

**Third Saturday Seminar 2012-2013**

**Humanity at a Crossroads**

**18 May 2013**

**Session 08**

**The Incredible Shrinking Workforce?**

*(The future purpose of people)*

**Presentation**

**Curt Gibby**

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

**Conroe, Texas**

# **DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)**

## A disclaimer

As our times get more and more interesting, some of the subjects I bring up are sounding more and more onerous or threatening.

My purpose is not to frighten anyone, even when some of the information seems to have a prophetic quality. I cannot predict the future with any accuracy. But, we can distinguish possibilities given what we all see going on. We just may see some of the things we talk about become part of our reality in the future. And, if they do, then I hope by our talking about them now, we will avoid being surprised and the temptation to (be) panic(ked).

Our leaders love to manipulate us emotionally into crises and panic us into an irrational fear response. Please don't let them. Know the difference between possibilities and probabilities., Curt Gibby

# **The Great Reset-Disappearing Jobs**

**Middle-class jobs cut in recession feared gone for good, lost to technology**

By BERNARD CONDON and PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Business Writers

---

**EDITOR'S NOTE: First in a three-part series on the loss of middle-class jobs in the wake of the Great Recession, and the role of technology.**

**<http://www.theind.com/news/indreporter/12659-the-great-reset-disappearing-jobs>**

**The Stock Market continues to climb and we hear about job growth, but to quote from the work of Bernard Condon and Paul Wiseman of the AP (in the article that follows):**

"There's no sector of the economy that's going to get a pass," says Martin Ford, who runs a software company and wrote "The Lights in the Tunnel," a book predicting widespread job losses. "It's everywhere."

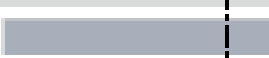

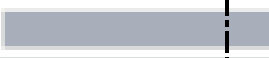





**The numbers startle even labor economists. In the United States, half the 7.5 million jobs lost during the Great Recession were in industries that pay middle-class wages, ranging from \$38,000 to \$68,000. But only 2 percent of the 3.5 million jobs gained since the recession ended in June 2009 are in midpay industries."**

# L.M. Sixel It looks like a good year to be a college graduate

Houston Chronicle p D1, May 9, 2013

## Salary survey

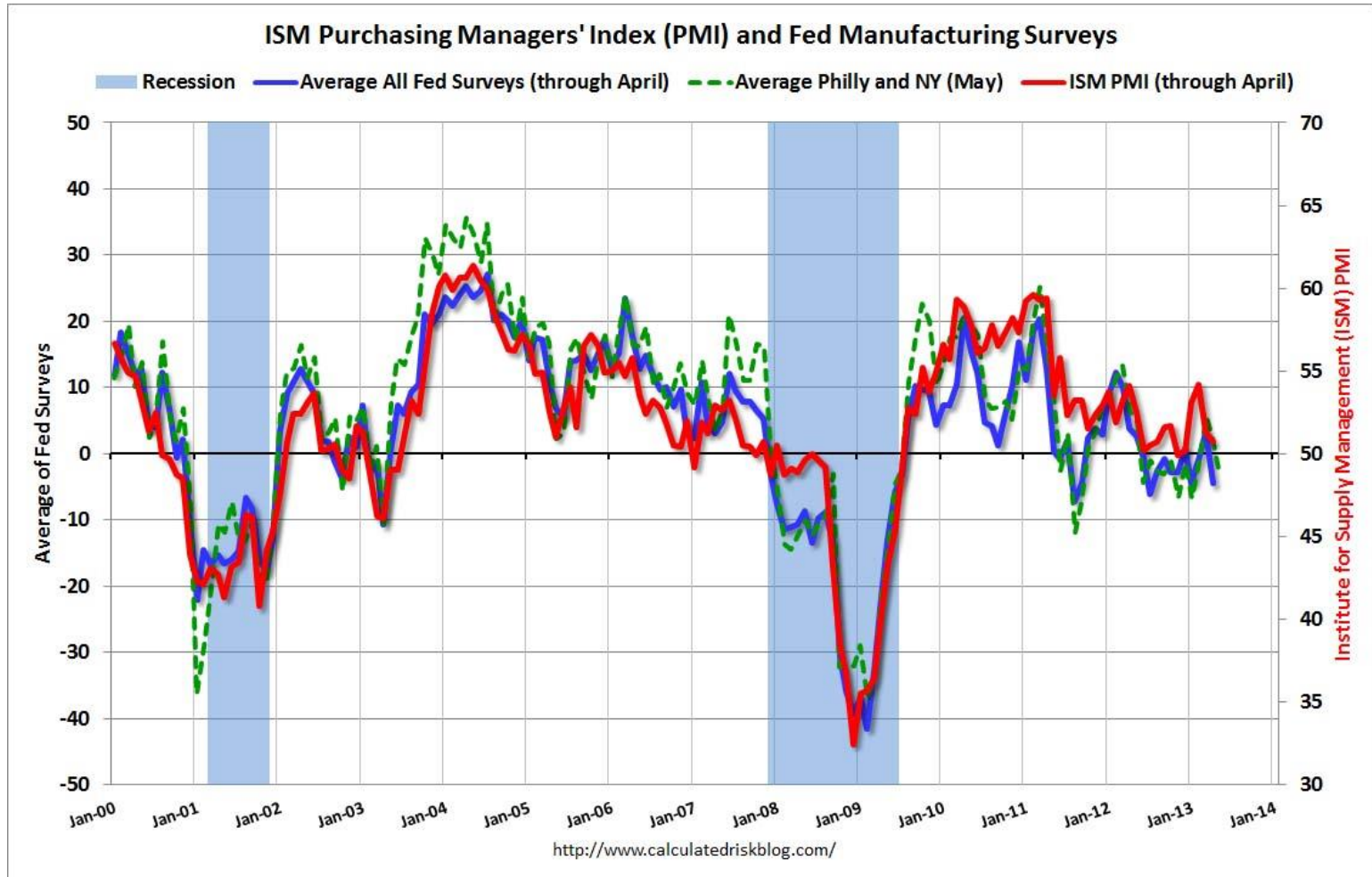
This year's college graduates will command an average starting salary of \$44,928 — an increase of 5.3 percent over last year's number.

Average starting salaries for 2013 graduates, by discipline:	Average \$44,928	Change from 2012
<b>Business</b>	\$54,234 	7.1%
<b>Communications</b>	\$43,145 	3.8%
<b>Computer science</b>	\$59,977 	4.3%
<b>Education</b>	\$40,480 	5.1%
<b>Engineering</b>	\$62,535 	4.0%
<b>Health sciences</b>	\$49,713 	9.4%
<b>Humanities/social sciences</b>	\$37,058 	1.9%
<b>Math/sciences</b>	\$42,724 	3.1%

