

BPM [Rev. 20180914]

By J — Latest revision: <http://allis.foundation/BPM.pdf>



ABOVE: PHOTOGRAPH BY HOLLY ELIS OF THE 'CHROMATIC GATE' IN SANTA BARBARA, CA, DESIGNED BY AUSTRIAN HERBET BAYER. *1 *2

"For years I would not take any medicines at all. I don't think they do much, and lots of times the doctor is using you as a guinea pig." —*Advice from a centenarian, Sardinia, Italy*

"Adventure is not outside man; it is within." —*George Eliot*

Time to End Monetary Central Planning

There is no way to describe current Federal Reserve policy other than as monetary confusion and misdirection. In a nutshell, Janet Yellen and the other members of the Fed's Board of Governors have no idea what to do. Do they raise certain interest rates over which they have some direct influence? Do they keep them at their current rock bottom levels, as they have for the last six years?

On the one hand, government-measured unemployment levels have fallen from their high of over 10 percent at the depth of the recent recession to 5.1 percent in September 2015.

However, there is an alternative measure of unemployment also calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It includes not only those currently unemployed and looking for work during the previous four weeks, but also "discouraged workers" who have stopped looking for jobs who would be interested in working if they found suitable employment and those who are part-time workers who would prefer to be employed full-time. If these two additional groups are included, the U.S. unemployment rate is 10 percent, double the headline "official" level of unemployment the administration touts as a "positive" sign of the economy's recovery.

On the other hand, price inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index seems to be barely rising. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, price inflation in August 2015 was .02 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

Again, however, when food and energy prices are subtracted out of the Consumer Price Index to leave what the government statisticians call "core" inflation, prices in August were 1.8 percent higher than a year ago. Certainly not a "galloping" inflation, but not the nearly zero price inflation rate the headline number suggests, particularly since food prices were up 1.6 percent over the year; the "drag" on measured price inflation was all due to a 15 percent decline in energy prices compared to 12 months earlier.

No Trade-Offs Between Employment and Inflation

If we look at that alternative unemployment rate of 10 percent in conjunction with the "core" price inflation rate of 1.8 percent, what we see is a moderate form of what in the 1970s was called "stagflation": high unemployment with rising price inflation.

The Federal Reserve could try to nudge up the key interest rates it most directly has influence over, especially the Federal Funds rate at which banks lend to each other overnight, but with the risk of threatening the investment and home mortgage borrowing that it has attempted to "stimulate" through near zero interest rates.

Or the Federal Reserve could continue to keep those interest rates low through a continuation of their moderated "quantitative easing" monetary policy, but with the risk that price inflation (however measured) may start to rise faster than it has, creating the danger of price inflation above their declared target level of two percent a year.

(It should be kept in mind that even the Federal Reserve's "modest" target rate of two percent annual price inflation would still result in a near 50 percent decrease in the value of every dollar in our pockets in around 20 years.)

Either way, the old Keynesian notion that you can lower unemployment by accepting a higher rate of price inflation, and vice versa, shows itself to be as illusionary as when it was first touted back in the 1960s as the mechanical macroeconomic policy trade-off between unemployment and price inflation known as the Phillips Curve.

The European Central Bank, by the way, is in its own dilemma. European Union-wide official unemployment continues to hover above 10 percent with a modest price deflation as most recently measured, in spite of that central bank's own version of "quantitative easing" of nearly \$70 billion of new paper money-creation per month since the beginning of 2015.

The Fed Causes Booms and Busts

The only result of these years of monetary expansion and interest rate manipulation is economic instability and distortion. The financial market indices significantly gyrate up and down seemingly every day based on attempted nuanced readings of the latest public statements by any of the Federal Reserve governors concerning interest rate policy changes.

The house of cards constructed on years of artificially low or zero interest rates in terms of investments undertaken with trillions of dollars of cheap money, as well as home mortgages at manipulated interest costs, hang in the balance again as in previous boom-bust cycles.

Every time the booms turn into busts, the central bankers insist that they have had nothing to do with it. It has been due to "irrational exuberance" in financial markets, or huckster bankers who duped people into taking out loans they could not really afford, or international events beyond a national central bank's control, or just, well, "bad luck" with things happening in unpredictable ways even under the watchful eyes of the central bank "experts."

