

Oil is a limited resource

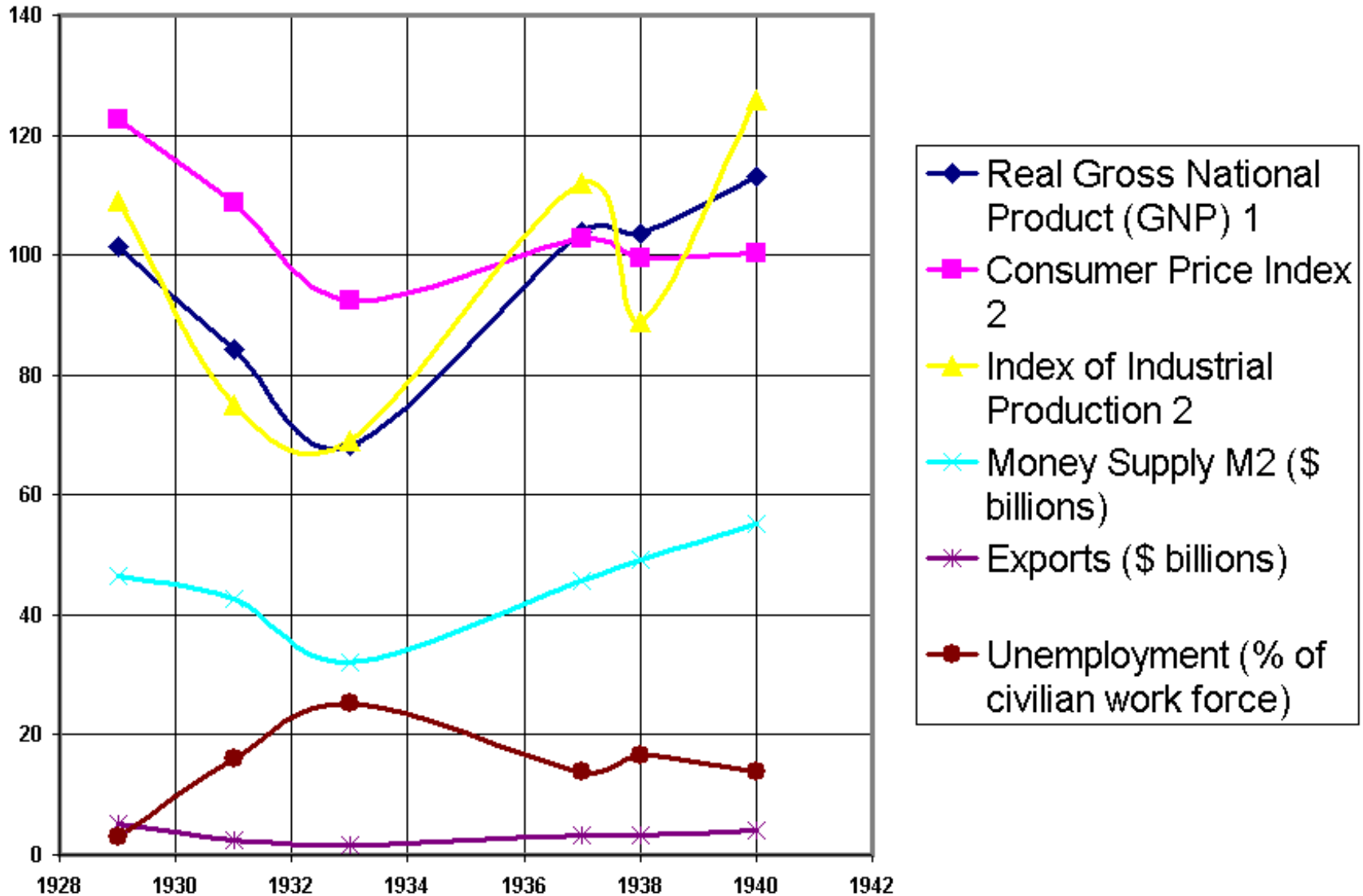
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