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers

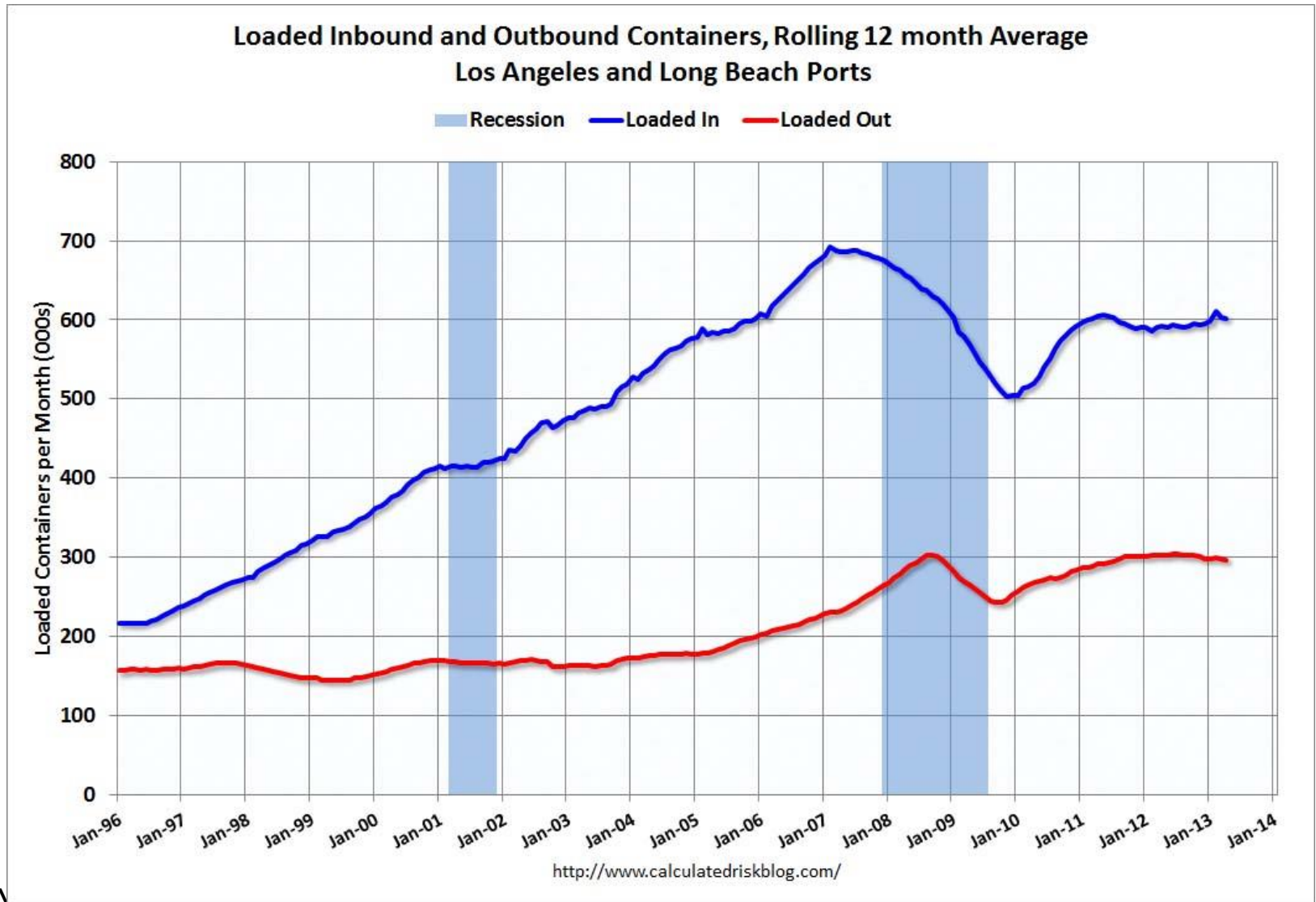
Houston Chronicle

# Purchasing Managers Index

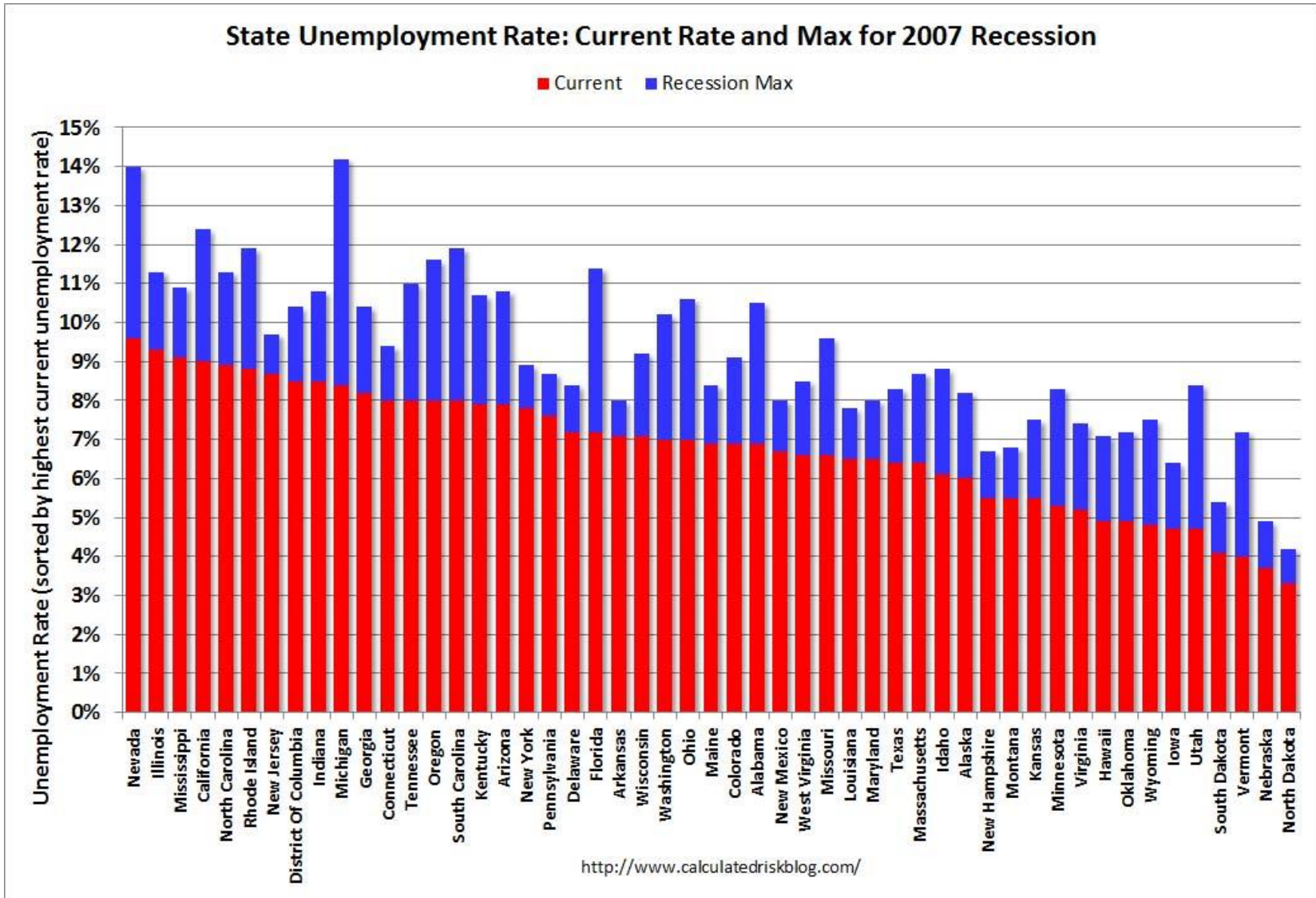


<http://www.calculatedriskblog.com/2013/05/philly-fed-manufacturing-survey-shows.html>

