

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011

Humanity at a Crossroads

Session 03

20 Nov 2010

Our Brave New (Digital) World
Jungle or Playground (or Both)

Gary Valmain and Edie McRae

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

Change

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's yourself.

Aldous Huxley

Return of the Elders, Unleashing Your Wisdom

Our Middle Aged Brains

David Niesel and Norbert Herzog

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

No kidding! It's actually true that our brains change with age. There was a report that said forty percent of your brain cells are lost with age but that's actually not true....

Something the middle aged brain is better at doing is recognizing the central idea or big picture. So if the brain is in good shape, it can build pathways that allow it to recognize patterns and their significance and find a solution faster than a young person.

Program for TSS Meeting 20 November 2010

- 9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (45 Minutes +/-) –
Curt Gibby
- 10:15 - 10 minute break
- 10:25 am **Gary Valmain - Computer and Internet Security**
- 11:10 am **Edie McRae – Social Networking**
- 11:55 am **Closure**
- 12:00 noon Session ends
- Next Session 19 February 2011**

PSAs

Public Service Announcements

1. Third Saturday Seminars (Spring Semester)

To refer to an ancient Chinese saying, our world is in interesting times and individual citizens are assaulted with a blinding array of propaganda from every conceivable source. The Third Saturday Seminar is about demystification of what is going on around us. Time will also be spent on current events. (Class will meet on 2/19, 3/26, 4/16, 5/21. Note that March date was adjusted for Spring Break). 4 Sessions. No fee.

**Lone Star College-Montgomery B102 Sa 2/19 -
5/21 9:30 a.m. - Noon Gibby**

2. The old Coffee Pot is dead

And, we haven't had anybody volunteer to become the next "Director of Coffee Services" so for this next meeting may we suggest that there are excellent sources of very good coffee not far from the college.

So, If you want coffee:

There are wonderful places to get coffee on Saturday mornings:

- Starbucks on the north side of Hwy 242 just east of Woodforest Bank.
- Caffe' Diem and/or Brooklyn Cafe, both on the south side in the College Park Plaza shopping center.
- There is also a McDonald's on the south side east of the shopping center and next to the Tradition Bank.

I will continue to bring donuts.

3. Save the Date for the ALL Open House

Saturday, January, 22nd, 2011

from 11 am - 1 pm

in the Commons

4. Third Saturday Seminar website is
under renovation

<http://northstarinst.org/TSS/>

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I usually try give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part; but, that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it might be to think so, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Please, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best, we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do. (Sept 22, 2005)

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

The donuts are free to law enforcement.

“Cartoons of the Week”

We make extensive use of political cartoons in this presentation.

The Source of these Cartoons is TIME in cooperation with CNN. You can find the ones I’ve included and more at:

<http://www.time.com/time/cartoonsoftheweek>

Curt Gibby

Current Events

20 November 2010

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

AURORA WATCH:

A solar wind stream is buffeting Earth's magnetic field, sparking geomagnetic activity around the Arctic Circle. "I was driving through the countryside near Tromsø, Norway, on Nov. 14th when bright auroras burst through the clouds," reports Ole Christian Salomonsen. He quickly pulled over to take this picture.

"The lights were amazing--green, white, purple, moving fast and strong," says Salomonsen. "I call the shot '*Colorful Clouds*.'"



Panel Seeks Social Security Cuts and Higher Taxes

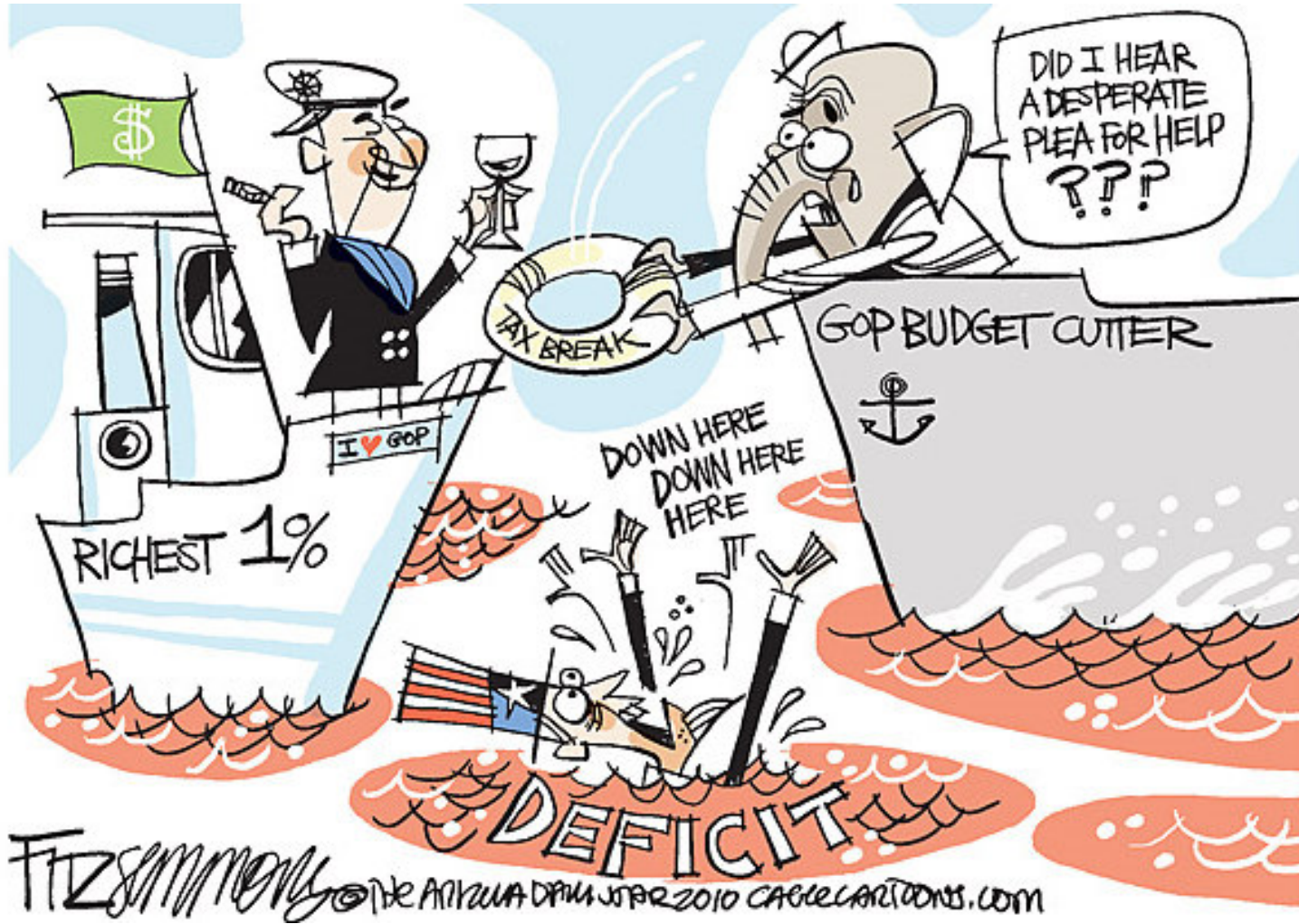
By [JACKIE CALMES](#), Published: November 10, 2010

WASHINGTON —The co-chairmen bipartisan commission on reducing the national debt outlined a politically provocative and economically ambitious package of spending cuts and tax increases on Wednesday, igniting a debate that is likely to grip the country for years. [The Deficit Panel's Report](#)

The plan calls for deep cuts in domestic and military spending, a gradual 15-cents-a-gallon increase in the federal gasoline tax, limiting or eliminating popular tax breaks in return for lower rates, and benefit cuts and an increased retirement age for Social Security.

Those changes and others, none of which would take effect before 2012 to avoid undermining the tepid economic recovery, would erase nearly \$4 trillion from projected deficits through 2020, the proposal says, and stabilize the accumulated debt.

“It’s time to lay it out on the table and let the American people start to chew on it,” said Alan K. Simpson, the former Republican Senate leader who is one of the co-chairmen, along with Erskine B. Bowles, who was White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/11/us/politics/11fiscal.html>



Taxing the Rich

Chronicle, Sep 17, 2010

TAXING THE RICH?

Cost to the U.S. Treasury of the Bush-era tax cuts compared to President Barack Obama's proposed tax cuts, including the amount gained if taxes on the wealthy are returned to pre-Bush (higher) levels:

BUSH VS. OBAMA TAX CUTS for fiscal years, 2010-20



THE RICH AND TAXES for the 2008 tax year

The top 1 percent* of taxpayers earned this or more	The top 10 percent* of taxpayers earned this or more	The number of taxpayers in the top 1 percent income bracket
\$380,354	\$113,799	1.1 million

Sources: U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service; Tax Policy Center

*Adjusted gross income
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Millionaires to Obama: Tax us

Fri Nov 19, 12:30 pm ET, By Rachel Rose Hartman

Anti-tax activists everywhere have been loudly arguing for an extension of George W. Bush-era **tax cuts** for the wealthiest Americans in the United States. Now a group of millionaires is arguing the opposite.