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

Grace Lee Boggs

Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

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

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

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

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

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

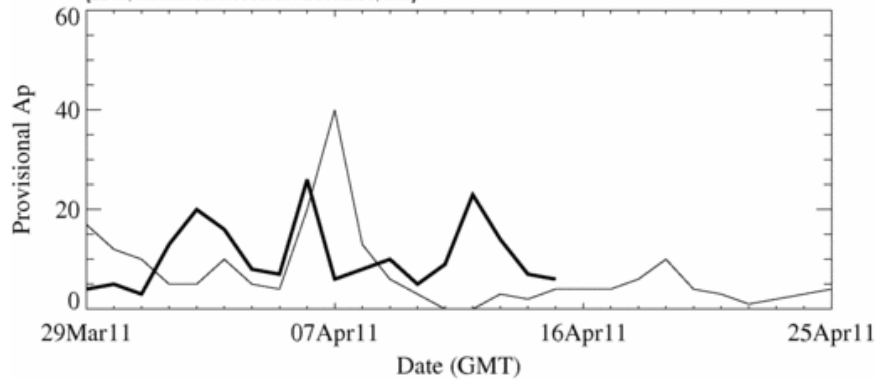
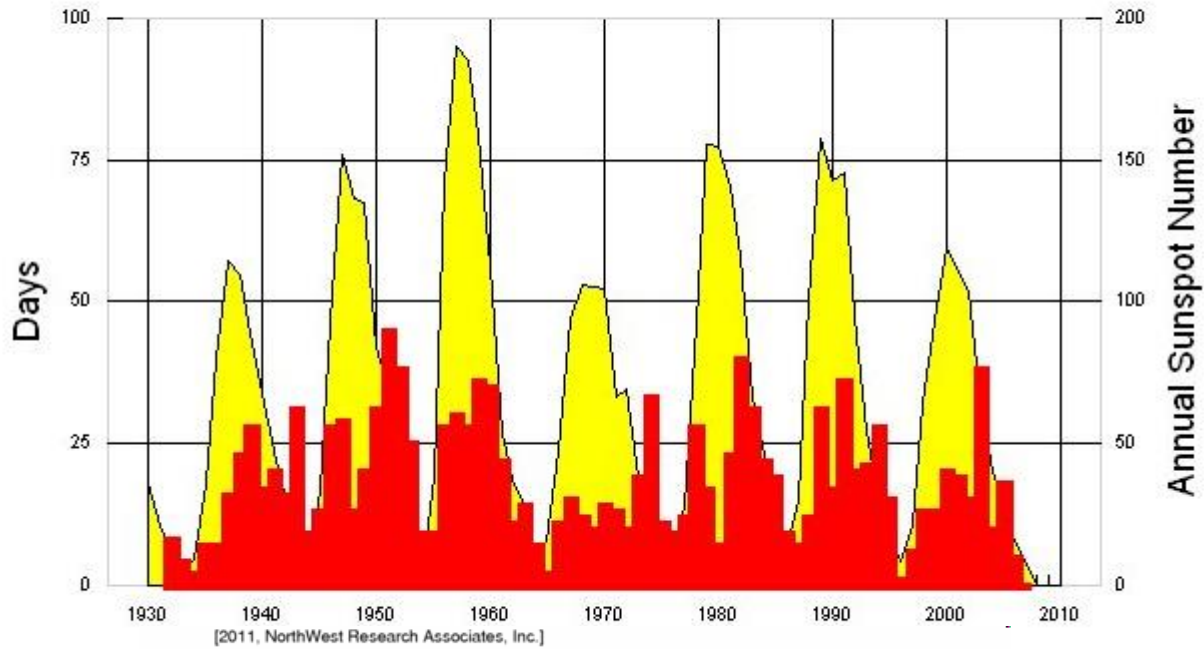
Fatigue - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