The fact is, the boom-bust cycles that have plagued modern industrial societies for well over a century, including the Great Depression of the 1930s and this most recent "Great Recession," as it has been dubbed, have not "just happened" or been the result of inherent and inescapable weaknesses in a market economy or capitalist financial markets.

The booms and busts of the business cycle are the result of the very central bank system that government policy-makers and central bankers insist they are there to either prevent or mitigate in its amplitude and duration.

As I explain in my new, recently released book... central banking suffers from the same political and economic shortcomings as all other forms of central planning.

Monetary Printing Press Plunder

First, placing the control of the monetary system in the hands of the government or a government-created agency such as the U.S. Federal Reserve System opens the door to the temptation of political abuse in many forms. On the one hand, the temptation exists to use the monetary printing press to create the money that covers the expenses of a government's deficit spending and provides the artificially low interest rates to manipulate the costs of funding the government's accumulated debt.

On the other hand, a central bank can also be used to "stimulate" employment and production in the service of politicians leading up to an election, to make it seem that those in political power have the magic wand to "create jobs" and better standards of living—what is sometimes referred to as the "political business cycle."

It also enables pandering to special interest groups wanting sources of below-market rates of interest for loans, as well as the banking institutions themselves that have access to the created credit supplied by the central bank with which they earn interest income that otherwise might not have been there.

Government full or near monopoly control of any resource, asset or institution (such as a central bank) historically has always brought in its wake plunder and privilege for some at others' expense that would not have been possible in a more open, competitive market setting.

Monetary Central Planning and the Business Cycle

However, even if those who oversee and manage central banks were as "pure" and benevolent as angels only wishing to do good for mankind with no ulterior self-interested motives or temptations, the monetary and banking system would still constantly run the risk of suffering from the same boom-bust cycles that we see in our world today.

That is because central banking is a form of central planning, and as such, manifests the same weaknesses and impossibilities as all centrally planned economic systems. Interest rates are market-generated prices that are meant to coordinate the decisions of savers with those of potential investors, by bringing the two sides of the loan market into balance.

Income-earners make a decision to spend a portion of their earned income on desired consumer goods and to save a portion of that income for planned and possible demands and uses in the future. The real resources that saved portion of their money incomes represents in terms of buying power in the market is transferred to interested and able borrowers; they use that saved portion of other people's money income to enter the market and demand and purchase resources, raw materials, capital goods (machines, tools, equipment) and labor services to undertake future-oriented and time-consuming investment projects of various types and lengths that will bring forth goods to be bought and sold in the future.

Interest rates, in other words, serve as the balancing rod to keep in coordinated order the use of scarce resources in society between the production of consumer goods closer to the present and the investments that will bring forth consumer goods further in the future. It is the balancing of resource uses and goods production across time.

Central Banker Hubris vs. Competitive Markets

There is no way to know what are the "correct" coordinating interest rates for different types of loans with differing periods of investment time in relation to people's decisions to consume and save parts of their income other than to allow free, competitive financial markets to discover through the interactions of supply and demand what the "equilibrium" or market-balancing interest rates should be.

This is, of course, no different than in the case of any other good or service that can be offered on the market. No central planner can replace the competitive market and its free pricing system for integrating and coordinating all the complex knowledge and circumstances of multitudes of millions of suppliers and demanders in an ever-changing world.

And, likewise, it is sheer arrogance and naïve hubris for central planners to believe that they do or ever can have the knowledge, wisdom and ability to correctly determine what the quantity of money should be in the economy, what

money's value or purchase power should be over goods and services in the marketplace, or what interest rates would assure that coordinated balance between savings and investments.

Monetary Freedom and Private Competitive Banking

That is why it is time to rethink and challenge the presumption of a need for and superior outcome from the institution of central banking, whether in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

In the twentieth century a group of economists known as members of or sympathizers with the "Austrian School of Economics" challenged the reasoning and rationale behind central banking. Among these leading Austrian economists were Ludwig von Mises and F. A. Hayek.

Though Austrian economists have differed sometimes in their emphases and arguments about the practical workings of a private, competitive free banking system, there is one underlying premise shared by all of them: a completely market-based monetary and banking system would be far superior to historical and current institutional forms of central banking.