More than 40 of the nation's millionaires have joined Patriotic Millionaires for Fiscal Strength to ask President Obama to discontinue the tax breaks established for them during the **Bush administration**, as Salon reports.

"For the fiscal health of our nation and the well-being of our fellow citizens, we ask that you allow tax cuts on incomes over \$1,000,000 to expire at the end of this year as scheduled," [their website states](#). "We make this request as loyal citizens who now or in the past earned an income of \$1,000,000 per year or more."

The group includes many big-time Democratic donors such as Gail Furman, trial lawyer Guy Saperstein and Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's ice cream (pictured).

The list remains open to millionaires who want to sign on. *Yahoo Blog the Ticket* <http://fiscalstrength.com/> [http://www.ocreger.com/news/tax-276896-](http://www.ocreger.com/news/tax-276896-expire-Obama.html)

expire-Obama.html



Key banker is skeptical about Fed plan

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/7285743.html>

By PATRICK DANNER San Antonio Express-News, Nov. 8, 2010, 10:38PM

SAN ANTONIO — The Federal Reserve's plan to rejuvenate the economy by buying \$600 billion in Treasury bonds might be the "wrong medicine," the Fed's top official in Dallas warned Monday in San Antonio.

Richard Fisher, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, whose district includes Houston, said he could envision this second round of Fed purchases leading to a weaker dollar, "super ordinary inflation," financial speculation and accelerating the transfer of wealth to the rich "from the "poor and the worker and the saver."

Key banker is skeptical about Fed plan

"The remedy for what ails the economy is, in my view, in the hands of the fiscal and regulatory authorities, not the Fed," Fisher said in a speech to members of the Association of Financial Professionals.

Fisher called on Congress to "incentivize" corporations to "take the kind of risk that expresses confidence in the future that will end up adding cap ex (capital expenditures) domestically and hiring more American workers." Congress needs to figure out the right tax and regulatory regime to accomplish that, he said later in an interview.

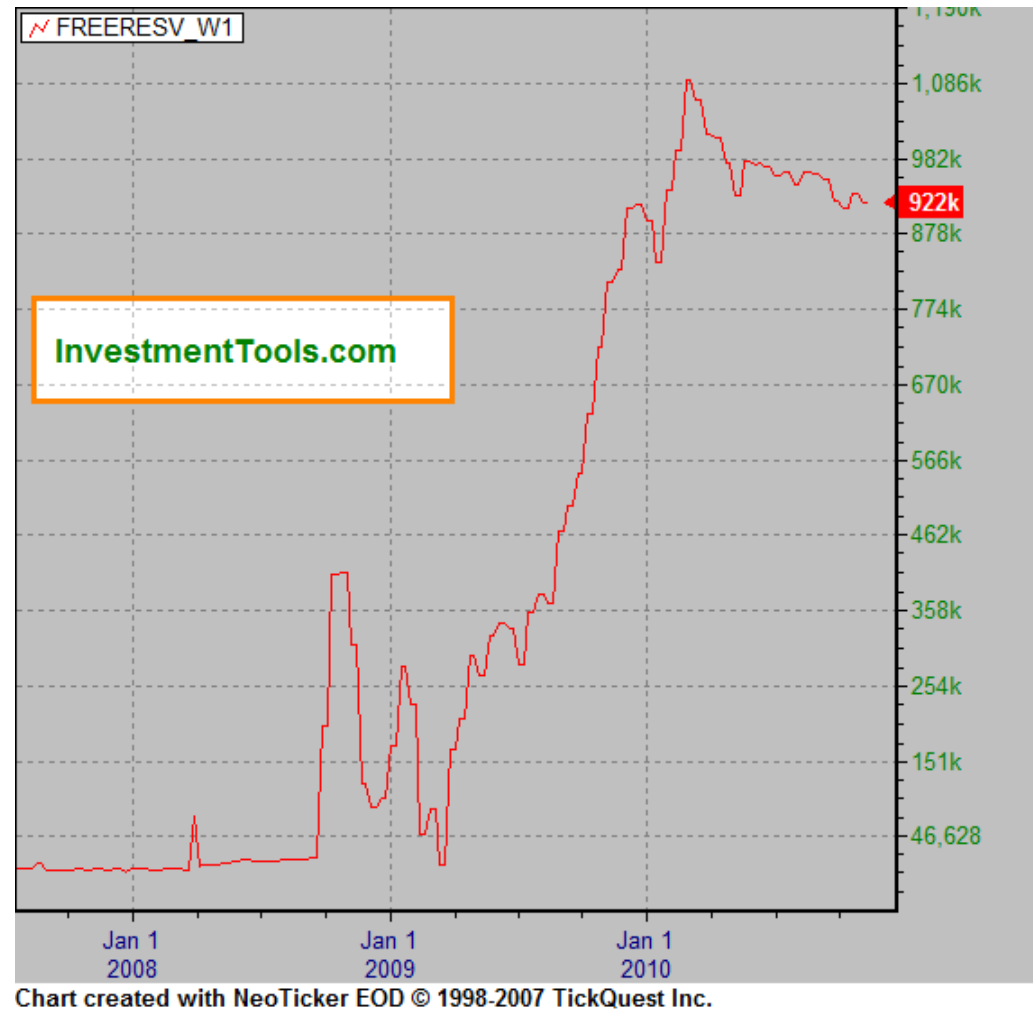
Federal Free Reserves

Fed Free Reserves

Net Free Reserves

What Does *Net Free Reserves* Mean?

A statistic released in weekly Federal Reserve data showing the amount of money a bank holds above the required minimum deposit banks are required to keep a certain amount of cash on hand at all times. If banks have significantly more cash than stipulated by reserve requirements, they will lend it out. Investopedia.com



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

Money Multiplier

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

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

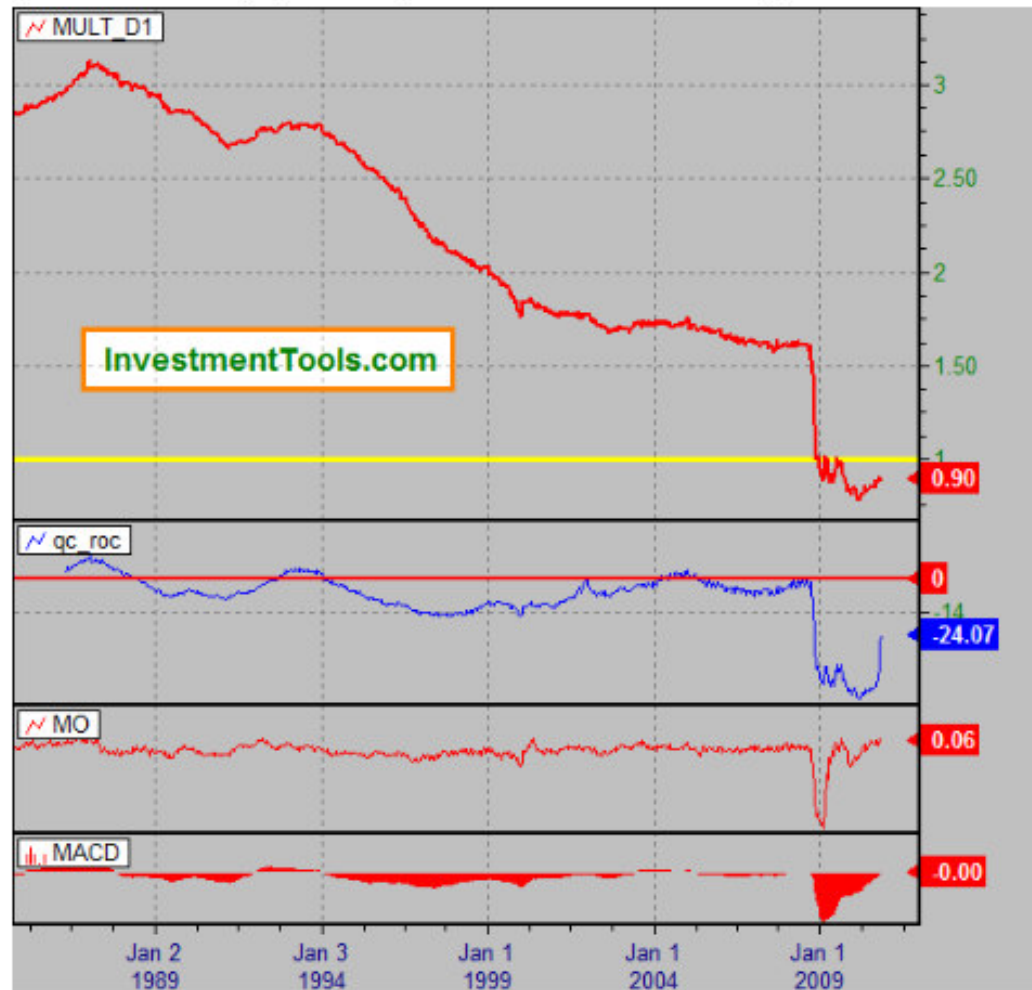


Chart created with NeoTicker EOD © 1998-2007 TickQuest Inc.