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

htt

Number of Days Ap* \geq 40 1932 - 2007

07.jpg



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

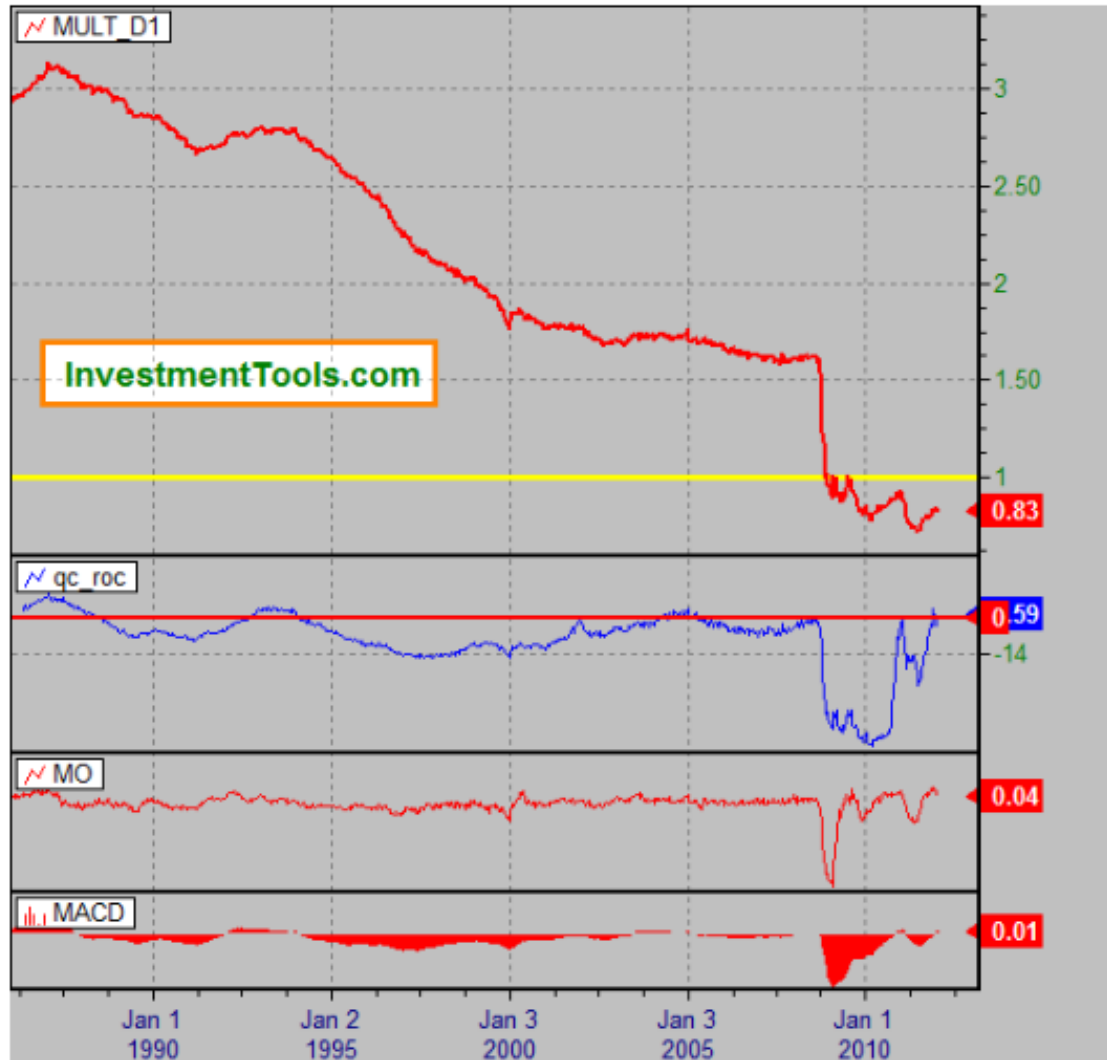


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

http://www.investmenttools.com/thefed/federal_reserve_free_reserves.htm

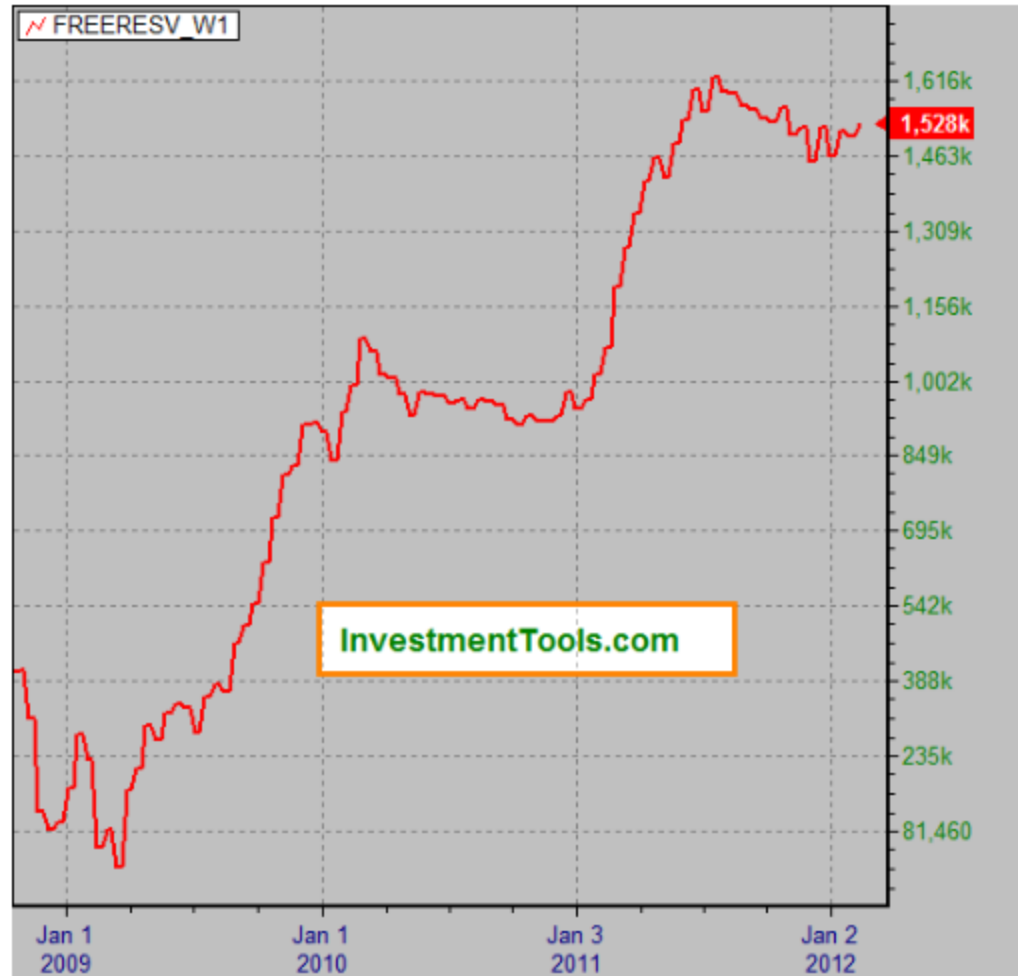
