

Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013

Humanity at a Crossroads

20 April 2013

Session 07

Power? Power? Whose power is it anyway?

(Chaos in Democracy?)

Presentation

Curt Gibby

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

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



E.O. Wilson: On why the moderately bright, rather than the brilliant, are best equipped for science

"Mere brightness can be valuable, but that's not what makes a successful scientist. A successful scientist is a person that develops a passion for a subject. That leads to persistence. Persistence is extremely important. Now ... what happens to the ones with IQs of 170 and 180 and so on? Aren't they the ones who do the really brilliant work, the great advances, the game-changing? I don't think so. Maybe they do. But much more likely what they do is join a Mensa society and possibly work for the IRS or write columns in newspapers. Our medium-IQ person does not find his education that easy, but maybe for the very very bright, in their education, found it a little too easy. So they were not mentally tough. That's just one person's perspective, but it's the one I've developed."

<http://www.npr.org/2013/04/14/176815339/advice-on-passion-brilliance-and-bugs-in-letters>

E. O. Wilson: On why solitude, not brainstorming in groups, is the source of creativity

"I'll tell you what I think about the creative process, how it happens. It happens when there is one person eager to do something special. They want to do something really new, and so they begin to think through what would be the meaning about some sort of odd observation: What can I make out of it? And then they get the germ of an idea, and at this point they're starting to talk to others. Well, I've drawn in, for example, mathematicians, and I'm poor at math. And then from then on we were partners. Now you've got the beginning of a team. Now you've got group think, there's no question about it, group think is the second stage in the creative process in science."

<http://www.npr.org/2013/04/14/176815339/advice-on-passion-brilliance-and-bugs-in-letters>

"We will use your democracy to destroy your democracy."-Muslim cleric Omar Bakri Moha

In 2000, Bakri told Cybercast News Service in an interview

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1439130/posts>

To lead by example

Even shortly after the Revolutionary War, naysayers, some well-meaning, were predicting that Democracy in America would be short-lived. They just couldn't see how a government of humans could hold this radical idea together and predicted a return to, if not a monarchy, some dictatorial form of government. I understand that Lafayette on his last visit to the United States to receive the thanks of a grateful country begged our leaders to do everything in their power to preserve our democracy, so it would become a model for other nations, and so it has.

Vetocracies

However, our ability to exercise strong rational governance is no longer apparent. Not only have we become polemicized, stupid and gullible. Our forefathers put in writing a Constitution that masterfully created a balance of power, it also protected everyone against the excesses of the powerful and that especially included the powerful institutions of the various levels of government and well as commercial and corporate interests. In creating the Bill of rights that provided this protection to the individual, along with the “balance of powers” it appears that, we have created what **political scientist Frank Fukuyama calls, “vetocracies.”**

Book Traces History and Decline of Political Power as Power of 'No' Rises

THURSDAY, April 11, 2013 (NPR NewsHour), SUMMARY

Moises Naim's new book, "The End of Power," aims to track the history of political power and answer why being in charge isn't what it used to be. Ray Suarez talks with Naim, also a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, about why power is both harder to use and to keep today.

In the 21st century, is the power that comes with running things, governments, armies, religions, all that it used to be?

In "The End of Power," Moises Naim of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace argues that power as we have understood it for a long time is both harder to use and to keep.

Ray Suarez interviews Moises Naim

It is in two parts. The first link is the part that was broadcast. The link to the second is on the same page and I have listed it below the first.

Part 1 is 6 1/2 minutes long, Part 2 is 3 1/2 minutes, total 10 minutes

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june13/power_04-11.html

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2013/04/moises-naim.html>

MOISES NAIM, Author, "The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being In Charge Isn't What It Used to Be": In each of those examples, you have situations where -- that shows that size no longer matters as much.

Think about the Taliban and the army. They are facing the coalition army of some of the most modern, sophisticated military ever assembled. **Well, they're not winning, but they're denying victory to this very large coalition.**

Think about the large companies that you mentioned, especially in the financial sector. Of course, they now concentrate a lot of assets, but many of them are under attack.

Many of them have been -- some of the CEOs have been fired. All of them are under regulatory attack that is going to constrain even more what they can do. So for each one of the examples, and even the governments -- think about the big governments that -- of course they're larger, but they're also more constrained.

RAY SUAREZ: So is it really that power is not as easy to keep and to use, or that it is distributed in more places and more people have it?

MOISES NAIM: Of course. And it's both.