# LA area Port Traffic: Exports down slightly in April

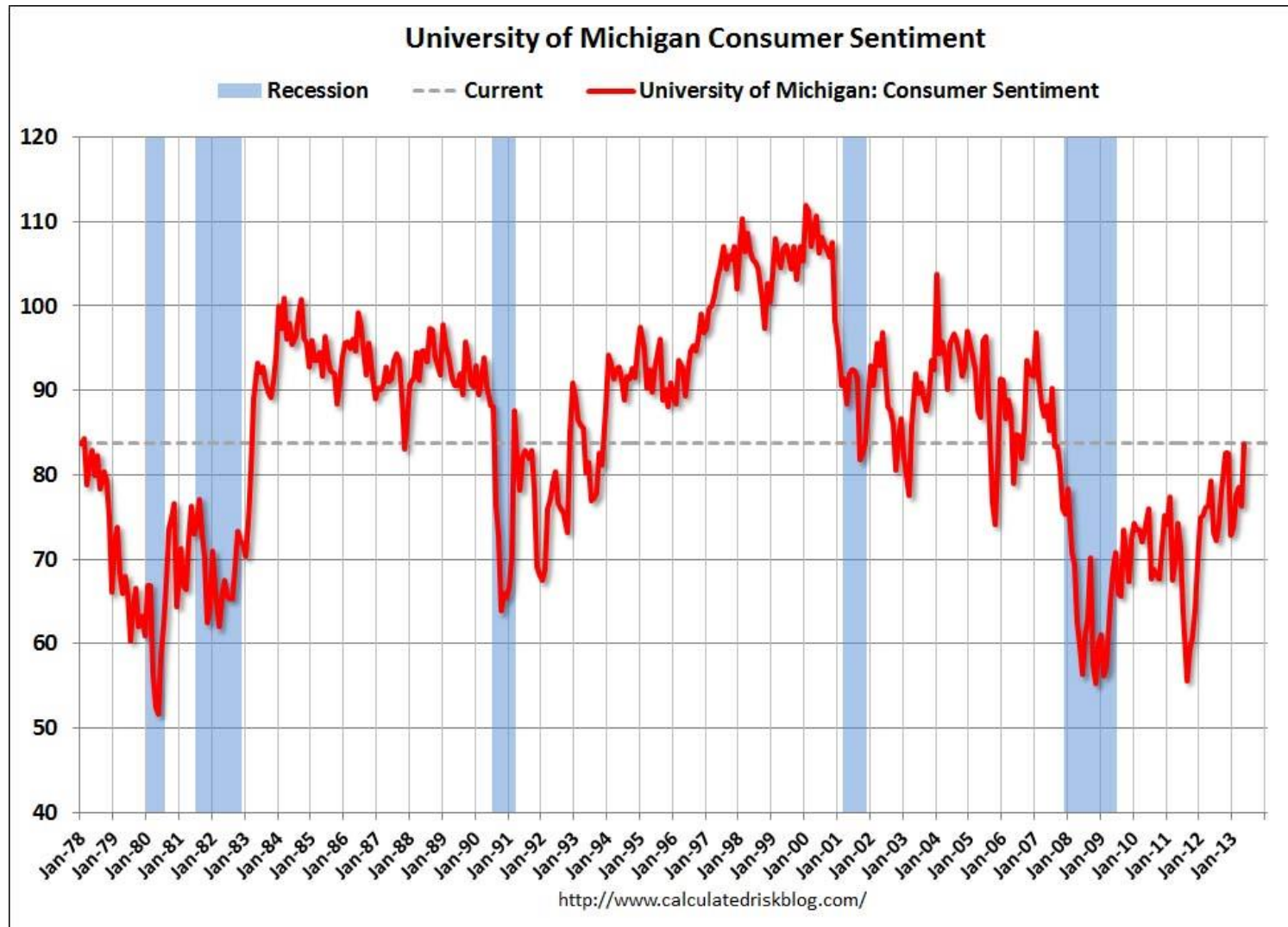


# BLS: Unemployment Rate declined in 40 States in April

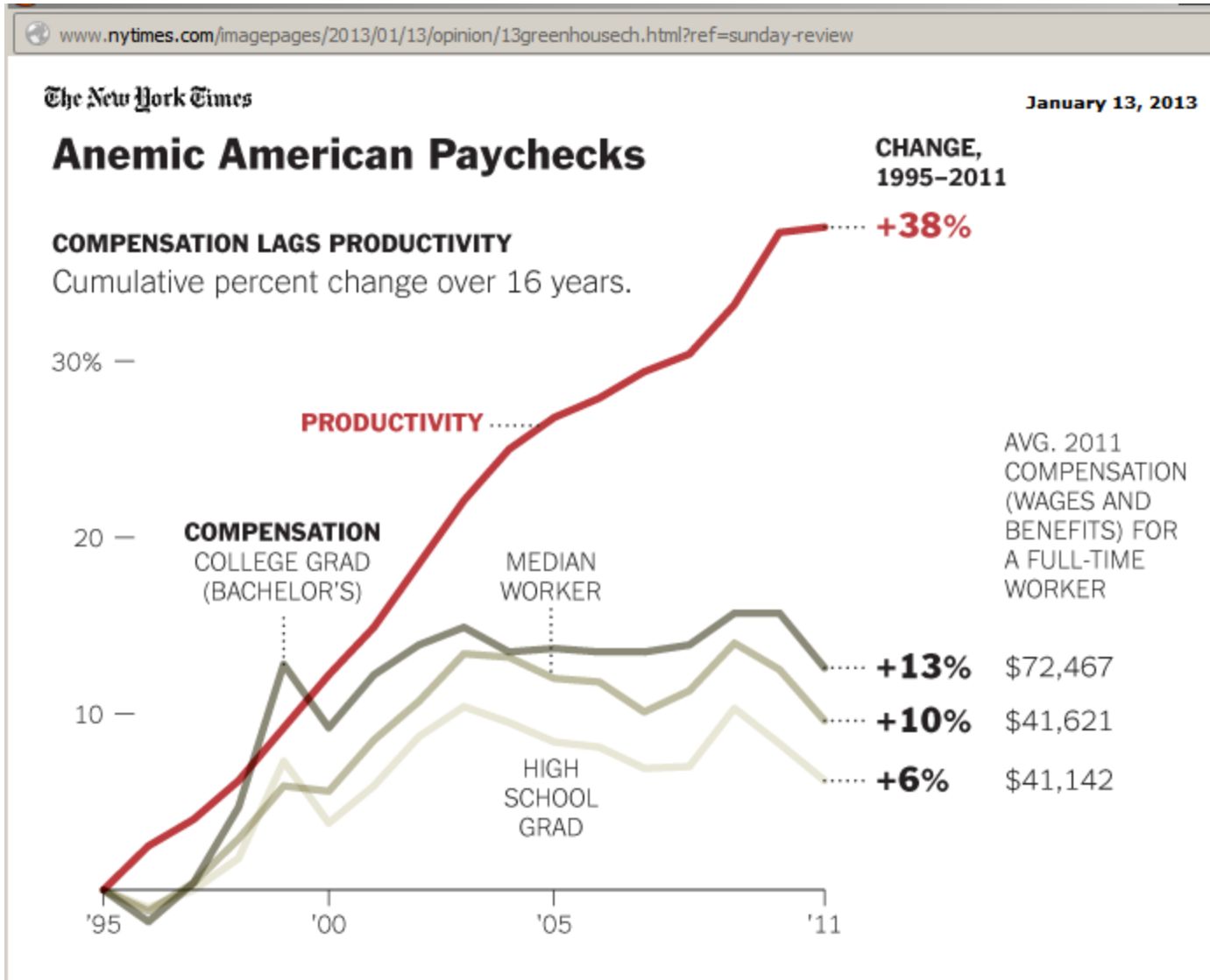




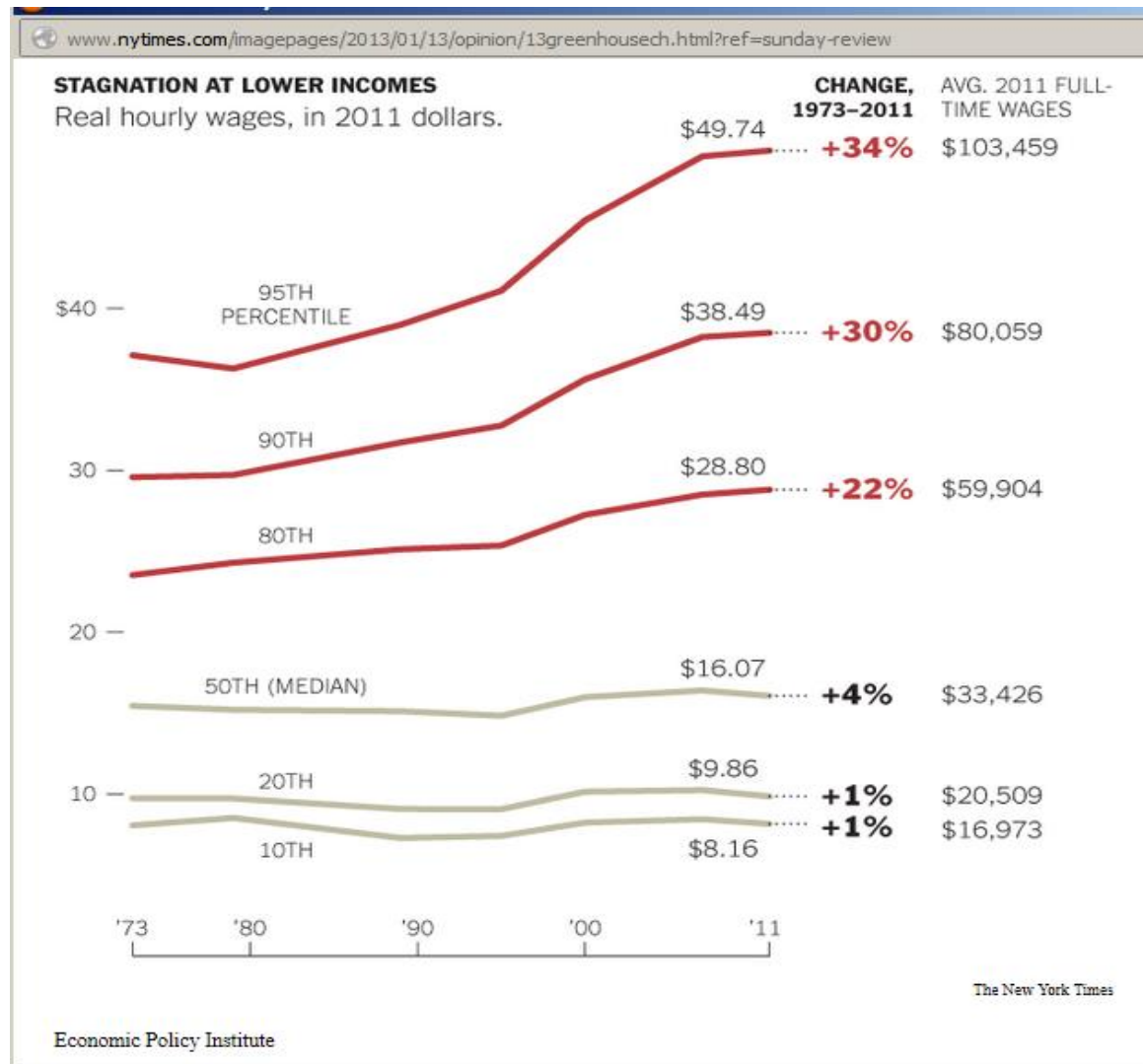
# Preliminary May Consumer Sentiment increases to 83.7



# Anemic American Paychecks



# Stagnation at Lower Incomes '73 - '11



[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/sunday-review/americas-productivity-climbs-but-wages-stagnate.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/sunday-review/americas-productivity-climbs-but-wages-stagnate.html?_r=1&)

# **The Great Recession – Cause or consequence?**

## **NEITHER**

The Great Recession may have initiated the catastrophic job loss, but the reason mid-level jobs are not coming back is technology. In spite of fewer employees, production and profits have soared, and corporations have found they can do more with less.