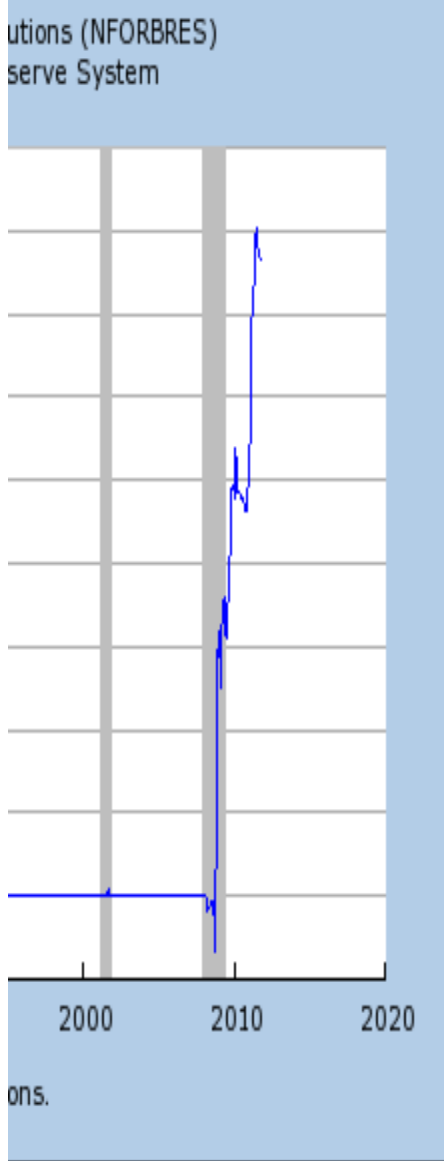


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

Bad Credit - Cognitive Dissonance

The Daily Show with Jon Stewart



June 2, 2009
CRAIG T. NELSON
ACTOR

Tuesday May 8, 2012
Bad Credit
Instead of having to find reasons to criticize President Obama for things he's done right, Mitt Romney finds ways to claim those achievements as his own.