"Don't touch my junk!" has now entered the national idiom.

A passenger in San Diego refused to be electronically scanned and then when he found out the the enhanced "pat down" alternative involved some very intimate contact by a same sex TSA agent ...

Tyner balked, "If you touch my junk," he told the agent, "I'll have you arrested."

The TSA agent contacted his supervisor who further explained that if he didn't want the pat down he could be escorted out of the airport and would not fly that day.

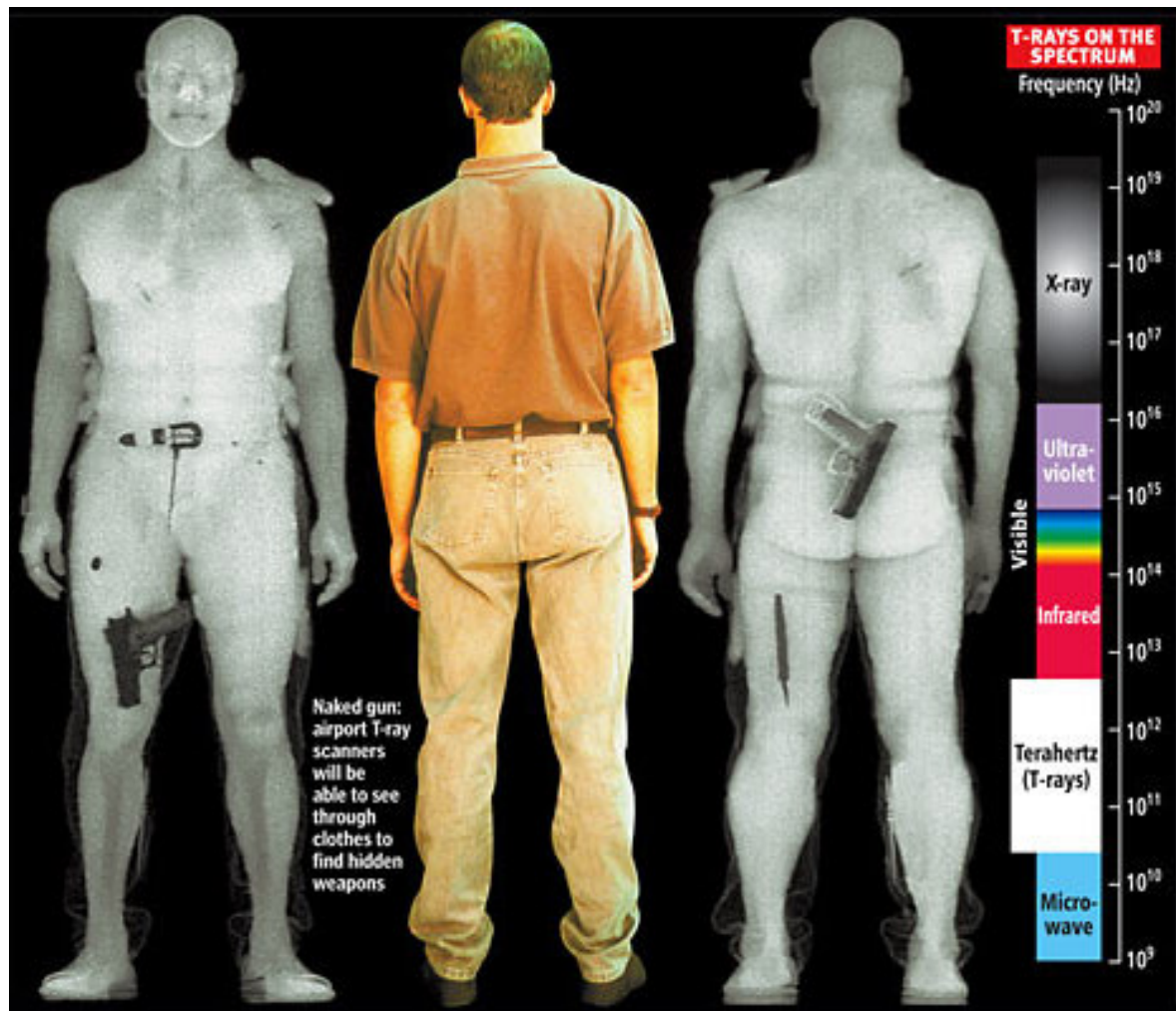
Tyner told the agent, **"I don't understand how a sexual assault can be made a condition of my flying."**

The supervisor rebutted that the pat down was not a sexual assault. He was also heard saying, **"By buying your ticket you gave up a lot of rights."**

There's more at: <http://www.examiner.com/city-buzz-in-memphis/don-t-touch-my-junk-john-tyner>)









This is one more step in the growing patchwork of steps by our government to deny liberty in the false promise of security. This is the “frog in the pot of luke warm water on top of a stove.

This serves to exactly fulfill the prophecy of Mr bin Laden when he said:

“I tell you freedom and human rights in America are doomed. The U.S. government will lead the American people and the West in general will enter an unbearable hell and a choking life.”

--Osama bin Laden, October 2001 (his first post-9/11 interview)

"All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two Mujaheddin to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaida, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies."

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article7201.htm>

Wisdom

"If tyranny and oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy."

"It is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged to the provisions against danger, real or pretended, from abroad."

– James Madison

http://www.spiritcaller.net/quotes/war_on_terror.htm

A New Reality

Our President is home from the G-20 meeting which included a reality check; finding not many people outside the Whitehouse Staff feel the Quantitative Easing II scheme has much merit. Perhaps it has something to do with the hundreds of billions that have already been injected into the economy and haven't improved anything, and the threat of cheap dollars diluting other economies.

I have yet see the Administration's rationale why another 600 billion would help. When so many are without incomes, and others worried about losing theirs, those who have jobs are doing the work of 2 or 3, that is not an expanding economy.

Apparently China was polite, but pointed out they will do with their currency what they think is best for China. There was apparently some expectation that Korea who has resisted reciprocal trade agreements with us, was ready to open up their borders to our products, but it didn't happen Maybe it's time to bring our troops home from there.

This is certainly not the end of the world, and we now have the advantage of knowing how other countries actually feel about us, so we won't waste time and energy on unrealistic pursuits. Sure is different that when it was the G-6, and even when it was the G-8. Something has changed.

China Hikes Bank Reserves In Move To Cool Lending

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/money/25740060/detail.html>

JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

POSTED: Wednesday, November 10, 2010

BEIJING -- Chinese banks were ordered to set aside more reserves Wednesday in a new move to curb lending as Beijing tries to cool rising inflation.

The central bank's order came on the eve of Thursday's release of figures that are expected to show inflation surged past 4 percent in October, above the government's 3 percent target. September inflation was 3.6 percent.

Consumer prices are especially sensitive in a society where poor families spend up to half their incomes on food. Rising incomes have helped to offset price hikes, but chronic inflation erodes the value of savings and raises the prospect of unrest.

While other governments try to shore up weak growth, China rebounded quickly from the global crisis with a huge stimulus and has shifted focus to cooling inflation and restoring normal economic conditions. China raised its key lending rate last month for the first time since the financial crisis struck.

