

Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013

Humanity at a Crossroads

16 February 2013

Session 05

“Drones and Your Constitutional Rights”

(Are you targeted?)

Presentation

Curt Gibby

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

Ramerez – Houston Chronicle 9 Feb 13



“Search and Destroy”

Recently our Congress and the Media have brought to our attention two issues that have become related. The expanded use of remotely piloted aircraft (drones), not just for reconnaissance and surveillance in a combat zone but also for the delivery of lethal force and how the targets of that lethal force are selected and justified and how it relates to the inalienable rights that are guaranteed by our Constitution. Further, although the Air Force Operates these drones in Afghanistan, the CIA is operating drones in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia where we are not, officially anyway, at war.

Automatic Death Warrants

Drone technology, on the one hand, limits the exposure of friendly fighters and pilots to enemy fire. However is it the latest slippery slope for **death warrants to be conveniently issued by politicians and those who report to them with totally bypassing judicial review and provisions of the 4th, 5th and 6th Amendments.** Under the Obama Administration drone flights and drone strikes and targeted killing have mushroomed.

Justification

Recently Michael Isikoff at NBC News had obtained a 16 page Justice Department white paper with the apparent purpose of justifying extra-judicial killing, even of American Citizens. **It doesn't have to be by drones, but drones seem to be the natural choice with high value targets and high production of kills.** And we don't seem to be concerned with so called collateral damage, that is killing of innocents

Most of the reports classify targets as suspected, alleged, or of military age.

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



<http://www.aclu.org/blog/national-security/justice-departments-white-paper-targeted-killing>

“The paper's basic contention is that the government has the authority to carry out the extra-judicial killing of an American citizen if "an informed, high-level official" deems him to present a "continuing" threat to the country. This sweeping authority is said to exist even if the threat presented isn't imminent in any ordinary sense of that word, even if the target has never been charged with a crime or informed of the allegations against him, and even if the target is not located anywhere near an actual battlefield. The white paper purports to recognize some limits on the authority it sets out, but the limits are so vague and elastic that they will be easily manipulated”.

Means, Motive and Opportunity

Without the Means it's meaningless

On the other hand, what does citizenship matter if the person declares himself enemy of the United States? But, does just thinking or even saying you hate the country and that you want to blow up pieces of it actually make you guilty in a court of law? Unless you actually turn those boasts into a creditable action or order somebody under your control with the means to do it, or possibly provide them with the means to do it. How is that determined?

Now if somebody in the U.S. were to rob a bank or murder someone, it wouldn't make much difference what his citizenship was either, because for you to imprison or execute him you would have to indict him and take him to trial and prove his guilt. It's called due process. It's guaranteed by the 5th and 6th Amendments.

War nor Peace (Pogo)

It is my opinion that it is time to get back on track, and **before our souls go completely up in smoke get our society back to what our founders had in mind** (I'm sure keeping their fingers crossed as they savored the enlightened democratic concepts they had enshrined, for they were all too aware of our human nature and how easy it is to stray from what has made us great.)

The question is “What has changed?” It has more to do with the name of the game (a real war or not?) being played than the available weapons, although the drone technology makes the slope even slipperier.

**How do you explain drone killings? With post-Orwellian
“Newspeak” by Andrew O'Hehir**

http://www.salon.com/2013/02/09/how_do_you_explain_drone_killings_with_post_orwellian_newspeak/

And please consider this: (Hint: we are not the only country with drone technology, just because others are behind doesn't mean they won't catch up – Remember “Spy vs Spy” cartoons in Mad Magazine)

“Why, for instance, does the United States, and only the United States, possess the authority to treat the entire developing world as a war zone and rain high-tech death from above on villages in Pakistan and Yemen and Somalia and other places so classified we don't know about them yet? (Some sources suggest that upwards of 3,000 alleged al-Qaida militants have been killed by drone strikes in those places during Obama's presidency, along with several hundred civilians.