Money is, perhaps, the most central and essential economic good in the market, since it is the generally used medium of exchange to facilitate all transactions entered into by buyers and sellers. It makes smoother and more effective the exchange of goods and services throughout the economy.

Money and Banking Are Too Important to Leave to Central Banks

But precisely because of its central role and significance in a complex and ever-changing market economy the supply and control of money is too important to leave in the hands of politicians or their central bank appointees.

They are either too open to the temptations of short-run political purposes in their control of the monetary printing press or they suffer from what Hayek called a "pretense of knowledge" in presuming that they can ever know more or better than the cumulative knowledge of all the participants of the competitive market as manifested in the prices and interest rates that emerge through the interaction of supply and demand.

Historically, markets—which means all of us in our roles as consumers and productions—determined which commodities were most useful as media of exchange for different types and sizes of transactions. Money was not and need not be a creation or creature of the state, and has most often been commodities such as gold and silver.

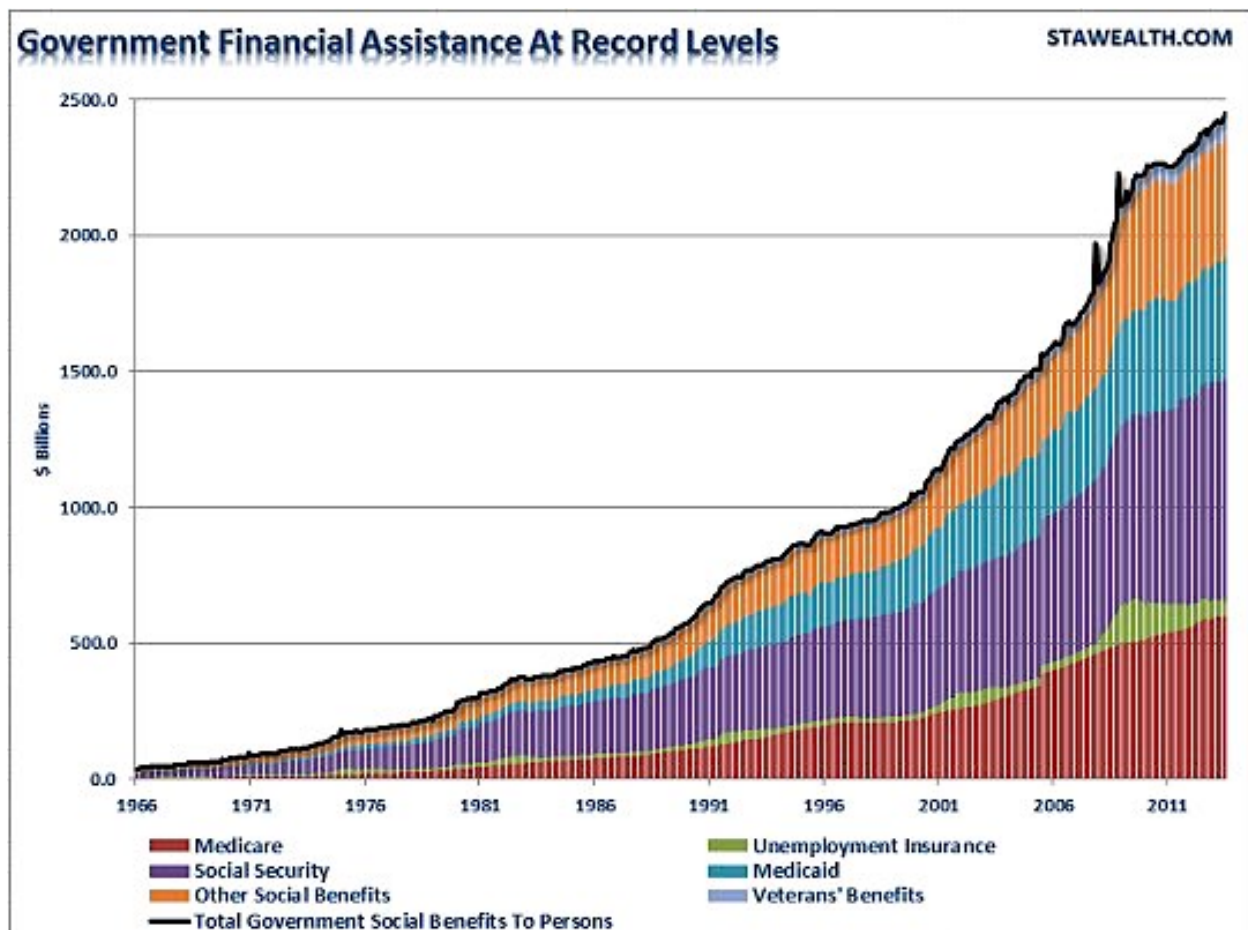
Banking as the institutional procedure and process to facilitate and coordinate the decisions of savers and investors emerged out of the market discovery of profitable opportunities in providing intermediary services to minimize the costs of lenders and borrowers directly searching out trading partners for the exchanging of resources and goods across time.