What Chinese Consumers Can Teach Americans

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/What-Chinese-Consumers-Can-usnews-1608182677.html?x=0>

Rick Newman, On Wednesday November 10, 2010, 5:13 pm EST

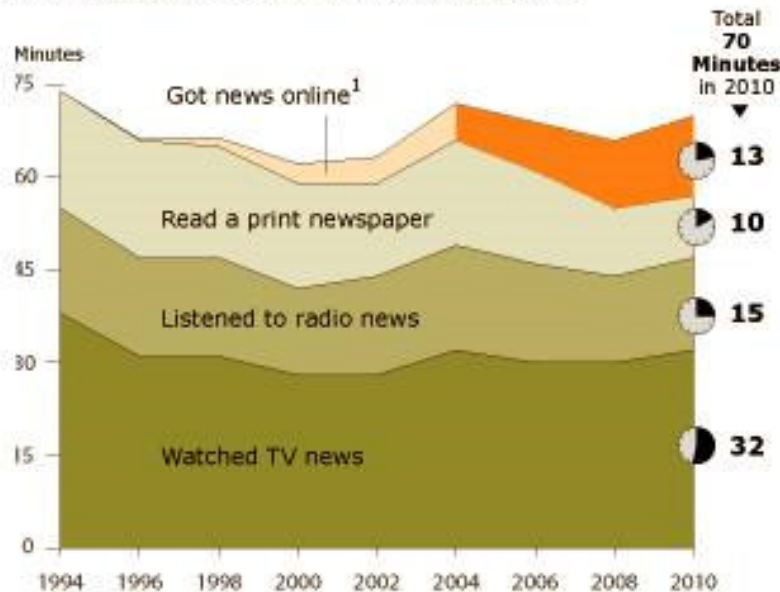
- **Chinese consumers don't gorge on debt.** China's financial system isn't yet geared to consumers, and credit is a lot harder to get than it is in the West. Yet even as it becomes available to higher-income consumers, they're not biting. "Consumers elsewhere tend to trade up as they get wealthier," according to the McKinsey report. "Some start relying on credit, often spending more than they can afford. Not in China. Consumers there remain very concerned about financial stability and spend within their means." It will be interesting to see if Chinese consumers retain that discipline as their nation gets wealthier. They seem to be off to a good start.
- **If they "trade up" to more expensive goods, they also "trade down" on other things to help pay for the indulgence.**
- **They budget first and buy second (or don't buy at all).**
- **They spend months researching purchases.**

Americans Getting Better Informed!

Americans Spending More Time Following the News

Trends in News Consumption "Yesterday"

Minutes getting news from various platforms on any given day.



¹ Numbers extrapolated prior to 2004. Includes those who reported reading a newspaper online.

12 Sept 10 Americans are increasingly integrating new technologies into their news consumption habits. As a result, the average time spent with the news is as high as it was in the mid-1990s.

Man shoots his TV in anger after seeing Sarah Palin's daughter Bristol on Dancing With The Stars

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

Last updated at 9:25 AM on 18th November 2010

Angry: Steven Cowan, 67, was arrested yesterday for blasting a shotgun at his TV because he thought Bristol Palin was a bad dancer.

A 67-year-old man from Wisconsin was arrested by police yesterday for shooting his TV because he was so enraged with Bristol Palin's moves on Dancing With The Stars.

Steven Cowan apparently told authorities that he felt Bristol was not a good dancer and was only on the show because of her famous mother, former presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

After Monday's show when Bristol performed the Paso Doble with her partner Mark Ballas, Cowan got so angry that he fired at his television set. He apparently jumped up, swore at the TV and said something about 'the (expletive) politics'. He then got his shotgun and fired it into the TV.

He then aimed the gun at his wife but she managed to escape from the house unharmed.

The SWAT team surrounded his house after the shots were fired but negotiators managed to talk Cowan into surrendering early yesterday morning after a 15-hour stand off.

Authorities claim Cowan suffers from bipolar disorder and had been under stress of a financial situation and was receiving care from a mental health program.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1330603/Man-shoots-TV-seeing-Bristol-Palin-Dancing-With-The-Stars.html#ixzz15n2uSSXY>



Thailand extradites alleged arms dealer Bout to US

[Associated Press Featured Article](#)

November 19, 2010 By Associated Press ,

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand extradited accused Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout to the U.S. on Tuesday to face terrorism charges, siding with Washington in a tug of war with Moscow over whether to send him to stand trial or let him go home.

The Cabinet approved Bout's extradition Tuesday after a long legal battle, and police said the 43-year-old was put aboard a plane that departed Bangkok at about 1:30 p.m. (0630 GMT; 1:30 a.m. EST) in the custody of eight U.S. officials.



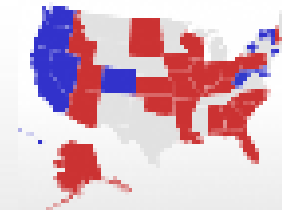
ELECTION 2010

Battle for Congress · Senate Map · House Map · Governor Map · Campaign Ads · Election Calendar · Latest Polls

BATTLE FOR THE SENATE

53 Dems

GOP **47**

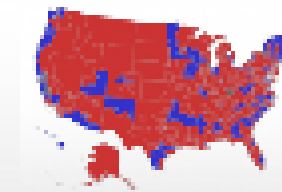


BATTLE FOR THE HOUSE

190 Dems

4

GOP **241**

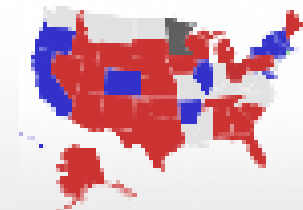


2010 GOVERNOR RACES

19 Dems

1

GOP **29**



Effect of 2010 midterms will be far-reaching

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7278284.html>

ANALYSIS

By **RICHARD S. DUNHAM** and **R.G. RATCLIFFE**

Copyright 2010 Houston Chronicle

Nov. 3, 2010, 9:32PM

They threw the bums out Tuesday. From D.C. to Houston's City Hall, the voters' verdict will resonate through changes that affect all of us. Here's how the 2010 midterm election is likely to change your lives, from the red-light cameras you hate to the income tax you pay.

- 1. Immigration:** Bipartisan immigration reform as we know it is dead.
- 2. Renew Houston:** If you own property in Houston, you'll have to fork over a monthly drainage fee ranging from \$5 to \$15.

Effect of 2010 midterms

3. Redistricting: Following the Democratic bloodbath on Tuesday, Texas Republicans will wield almost complete control over the 2011 Texas Legislature, which will redraw congressional and legislative district lines to reflect population changes from the 2010 census. Texas, the nation's fastest-growing state, is likely to gain four House seats. Tuesday's election means that you are more likely to be represented by a Republican or a Latino House member in 2012, because the GOP is likely to divide the spoils of redistricting between Republicans and the burgeoning Hispanic population.

4. Health care: Immovable force, meet the immovable object.

5. Budget woes and tax cuts: The story is the same in Austin and Washington: budgets doused in red ink. Texas is facing a budget shortfall of \$18 billion to \$21 billion next year, but Republicans are promising no new taxes. Republican gains mean that deep cuts are likely in human services and education programs.

Effect of 2010 midterms

6. Energy: The Republican House takeover shuts the door on Democratic proposals to impose a carbon tax. The 49 other states have agreed to allow the EPA to set limits, but Texas has refused to do so.

7. Voter ID: Republicans have failed in two legislative sessions to force through a bill requiring Texans to produce valid photo identification before voting. The new GOP super-majority in the Texas House increases the likelihood that the third time will be the charm.

8. Red lights: Say goodbye to those hated red- light cameras.

9. Perry power: Gov. Rick Perry, referred to in Austin circles as "Governor 39 Percent" after his underwhelming 2006 victory, silenced the doubters Tuesday. A book tour that includes appearances on *Fox & Friends*, the Glenn Beck radio program, NBC's *Today Show* and Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central. Perry promises to restrain government spending in Texas without raising taxes.

Effect of 2010 midterms

10. 2012: Now that the 2010 election season is over, aren't you psyched for the 2012 presidential election?

No? Well, the White House wannabes are.

Already, a passel of Republican presidential possibilities have been paying homage to voters in Iowa, site of the first-in-the-nation caucuses, New Hampshire, home to the first presidential primary, and South Carolina, the first Southern showdown state. Among those testing the waters: 2008 presidential also-rans Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, South Dakota Sen. John Thune, Indiana Rep. Mike Pence, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and, of course, former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin. Perry has denied any interest in seeking the GOP nomination, but he wouldn't mind being a kingmaker in 2012.

Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply

1 Sept 10 The annual inflow of unauthorized immigrants to the U.S. was nearly two-thirds smaller in the March 2007 to March 2009 period than it had been from March 2000 to March 2005. This decline contributed to an overall 8% reduction in the unauthorized immigrant population, which fell to 11.1 million in 2009 from 12 million in 2007.