And the end result is **that it's easier to acquire, but, as you said in the introduction, much harder to use and more fleeting.**

MOISES NAIM: Think about the process of selecting this new pope and think about the coalitions that were forming, how different issues, different regions, different factors played into the selection of this new pope.

And think about how, in places like Africa, like Latin America, the Vatican is losing market share, so to speak. There are more and more contenders and rivals and new types of religions and Pentecostalists, and all kind of Protestant churches.

Protestantism is growing.

Brazil, in 1990, the census said that 90 percent of Brazilians called themselves Catholics, now 65 percent. In many countries in Latin America now, Catholicism is not the main religion.

RAY SUAREZ: Sure. As you say, the power of no is really quite potent in the 21st century.

But can we flip that and maybe think of it as a more democratic ideal, the idea that the average person in the world is experiencing new power by being able to refuse to listen to the people that they used to listen to or be understood to have to listen to?

MOISES NAIM: There's no doubt that the trends have empowered individuals, have given individuals more choice, more opportunity, more options. And they're exercising that. That's -- there's no doubt about that.

But there is another side to it in which no one decides, in which everyone is empowered, everyone has a little bit of power, but there is no one who organizes the game. There's no one that provides direction. There's no one that makes the decisions, the collective decisions that we all need to live in society.

RAY SUAREZ: So are we on our way? If that is not a very good recipe for running a world, are we on our way to a more collaborative planet? Will stakeholders decide that, yes, there is some power in no, but maybe there's a little bit more power in working together?

MOISES NAIM: I hope so. I hope so.

I think a lot of policies are choking in checks and balances. There are too many constraints that don't let governments govern. And I'm not suggesting that they have to become more autocratic and that we have to give a blank check to a government. They need to be constrained and scrutinized. And accountability is a very important facet of democracy.

But they need to have some power to run things. And that is where we need to move towards, and that -- scrutinizing and understanding what are the checks and balances that are now in place that are counterproductive is a very important exercise.

Moises Naim ... North Korea's Kim Jong Un challenge to hold power in a world where democracies seem to be overtaking autocracies.

"It is becoming harder for him, for people like the North Korean government and the North Korean leader to stay in power. He can get away with it ... but the number of autocracies has been plummeting" in the wake of forces like the democracy movement of the Arab Spring.

Naim recently released "The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be".

More unconventional leaders of democracy, people like **Nelson Mandela** in South Africa and Myanmar's **Aung San Suu Kyi**, made headway because they were able to mobilize the energies, hopes, desperation and political power that were against the more dominant structures of power -- South Africa's apartheid and Myanmar's military junta

China offers another complicated picture. It has succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, he continued, **but now has an emerging middle class that is placing strains and demands on the government that "are in many ways undermining its ability to be that superpower that people fear."**

Why the people in power are increasingly powerless

by Moisés Naím, March 01, 2013
in The Washington Post

Let's discuss some of Naim's ideas a little more in one of his recent columns that can be found at:

<http://moisesnaim.com/writings/why-people-power-are-increasingly-powerless>

In 2009, during his first address before a joint session of Congress, President Obama championed a budget that (**he thought**) would serve as a blueprint for the country's future through ambitious investments in energy, health care and education. "This is America," the new president proclaimed. "We don't do what's easy."

Four years later, even easy seems impossible. "Let's agree right here, right now, to keep the people's government open, pay our bills on time and always uphold the full faith and credit of the United States of America," Obama pleaded during his State of the Union address.

By having to exhort Congress to execute even the most basic functions of government, Obama — fresh off the "fiscal cliff" fight and facing yet another showdown with lawmakers over massive automatic spending cuts — revealed just how limited the powers of the highest office in the land have become.

A politician can become prime minister, only to discover that she is tied down by myriad minority parties that can veto her initiatives.

A general can become military chief, only to discover that the mighty weapons and advanced technology at his disposal are ineffective in the face of IEDs and suicide bombers.

And a cardinal can become pope this month, only to discover that new preachers in Africa and Latin America are pilfering his flock.

Why is power increasingly fleeting?