Money Creation as a Tool of Plunder

Governments and their central bank creations usurped market-based monetary and banking systems to serve the plundering purposes of kings, princes, parliaments and special interest groups who all wanted to hold the magical hand of the monetary printing press.

Added to this more "base" purpose of government monopolization of the monetary printing press, has been, over the last one hundred years, the arrogance and hubris of social engineers, bureaucratic elites of "experts" and "socially-oriented" policy-makers who presume to know how to micro-manage and macro-manage society better than leaving people to manage their own lives through peaceful interaction with others in the competitive marketplace.

The time has come to end the tragic and disruptive reign of monetary central planning.^{*3}



Obama and the Insanity of the Liberal Mind

In his masterpiece, *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine observed:

Men who look upon themselves born to reign, and others to obey, soon grow insolent; selected from the rest of mankind their minds are early poisoned by importance; and the world they act in differs so materially from the world at large, that they have but little opportunity of knowing its true interests, and when they succeed to the government are frequently the most ignorant and unfit of any throughout the dominions.

Paine may have been discussing the British monarch circa 1776, but his insight is equally applicable to Obama and Co., who reign like kings while exhibiting ignorance and incompetence. This is particularly surprising, given that many liberal policymakers, including Obama, are highly educated, and therefore presumably adept at critical thinking and analysis. But after seven years of Obama leading the Democratic Party in insane notions of transforming the country, it is clear that rational thought and common sense are skill sets greatly lacking among liberal elites.

Whether blinded by ideology, motivated by egocentrism and nihilism, or solely focused on their goals of destroying America's exceptionalism (while ensuring that Democrats rule forever), liberals are incapable of scientific inquiry, common sense analyses, and reason. Their irrationality is best illustrated by examining some of the faux wars they have chosen to fight and the real ones in which they have surrendered.

Global Warming: The fight against anthropogenic global warming, manmade climate change, or what normal people simply refer to as "weather", has been a cause celebre of the left since Al Gore jumped onboard the gravy train a decade ago. Much like other liberal causes, this war has become a religion for its proponents. However, environmentalists have become religious fanatics who pronounce the science "settled" and consider any views to the contrary blasphemy. They urge the prosecution of skeptics including one Democratic senator suggesting that "climate denial" should be made a "crime against humanity."

Liberals are so blinded by their nihilism that they proclaim this the greatest threat to mankind notwithstanding the global proliferation of Islamic terrorism, an imminently nuclear Iran, nuclear-armed rogue regimes in North Korea and Pakistan, and precarious relationships with other foes such as Russia and China.

And while logic would dictate that the way to win this made-up war would be to reduce one's carbon footprint, the elites championing the cause are actually burning fossil fuels at record-breaking rates as they live the lives of kings. "Let them eat cake" is the unspoken mantra whispered at White House dinners. While Obama, Kerry, and Gore fly around the globe in their private jets, the rest of us are forced to use inefficient energy-saving appliances, ridiculously expensive light bulbs, and toilets with no water pressure. Our elitist-in-chief lectured Americans, "We can't drive our SUVs and eat as much as we want and keep our homes on 72 degrees at all times," and proceeded to heat the Oval Office to a temperature appropriate for growing orchids. Forget about SUVs; the man obsessed with climate change travels in a limousine known as "The Beast".

At least two cars travel with the president wherever he goes, and they get a humble 3.7 miles to the gallon. The president's motorcade is surrounded with up to 45 other armed vehicles, including an identical decoy, local police, a mobile communications center, more armed vehicles, and an ambulance.

By his own estimation, Obama himself is an existential threat to mankind.