Illegal Immigrants



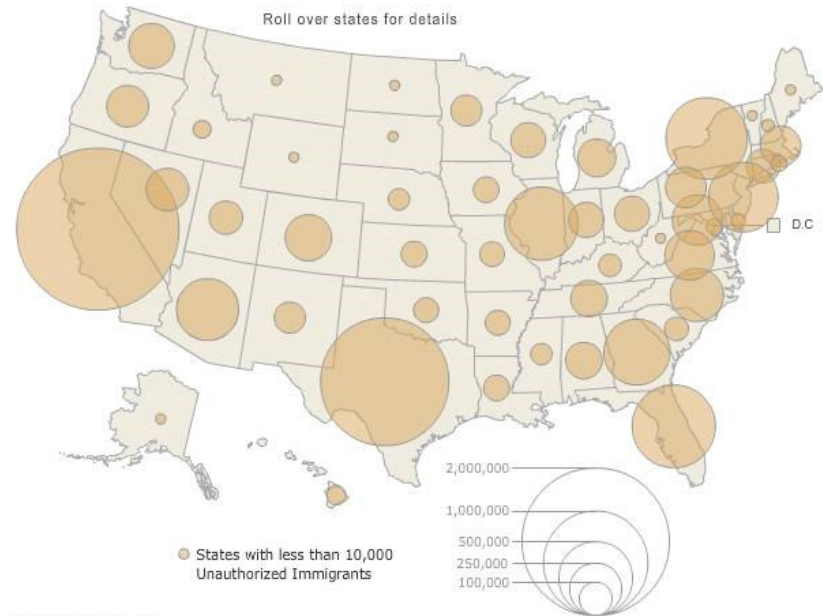
Unauthorized Immigrants in the U.S.

There were an estimated 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2009, a number that declined by about a million since 2007, according to Pew Hispanic Center estimates. Although they are more geographically dispersed than in the past, most live in California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois and New Jersey. The vast majority of unauthorized immigrants come from Mexico and other Latin American countries. They are more likely than legal immigrants or U.S.-born residents to be in their 20s and 30s.

Data and Resources

- [Search Survey Questions](#)
- [Download Survey Datasets](#)
- [State and County Databases](#)
- [Interactive Maps](#)
- [Demographic Profiles](#)
- [Country of Origin Profiles](#)
- [Election '08 Fact Sheets](#)
- [Internet Resources](#)

UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS: [State-by-State](#) | [How Many?](#) | [Where Are They From?](#) | [Gender & Age](#)



PEW HISPANIC CENTER

Report: U.S. Unauthorized Immigration Flows Are Down Sharply Since Mid-Decade.

the-politics-of-envy

http://finance.yahoo.com/career-work/article/111020/the-politics-of-envy?mod=career-worklife_balance

Andrew Oswald of England's Warwick University and David Blanchflower of Dartmouth found when people make relative-income comparisons, they often look at those who earn more — and get upset when their paycheck compares unfavorably. Brookings Institution researcher Carol Graham has found the same effect among upwardly mobile workers in multiple countries. And **researchers in Toronto found that actors who are nominated for an Academy Award and win live four years longer, on average, than those who are nominated and lose.** In statistical terms, winning an Oscar is "like reducing your chances of dying from a heart attack from average to zero," writes British epidemiologist Michael Marmot in his book, "The Status Syndrome."

Stephen Hawking's 'Grand Design'

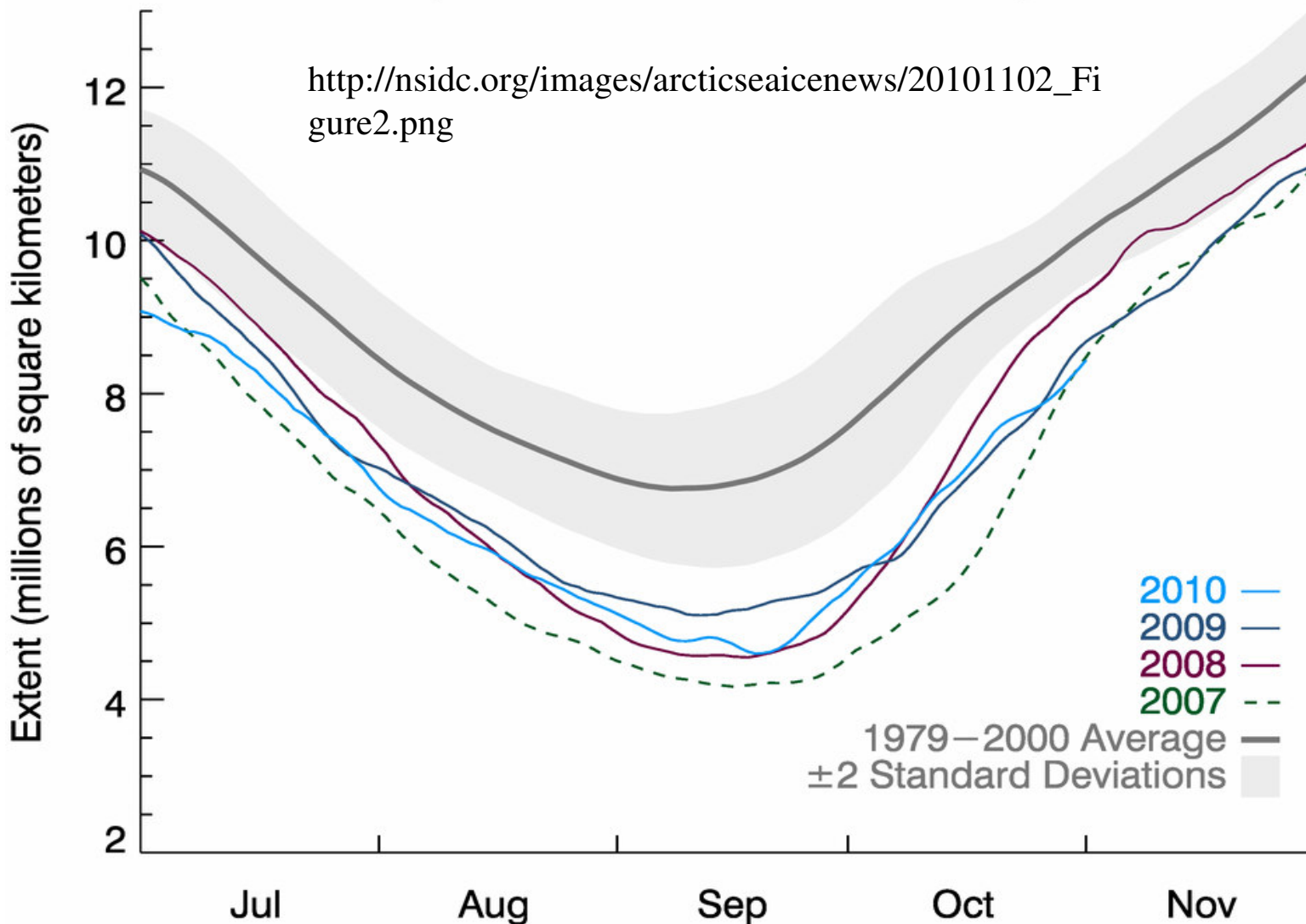
... Their creation does not require the intervention of some supernatural being or god. **Rather, these multiple universes arise naturally from physical law. They are a prediction of science.**

Each universe has many possible histories and many possible states at later times, that is, at times like the present, long after their creation. ... Thus our presence selects out from this vast array only those universes that are compatible with our existence.

Although we are puny and insignificant on the scale of the cosmos, this makes us in a sense the lords of creation. To understand the universe at the deepest level, we need to know not only how the universe behaves, but why. *Why is there something rather than nothing? Why do we exist? Why this particular set of laws and not some other?* This is the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything. We shall attempt to answer it in this book.

Unlike the answer given in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", ours won't be simply, "42." <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Books/grand-design-stephen-hawking/story?id=11568556&page=2>

Arctic Sea Ice Extent (Area of ocean with at least 15% sea ice)



http://nsidc.org/images/arcticseaicenews/20101102_Figure2.png

National Snow and Ice Data Center, Boulder CO

The mini ice age starts here

By [David Rose](#)

10th January 2010

The bitter winter afflicting much of the Northern Hemisphere is only the start of a global trend towards cooler weather that is likely to last for 20 or 30 years, say some of the world's most eminent climate scientists.

Their predictions – based on an analysis of natural cycles in water temperatures in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans – challenge some of the global warming orthodoxy's most deeply cherished beliefs, such as the claim that the North Pole will be free of ice in summer by 2013.

According to the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre in Colorado, Arctic summer sea ice has increased by 409,000 square miles, or 26 per cent, since 2007 – and even the most committed global warming activists do not dispute this.

The mini ice age starts here (2)

The scientists' predictions also undermine the standard climate computer models, which assert that the warming of the Earth since 1900 has been driven solely by man-made greenhouse gas emissions and will continue as long as carbon dioxide levels rise.

They say that their research shows that much of the warming was caused by oceanic cycles when they were in a 'warm mode' as opposed to the present 'cold mode'.

This challenge to the widespread view that the planet is on the brink of an irreversible catastrophe is all the greater because the scientists could never be described as global warming 'deniers' or sceptics.