Google: “frontline drone”

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
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I'd like to watch ...

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FRONTLINE | Drones: Remote Control War

The Air Force pilots who take out the Taliban during the day, but make it home for dinner. [Details](#) +

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Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Major funding for FRONTLINE is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the Park Foundation and by the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund.

<http://video.pbs.org/video/2175892463/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fNP51hZtVI&feature=related>



Drones and Your Rights

<http://www.dbstalk.com/showthread.php?t=203500>

She tells the cop her shotgun is "permitted."

Anyway, here's the promo which catches the shooting scene:




"In a hundred years there'll be a whole new set of people."

Unmanned aerial vehicles Wikipedia

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



A group photo of aerial demonstrators at the 2005 Naval Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Air Demo. 



An MQ-9 Reaper, a hunter-killer surveillance UAV.





Predator launching a Hellfire missile



A UAV detecting an underground facility



No higher resolution available

UAV monitoring and control at CBP



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop_Grumman_X-47B#Specifications_.28X-47B.29

X-47B UCAS-D



The X-47B's first takeoff, Edwards AFB, California,
February 2011

Role	Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
Manufacturer	Northrop Grumman
First flight	4 February 2011
Primary user	United States Navy
Developed from	X-47A Pegasus

EST <http://www.navytimes.com/news/2013/02/military-new-medal-for-drone-pilots-outranks-bronze-star-021313/>

New medal for drone pilots outranks Bronze Star

By [Andrew Tilghman](#) - Staff writer

Posted : Wednesday Feb 13, 2013 16:37:27

The Pentagon is creating a new high-level military medal that will recognize drone pilots and, in a controversial twist, giving it added clout by placing it above some traditional combat valor medals in the military's "order of precedence."

The Distinguished Warfare Medal will be awarded to pilots of unmanned aircraft, offensive cyber war experts or others who are directly involved in combat operations but who are not physically in theater and facing the physical risks that warfare historically entails.



Related reading

[Pentagon creates medal for cyber, drone wars \(2/13\)](#)

Related reading

The new medal will rank just below the Distinguished Flying Cross. It will have precedence over — and be worn on a uniform above — the Bronze Star with Valor device, a medal awarded to troops for specific heroic acts performed under fire in combat. The new medal is a brass pendant, nearly two inches tall, with a laurel wreath that circles a globe. An eagle is in the center. The ribbon has blue, red and white stripes.



<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2013/01/gannett-experts-say-drones-basis-new-global-arms-race-010813/>

Experts: Drones basis for new global arms race

By Jim Michaels - USA Today

Posted : Tuesday Jan 8, 2013 20:35:32 EST

The success of U.S. drones in Iraq and Afghanistan has triggered a global arms race, raising concerns the remotely piloted aircraft could fall into unfriendly hands, military experts say.

The number of countries that have acquired or developed drones expanded to more than 75, up from about 40 in 2005, according to the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress. Iran and China are among the countries that have fielded their own systems.

“People have seen the successes we’ve had,” said Lt. Gen. Larry James, the Air Force’s deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The U.S. military has used drones extensively in Afghanistan, primarily to watch over enemy targets. Armed drones have been used to target terrorist leaders with missiles that are fired from miles away.

The United States is years ahead of the world in the technology of drones. Israel is also a leader in developing the unmanned aircraft.

Vital message never shared in friendly-fire tragedy

By LINDSAY WISE, HOUSTON CHRONICLE |
October 22, 2011 | Updated: October 23, 2011 11:46pm



A Marine sergeant heard the news over the radio: A Predator drone was about to fire a Hellfire missile at [Taliban](#) fighters near Building 58. The sergeant, crouched with his team behind a low wall in an Afghan poppy field, asked a corporal to check the location of Building 58. The corporal pulled out a map. It took him less than a minute to pinpoint the building.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Friendly-fire-tragedy-A-missile-strike-that-went-2231738.php#photo-1672068>

"Building 58 is the wrong building," he said.

