

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 04
19 February 2011

Cosmic Wars Revisited
Current Events Segment
Curt Gibby

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

Change

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

Aldous Huxley

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 22 JANUARY 2011

- **9:30 am Introduction & Current Events (15 Minutes +/-) –**
Curt Gibby
- **9:45 am The Cosmic War Revisited** *Curt Gibby*
- **12:00 noon Session ends**
- **Next Session 26 March 2011 – Cosmic War Revisited**

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

16637

1/22 -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.

4. Third Saturday Seminar website is operational but 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

19 February 2011

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



Senate Passes 90-Day Extension of Patriot Act

(Credit: AP / CBS)

The Senate has passed a 90-day extension of Patriot Act with 86 ayes and 12 nays to allow more time to work out a longer term solution for three expiring provisions in the anti-terrorism bill. It now goes to the House. If Congress does not act the provisions would expire at the end of February. ...

"I wouldn't have any problem with that," Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said. "It takes a little bit of pressure off."...

The expiring provisions grant authority for roving wiretaps on terror suspects that move from phone to phone or other electronic devices. Another provision allows for the examination of library records, bookstore records and other business records of terror suspects. The third provision permits surveillance of "lone wolf" suspects, those who act alone who may not be tied or involved with recognized terror organizations.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20032133-503544.html

Colin Powell demands answers over Curveball's WMD lies

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/16/colin-powell-cia-curveball>

Former US secretary of state asks why CIA failed to warn him over Iraqi defector who has admitted fabricating WMD evidence

- [Ed Pilkington](#) in New York, [Helen Pidd](#) in Berlin and [Martin Chulov](#)
- [guardian.co.uk](#), Wednesday 16 February 2011 21.45 GMT

Curveball or Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi who gave dubious information on Iraq's secret biological weapons programme. Photograph: David Levene

[Colin Powell](#), the US secretary of state at the time of the [Iraq](#) invasion, has called on the [CIA](#) and Pentagon to explain why they failed to alert him to the unreliability of a key source behind claims of Saddam Hussein's bio-weapons capability.

Responding to the Guardian's revelation that the source, Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi or "[Curveball](#)" as his US and German handlers called him, admitted fabricating evidence of Iraq's secret biological weapons programme, Powell said that questions should be put to the US agencies involved in compiling the case for war

If they lied to Powell, can we trust them?

In particular he singled out the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency – the Pentagon's military intelligence arm. Janabi, an Iraqi defector, was used as the primary source by the Bush administration to justify invading Iraq in March 2003. Doubts about his credibility circulated before the war and have been confirmed by his admission this week that he lied.

Powell said that the CIA and DIA should face questions about why they failed to sound the alarm about Janabi. He demanded to know why it had not been made clear to him that Curveball was totally unreliable before false information was put into the key intelligence assessment, or NIE, put before Congress, into the president's state of the union address two months before the war and into his own speech to the UN. Tyler Drumheller, head of the CIA's Europe division in the run-up to the invasion, said he welcomed Curveball's confession because he had always warned Tenet that he may have been a fabricator.

...

Tenet has disputed Drumheller's version of events, insisting that the official
made no formal warning to CIA headquarters.

THE NEW "CONFESSION APP"



Deep drills set for Gulf

Regulator says the first permits since BP oil spill about to be issued

By TOM FOWLER
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Get the rigs warmed up. The deep-water drilling permits are on the way.

At least that's what the nation's top offshore energy regulator said in a visit Friday to Houston.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement has issued no new deep-water drilling permits since last April's Deepwater Horizon accident that killed 11 and spilled millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

"I'm on the record as saying that I expect deep-water permits to begin to be granted before the end of the second quarter," said Michael Bromwich, director of the bureau, in a meeting with the Houston Chronicle editorial board.

"But I now think we're going to see them, I hope, in the next several weeks."

Five permits for new wells are pending, he said, but they are held up primarily by re-

Please see **ENERGY**, Page A17

Meningitis kills A&M student from

A NATION IN TRANSITION

MORE COVERAGE

■ **WHITE HOUSE:** After a week of crossed signals, the Obama administration finally gets good news. **PAGE A8**

■ **PARTY ON:** Demonstrators in Tahrir Square promise seven days and seven nights of celebration. **PAGE A8**

■ **TIMELINE:** A review of the events, day by day, that brought change to an ancient land. **PAGE A8**

■ **HOUSTON:** Dozens dance and sing with pride for their homeland in front of Egyptian Consulate. **PAGE B1**



TARA TOBRAS-WHITEHILL / ASSOCIATED PRESS
EMOTIONS HIGH: Hosni Mubarak's resignation brought tears of happiness and relief to many in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

18 DAYS: Popular protests topple Mubarak from power after 30 years of autocratic rule

FUTURE: Military takes control as U.S., allies are left to ponder what path the country will take

A NEW DAY FOR EGYPT



AMR MABIL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

PANDEMONIUM: Egyptians explode with joy in the streets of Cairo on Friday night after the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, who was brought down after 18 days of mostly peaceful protests from pro-democracy demonstrators.

Below the Fold – Houston Chronicle 12 Feb 2011

ANALYSIS

The end is just a beginning

■ Uncharted territory lies ahead for Egyptians rewriting their history

By ANTHONY SHADID
NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — One revolution ended Friday. Another may soon begin.

In a moment that may prove as decisive to the Middle East as the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, 18 days of protest hurled Egypt again to the forefront of politics in the Middle East.

In the uprising's ambition, young protesters, savvy with technology and more organized than their rulers, began to rewrite the formula that has underpinned a U.S.-backed order: the nation in the service of a strongman.

The ecstatic moments of triumph in Tahrir Square seemed to wash away a lifetime of defeats and humiliations, invasions and occupations that, in the weeks before the revolution, had seemed to mark the bleakest time for both Egypt and the Arab world.

"The sun will rise on a more beautiful Egypt," one protester said. Or, as someone via cell phone message on Friday joked: "From Tahrir Square to our brothers in fellow countries ... is there anyone who has a president bothering them?"

Please see **ASSESS**, Page A14

THE DAY'S EVENTS

Mubarak's exodus sparks jubilation

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — An 18-day-old revolt led by the young people of Egypt ousted President Hosni Mubarak on Friday, shattering three decades of political stasis here and upending the established order of the Arab world.

Shouts of "God is great!" erupted from Tahrir Square

at twilight as Mubarak's vice president and longtime intelligence chief, Omar Suliman, announced that Mubarak had passed all authority to a council of military leaders. Tens of thousands who had bowed for evening prayers leapt to their feet, bouncing and dancing in joy.

"Lift your head high you're an Egyptian!" they cried.

Revising the tense of the revolution's rallying cry, they chanted, "The people, at last, have brought down the regime."

"We can breathe fresh air; we can feel our freedom," said Gamal Hesham, a former independent member of Parliament. "After 30 years of absence from the world, Egypt is back."

Mubarak, an 82-year-old former air force commander, left without comment for his home by the Red Sea in Sharm el Sheik. His departure overturns, after six

Please see **EGYPT**, Page A10

Have they Started Something?