Islamic Terrorism: Anyone questioning the liberal mantra that Islam is a religion of peace, despite data to the contrary, is labeled an Islamophobe with the aim of shutting down honest debate. Islamists declared war on the U.S. well before 9/11 and yet liberals still refuse to name the enemy. To liberals, political correctness trumps common sense. Irrationally, they are importing hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees despite knowing that terrorists are entering the country. FBI training materials were insanely scrubbed of any mention of jihad, Islamic extremism or other terms potentially offensive to Muslims, likely resulting in Tamerlan Tsarnaev slipping through the cracks. And while logic would dictate expanding the number of terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay, Obama is releasing known terrorists back to the killing fields, common sense—and his oath of office—be damned.

As Stephen Hayes noted, despite Obama prioritizing “emptying the facility over the security of the country,” and then lying about it, the mainstream media has been MIA. This is no surprise given that the liberal media have, for the most part, given the president a pass on his responsibility for the rise of the ISIS caliphate, expanded Iranian hegemon, Russian and Chinese aggression, and the years-long Syrian civil war.

Gun Control: Never letting a crisis go to waste, liberals have once again renewed efforts to take away the guns of law-abiding citizens notwithstanding that they may help thwart a terrorist attack. Refusing to recognize that terrorists will not only obtain guns whenever they want but that their weapon of choice is more often a bomb, liberals’ inability to reason has and will continue to lead to loss of life and limb. Only a change in commander-in-chief will save Americans from living through decades of terrorist attacks on our shores.

Iran: War with Iran? Whatchu talkin bout, Willis? Gary Coleman’s famous line is the reaction the administration and Iran deal supporters project when anyone questions the wisdom of Obama’s weak-kneed diplomacy with the mullahs. That irrational mentality ignores the fact that Iran has been at war with America since the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis in 1979.

Liberals ignore chants of “Death to America,” the murder of our soldiers on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, Iranian-sponsored terrorism across the world from Buenos Aires to the Gaza Strip, and breaches of international law including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Yet as illogic would dictate, liberals support a deal that, in effect, allows this rogue mullahcracy, the world’s largest state sponsor of Islamic terror, to go nuclear. Go figure.

Poverty and Unemployment: Paine sensibly recognized, “From the errors of other nations, let us learn wisdom.” Unfortunately, the Democrats are so ignorantly enamored by European-style socialism, despite its complete collapse, that the U.S. economy has not grown during Obama’s reign and the divide among economic classes has widened.

Liberal economic policies like Keynesian taxing and spending and increased minimum wages are illogical and have failed. Affirmative action and other forms of social manipulation will not produce more productive members of society but rather, more resentful minorities. And bringing in untold numbers of indigent immigrants, whether Hispanic, Muslim, or otherwise, will only create more of a burden on government-run social welfare programs. The illogic of liberalism has led to a doubling down of failed policies that are creating more poor, unemployed, and government dependents—and Democratic votes.

Racism: Obama, Holder, Jarrett and the gang would have us believe that we are a country of racists. Ignoring the fact that Americans elected an African-American to the highest office in the land twice, this gang of angry black folks is fueling the flames of hate—at the expense of African-Americans. Obama’s divisiveness has set the civil rights

movement back decades as Black Lives Matters groups protest violently, police across the country are paralyzed while crime rises, and everyone who does not agree that we are a racist country is labeled, well racist.

Enemies: Liberals irrationally imagine enemies around every corner. The enemies Hillary Clinton is the most proud to have made are Republicans, while Obama is Nixonian in his view that all dissenters are foes to be quashed. Whether sic'ing the IRS on those with whom he disagrees or ordering the NSA to spy on Congress and the Israelis, Obama has enlisted all troops to fight his perceived domestic enemies. His DOJ nonsensically fails to prosecute criminals (Black Panthers and CAIR) while fabricating cases against individuals who disagree with his policies, including Bob Menendez who voted against his Iran deal.