Tags: Osama bin Laden, Barack Obama, bailouts, Mitt Romney, lying, Republicans, assassinations, Indecision 2012, pundits, candidates, Donald Rumsfeld, photos, military, business, campaigns, montages, Joe Biden, war on terror, impressions, media, No Disrespect impression, Martin Luther King Jr., Craig T. Nelson, driving

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-may-8-2012/bad-credit>

Scalia: You don't count pregnant women twice.

"It has nothing to do with how I decide cases," Scalia replies.

"My job is to interpret the Constitution accurately. And indeed, there are anti-abortion people who think that the constitution requires a state to prohibit abortion. They say that the Equal Protection Clause requires that you treat a helpless human being that's still in the womb the way you treat other human beings. **I think that's wrong. I think when the Constitution says that persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws, I think it clearly means walking-around persons.**

Justice Antonin Scalia, CBS 60 Minutes, Sept. 14, 2008
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/24/60minutes/main4040290_page6.shtml

Intro - 2

That says that he has no strong mandate, except as allowed by the Constitution. In the popular election he squeaked by Romney, because Romney and his advisors couldn't separate confirmation bias from reality, and shot themselves in the foot with two major minorities, women and factory workers. (Why did they call them battleground states? Because, they were potentially fed up with the Obama administration, which the Romney camp correctly surmised as an opportunity, which it was. But then when you let you own dogmas blind you to reality.

Intro -3

We were so smart during the Carter Administration when we somehow enticed the Russians into invading Afghanistan, so it could become their Vietnam (Which it did and probably contributed greatly to the breakup of the USSR). What cruel irony that it is now us and our NATO Allies that have taken our own bait. We get to enjoy the Vietnam experience all over again. Fortunately(?) we have lost less than 10 percent of the troops we lost in Vietnam, but we are spending more and borrowing heavily to keep it going. Where will that lead us?

16 February 2013

Not too hopeful

Houston Chronicle Dec 5, 2012

The fiscal cliff is a straw-bogeyman meant to titillate the small minds of the media and those who ingenuously choose to believe them.

What happened in 2009 was truly an economic supernova which has been made worse by the very economic holy men whose bad advice brought on the crash in the first place. So much for self-curing "free markets." Crooks will be crooks. If the sequestration provision goes into effect, it will only create a few small whirlpools in the space-time continuum. Cans will again be kicked down the road. Names will be withheld to protect the guilty and the chaos will continue. Nothing that is being discussed today will delay an economic disaster because that has already happened.

Not too Hopeful – Cont.

Raising taxes on the rich and lowering taxes on the middle class and closing a few loopholes will not have any real effect of getting the country's finances back into any kind of sustainable economic balance.

What it will do is burden the taxpayers (not the rich ones) and their children with a life of crushing debt that the banks will demand from us.

There is no interest in finding a real solution. Nothing that is being discussed even vaguely represents a plan with real and realistic goals and timing.

There is not a hint of a pending cultural change that would indicate a return to sanity, intelligence and integrity of government and the financial industry, nor the willingness of "We the People" to understand what has happened and why.

Curt Gibby, Spring

Read more: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Letters-Grappling-with-the-fiscal-cliff-4091305.php#ixzz2EE6Dd1mD>

Numbers

1 % income 225 times bigger than the wealth of the typical household. The believe the middle class should always bail them out if they screw up.

99 % (everybody who is not in the 1%)

62 % Obama's share of the electoral vote.

63 % of People want Roe v Wade to stand.