How will this effect:

- al Qaida
- Other oppressive governments, Middle East Elsewhere?
- Our Arms Industry.
- Power of Politicians?
- Power of the People?



Hopeful beginning

Mubarak's resignation offers a first step on Egypt's perilous road to democracy.

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Feb. 11, 2011, 7:54PM

The explosions and arcs of light high above [Cairo's](#) Tahrir Square Friday evening signaled the conclusion of the first phase of an unprecedented popular revolution in the [Arab world's](#) most populous nation. Rather than firebombs or tracer bullets, the light and sound show celebrated the unlikely resignation of three-decade authoritarian President [Hosni Mubarak](#) forced by hundreds of thousands of pro-[democracy](#) demonstrators.

In the thousands of years spanning the rule of the pharaohs to Mubarak, the [Egyptian people](#) have never experienced real representative democracy. At the cost of several hundred lives of demonstrators killed in street clashes, the land known as "the [gift of the Nile](#)" is embarking on an exhilarating and perilous journey toward freedom.

Hopeful beginning, cont.

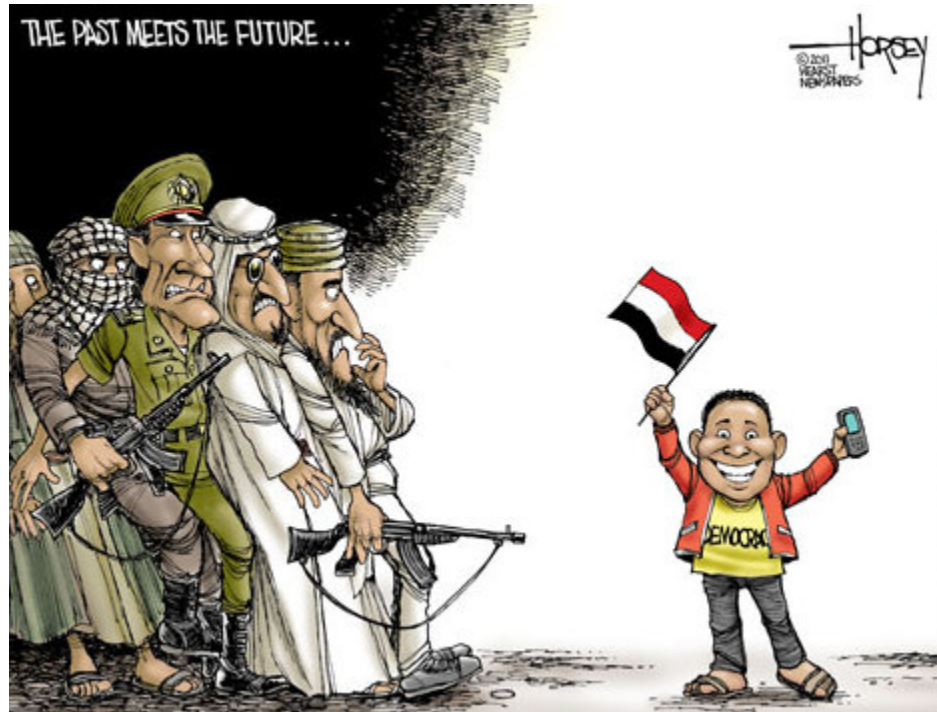
<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/7423980.html>

It won't be easy. Potential threats litter the Egyptian political scene like unexploded land mines.

Will [Islamic extremism](#) usurp a genuine nonsectarian movement, as it did in Iran? Will Mubarak's old cronies, including his handpicked vice president, [Omar Suleiman](#), try to substitute another dictator and sham elections for democracy?

Those questions will be answered in the coming months. For now, we share the celebration of the protestors that real change has come to a nation whose footprint in human history looms so large. The brave young Egyptians who spearheaded the uprising deserve the chance to experience something none of their ancestors ever enjoyed — true democratic rule.

Mideast old guard reels in fear... of freedom on the rise...



al Qaida's strategy

Bin Laden's Latest Rant *NewsMax.com Wires*

Friday, Feb. 1, 2002 WASHINGTON – "We will work to continue this battle, God permitting, until victory or until we meet God," said bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

The interview was conducted by the Qatar-based Al Jazeera network in late October but never aired. In the interview, bin Laden is seen talking to Al Jazeera's Kabul reporter, who left the Afghan capital soon after its fall to the anti-Taliban forces on Nov. 13.

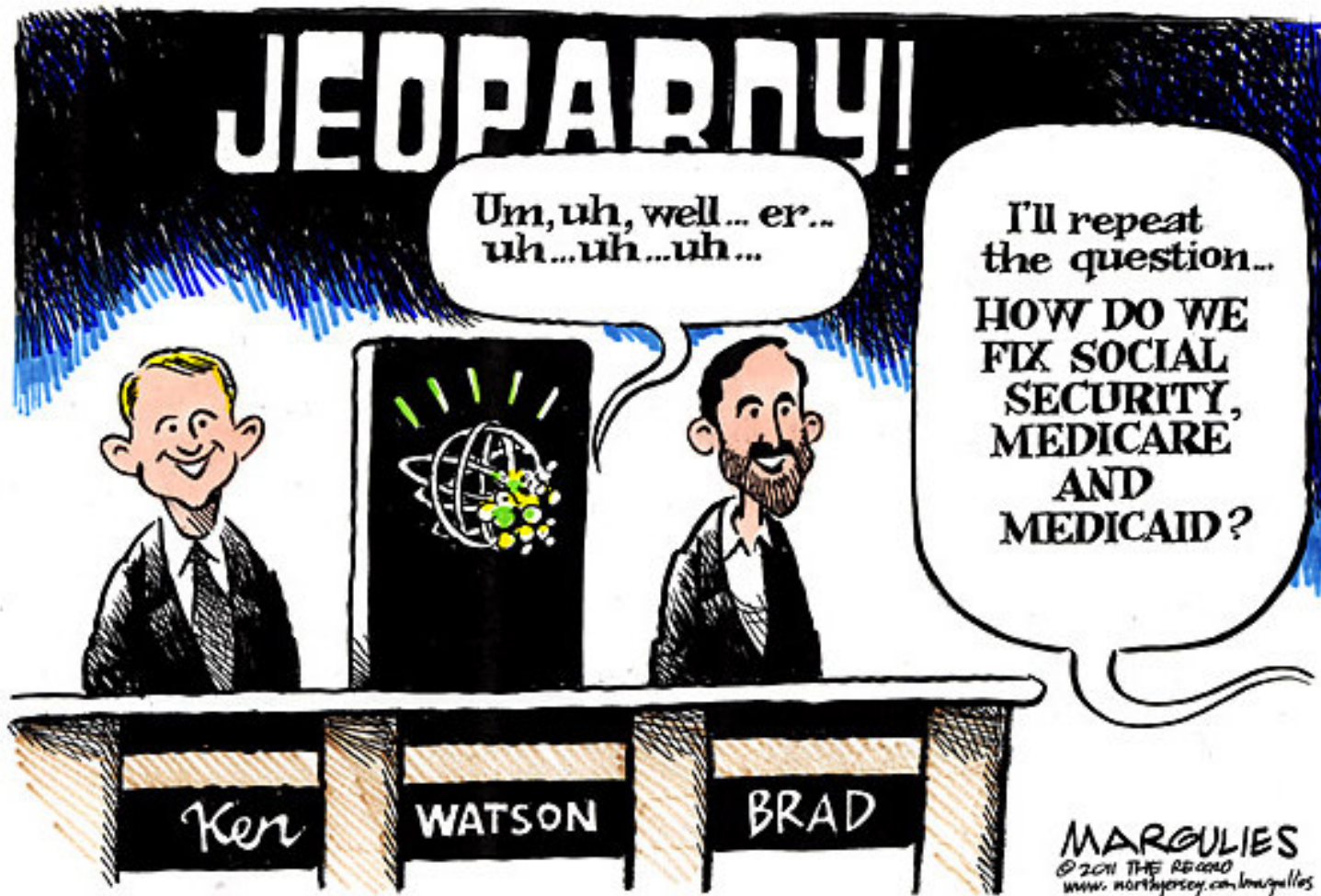
"I tell you, freedom and human rights in America are doomed," bin Laden said. "The U.S. government will lead the American people, and the West in general, into an unbearable hell and a choking life."