However, both main British political parties continue to insist that the world is facing imminent disaster without drastic cuts in CO₂.

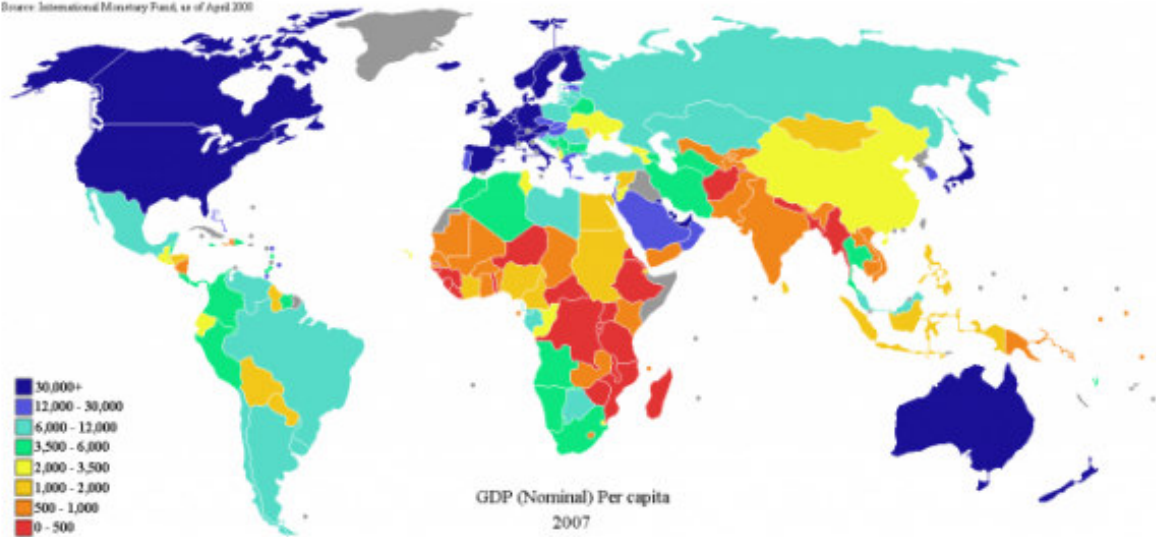
Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1242011/DAVID-ROSE-The-mini-ice-age-starts-here.html#ixzz15nI3itV0>

Climate policy has almost nothing to do with environmental Protection

IPCC Official: “Climate Policy Is Redistributing The World’s Wealth”

Posted on [November 18, 2010](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Source: International Monetary Fund, as of April 2008

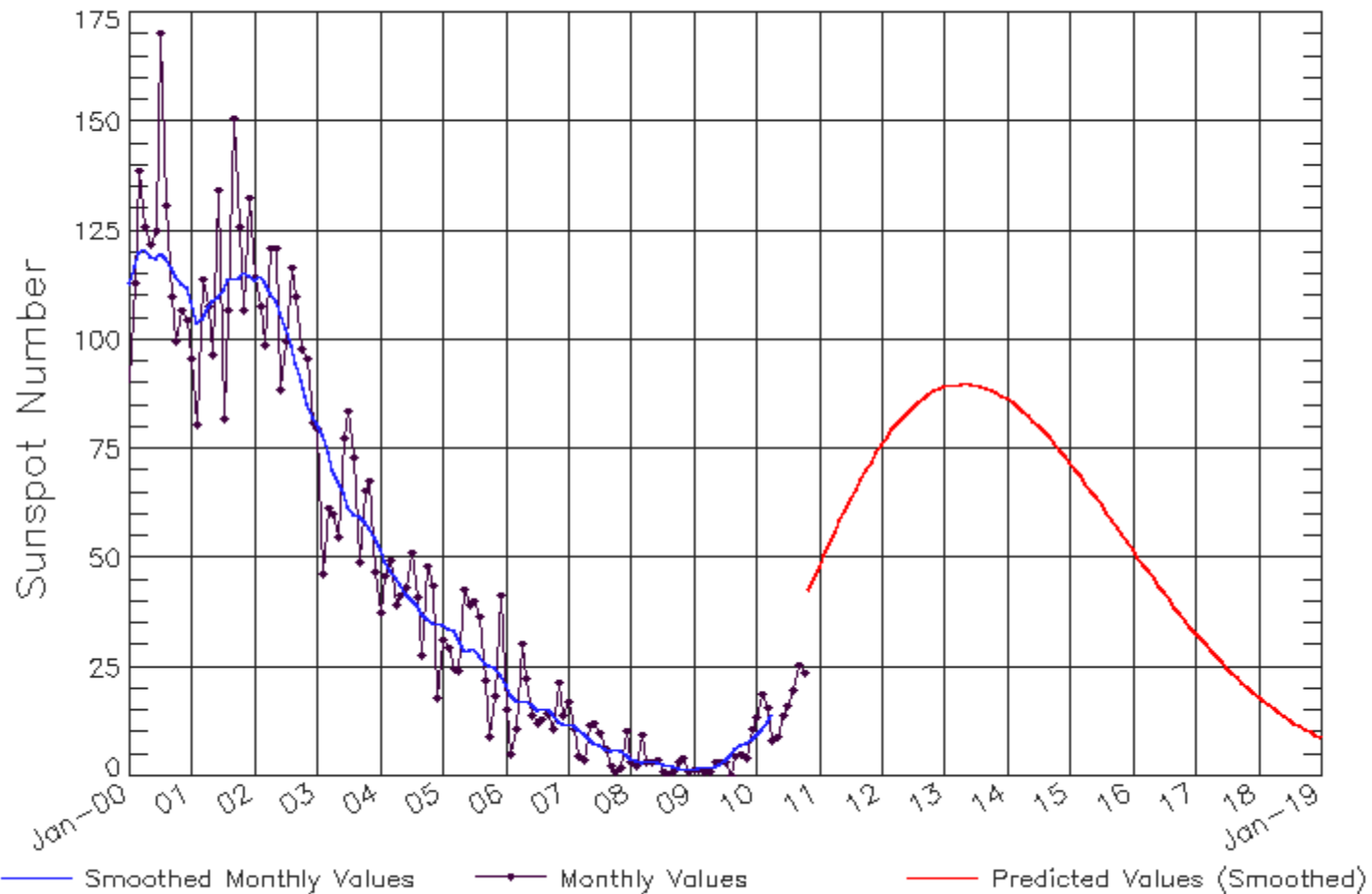


[Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 14 November 2010](#)

Climate policy has almost nothing to do anymore with environmental protection, says the German economist and IPCC official Ottmar Edenhofer. The next world climate summit in Cancun is actually an economy summit during which the distribution of the world’s resources will be negotiated. – Ottmar Edenhofer

Sun Spots

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression
Observed data through Oct 2010