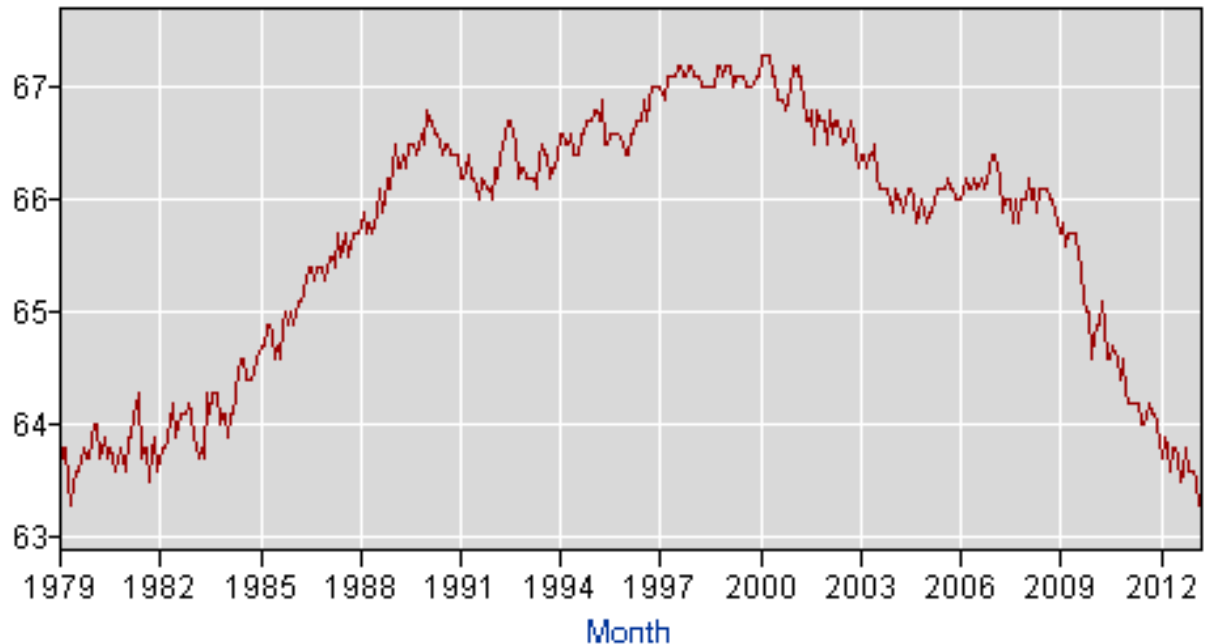
Parts of society have frequently had their economic existence challenged by technology, but in the past, the new technology benefited society as a whole benefit and the economy grew. Technology in the past replaced brawn, but now it is taking on tasks for which we relied on our brains.

# Labor Force Statistics '79 – '13

Data extracted on: May 15, 2013 (8:41:59 AM)

## Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

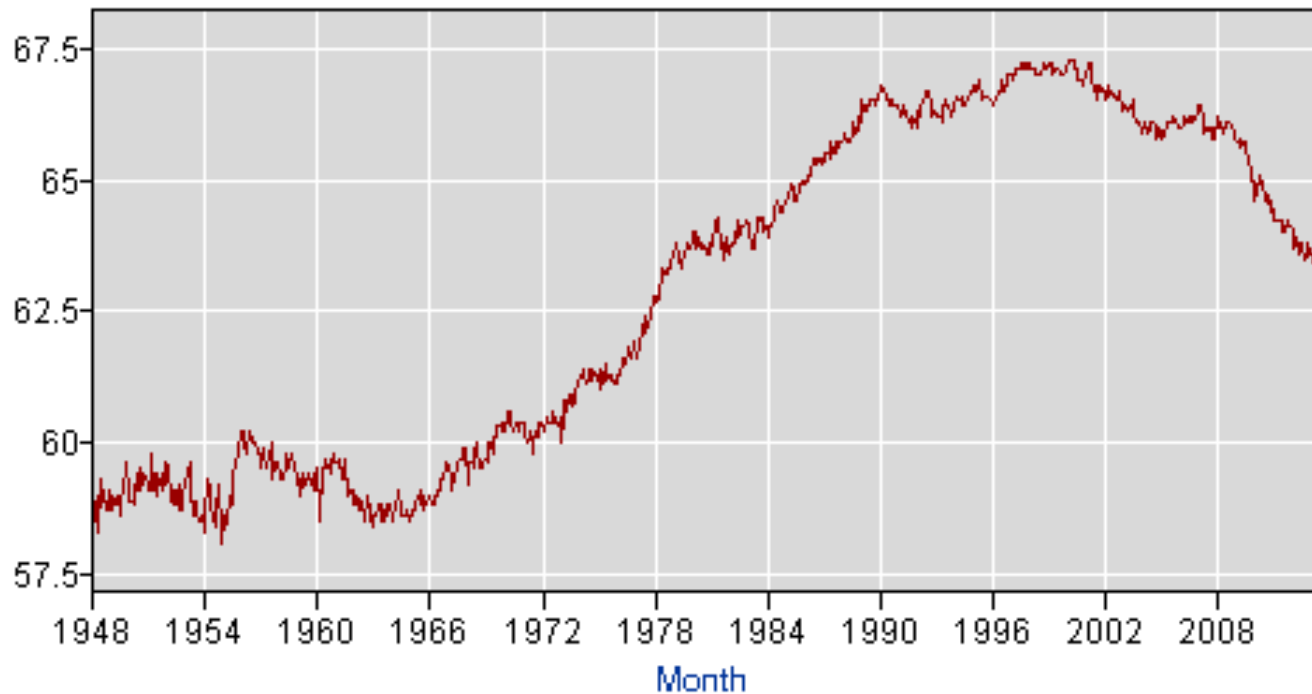
Series Id: LNS11300000  
Seasonally Adjusted  
Series title: (Seas) Labor Force Participation Rate  
Labor force status: Civilian labor force participation rate  
Type of data: Percent or rate  
Age: 16 years and over



# Labor Force Participation '48 – '13

## Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNS11300000  
Seasonally Adjusted  
Series title: (Seas) Labor Force Participation Rate  
Labor force status: Civilian labor force participation rate  
Type of data: Percent or rate  
Age: 16 years and over



NEW YORK (AP) — Five years after the start of the Great Recession, the toll is terrifyingly clear: Millions of middle-class jobs have been lost in developed countries the world over.

And the situation is even worse than it appears.

**Most of the jobs will never return, and millions more are likely to vanish as well,** say experts who study the labor market. What's more, these jobs aren't just being lost to China and other developing countries, and they aren't just factory work. Increasingly, jobs are disappearing in the service sector, home to two-thirds of all workers.

**They're being obliterated by technology.**

Nearly 70 percent are in low-pay industries, 29 percent in industries that pay well.

In the 17 European countries that use the euro as their currency, the numbers are even worse. Almost 4.3 million low-pay jobs have been gained since mid-2009, but the loss of midpay jobs has never stopped. A total of 7.6 million disappeared from January 2008 through last June.

Experts warn that this "hollowing out" of the middle-class workforce is far from over. They predict the loss of millions more jobs as technology becomes even more sophisticated and reaches deeper into our lives.



—For more than three decades, technology has reduced the number of jobs in manufacturing. Robots and other machines controlled by computer programs work faster and make fewer mistakes than humans. Now, that same efficiency is being unleashed in the service economy, which employs more than two-thirds of the workforce in developed countries. Technology is eliminating jobs in office buildings, retail establishments and other businesses consumers deal with every day.