First, there is more competition for it. The **number of sovereign states has nearly quadrupled since the 1940s, from 51 to 193**, and they contend not just with one another but also with **agencies such as the International Monetary Fund — or hedge funds, or international drug cartels — as well as with transnational activist groups such as the Sierra Club or Amnesty International.**

In 2011, when the Arab Spring exploded, autocrats ruled 22 countries, down from 89 in 1977, highlighting how difficult it is these days to amass absolute power. And within countries, power is more dispersed. **In 2012, only four of the world's 34 wealthiest democracies had a president or a prime minister whose party also had a majority in parliament. Right now, those weakened heads of state include, among many others, Britain's David Cameron, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and the next leader of Italy.** In non-democratic countries that allow political parties — such as Jordan and Burma — **the clout of minority parties is growing.** Autocrats who in the past had little trouble crushing dissenting voices now have to tolerate them or, in some cases, succumb to them.

Power is crumbling in the world's battlefields and boardrooms as well

.A 2001 study by political scientist Ivan Arreguin-Toft found that in the asymmetric wars that broke out between 1800 and 1849, the weaker side (in terms of armaments and troops) achieved its strategic goals in only 12 percent of cases. But in the wars of that kind **between 1950 and 1998, the supposedly weaker side prevailed 55 percent of the time.** Military might is no longer what it used to be. Neither is corporate power. Remember when what was good for General Motors was good for America, or when IBM reigned supreme in the world of computers? In 1980, a U.S. company ranked among the 20 percent largest in its industry had only a 1-in-10 chance of falling out of that tier over the next five years. Two decades later, that chance grew to 1 in 4. According to management consultant John Challenger, **the tenure of the average American chief executive has dropped from about 10 years in the 1990s to about 5¹ / 2 years more recently.** Last year, Forbes emphasized that “churn” was the main characteristic of its latest list of the world's billionaires, with almost as many members losing wealth (441) as gaining it (460).

Clearly, the presidents of the United States and China and the chief executives of JPMorgan Chase and Shell Oil still wield immense power; it's just a lot less than their predecessors had. In the past, presidents and chief executives not only faced fewer challengers and competitors, they also had fewer constraints on how they deployed power — **constraints that today are as varied as global financial markets, a more politically aware and demanding population, and the 24-hour glare of media scrutiny. As a result, power players now often pay a steeper and more immediate price for their mistakes.**

Political leaders, meanwhile, are finding their war powers constrained by constituents who are less tolerant of military casualties, as we saw during France’s precipitous troop withdrawal from the Afghan war in November after a series of deadly insurgent attacks.

It’s not just the supposed “democratizing” and “empowering” force of the Internet that is eroding power. New information technologies are tools — important ones for sure — but to have impact, tools need users, and users need direction and motivation. **Facebook, Twitter and text messages were fundamental in empowering the Arab Spring protesters.** But the circumstances that motivated them to take to the streets were local and personal conditions: unemployment and the rising, unmet expectations of a fast-growing, better-educated middle class. **Moreover, the same technologies that have empowered citizens have created new avenues for state surveillance and repression, helping Iran, for example, identify and imprison participants in its stillborn Green Revolution.**

the More, Mobility and Mentality revolutions.

Nor is the decay of power related to the supposed decline of America and rise of China — one of the most useless and distracting debates of our time. **When the Taliban is able to deny the world's mightiest military a victory, when [Somali pirates](#) with rickety boats and AK-47s thumb their noses at the most modern multinational fleet ever assembled, when European leaders fail to stem the economic crisis that started in Greece's minuscule economy and when the world is incapable of agreeing on how to curb carbon emissions, it becomes clear that something is happening to global power that transcends any zero-sum, Sino-American rivalry.**

The biggest challenges to traditional power have come from transformations in the basics of life — how we live, where, for how long and how well. These changes can be encapsulated in three simultaneous revolutions: **the More, Mobility and Mentality revolutions.**

The More Revolution

The 21st century has more of everything, from people to literacy to products on the market to political parties. The global middle class is expanding, and by 2050, the world's population will be four times larger than it was 100 years earlier. **According to the World Bank, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty plunged over the past decade, the first time that has happened since statistics on global poverty became available, and since 2006, 28 formerly “low-income countries” have joined the ranks of “middle-income” ones.**

An impatient and better-informed middle class that wants progress faster than governments can deliver, and whose intolerance for corruption has transformed it into a potent force, is the engine driving many of this decade's political changes in the developing world. India's expanding middle class, for instance, helped catapult the largely unknown anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare to fame by flocking to him in 2011 after he launched a hunger strike.