Bin Laden was ambiguous about taking blame for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed some 3,000 people.

What is our plan?



<http://www.the-912-project.com/2010/01/05/todays-robs-right-cartoon-features-napolitano/>





\$281,403,651,848

Texas Defense Contractors - \$281,4...	
Download Data	
<i>Download the entire List of Defense Contractors from this State to a Spreadsheet or Other File Type</i>	
State	Texas (TX)
Dollar Amount of Defense Contracts Awarded to Contractors in this State from 2000 to 2009	\$281,403,651,848
Number of Defense Contracts Awarded to Contractors in this State from 2000 to 2009	194,819
Number of Defense Contractors in this State	13,704
Number of Counties in this State	254

http://www.governmentcontractswon.com/department/defense/texas_counties.asp

Defense Contract Totals for Contractors in this State	
<i>Contract Count/Contract Dollar Amount</i>	
2009	30,459/ \$28,462,907,539
2008	32,304/ \$57,927,344,330
2007	33,343/ \$38,716,448,454
2006	25,598/ \$35,373,591,018
2005	27,228/ \$26,509,172,484
2004	14,636/ \$30,150,674,641
2003	11,114/ \$27,371,387,169
2002	8,496/ \$14,032,379,727
2001	5,953/ \$9,903,332,647
2000	5,688/ \$12,956,413,839

Defense Contract Totals 2000 to 2009

Montgomery County TX

118 Contractors

1,753 Contracts

\$179,518,128 Total Value

Harris County TX

1,783

19,083

\$58,440,423,676

Counties with the larger defense contractors

County from 2000 to 2009			
<i>Click on a County Name for more Detail</i>			
<u>Tarrant County TX</u>	1,017	34,545	\$96,269,174,770
<u>Harris County TX</u>	1,783	19,083	\$58,440,423,676
<u>Dallas County TX</u>	1,678	26,733	\$25,406,599,770
<u>Bexar County TX</u>	1,970	28,927	\$24,426,277,548
<u>Potter County TX</u>	66	386	\$12,525,078,446
<u>Austin County TX</u>	9	1,877	\$12,155,518,200
<u>Collin County TX</u>	323	6,510	\$10,247,119,487
<u>Travis County TX</u>	796	9,815	\$8,014,348,610
<u>Hunt County TX</u>	23	671	\$7,204,960,597
<u>Williamson County TX</u>	232	16,153	\$6,824,771,281
<u>El Paso County TX</u>	901	9,465	\$5,214,337,473
<u>Bell County TX</u>	323	2,477	\$1,691,106,529
<u>Comal County TX</u>	122	570	\$1,541,151,274
<u>McLennan County TX</u>	198	1,697	\$1,110,208,296
<u>Hidalgo County TX</u>	95	612	\$1,031,024,111
<u>Guadalupe County TX</u>	98	1,213	\$955,466,900
<u>Nueces County TX</u>	500	3,548	\$906,890,317
<u>Denton County TX</u>	266	2,791	\$741,562,495

Defense Contract Totals in 2009

Count: 530,375

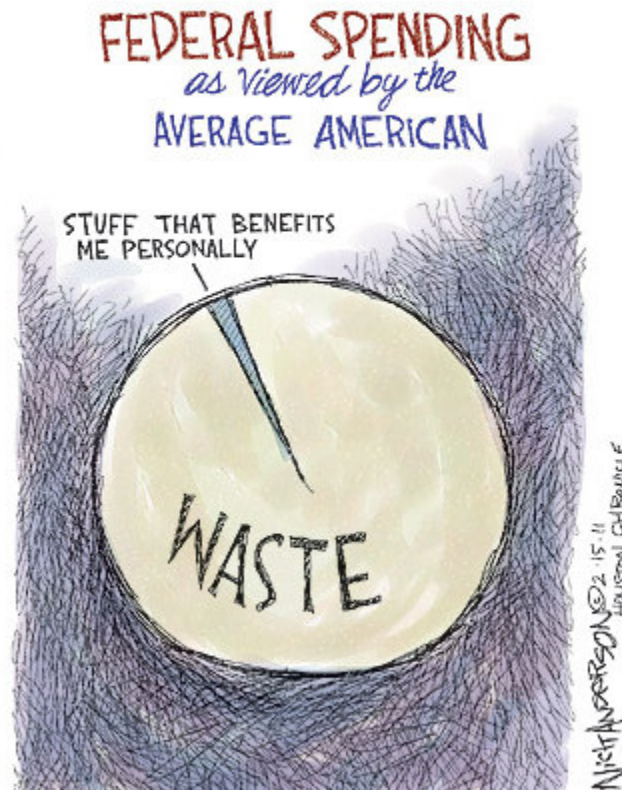
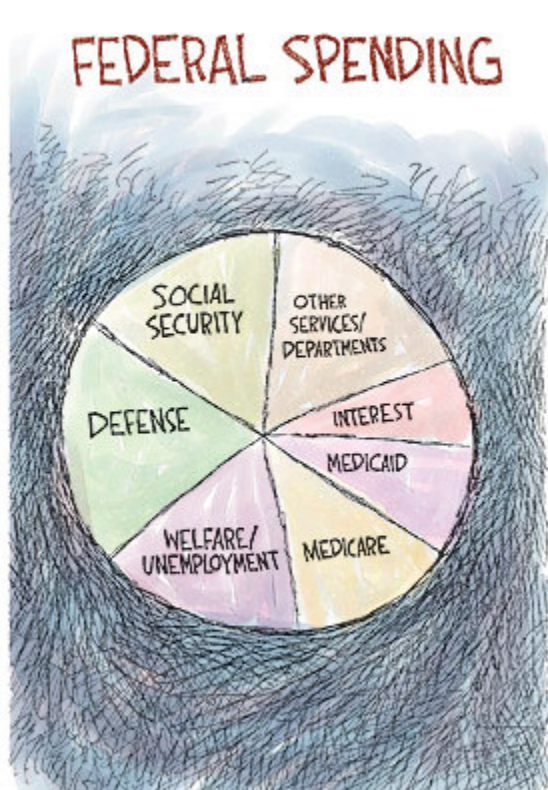
Dollar Amount: \$362,699,709,828