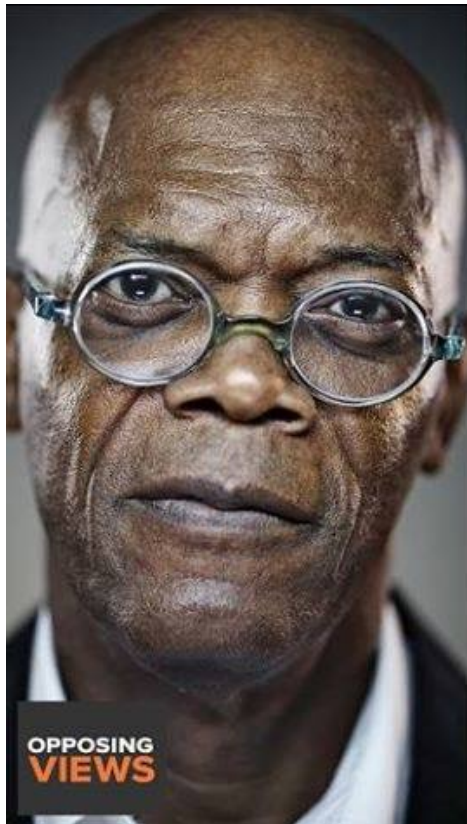
In the illogical White House, Israel, the Gulf States, and European nations like Poland and Ukraine are to be swatted with sticks while reset buttons, diplomacy, and carrots are openhandedly offered to enemies like Russia and Iran. Netanyahu gets a 45-minute lecture from Hillary when housing permits are issued. Rouhani doesn't even get a slap on the wrist for violating international agreements, including shooting rockets at U.S. warships and testing ballistic missiles designed to destroy our allies and reach our shores. In liberal la-la-land, our historic friends are now our enemies on whom we spy and our decades-long enemies are friends who get \$150 billion and nuclear weapons for doing nothing other than threatening our national security.

Tomes will be written in wonderment at the irrationality of the leader of the strongest nation in the history of mankind relinquishing control of one of the world's most strategically important regions to Islamic fundamentalists. History will look back at an America that won the Cold War under Reagan only to reignite it under Obama. Our descendants will ponder how their ancestors abandoned American supremacy, ingenuity, and civility due to ignorance, idealism, and an irrational obsession with politically correct progressivism that led to the transformation—and decline—of this once great nation.

Constitution: Obama took an oath to defend the Constitution. He has been at war with its constraints since day one, usurping power from the other branches of government and ignoring the laws that he swore to uphold and the security of the country he vowed to defend. He has chosen to transform the country through a strategy of divide and conquer despite promises of bipartisanship and transparency. Whether ObamaCare, illegal immigration, or the Iran deal, Obama has reduced Congress to an insignificant thorn in his side.

He has fueled a nationwide disdain for the First Amendment as college students wish to repeal their free speech rights for fear of offensive Halloween costumes, being referred to as "he" or "she" rather than "zhe," or ideas with which they disagree. Safe spaces, coed locker rooms and unisex bathrooms in elementary schools and government-funded harvesting of fetal tissue at Planned Parenthoods are all the rage these days. American history teachers are liberals who distort U.S. history, lie to their students, and create future progressives misunderstanding the world and ill-equipped to think critically. Open debate? Not so much.