—Technology is being adopted by every kind of organization that employs people

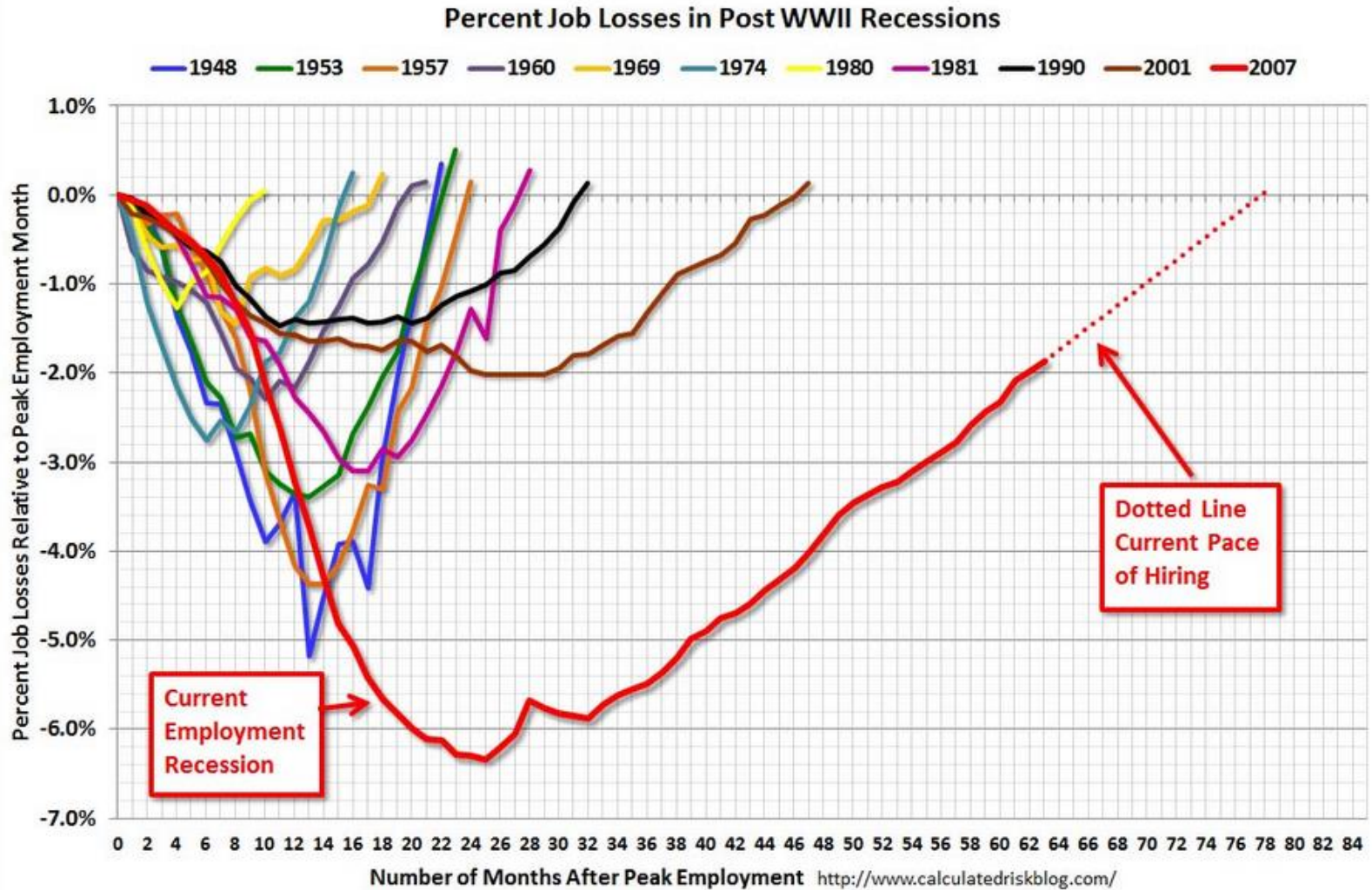
—Thanks to technology, companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index reported one-third more profit the past year than they earned the year before the Great Recession. They've also expanded their businesses, but total employment, at 21.1 million, has declined by a half-million.

...

—Technology is replacing workers in developed countries regardless of their politics, policies and laws. Union rules and labor laws may slow the dismissal of employees, but no country is attempting to prohibit organizations from using technology that allows them to operate more efficiently — and with fewer employees.

Some analysts reject the idea that technology has been a big job killer. They note that the collapse of the housing market in the U.S., Ireland, Spain and other countries and the ensuing global recession wiped out millions of middle-class construction and factory jobs. In their view, governments could bring many of the jobs back if they would put aside worries about their heavy debts and spend more. Others note that jobs continue to be lost to China, India and other countries in the developing world. ...

**In the U.S., the economic recovery that started in June 2009 has been called the third straight "jobless recovery."**  
But that's a misnomer. **The jobs came back after the first two. Most recessions since World War II were followed by a surge in new jobs as consumers started spending again and companies hired to meet the new demand.**



<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-8R0E98c1zTQ/UZEKUjc2fPI/AAAAAAAAAaQk/x8oFcmcOg2w/s1600/ProjectionPayroll.jpg>

This has truly been a jobless recovery, and the lack of midpay jobs is almost entirely to blame.

**Fifty percent of the U.S. jobs lost were in midpay industries, but Moody's Analytics, a research firm, says just 2 percent of the 3.5 million jobs gained are in that category.**

After the four previous recessions, at least 30 percent of jobs created — and as many as 46 percent — were in midpay industries.

Some of the most startling studies have focused on midskill, midpay jobs that require tasks that follow well-defined procedures and are repeated throughout the day. **Think travel agents, salespeople in stores, office assistants and back-office workers like benefits managers and payroll clerks, as well as machine operators and other factory jobs.**

... Henry Siu of the University of British Columbia and Nir Jaimovich of Duke University found **these kinds of jobs comprise fewer than half of all jobs, yet accounted for nine of 10 of all losses in the Great Recession.** And they have kept disappearing in the economic recovery

# "Chinese robot wars set to erupt."

Foxconn Technology Group, which assembles iPhones at factories in China, unveiled plans in 2011 to install one million robots over three years.

A recent headline in the China Daily newspaper:  
**"Chinese robot wars set to erupt."**

---

Candidates for U.S. president last year never tired of telling Americans how jobs were being shipped overseas. China, with its vast army of cheaper labor and low-value currency, was easy to blame.

But most jobs cut in the U.S. and Europe weren't moved. No one got them. They vanished. And the villain in this story — a clever software engineer working in Silicon Valley or the high-tech hub around Heidelberg, Germany — isn't so easy to hate.

"It doesn't have political appeal to say the reason we have a problem is we're so successful in technology," says Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning economist at Columbia University. "There's no enemy there."



# What hope is there for the future?

Historically, new companies and new industries have been the incubator of new jobs. Start-up companies no more than five years old are big sources of new jobs in developed economies. In the U.S., they accounted for 99 percent of new private sector jobs in 2005, according to a study by the University of Maryland's John Haltiwanger and two other economists.

But even these companies are hiring fewer people. The average new business employed 4.7 workers when it opened its doors in 2011, down from 7.6 in the 1990s, according to a Labor Department study released last March.

# Will hologram medics be next?

Technological innovations have been throwing people out of jobs for centuries. But they eventually created more work, and greater wealth, than they destroyed. Ford, the author and software engineer, thinks there is reason to believe that this time will be different. He sees virtually no end to the inroads of computers into the workplace. **Eventually, he says, software will threaten the livelihoods of doctors, lawyers and other highly skilled professionals.**

Many economists are encouraged by history and think the gains eventually will outweigh the losses. But even they have doubts. "What's different this time is that digital technologies show up in every corner of the economy," says McAfee, a self-described "digital optimist." "Your tablet (computer) is just two or three years old, and it's already taken over our lives."