http://www.governmentcontractswon.com/departments/defense/texas_counties.asp

<http://www.governmentcontractswon.com/>

Military Statistics > Defense Contracts- Expenditures (most recent) by state

- # 1 California: \$27,882,008,000.00
 - # 2 Virginia: \$23,391,866,000.00
 - # 3 Texas: \$21,050,237,000.00
 - # 4 Maryland: \$9,214,124,000.00
 - # 5 Connecticut: \$8,958,624,000.00
 - # 6 Arizona: \$8,429,925,000.00
 - # 7 Florida: \$8,385,036,000.00
 - # 8 Massachusetts: \$6,962,816,000.00
 - # 9 Missouri: \$6,502,161,000.00
 - # 10 Pennsylvania: \$6,202,651,000.00
- http://www.statemaster.com/graph/mil_def_con_exp-military-defense-contracts-expenditures



Published: February 1, 2010

Obama's 2011 Budget Proposal: How It's Spent

Rectangles in the chart are sized according to the amount of spending for that category. Color shows the change in spending from 2010.

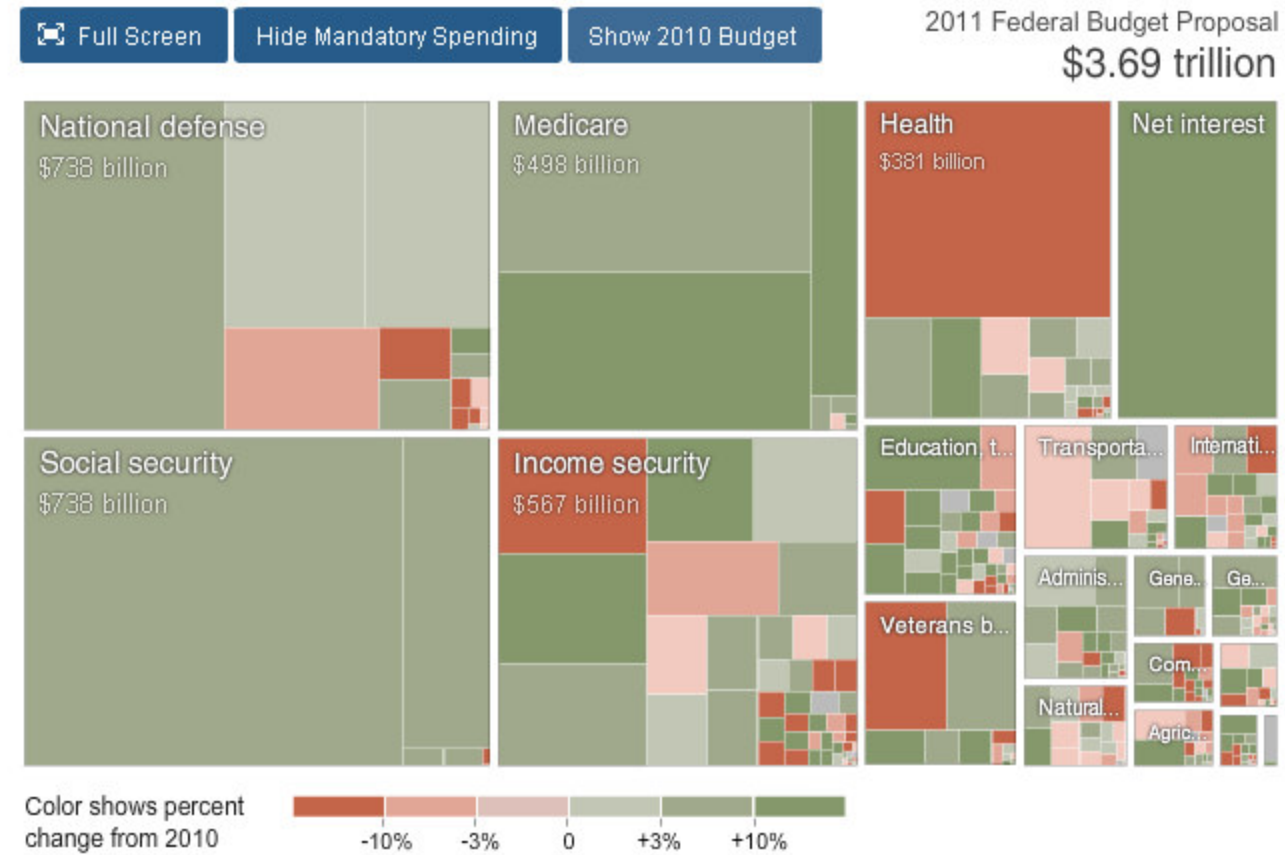


Chart shows funds authorized to be spent each fiscal year. It does not show "off-setting receipts" — items like postage stamp sales, park fees, Medicare prescription drug premiums and federal agency contributions to employee retirement plans — that are counted as negative budget authority. Off-setting receipts are included in the totals for each category. Chart breakdown is by function, not agency.

By SHAN CARTER and AMANDA COX | [Send Feedback](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[SIGN IN TO EMAIL](#)