Updated 2010 Nov 8

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/solarCycle/>

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

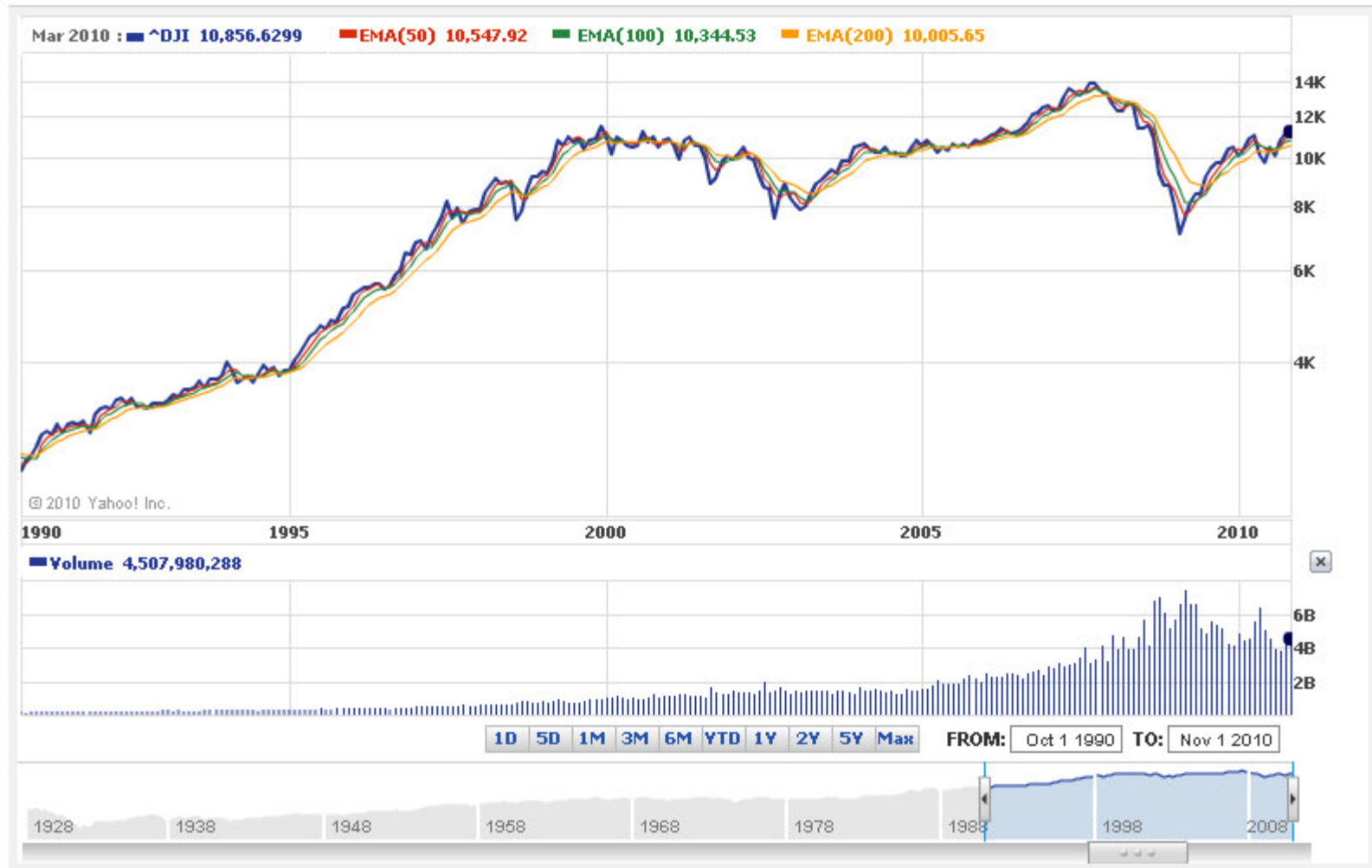
S&P 500 – 2 Years



27 Years after Black Friday



Dow since 1990 (~20 years)



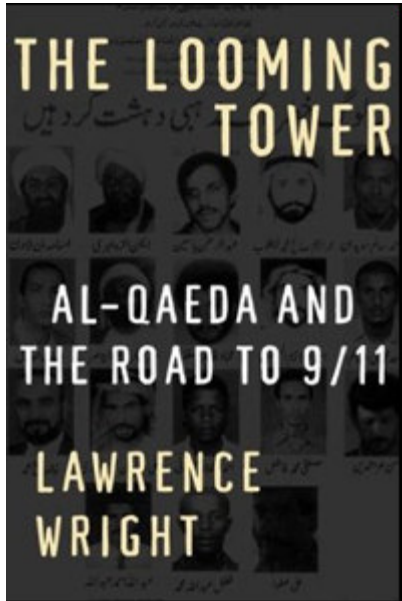
Next Time

February 19th, 2011

The Cosmic War – Revisited

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

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



It's Worth watching ...

My Trip to Al Qaida

Lawrence Wright

HBO Documentary

“Moreover, it also overextends American forces. It makes them weak and ineffective elsewhere. So it's a double victory for them. The tasks that they would like to do, which are destroying of Western economies and overextending American forces and Israeli forces as well, would be easily accomplished by these proxies. “

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5770651&ps=rs>

**Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 03 20 Nov 2010**

**Our Brave New (Digital) World
Jungle or Playground (or Both)**

Gary Valmain and Edie McRae

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

Today's Program

First, Gary will talk about some of the hostile aliens that live in Cyberspace and try to take up residence on your computer and read all your personal stuff and how to keep them at bay. Edie will talk about the relatively new phenomena referred to generically as social networking. Things like MySpace, Facebook, Twittering, Blogging. "getting poked" and hacked, and a whole lot of stuff I have tried to ignore (as in stay ignorant of) even though everybody else uses this stuff to some degree. Well, if I can't avoid it I might as well know what social networking is all about and what those strange words mean.

Gary Valmain, ComputerWurX

<http://www.computerwurx.com/> Computer Support Services, virus and spyware removal,

Gary has been in the computer industry since 1972. He began as a computer operator working with IBM 360's and IBM 370's. While working as an operator he took advantage of programming small, ad hoc programs needed in the course of processing large volumes of data for his employers at the time.

He moved into a programming position in 1976, working on minicomputers. The minicomputer was a very hot commodity at the time and there was very high demand for programmers in the business application market.

He worked in that market until the early 1990's when he began performing computer support services. Today he programs only specialized applications and specializes in removing viruses and spyware from computers for residential and business customers.

Edie McRae, EdieMcRae.com™

is a native **Houstonian** who called New Orleans home for 20 years. Hurricane Katrina devastated her community, including her entire immediate/extended family and friends. Undaunted, she and her family moved to Houston to start a new life from scratch.

A nurse by education, Edie has a great love for people. She chose to leave her nursing career behind due to the premature birth of her second child. To make ends meet, she started a business in direct sales and spent almost six years as a top consultant. This enabled Edie to gain extensive knowledge of online marketing, public relations, leadership and business development through utilizing e-business/Web 2.0 tools effectively. That is how Edie discovered her TRUE passion--empowering others to find and foster connections themselves through proper use of social media outlets. Thus, EdieMcRae.com™ was born!

EdieMcRae.com™ strives to connect small business owners to personal, financial and environmental resources for their businesses through effective use of popular social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogging and more! She affectionately refers to herself as a “social media paramedic” because she helps clients break through the feelings of overwhelm with hands-on application, effective techniques and strategies that bridge the gap between theory and implementation.

Social Media isn't a Fad...it's a fundamental shift in the way we communicate. More than 1.5 MILLION pieces of content (web links, news stories, blog posts, notes, Photos, etc.) are shared just on Facebook on a DAILY basis!

Edie will discuss:

What "Social Media" Is

How to Protect your Privacy when using these tools

How to separate Personal from Business

How to have fun with this new media communication

Q&A after the presentation

Questions?

Next Time

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MIKE LUCKOVICH © 1992, 1993, 1994
ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION



Don't panic!

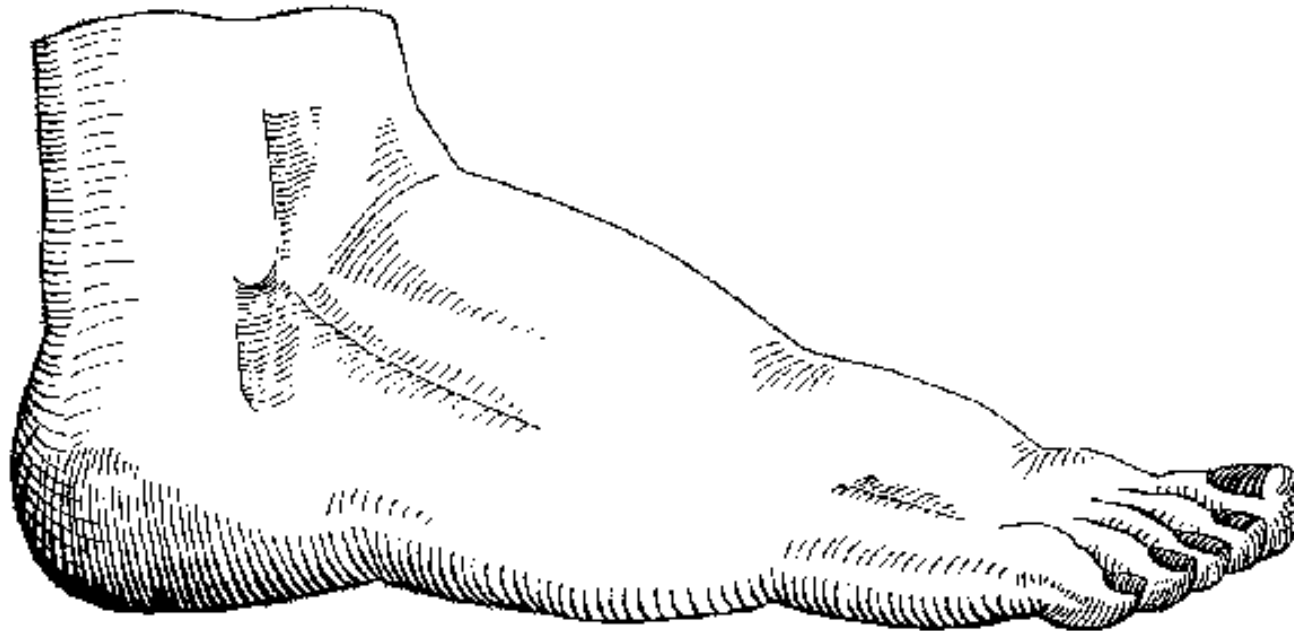
Don't be Panicked!