# Vanishing Jobs: an AP Interactive

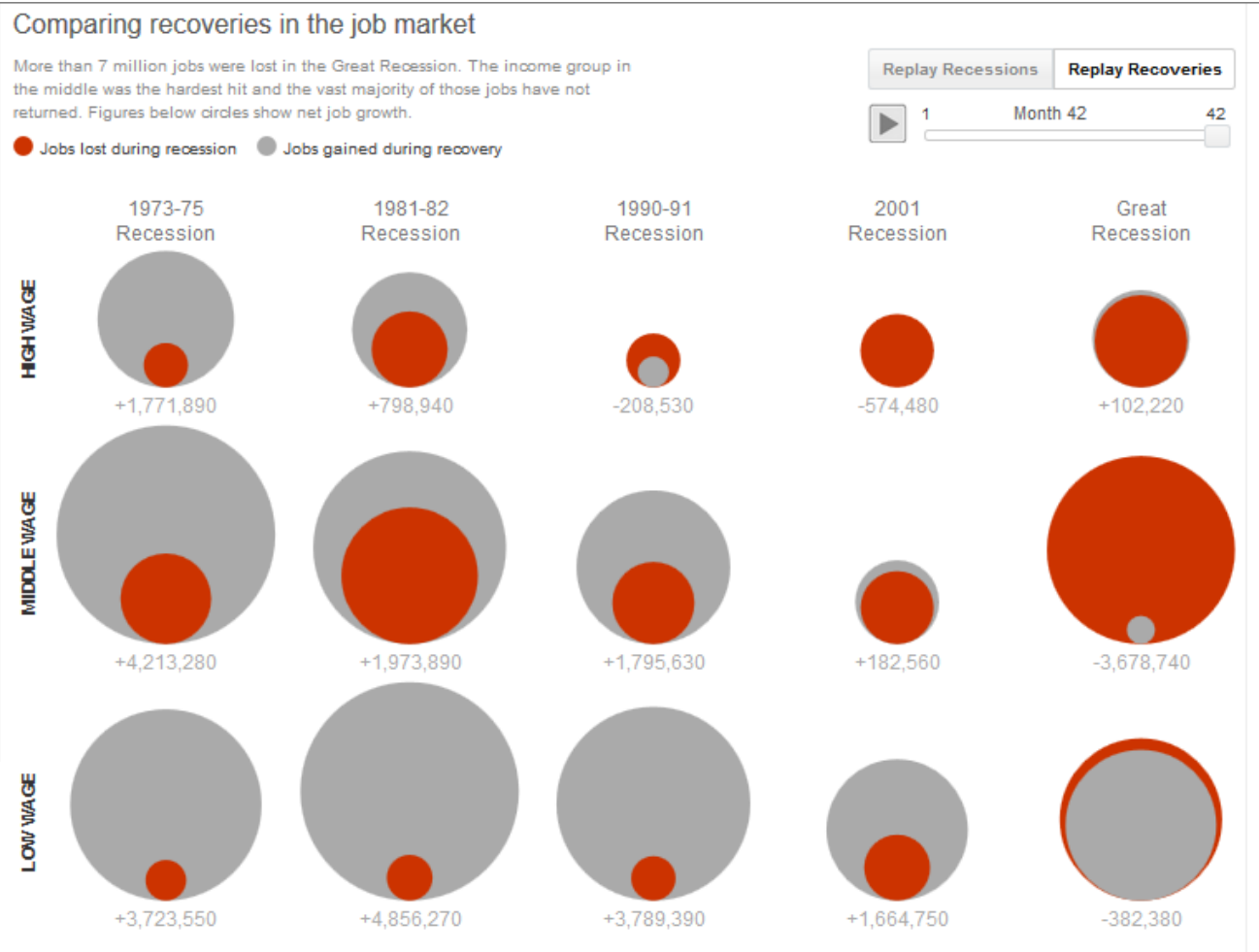
Vanishing Jobs: an AP Interactive

Condon shows you the progression of job loss and recovery for 5 American recessions. You can clearly see the differences.

Explore this interactive to learn more about the loss of middle-class jobs in the wake of the Great Recession, and the role technology is playing.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/interactive/interactive-great-reset>

# Comparing recoveries in the job market



## The Great Reset Vanishing Jobs

Historically, recessions have been followed by strong job growth, but that trend was not repeated in the last three recoveries. It has been five years since the start of the Great Recession, and nearly four years since it ended. The American workforce is still waiting for a rebound that hasn't happened. Video analysis by AP business reporter Bernard Condon.

# Practically human: Can smart machines do your job?

*[Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on the loss of middle-class jobs in the wake of the Great Recession, and the role of technology. Read Part 1, The great reset: disappearing jobs, [here](#). Click [here](#) to view an AP interactive that accompanies the Great Reset series.]*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Art Liscano knows he's an endangered species in the job market: He's a meter reader in Fresno, Calif. For 26 years, he's driven from house to house, checking how much electricity Pacific Gas & Electric customers have used.

# Technology is taking over

But PG&E doesn't need many people like Liscano making rounds anymore. Every day, the utility replaces 1,200 old-fashioned meters with digital versions that can collect information without human help, generate more accurate power bills, even send an alert if the power goes out.

"I can see why technology is taking over," says Liscano, 66, who earns \$67,000 a year. "We can see the writing on the wall." His department employed 50 full-time meter readers just six years ago. Now, it has six.

# The Eurozone *i.a.*

The AP found that almost all the jobs disappearing are in industries that pay middle-class wages, ranging from \$38,000 to \$68,000. Jobs that form the backbone of the middle class in developed countries in Europe, North America and Asia.

In the United States, **half of the 7.5 million jobs lost during the Great Recession paid middle-class wages**, and the numbers are even more grim in the 17 European countries that use the euro as their currency. **A total of 7.6 million midpay jobs disappeared in those countries from January 2008 through last June.**

Those jobs are being replaced in many cases by machines and software that can do the same work better and cheaper.

# BIG DATA

At the heart of the biggest technological changes today is what computer scientists call "Big Data." Computers thrive on information, and they're feasting on an unprecedented amount of it — from the Internet, from Twitter messages and other social media sources, from the barcodes and sensors being slapped on everything from boxes of Huggies diapers to stamping machines in car plants.

According to a Harvard Business Review article by Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, **more information now crosses the Internet every second than the entire Internet stored 20 years ago. Every hour, they note, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. collects 50 million filing cabinets' worth of information** from its dealings with customers.



# Why seniors still need newspapers

**I was visiting my niece last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.**

**"This is the 21st century," she said. "I don't waste money on newspapers.**

**Here, use my iPad."**

**I can tell you this... That fly never knew what hit him!**



# Need a job? The Age of Big Data, By STEVE LOHR

February 11, 2012, N.Y. Times, Sunday Review

GOOD with numbers? Fascinated by data? The sound you hear is opportunity knocking.

Mo Zhou was snapped up by I.B.M. last summer, as a freshly minted Yale M.B.A., to join the technology company's fast-growing ranks of data consultants. They help businesses make sense of an explosion of data — Web traffic and social network comments, as well as software and sensors that monitor shipments, suppliers and customers — to guide decisions, trim costs and lift sales. “I’ve always had a love of numbers,” says Ms. Zhou, whose job as a data analyst suits her skills.

To exploit the data flood, America will need many more like her. A report last year by the [McKinsey Global Institute](#), the research arm of the consulting firm, projected that the United States needs **140,000 to 190,000 more workers with “deep analytical” expertise and 1.5 million more data-literate managers**, whether retrained or hired.

# Why should you care about Bluffdale, Utah?



18 May 2013

The Incredible Shrinking Workforce

# The NSA Is Building the Country's Biggest Spy Center (Watch What You Say)

By [James Bamford](#), 03.15.12, 7:24 PM, Wired

Under construction by contractors with top-secret clearances, the blandly named Utah Data Center is being built for the National Security Agency. A project of immense secrecy, it is the final piece in a complex puzzle assembled over the past decade. Its purpose: to intercept, decipher, analyze, and store vast swaths of the world's communications as they zap down from satellites and zip through the underground and undersea cables of international, foreign, and domestic networks. The heavily fortified \$2 billion center should be up and running in September 2013. Flowing through its servers and routers and stored in near-bottomless databases will be all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phone calls, and Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trails—parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases, and other digital “pocket litter.” It is, in some measure, the realization of the “total information awareness” program created during the first term of the Bush administration—an effort that was killed by Congress in 2003 after it caused an outcry over its potential for invading Americans' privacy.

---

**The NSA has become the largest, most covert, and potentially most intrusive intelligence agency ever.**

---

# SMARTER MACHINES

Though many are still working out the kinks, software is making machines and devices smarter every year. They can learn your habits, recognize your voice, do the things that travel agents, secretaries and interpreters have traditionally done.

Microsoft has unveiled a system that can translate what you say into Mandarin and play it back — in your voice. The Google Now personal assistant can tell you if there's a traffic jam on your regular route home and suggest an alternative. Talk to Apple's Siri and she can reschedule an appointment. IBM's **Watson supercomputer can field an awkwardly worded question, figure out what you're trying to ask, retrieve the answer and spit it out fast enough to beat human champions on the TV quiz show "Jeopardy!"**

# So machines are getting smarter

So machines are getting smarter and people are more comfortable using them. Those factors, combined with the financial pressures of the Great Recession, have led **companies and government agencies to cut jobs the past five years, yet continue to operate just as well.**

How is that happening?

—Reduced aid from Indiana's state government and other budget problems forced the Gary, Indiana, public school system last year to **cut its annual transportation budget in half, to \$5 million. The school district responded by using sophisticated software to draw up new, more efficient bus routes. And it cut 80 of 160 drivers.**

# THE SOLMAN SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT

APRIL 2013 BY THE NUMBERS  
COMPARED TO MARCH 2013

**Paul's 'U-7' Unemployment 16.00%**  
March U-7 Unemployment 16.08%  
Change **↓.08%**

**Paul's Under / Unemployment Total 25.8 MILLION**  
March Under / Unemployment Total 26 MILLION  
Change (based on non-rounded figures) **↓143,000**

## OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT FIGURES

**Official Unemployment 7.5%**  
March Unemployment 7.6%  
Change **↓.1%**

**Under-Unemployment / U-6 13.9%**  
March Under-Unemployment / U-6 13.8  
Change **↑.1%**

**Avg. Weeks Unemployed 36.5**  
March Avg. Weeks Unemployed 37.1  
Change **↓ 0.6 WEEKS**

**New Jobs Added 165,000**  
March New Jobs Added, Revised 138,000  
New Jobs Added Since Jan. 2013, Revised **783,000**

**Unemployed 27 Weeks or More 4.35 MILLION**  
March Unemployed 27 Weeks or More 4.61 MILLION  
Change (based on non-rounded figures) **↓ 258,000**

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/businessdesk/2013/05/the-pros-and-cons-of-being-a-j.html>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Graphic: Elizabeth Shell / PBS NewsHour  
**PBS NEWS HOUR**

# Will smart machines create a world without work?

A world without work: As robots, computers get smarter, will humans have anything left to do? By BERNARD CONDON and PAUL WISEMAN **AP**

EDITOR'S NOTE: **Last in a three-part** series on the loss of middle-class jobs in the wake of the Great Recession, and the role of technology.