Almost at the same moment, "Seventeen seconds to impact," crackled over the radio.

It was too late. The missile was already on its way.

The 100-pound laser-guided Hellfire had its cross hairs fixed on Houston-based Marine Staff Sgt. [Jeremy Smith](#), 26, and Navy corpsman [Benjamin Rast](#), 23.

At least a dozen people in three different U.S. states and two bases in Afghanistan watched the tragedy unfold live on the drone's video feed. Messages and images passed instantly across thousands of miles through secure chat rooms and via satellite - a miracle of modern warfare. But somehow the one message that might have halted the strike never got to the right people.

2012 Was the Year of the Drone in Afghanistan

BY SPENCER ACKERMAN 12.06.12 12:24 PM

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An armed MQ-9 Reaper drone taxis on an Afghanistan runway, November 2007. The drones have been busier in Afghanistan in 2012 than ever before. *Photo: U.S. Air Force*

Air Power Statistics

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2007-2012 Airpower Statistics

UNCLASSIFIED

As of 30 November 2012



Afghanistan

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/International Security Assistance Force

Close Air Support

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2009	27,815	2009	1,733
2010	32,928	2010	1,817
2011	34,286	2011	1,983
2012	27,085	2012	1,505

Number of Weapon Releases

Less Activity More Activity

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2009	163	203	364	465	456	442	384	445	254	541	238	208	4,163
2010	157	154	175	197	300	457	325	413	740	1,043	866	272	5,099
2011	405	341	337	339	426	610	695	516	597	663	308	174	5,411
2012	170	116	227	252	406	521	507	588	394	414	291	-	3,886

Number of Weapons Releases from Remotely Piloted Aircraft

2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
257	279	294	447	1,273

-Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification

Combined Data

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	11,202	16,193	18,898	28,747	38,198	32,267
Airlift Sorties	56,179	51,945	52,905	63,324	58,914	35,044
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	270,007	251,738	264,839	298,079	230,230	221,589
Airlift Passengers	1,177,533	1,269,710	1,301,740	1,369,002	1,114,376	686,461
OEF Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	8,182,066	16,576,297	32,267,606	60,400,000	75,956,235	33,771,283
Tanker Sorties	15,875	18,361	17,465	17,296	19,469	15,033
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	946	1,106	1,076	1,050	1,095	924
Aircraft Refueled	79,798	86,288	82,095	82,603	90,476	63,465
Medevac Sorties	-	-	-	3,712	2,959	3,865
Saves	-	-	-	1,888	1,611	1,150
Assists	-	-	-	2,964	2,121	1,598

- Data not available

POC: AFCENT (CAOC) PublicAffairs - DSN 318-436-1624



Parrot® AR.Drone 2.0 (Orange, Blue)

Model: PF721002 | Catalog #: 55056260

\$299.99



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↳ See technical specifications

↳ See features of this product

<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=19182216>

Product Summary **Eye in the sky.**

This orange and blue drone features a security camera to capture fantastic aerial video footage. Several control modes from beginner to expert are available, including "Absolute Control" mode. Drone pilots can use their iPad®/iPhone®/iPod® or Android™ 2.2 and up device to control the AR.Drone 2.0. A pressure sensor and gyroscope let the user pilot their device like an expert with unrivaled stability, even in higher altitudes. The camera offers 720p high-definition live video streaming to a smartphone or tablet while flying and users can record and share videos and pictures straight from the AR.FreeFlight 2.0 piloting app. Director mode allows users to easily program AR.Drone 2.0 automatic flights to record shots and the Li-polymer battery lasts 12 minutes. The Wi-Fi® capable drone has a 165-ft. range and features a 1280x720 high-definition.