President Obama Addresses the U.S. Chamber of Commerce 7 February 2011

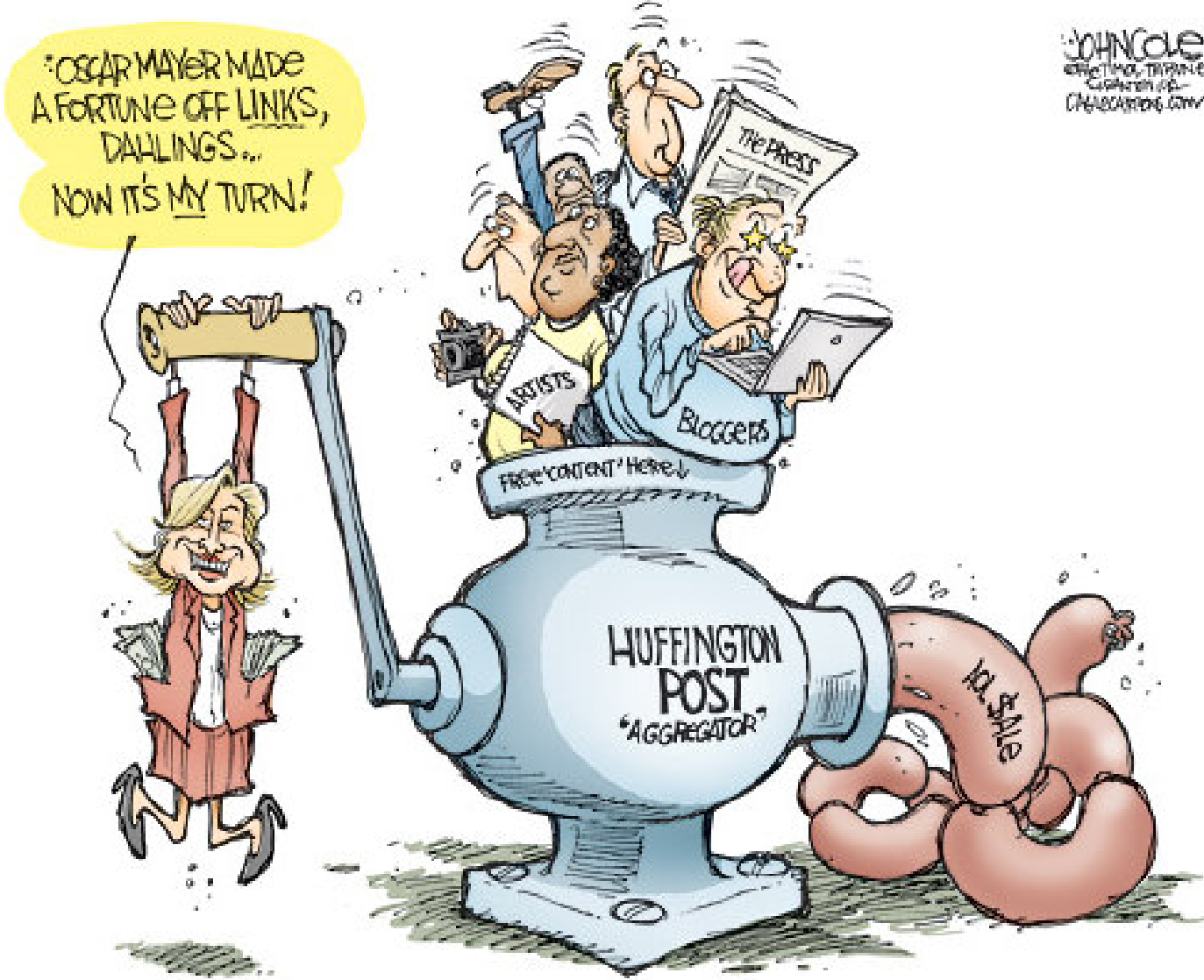
“Of course, your responsibility goes beyond recognizing the need for certain standards and safeguards. If we're fighting to reform the tax code and increase exports to help you compete, the benefits can't just translate into greater profits and bonuses for those at the top. They should be shared by American workers, who need to know that expanding trade and opening markets will lift their standard of living as well as your bottom line. We cannot go back to the kind of economy - and culture - we saw in the years leading up to the recession, where growth and gains in productivity just didn't translate into rising incomes and opportunity for the middle class.”

<http://www.politicalruminations.com/2011/02/video-president-obama-addresses-the-us-chamber-of-commerce.html>

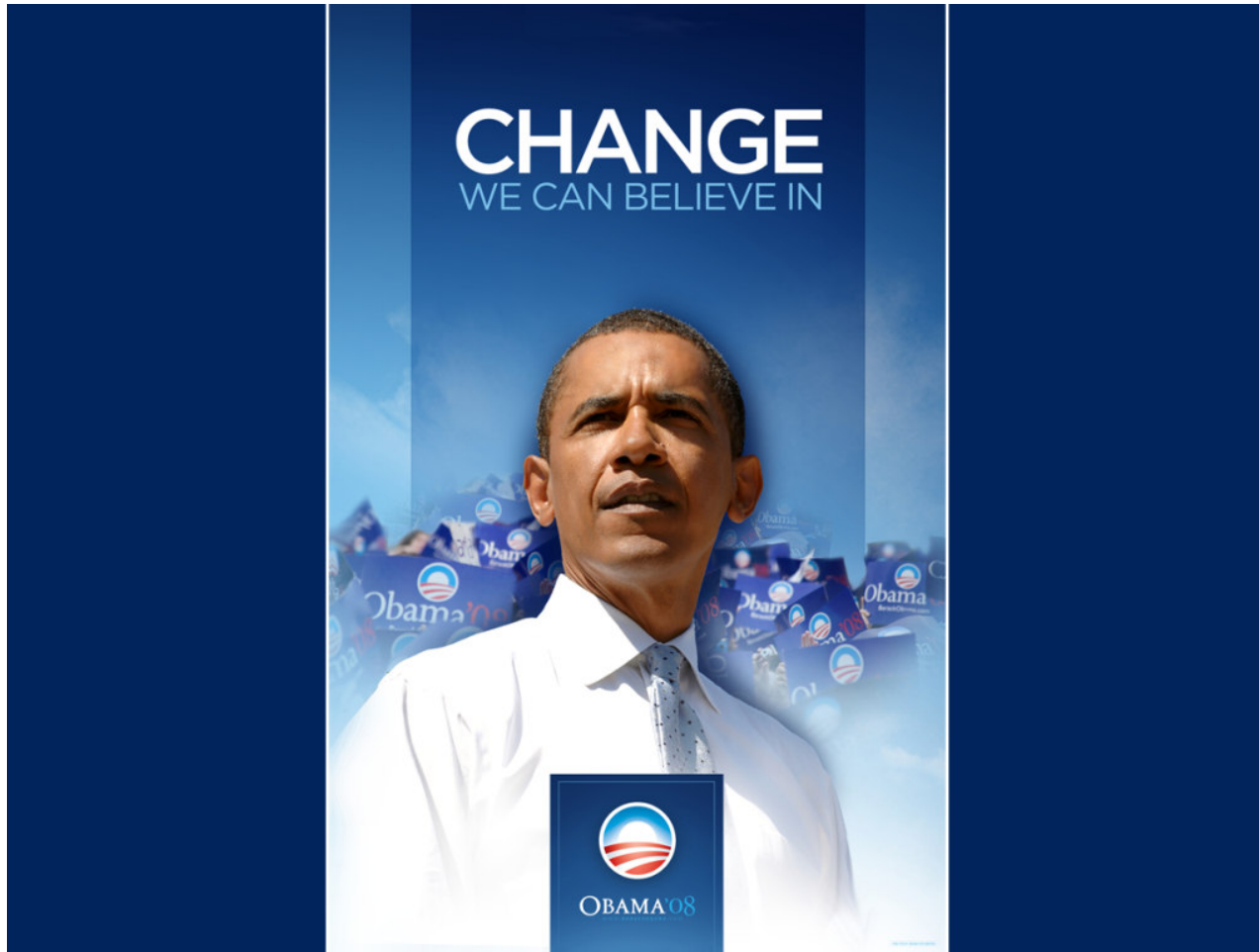
First, a little background on the Chamber from [Think Progress](#):

Despite bloated rhetoric about the virtues of “free enterprise,” the Chamber demanded [taxpayer bailouts](#) for its bank members (AIG, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, etc.), [billions](#) in taxpayer money for its defense contract members, taxpayer money for [cleaning](#) up BP’s oil spill, and preferential [tax cuts](#) for its millionaire executives.