**"What has always been true** is that technology has destroyed jobs but also always created jobs," says Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University. "You know the old story we tell about (how) **the car destroyed blacksmiths and created the auto industry.**"

...however. For the first time, we are seeing machines that can think — or something close to it.

....at the beginning of the personal computer age, economists thought computers would do what machines had done for two centuries — **eliminate jobs that required brawn, not brains.**



# Brains and Brawn

It turns out that computers most easily target jobs that involve routines, whatever skill level they require. And the most vulnerable of these jobs, economists have found, tend to employ midskill workers, even those held by people with college degrees — the very jobs that support a middle-class, consumer economy.

So the rise of computer technology poses a threat that previous generations of machines didn't: The old machines replaced human brawn but created jobs that required human brains. The **new machines threaten BOTH.**

# Transition: Agrarian to Industrial

... their agricultural economies transformed into industrial ones. Columbia's Stiglitz argues that such pressures led to the collapse of the world economy in 1929 — the cataclysm we call the Great Depression.

The mechanization of farming caused agricultural production to soar worldwide in the 1920s — and prices to plunge. In the U.S., crop and livestock prices fell by 50 percent between 1929 and 1932. American farmers, who accounted for a fifth of the U.S. workforce, lost purchasing power and also struggled to pay their mortgages and other loans. As their debts went bad, banks began to collapse, squeezing credit and spreading panic. The economy went into free-fall.

Only World War II — and the massive rearmament program it required — restored the U.S. economy to full health. The experience was traumatizing. And today only 2 percent of Americans work on farms.

"Economies don't make these transitions well," Stiglitz says. People in the dying parts of the economy can't afford to invest in the education or retraining they need to find different work. "So you get workers trapped in the wrong sectors or unemployed," he says.

Peter Lindert, an economist at the University of California-Davis, says **computers are more disruptive than earlier innovations because they are "general-purpose technologies" used by all kinds of companies. They upend many industries instead of just a few.**

# —THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PRODUCE JOBS, JUST NOT ENOUGH GOOD ONES

Smarter machines and niftier software will continue to replace more and more midpay jobs, making businesses more productive and swelling their profits.

The most highly skilled workers — those who can use machines to be more productive but can't be replaced by them — will continue to prosper. Many low-pay jobs are likely to remain sheltered from the technological offensive: Robots are too clumsy to tidy up hotel rooms or clear dirty dishes at busy restaurants.

**More people would be competing for midpay jobs, so pay would shrivel.** Many midskill workers would be left unemployed or shunted into low-skill, low-pay jobs. **The income gap between the rich and ordinary citizens, already at record levels in many developed countries, would continue to widen.**

Most economists say that unequal societies don't prosper; it takes a large and confident middle class to produce the consumer spending that drives healthy economic growth. "In the long run, you could actually see growth stopping," says economist Maarten Goos at Belgium's University of Leuven. **"If everyone is employed in low-wage service jobs, then, that's it."**

# Can you sell cars to machines?

Consider the great business successes of the Internet age: Apple employs 80,000 people worldwide; Google, 54,000; Facebook, 4,300. **Combined, those three superstar companies employ less than a quarter of the 600,000 people General Motors had in the 1970s.** And today, GM employs just 202,000 people, **while making more cars than ever.**

As far back as 1958, American union leader Walter Reuther recalled going through a Ford Motor plant that was already automated. A company manager goaded him: **"Aren't you worried about how you are going to collect union dues from all these machines?"**

**"The thought that occurred to me," Reuther replied, "was how are you going to sell cars to these machines?"**

# Don't fight technology...

Don't fight technology, Ford says. Smarter machines will make life better and increase wealth in the economy. **The challenge, he says, is to make sure the benefits are shared when most workers have been supplanted by machines.**

He suggests imposing **massive taxes on companies, which would be paying far less in wages thanks to automation, and distributing the proceeds to those left unemployed by technology.** That would give them money to spend to keep the economy spinning.

# “Inclusive Economy”

In the past sessions we have talked about an “Inclusive Economy”

A society structured so that every individual contributes and has status.

How would we avoid the pitfalls of that have brought down previous attempts at creating Utopian.

This Libertarian, thinks that we still have some things to learn from Adam Smith and John Locke



# Perhaps an Alternative

What are people here for? Where does our species fit into the scheme of things (I keep asking this question ...) We could start with the Golden Rule ...

Whatever happened to the that “dominion” over the Earth people are supposed have?

Did we lose that when Adam and Eve got kicked out of the Garden of Eden.

What do you do when you have nothing to do? (Take a page out of Seinfeld’s book?)

Or have we or can we progress to the point that mankind is welcome back into a Garden, that we have built for ourselves.

# the end of power — *from last time*

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?**

# 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 as chief executive will protect We 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.

# What about the power of “No”

Will ordinary people be totally divested of power ? Will they lose the will or motivation to organize and resist?

Leaving the 1% totally in control. But what will sustain the 1% if there is no wealth to buy the products of and technicians to maintain the infrastructure of the 1%

Will ordinary humans de-evolve into a lesser species (a reverse Neanderthal?) beasts of burden?

Or will we live in thrall to the 1%. Or will the 1 % become irrelevant.

**Will presently developing countries just overtake us. Will they, hungry for a better life , choose more competent leaders and build stronger economies so that the western world just become irrelevant?**

# Winners and Losers in the Great Recession

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Economic Synopses, 2013 Number 12

Fernando M. Martin, Senior Economist

“For a significant number of industries—representing roughly a quarter of the U.S. economy—the most recent recession has been business as usual when judged by pre-recession trends.

**For a slightly larger group of industries, mostly related to construction, manufacturing, and trade, the contractions have been severe, reinforcing a preexisting process of steady relative decline.”**

# In closing ...

## **DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)**

As our times get more and more interesting, some of the subjects I bring up are sounding more and more onerous or threatening.

My purpose is not to frighten anyone, even when some of the information seems to have a prophetic quality, I cannot predict the future with any accuracy, but I can distinct possibilities, given what we all see going on and we just may see some of the things we talk about take become part of our reality in the future. And if they do, then I hope by our talking about them now you will avoid being surprised and the temptation to (be) panic(ked).

Our leaders love to manipulate us emotionally into crises and panic us into a irrational fear response. Please don't let them.

# 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.

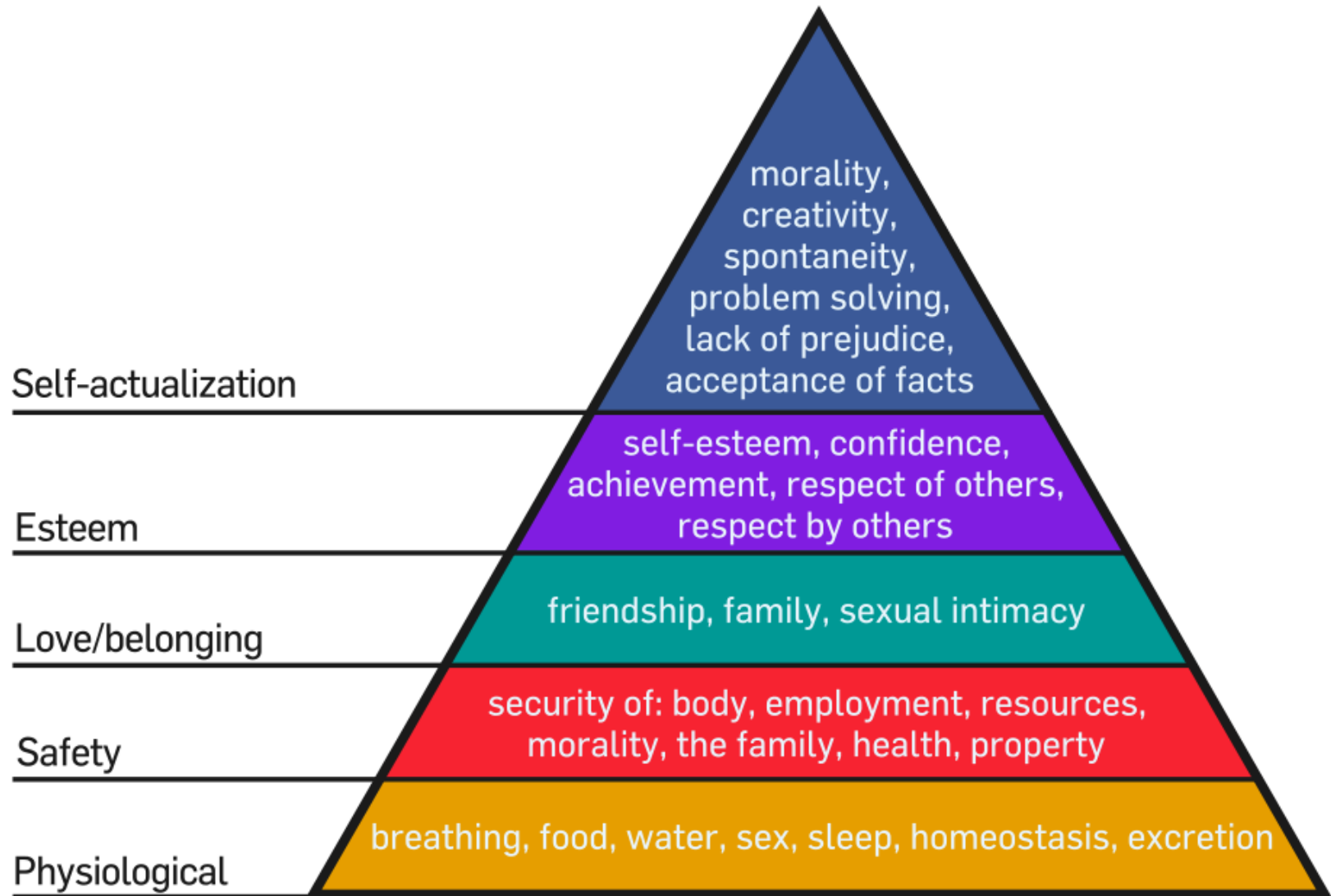
**Thirst** - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