50.6 % Obama's share of the Popular vote

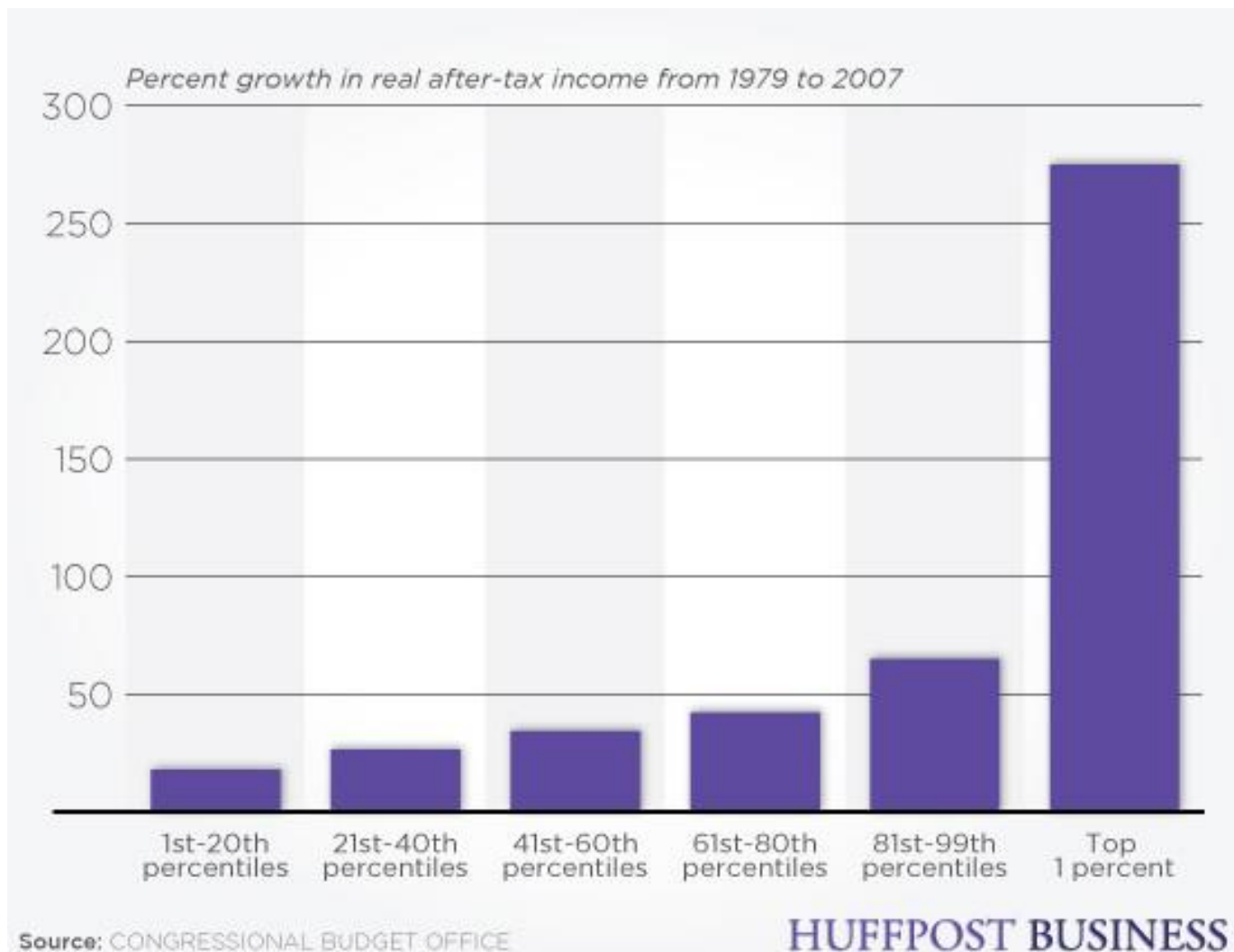
47.8 % Romney's share of the Popular vote

55 % Democrat in Senate

54% Republicans in House.

75 % of the people want illegal immigrants to leave (Chris Cuomo)

The 1% after tax income growth over 28 years



Who Are The 1 Percent

Brave New Foundation

In just the last generation, the richest 1% almost quadrupled their incomes. The average wealth of the 1% is 225 times bigger than the wealth of the typical household – the highest it's ever been.

Three decades ago, CEOs made about 40 times as much as an average worker – now CEOs make almost 200 times as much as regular employees. Last year, half of Americans earned less than \$26,000 while CEOs at top 500 companies raked in an average of \$11 million.

Over the past decade, earnings for middle-class Americans actually fell. In fact, working Americans' wages are now a lower percentage of our economy than they've ever been.

The divide between the richest and the poorest is worse in America than it is in nearly all of Europe and Asia and much of Africa. It's about as bad as in Rwanda and Serbia – and it's bad for our economy.

The 1% is not an accident – it is the result of policies our government chose to pursue.