From ARdrone



Director mode: program automatic movements to shoot videos like a movie director.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5fwjHO6VjWw

Chris Dorner

... but judging by the LAPD's shoot-first, verify-later spree of open-firing at the wrong people, Dorner has reason to fear he'll never get his day in court, [says Matt Pressberg at the USC Annenberg journalism school's *Neon Tommy*](#). That should worry all of us. Due process "is not only a bedrock constitutional principle (Fifth Amendment) in this country, but one of the key underpinnings of freedom period." And if our government "can simply be the executioner and disregard judge and jury" — be it for Dorner or Anwar al-Awlaki, the U.S.-born al Qaeda operative killed by a drone in Yemen, followed soon after by his American son — "individual rights effectively don't exist." An excerpt:

As an American citizen accused of a crime, Chris Dorner has his Fifth Amendment rights. The facts on the ground don't make it seem as if LAPD was all too interested in respecting them.... Alleged is not just a term journalists need to use to avoid the ire of a cautious editor. It's part of civilized-world jurisprudence. But now it seems like Americans have little use for alleged criminals who need to be brought to justice. Their attention is on terrorist madmen who must be stopped before they murder our children, and if innocent people get killed in the process — well, it's a dangerous world and we can't take chances.

Chris Dorner... is a dangerous guy with nothing to lose and it's not unfair to call him a domestic terrorist, as LAPD Chief Charlie Beck did. However, just because he's a terrorist, it doesn't mean he can be summarily executed, whether he's in Yucaipa or Yemen. The media bears some responsibility for our tolerance of Big Armed Brother. Scary stories get eyeballs, and when the news oversamples these rare events, people think the world is a much more frightening place than it really is and are more willing to submit to invasions of their privacy to calm their intentionally stoked fears. To paraphrase one of the people behind the Constitution, people willing to give up liberty for the feeling of security deserve the TSA.
<http://theweek.com/article/index/239985/christopherspdorner-drones-and-the-death-of-due-process>

A few recommendations from:

A New US Defense Strategy for a New Era

- The US should maintain space, air, and naval forces superior to those of any potential adversary.
- The US should maintain robust and technologically advanced special operations forces to counter terrorists and criminal enterprises, protect US citizens overseas, and for other contingencies.
- The US should strongly resist being drawn into protracted land wars.** The United States must maintain competent ground forces as a deterrent, and ground force deployments may be necessary to fulfill commitments to allies, but such deployments should be conducted only as part of joint operations to achieve the rapid defeat of the enemy's forces and the equally rapid withdrawal of US forces, as was done in the first Gulf War.

<http://www.stimson.org/books-reports/a-new-us-defense-strategy-for-a-new-era-military-superiority-agility-and-efficiency/>

Preamble to the Constituion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revolution

The President has no direct authority over “We the People” except those in the military and government and those guilty of breaking the laws. He works for us.

On the contrary the people have a legitimate expectation that the President will protect the people from the excesses of the government and the majority.

We are a nation governed by laws that must not infringe on the inalienable rights of the individual enumerated in the constitution.

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?

DON'T PANIC!

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!