**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 Hierarchy of Needs





# **DON'T PANIC!**

## ***DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!***

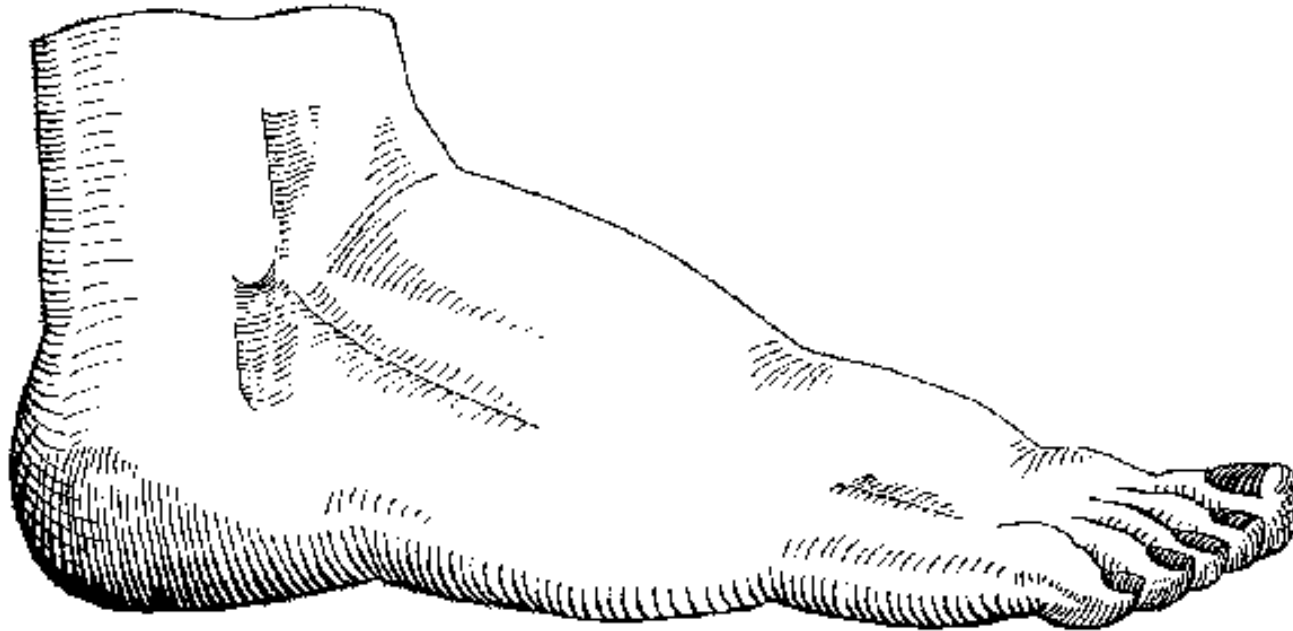
# **Welcome back to interesting times !**



## **You 15 June 2013 (TBD)**

Have a great and safe holiday Season

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.

# ARE YOU READY?

**There is ONLY 1 Year, 6 Months and 18 Days until the next General Election. Tuesday, 4 November 2014**

**Do you know who you want to vote for?**

# 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>

# 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.

# 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

# Politics makes strange bedfellows

There once was a Conservative on a dare  
Invited a Liberal up to its lair  
They argued all night  
As to who had the right to vote which way for what  
and for whom

# 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.**

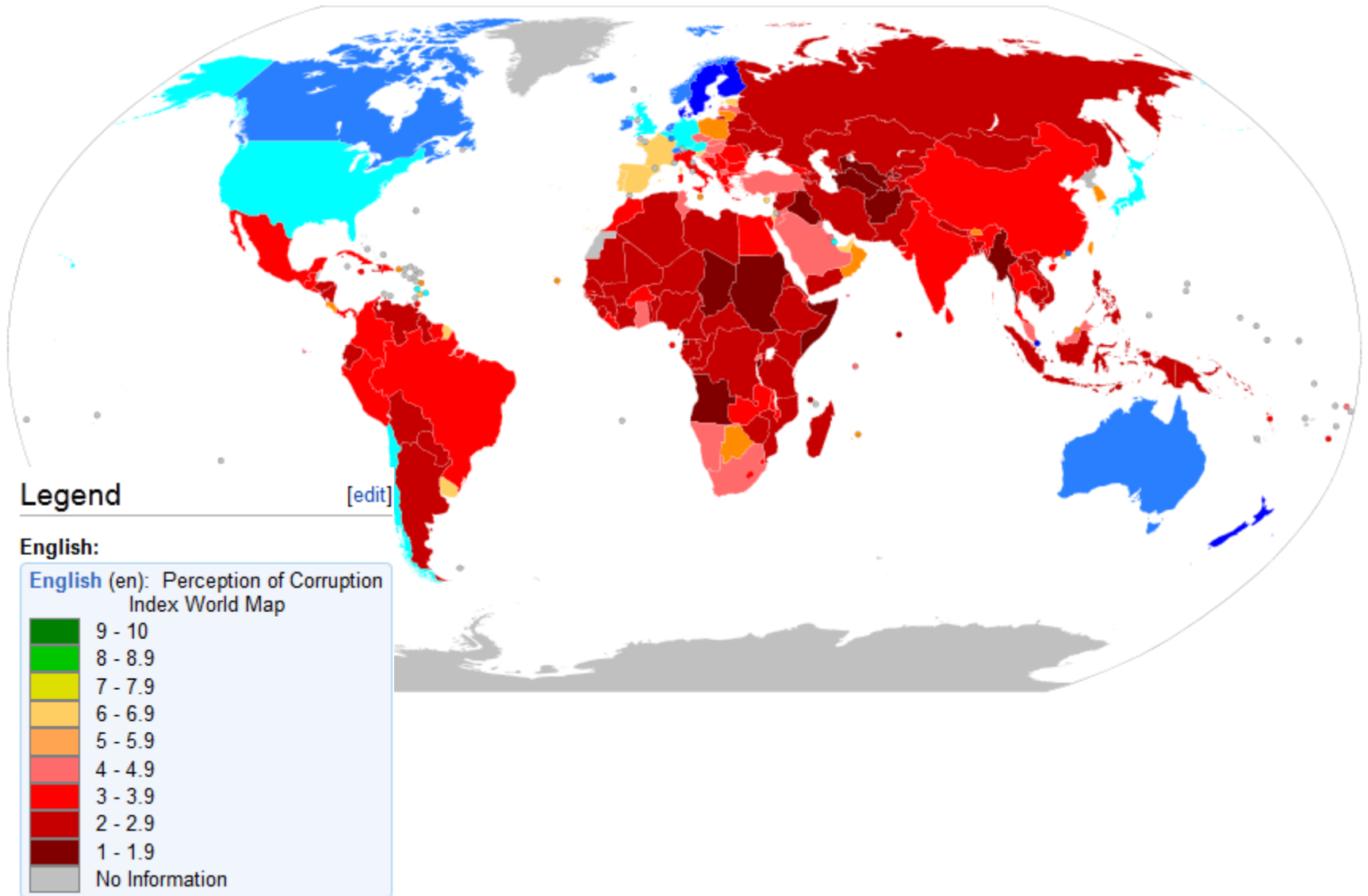


# decline of traditional power

**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.

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



18 May 2013

The Incredible Shrinking Workforce

66

***“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)

18 May 2013

The Incredible Shrinking Workforce

67

# 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 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](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](http://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>

# 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.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

## **New Exemptions**

The Act under section 11 lists out programs and activities exempt from PAYGO rules.<sup>[4]</sup> 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.)**

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](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](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_many_wage_earners_are_there_in_the_US)

**"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>**

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."**

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.**

# 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

# What do you think?

# *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.



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



# 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.*