As ThinkProgress has [documented](#), the Chamber has a history of being singularly focused on boosting profits, not creating American jobs. The Chamber has pushed for unfettered free trade deals, sponsored a series of [conferences](#) to teach businesses how to outsource jobs to China, and even lobbied against legislation that would have created over [1.7 million](#) jobs.



<http://obamamedia.wordpress.com/2008/03/11/obama-change-we-can-believe-in-wallpaper/>

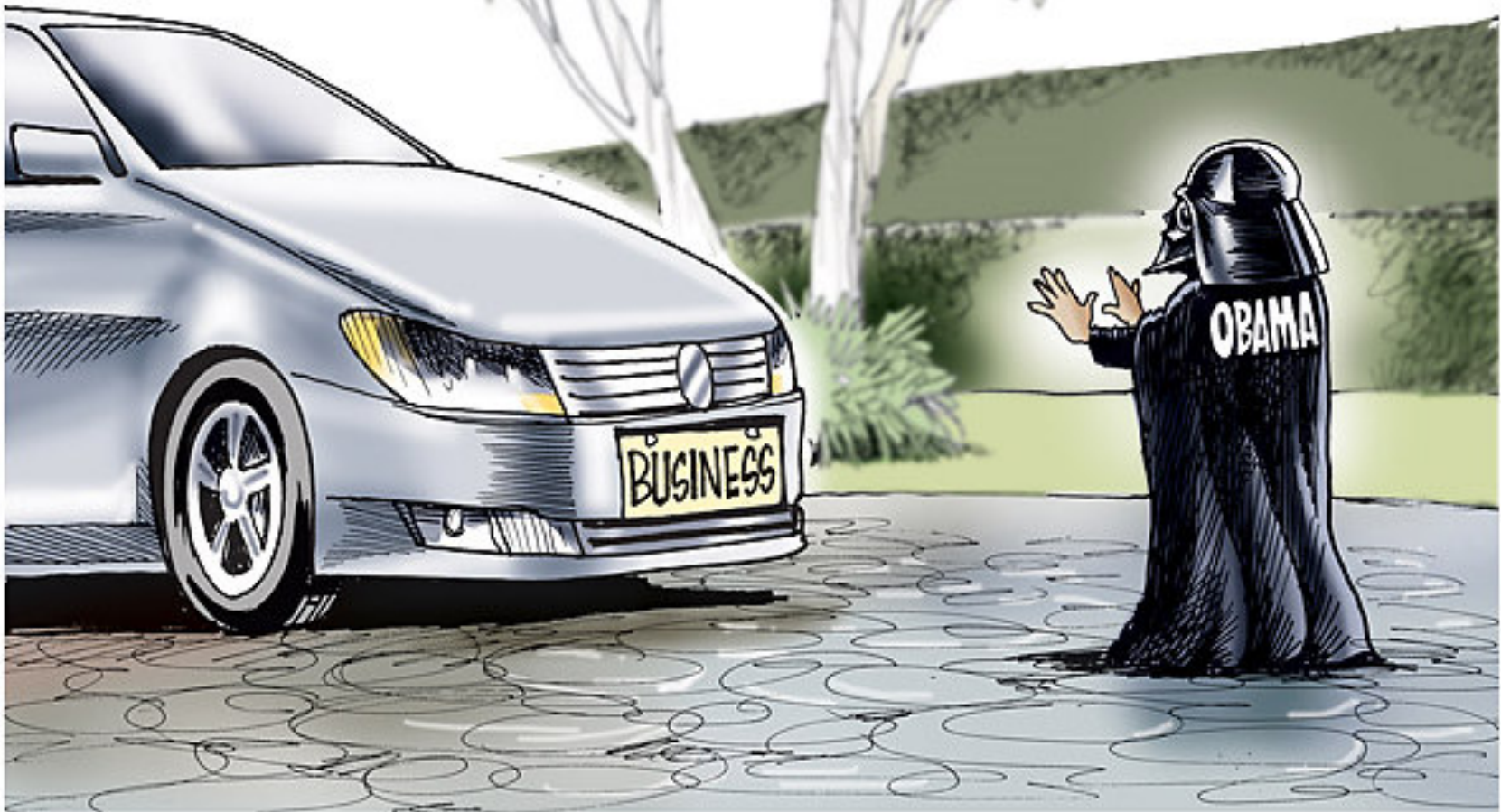


“Change We can Believe In” – A new Appreciation



Houston Chronicle Editorial Page 12 Feb 11

Gary Havel
THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE STAR
© 2011 CREATORS.COM



SECURITY

Space rented to hackers

A Chinese man cited by a U.S. security firm as being linked to cyberspying on Western oil companies said Friday his company rents server space to hundreds of hackers.

The disclosure highlighted the pervasiveness of both professional and amateur hacking in China, a leading source of Internet crime.

But it also left open the possibility that the hackers cited in a report Thursday by McAfee might be non-Chinese who concealed their identities by routing thefts through computers in China.

The man cited by McAfee, *Song Zhiyue*, is a salesman for a company in the eastern city of Heze that rents server space. He declined to comment on McAfee's report. He wasn't believed to be the mastermind.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston Chronicle – Business 12 Feb 11

Above the Fray: Lessons for Israel from Egypt

02/11/2011 14:28 By ALON BEN-MEIR **Missing opportunities to establish a status quo that offers peace and security will lead to a status quo of regional instability.**

While much is unknown about the ultimate implications of the Egyptian uprising for [Israel](#), one lesson can already be drawn: The missed opportunities to achieve peace with the Arab states could have disastrous impacts. Of course, many see the unraveling of the once-vaunted Egyptian government and argue that the increasingly precarious nature of the Arab regimes means that any peace agreement with them would be equally precarious. But rather than serve as an excuse not to make peace, the events in Egypt should serve as a warning – missing opportunities to establish a status quo that offers peace and security will lead to a status quo of regional instability, threats and conflict.

Indeed, if Israel had accepted the Arab League's peace initiative and established normal relations with all 22 members, the anxiety that grips it with regard to the critical peace treaty with Egypt would have been significantly diminished. Instead, today it is faced with – and must prepare for – two possible scenarios: an Egypt influenced greatly by the Muslim Brotherhood which rejects Israel in principle, or the establishment of a largely secular government.

Above the Fray – Cont.