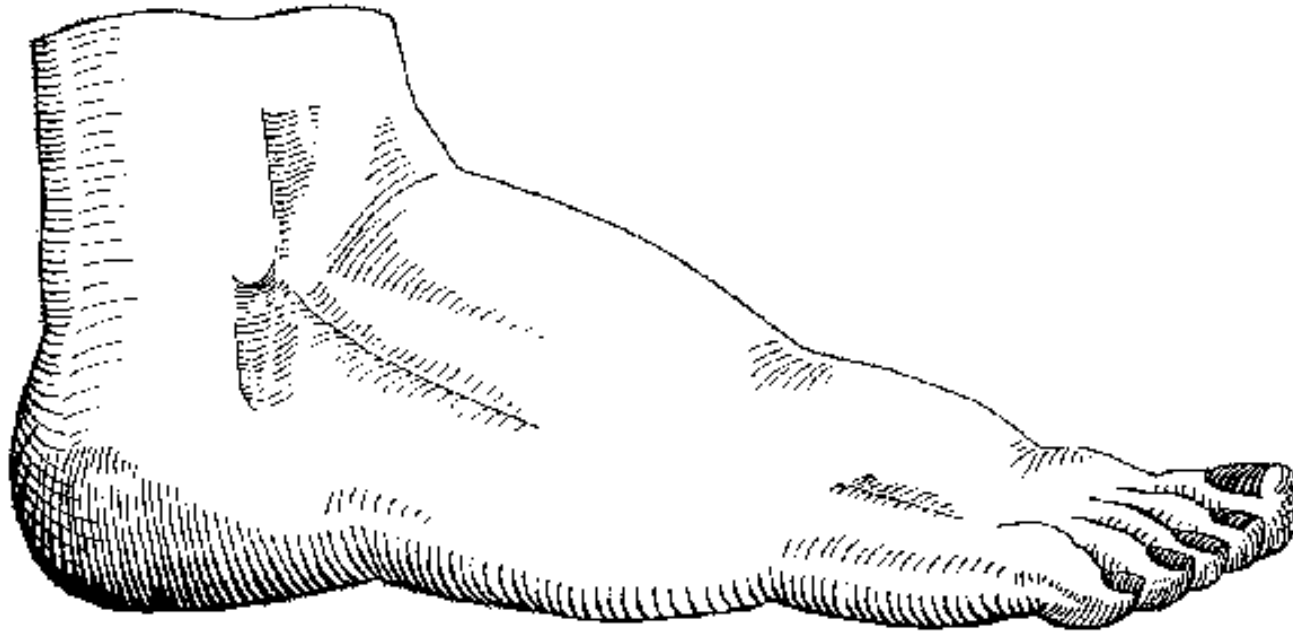
Welcome back to interesting times !

Have a great and safe holiday Season



See You 16 February 2012

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.