The Mobility Revolution

Not only are there more people today with higher standards of living, but they are also moving more than at any other time — and that makes them harder to control. The United Nations estimates that there are 214 million migrants across the globe living somewhere other than their country of origin, an increase of 37 percent in the past two decades. **Ethnic, religious and professional diasporas are changing the distribution of power within and among populations.** An interesting case: In 2007, a Nigerian-born man was elected in Portlaoise, Ireland, a commuter town west of Dublin, as that country's first black mayor

The Mentality Revolution

An ever-consuming and ever-moving population — with access to more resources and information than ever before — has also undergone a massive cognitive and emotional transformation. **The World Values Survey, for instance, has identified an increasing global consensus regarding the importance of individual freedoms and gender equality, as well as popular intolerance for authoritarianism.** Dissatisfaction with political systems and government institutions is also a growing and global phenomenon.

Together, these three revolutions are eroding the barriers that have shielded the powerful from challengers. The More Revolution helps the challengers overwhelm the barriers, the Mobility Revolution helps them circumvent them, and the Mentality Revolution helps them undermine them.

decline of traditional power

Should we embrace this decline of traditional power? In some ways, yes — it has given us freer societies, more elections and options for voters, new ways of becoming politically active, more investment and trade, and more choices for consumers.

But the decay of power also poses dangers to our wallets, families and lives. It explains why the U.S. economy is at the mercy of self-inflicted crises in Washington. It explains why European nations struggle to act together in the face of crippling economic problems, despite spending decades developing institutions geared toward collective action. **It explains why fragile states that have difficulty delivering basic services are proliferating.** It explains why the world is paralyzed in the effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

***“We will use your democracy to destroy
your democracy”***

Omar Bakri Mohammed, is a Syrian-born cleric who has promoted and praised violence against Israel, America and Britain for years.

Exploiting democracy

In 2000, Bakri told Cybercast News Service in an interview: "We will use your democracy to destroy your democracy."

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FairfieldLife/message/60810>

(Jul 8, 2005)

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Power? Power? Whose is it?

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the end of power

Given the end of power as we know it, our traditional checks and balances — originally meant to constrain excessive power — are now threatening to choke what little power is left. As Peter Orszag, Obama’s former budget chief, has observed, “Radical as it sounds, we need to counter the gridlock of our political institutions by making them a bit less democratic.”

Size no longer means strength. Bureaucracy no longer means control. And titles no longer mean authority. And if the future of power lies in disruption and interference, not management and consolidation, can we expect to ever know stability again?

What do you think?

A Limerick to go

If you wonder why our world is in such confusion and chaos - - - sing this, but , cover your children's ears.

There once was a queer from Khartoum
Took a lesbian up to his room
They argued all night
As to who had the right
To do what
And with which
And to whom

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, 7 Months and 16 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)!

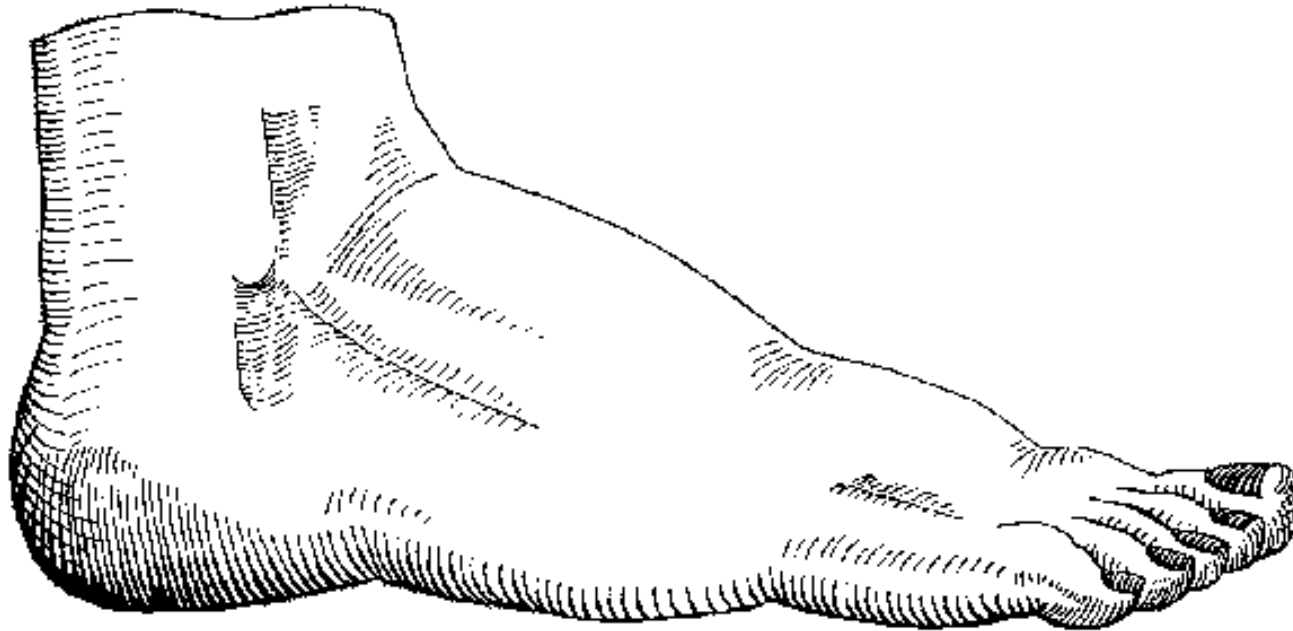
Welcome back to interesting times !