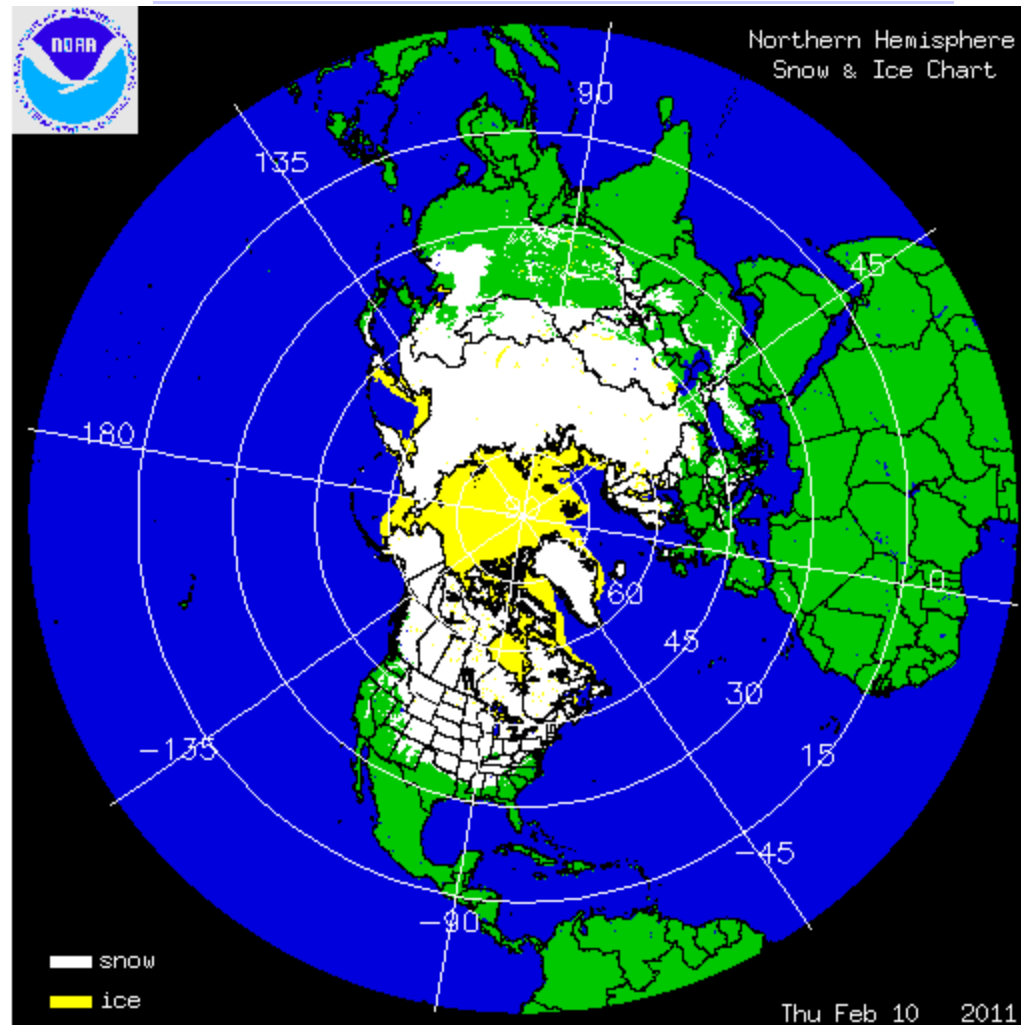
In either scenario it can be assumed that the cold peace has the potential to become even colder. Israel must therefore recalibrate its policies toward the Arab states because what happened in Tunisia, and especially Egypt, will impact other Arab countries in one way or another and the Middle East will never be the same.

The Muslim Brotherhood remains the only significantly organized opposition group in Egypt, strengthened by its network of social services. While it is viewed as a political movement, it has served to influence and provide a common foundation for many Muslim extremists in the region, including its offshoot, Hamas.

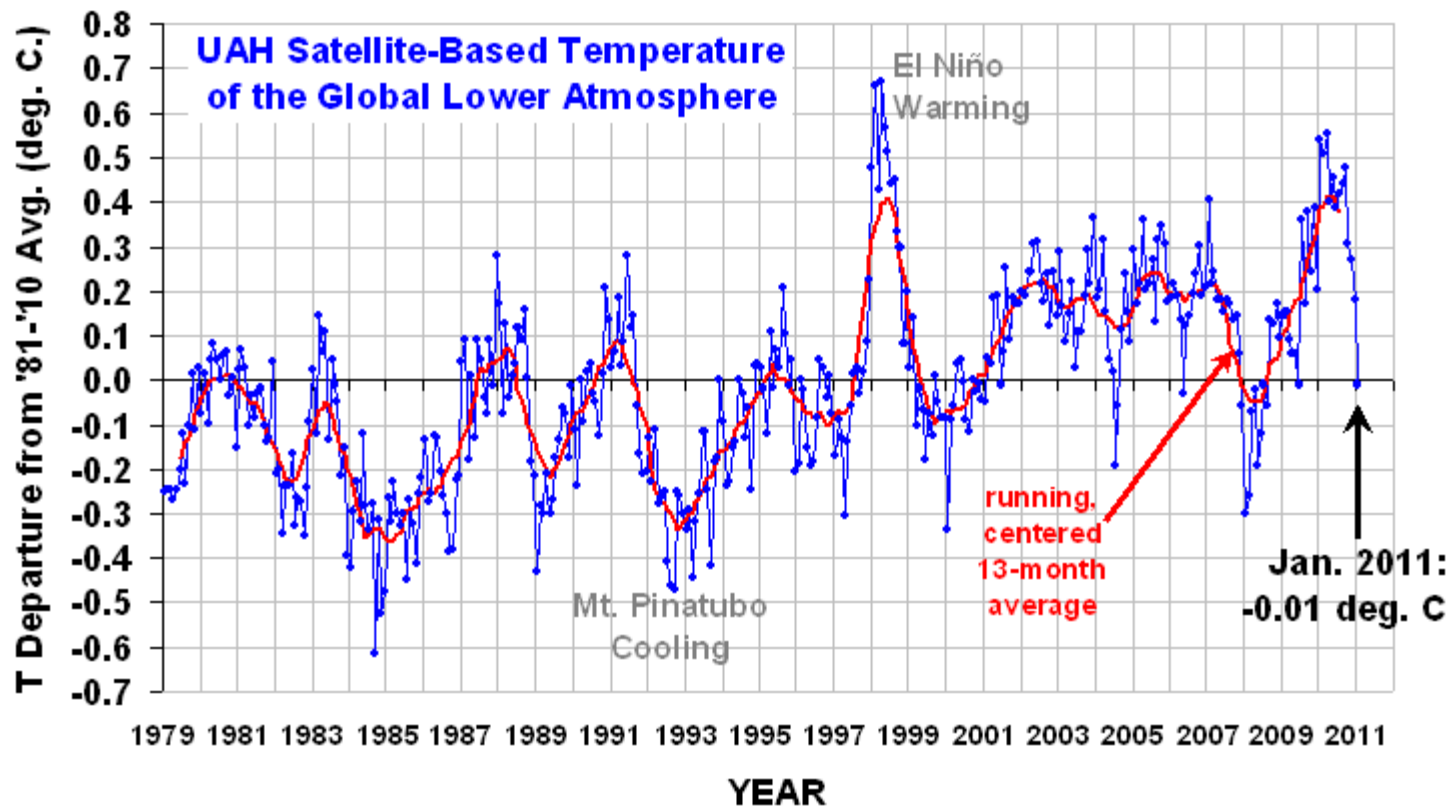
The Jerusalem Post

<http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/Opinion/Article.aspx?id=207648>

http://www.natice.noaa.gov/pub/ims/ims_gif/DATA/cursnow.gif?session-id=0f3045703f46acd26c38b5108ad787ae