Realistically

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

Promises Unfulfilled

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

Justice for Whom

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

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

The Important Questions for the future

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

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

Are things getting better re gateways democracy now

You can be intelligent or you can be a politician

The Center for Responsive Politics

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

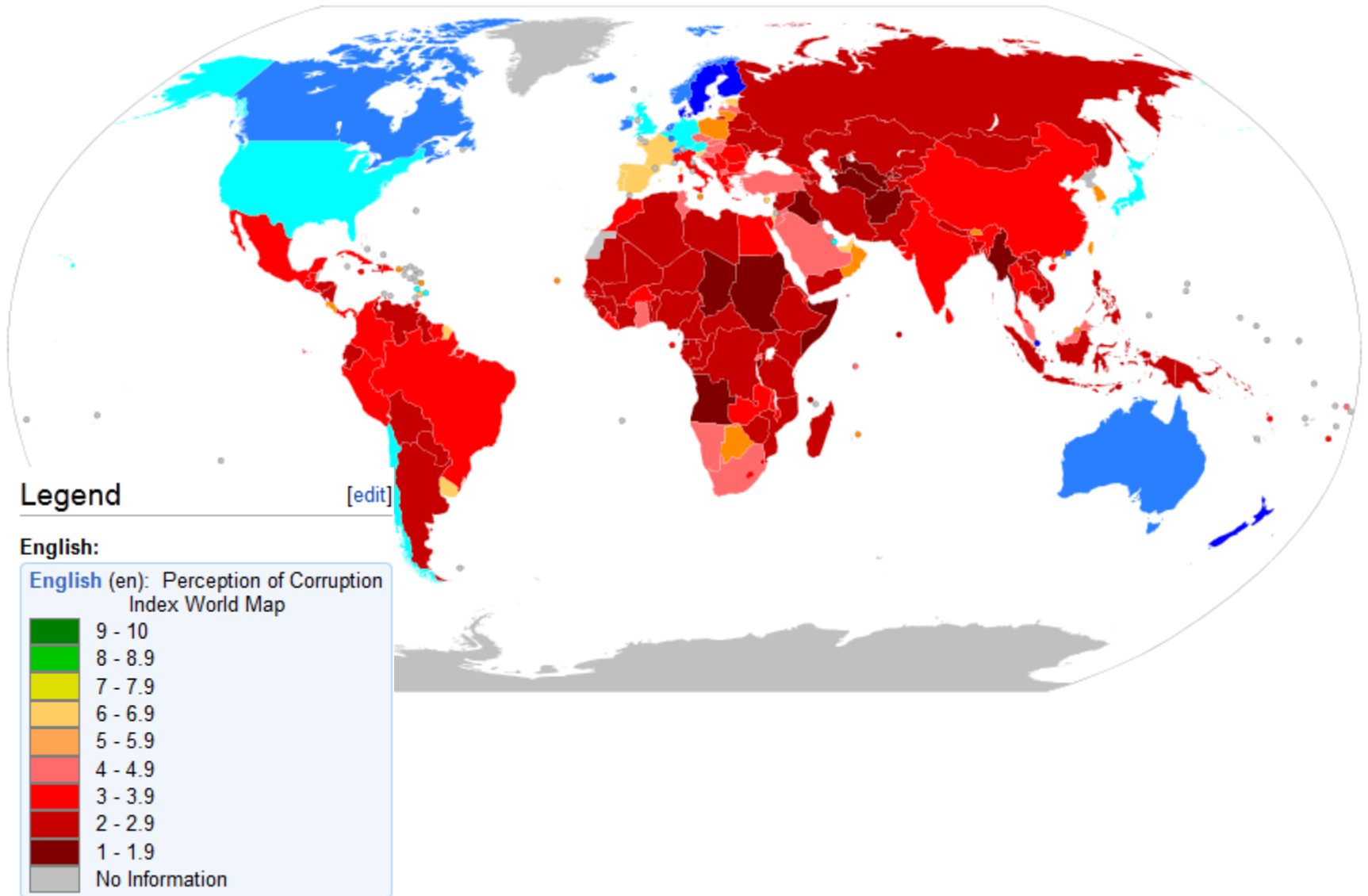
As you read, you may notice our analysis doesn't mention President Barack Obama's re-election, the fiscal cliff, Silvio Berlusconi's return as Italy's premier and other news of geopolitical importance. That's because we take the radical view that external events like these have no significant long-term impact on the financial markets. Instead, we look at the market's internal price patterns and what *really* drives them: social mood.

The National Institute on Money in State Politics

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

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

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



16 February 2013

Drones and Your Rights

47

Questions

•Who can predict what will start to happen on the day after Tuesday, November 6, 2012? Will we have a two term president or a brand new one?

- Romney Doesn't believe it ,

- just knows that he was the favorite

- Accuses Democrats of buying off.

- Doesn't realize that he alienated: Women, Minorities, Labor Unions, Auto Workers

- Confirmation bias in full effect

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

Questions

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

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

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

New Exemptions

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

Options

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

Creative Solutions to some Very Complex Problems

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

Are You ready to vote? (Note Early Voting starts Monday)

- First Day of Early Voting - October 22, 2012
(Monday, which is next business day after
statutory deadline)**
- Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail -
October 30, 2012(Received, not Postmarked)**
- Last Day of Early Voting - November 2,
2012**

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



Why Won't We be Happy

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

It's kind of a four part problem.