Welcome back to interesting times !



See You 19 February 2011

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



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "*An Allegory of Venus and Cupid*" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

Enrichment Material

Accepting the challenge

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

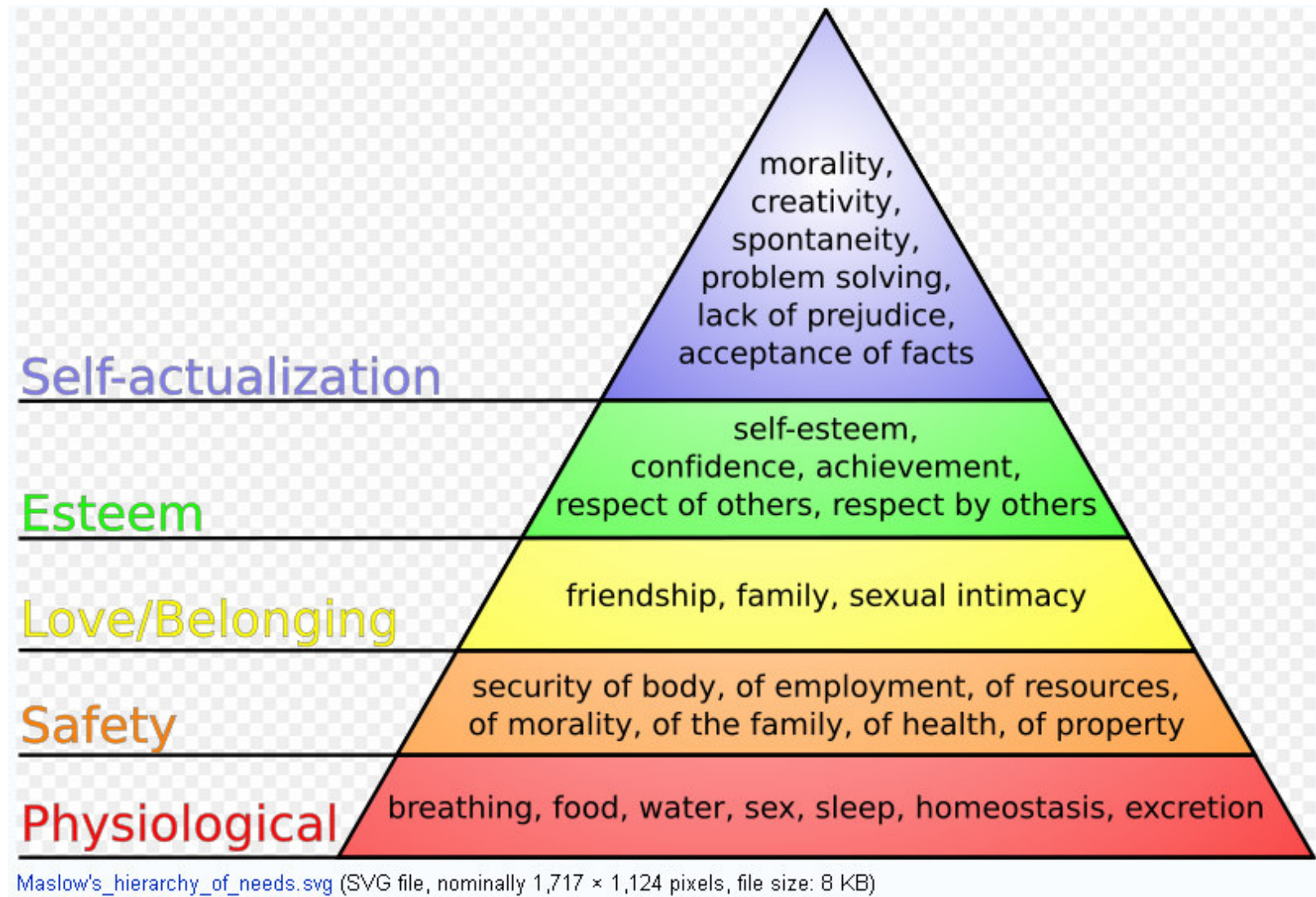
Not so fast, I'm afraid. We still have work to do if we are going to still have the America we thought we were going to have, but we see disappearing.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before the die?”



Mazlow's Hierachy of Needs



It all connects

Fear, War, Greed

To much capital in the hands of the few

Too little money in the hands of the consumers.

Credit is not a replacement for disposable income

Oil is a limited resource

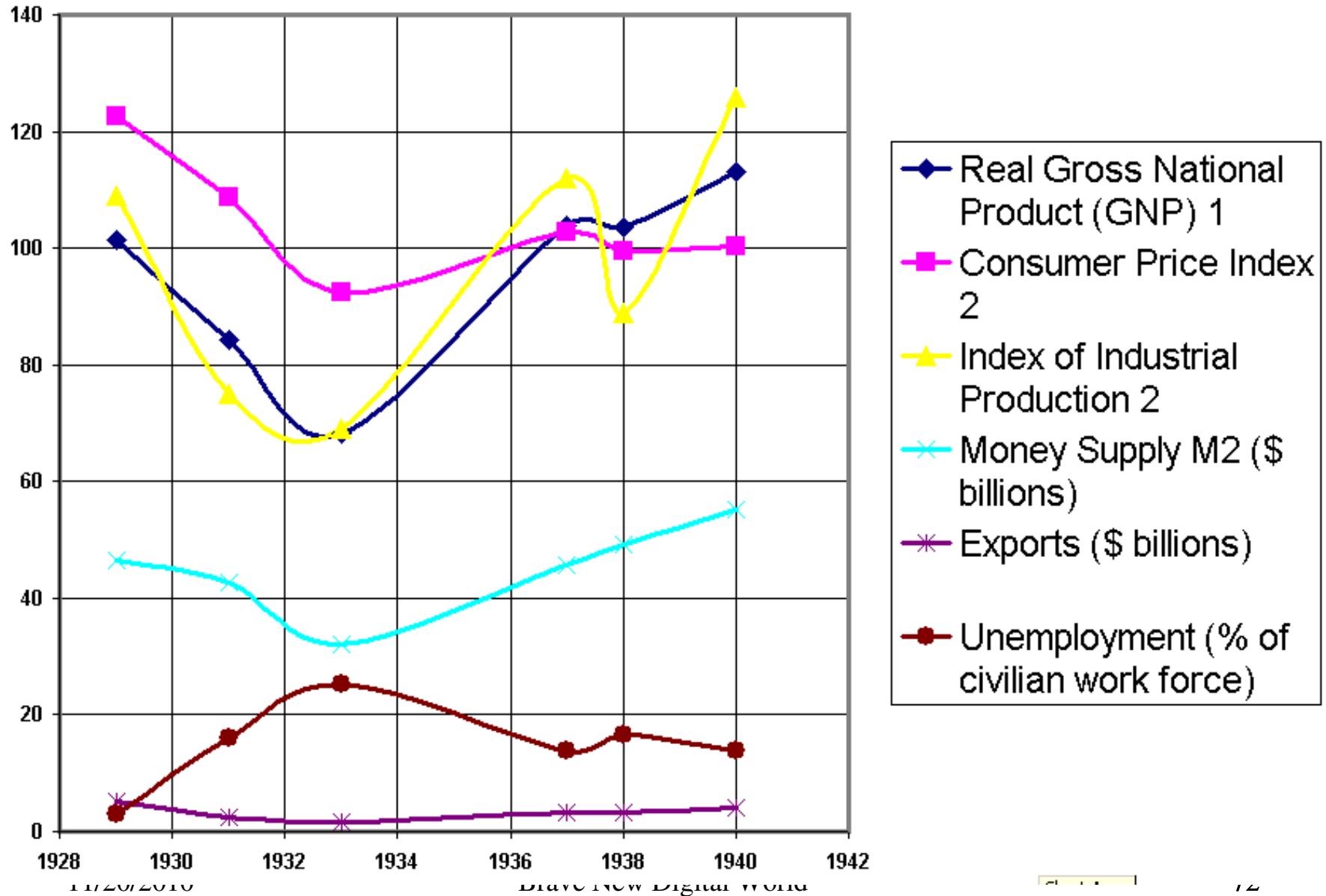
Unable to anticipate what looks obvious in retrospect

Trusting of Authority

Lacking critical ability/Education

Etc.

The Years of the Great Depression



Don't just be a thermometer, Be a thermostat

Jill Carroll

We have it in our power...

**"We have it in our
power to begin the
world over again."**

Ronald Reagan quoting Thomas Paine

January 18, 2008 Bill Moyers talks with Harvey J. Kaye