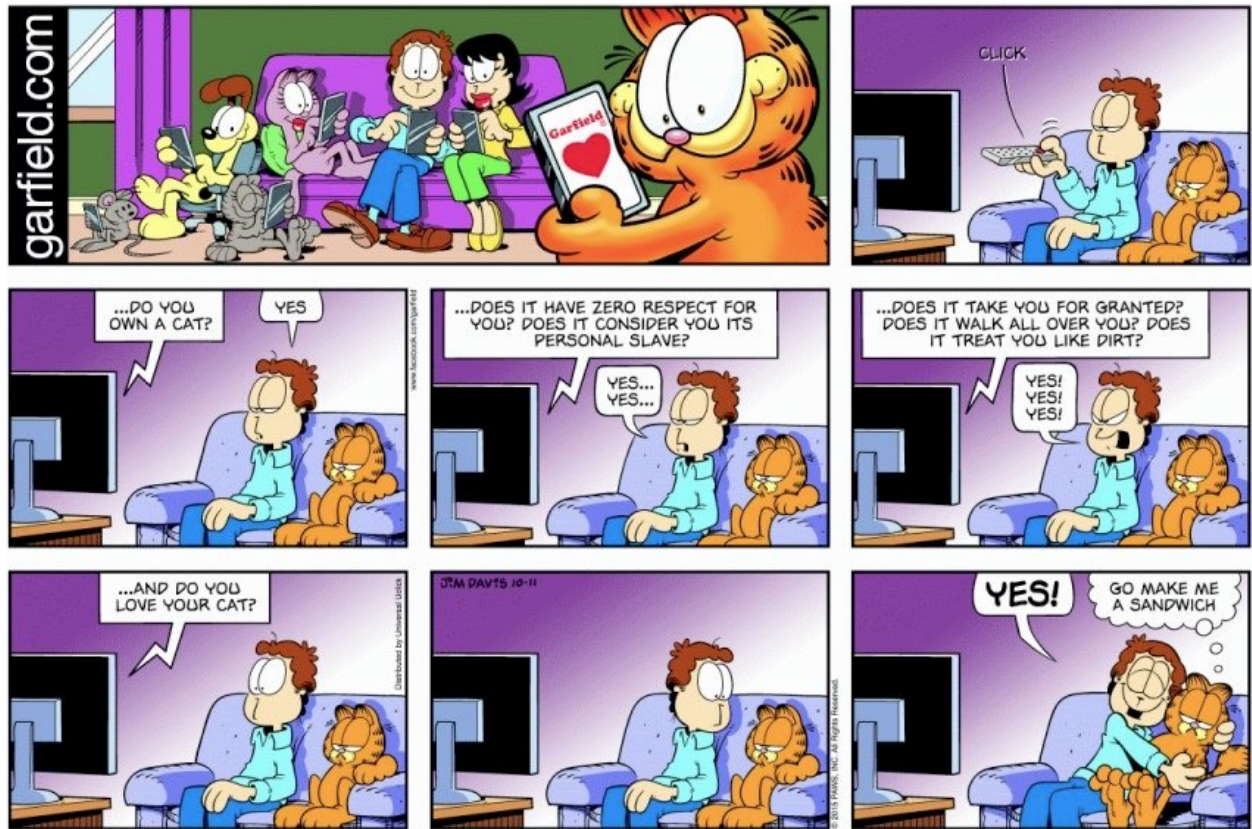
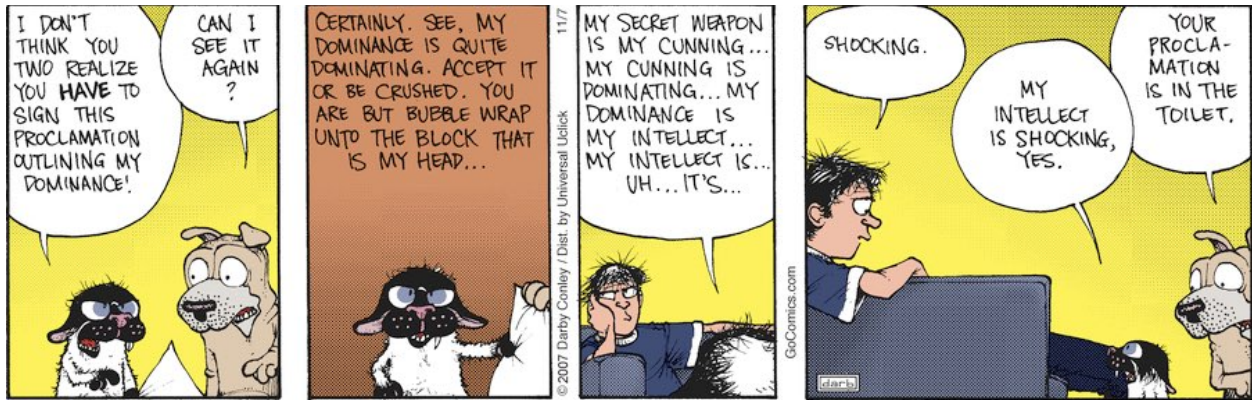
Obama's over-reaching executive actions and regulations are being litigated in untold numbers—because they are unconstitutional. Whether welcoming illegal immigrants en masse and illegally handing them work permits or rewriting Congressional legislation unilaterally as he did with ObamaCare, Obama does not believe in the Constitutional limits of office. His hope is that if his actions are on the books long enough, they will become impossible to reverse. His failure to analyze the destructive nature of a president who ignores 225 years of tradition and governance is par for the course (for the most prolific golfer and vacationer in the nation's history)... *4



"I don't think it's about more gun control. I grew up in the South with guns everywhere and we never shot anyone. This [shooting] is about people who aren't taught the value of life."