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.

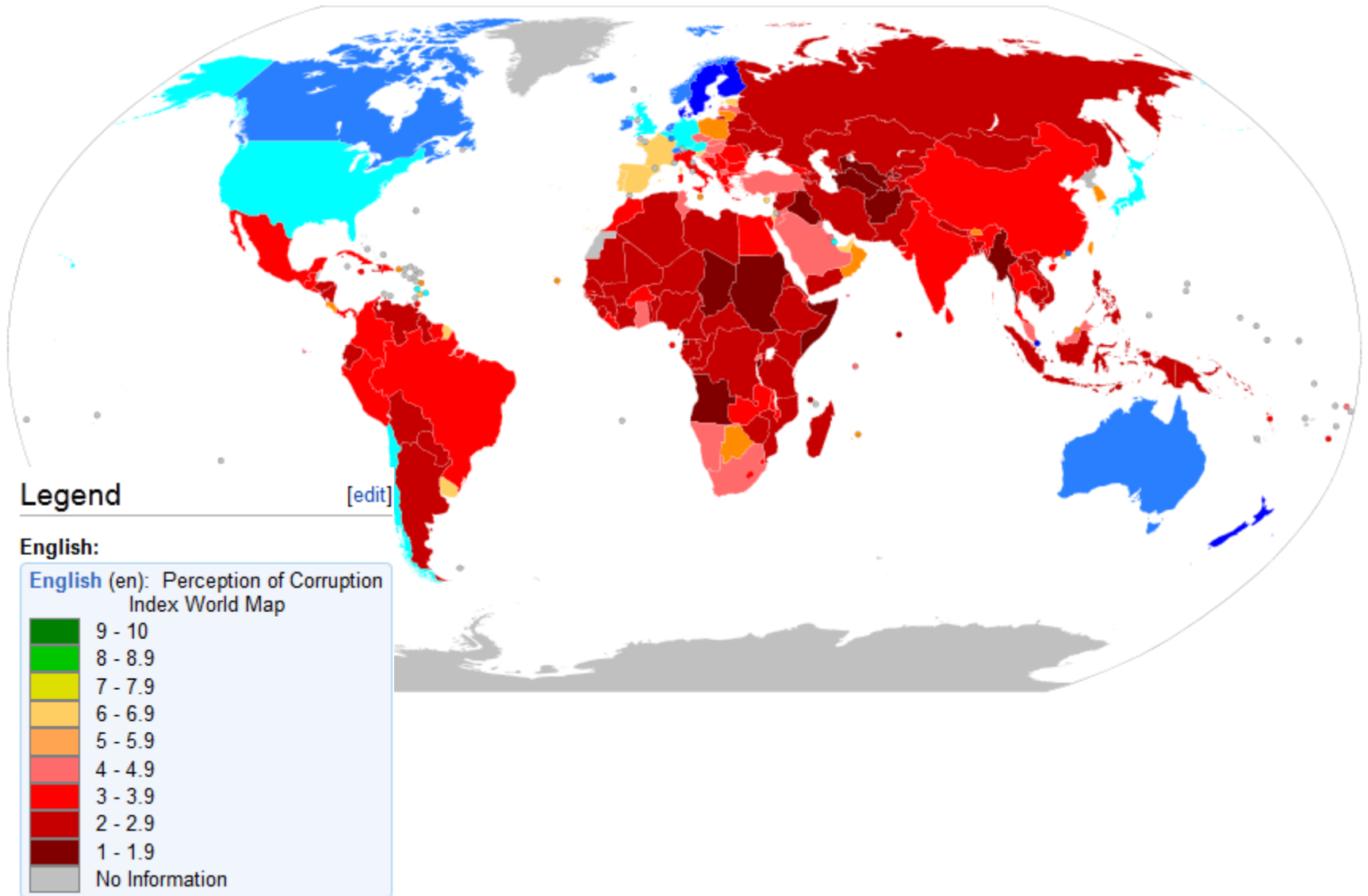
As you read, you may notice our analysis doesn't mention President Barack Obama's re-election, the fiscal cliff, Silvio Berlusconi's return as Italy's premier and other news of geopolitical importance. That's because we take the radical view that external events like these have no significant long-term 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



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Power? Power? Whose is it?