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

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

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

Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

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

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

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

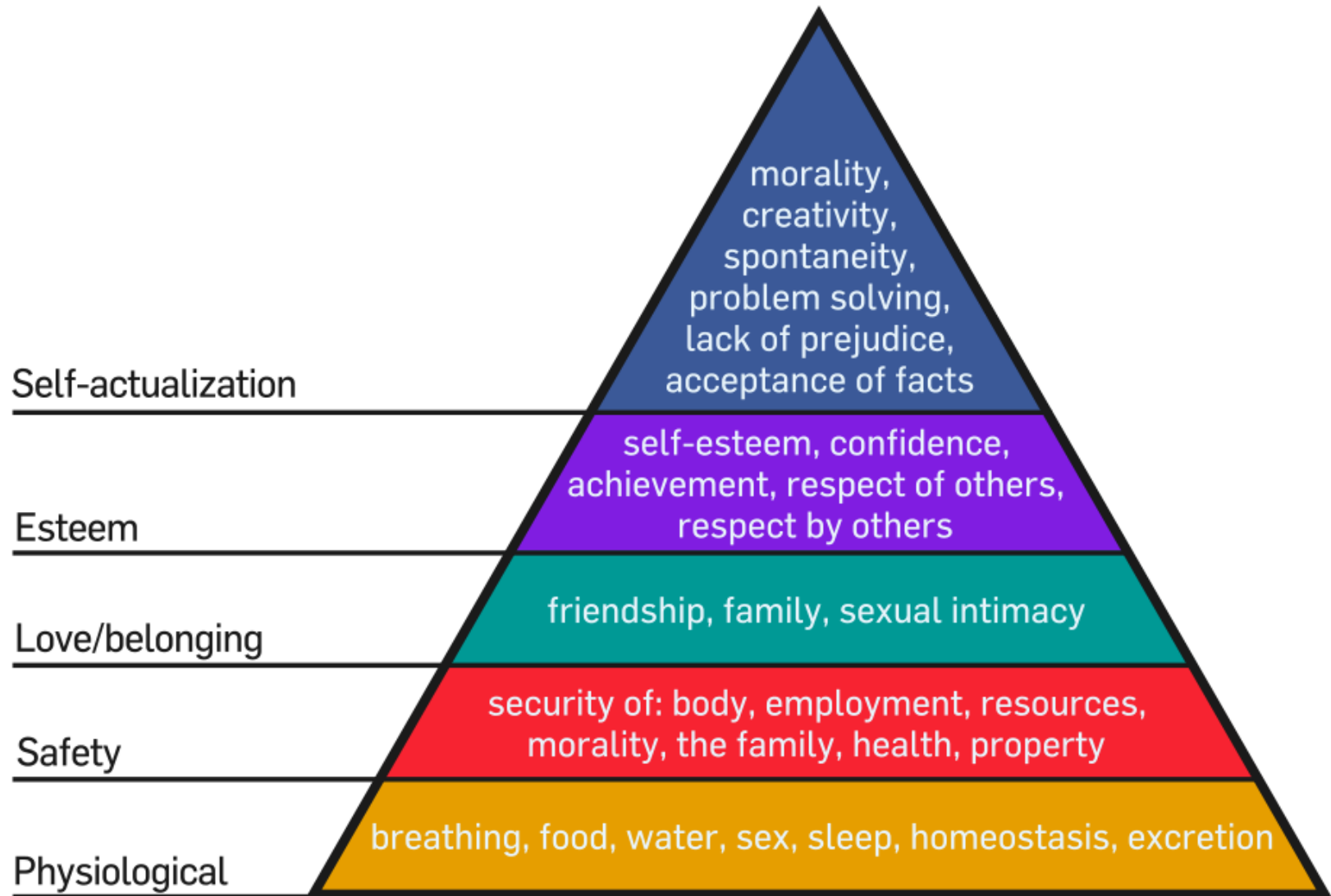
Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

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

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

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

Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



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

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

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

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

If Destiny Calls ...

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

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

Grace Lee Boggs

Motivation

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

. The Ideologically Motivated (Religious, Political or Hybrid)

. The Psychologically Dangerous (Sociopath or Cognitively Impaired)

. Personal Benefit or Revenge

Manicheans Rule

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

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

The Country

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

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

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

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

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

We are the 25 %

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

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

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