<http://www.natice.noaa.gov/ims/loop/nhem-1mo-loop.html?session-id=0e63b8b5acada13faabc21dcdf12130f>



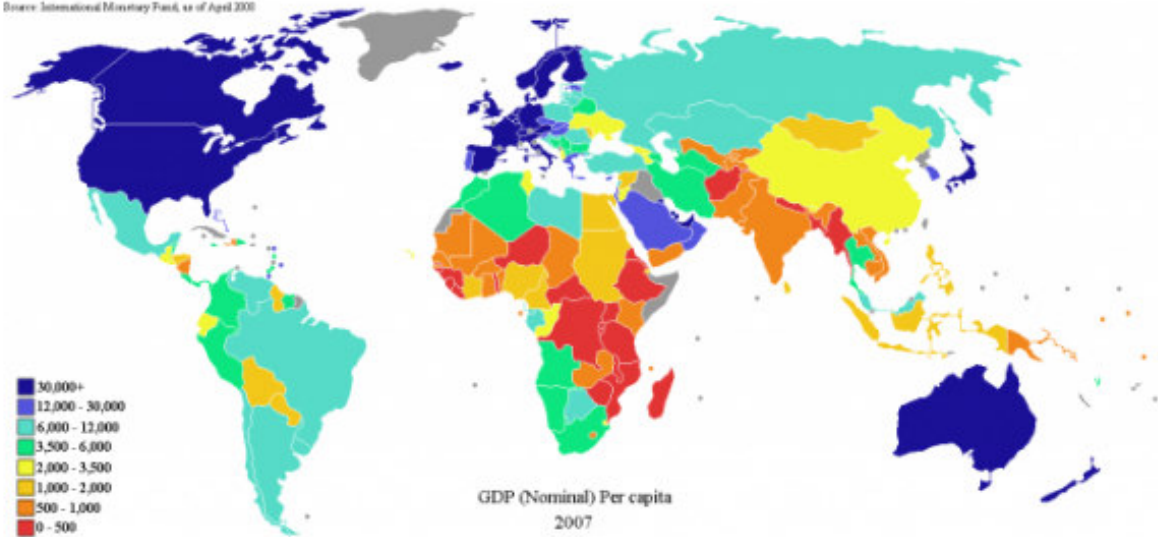
http://www.drroyspencer.com/wp-content/uploads/UAH_LT_1979_thru_Jan_2011.gif

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

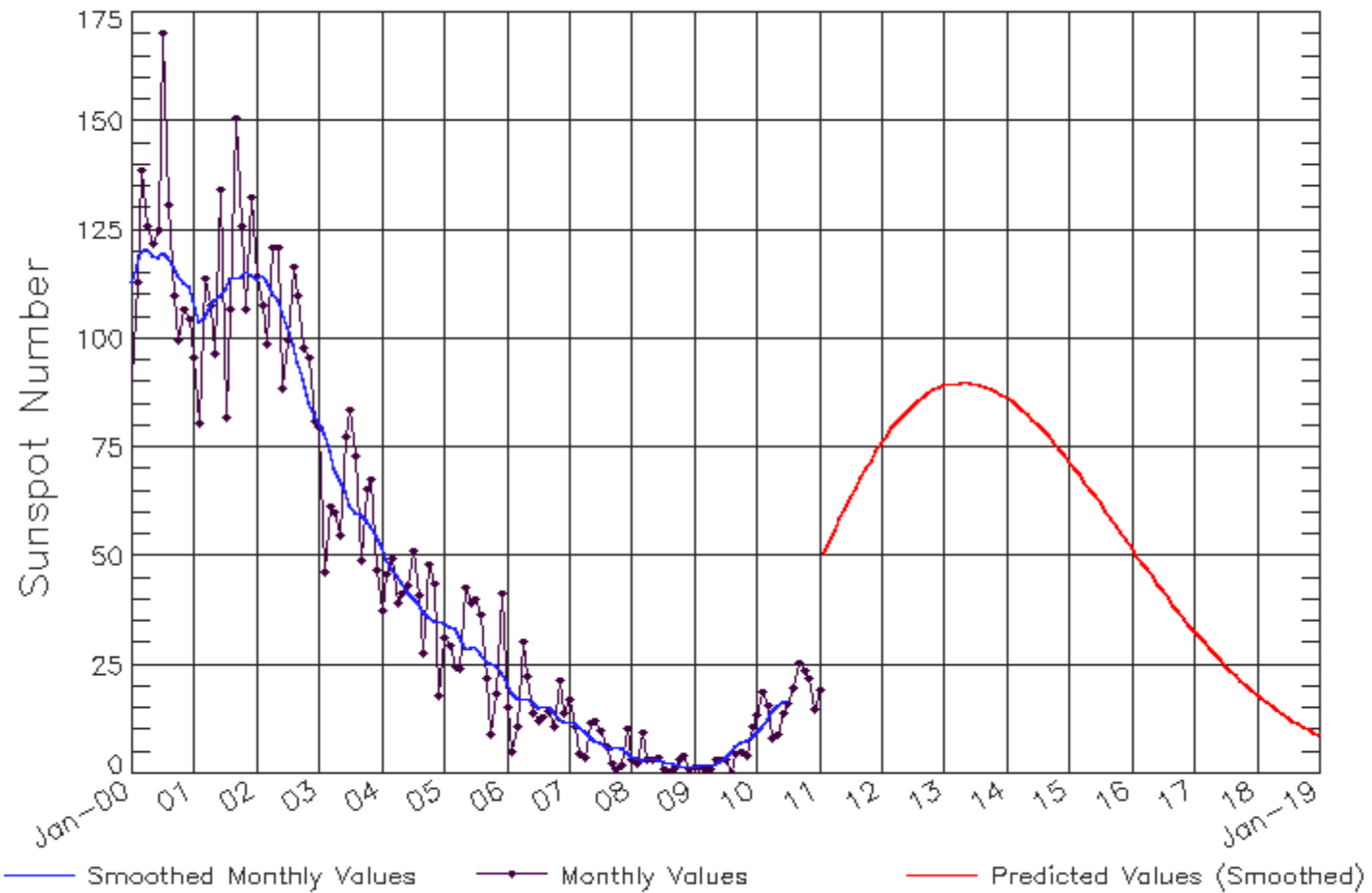


[Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 14 November 2010](#)

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 Jan 2011



Updated 2011 Feb 8

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

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Third Saturday Seminar 2010-2011
Humanity at a Crossroads
Session 04
19 February 2011

The Cosmic War Revisited
Presentation
Curt Gibby

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