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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)

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Power? Power? Whose is it?

Questions

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<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.

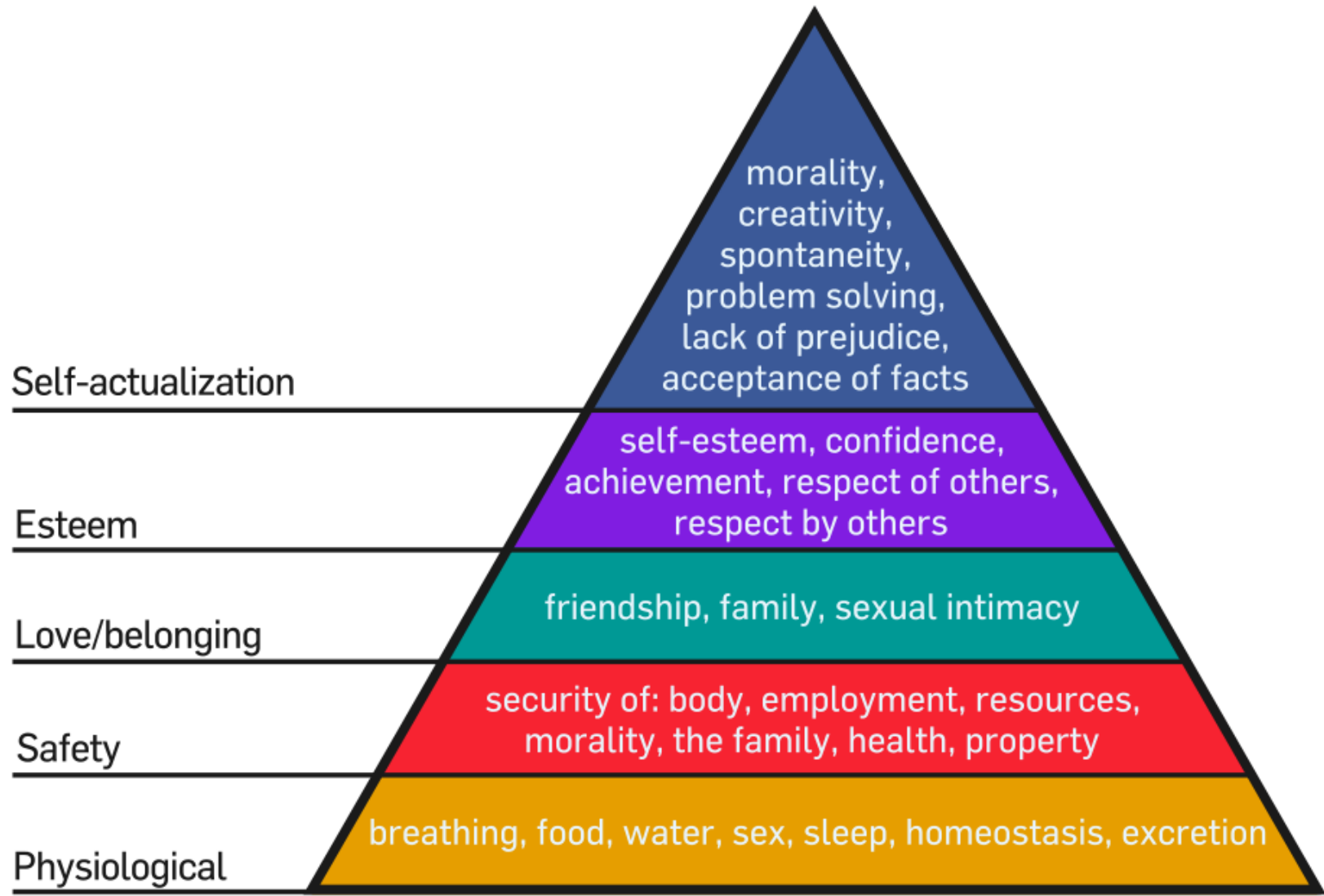
Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

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