- Samuel L. Jackson





ABOVE — TOP: "GET FUZZY" BY DARBY CONLEY / MIDDLE: "TINA'S GROOVE" BY PICCOLO / BOTTOM: "GARFIELD" BY JIM DAVIS *6 *7 *8

The Left is ‘Projecting’ Its Own Evil Onto Conservatives

Have there ever been better examples of the psychological phenomenon known as “projection” than what we see and hear from the left each day?

Psychological projection is a theory in psychology in which humans defend themselves against their own unconscious impulses or qualities (both positive and negative) by denying their existence in themselves while attributing them to others.

1. The right is violent.

Anti-Trump rioting in Portland, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Miami, Atlanta, Dallas, and Omaha by the left in which private and public property is destroyed. During the campaign, the husband of elected congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Robert Creamer, boasted on video of hiring thugs to violently disrupt the Trump rally in Chicago.

We still await the violent right-wing extremism of which the left always warns. Maybe it is they to whom they really refer. Projecting?

2. The right is not tolerant.

All one need to do is suggest that a conservative lecturer visit a college campus. The opposing arguments and points of view are not tolerated by the left, and there are repeated examples. “Liberal” education in its pure form “invites” discussion and opposing views. Open debate and civil discourse is welcomed by the right, yet shouting down and denying opposing viewpoints is the new discourse delivered by the “projecting” left and driven by the Saul Alinsky principles.

3. The right is racist.

Everything the left witnesses is shot through the prism of race. Race is their oxygen, and they can’t take a breath without it. Of late, LeBron James, and the liberal press, thinks a reference to the people with whom he travels as his “posse” is racist. (The pendulum is hitting the wall.) Gene Autry and Roy Rogers had posses—was that racist? The absurdity and prevalence of these instances requires no further comment. Who invites race into each discussion or dissection of the events of the day? The “projecting” left.

4. The Republican Party is infighting and in disarray.

As is the case in the previous examples of “projection,” this was patently false. And, in glaring fashion, it was indeed just the other way around. There were 17 candidates for the Republican nomination for president. There were three from the Democratic Party, and quickly down to two as Jim Webb saw the game unfold and withdrew.

Seventeen candidates engaged in lively debate and constitutional discourse on the Republican side. A Socialist and a former first lady with a checkered performance as secretary of state on the Democrat side. The primary involvement of the Republican voters was record-breaking, not so much so with the Democrats.

In fact, in actuality, it was the Democratic Party that was imploding. Nine hundred state legislative seats lost in the past eight years. That is a record for a presidential stint, Mr. Obama...⁹

Why Should Anyone Need or Want an AR-15?

While Democrat legislators splatter us with saliva that they fraudulently pass off as tears in their quest for gun- and Bible-clinger control during moments of silence for the victims, liberals are lighting up the internet and Facebook with indignant rhetorical questions intended to shame us into retreat, like "Why should anyone need or want an AR-15" (variously described to liberals and other impressionable children as a "military-style assault rifle")?

No actual, thoughtful answer is desired, of course. But I'll give a few.

A semiautomatic carbine is a legitimate and appropriate weapon for a law-abiding citizen to own for personal or home defense. The suitability to task increases in proportion with the size of one's home, lot, farm, or ranch, as a handgun is neither precise nor powerful enough to guarantee stopping a lethal threat the farther away that threat is—and we don't apologize for wanting to keep the threat as far away as possible. With a carbine, a person defending himself or his family has two to five times greater chance of placing rounds on target at moderate distance. How important is that? It can make the difference between life and death. Consider that the hit ratio for cops—trained professionals—with handguns in real-life officer-involved shootings, at short distances, hovers around 15 percent. It's incredibly difficult to hit the bad guy when you're scared to death. Unlike *The Hunger Games*, we really do intend to tilt the odds in our favor.

Compared to shotguns, whether of the tactical or duck-hunting variety, which can pack a wallop of three times the kinetic energy on the target and commensurate rotator cuff-tearing recoil to the shooter, carbines are small, light, and maneuverable. (Yes, they are loud.)

In fact, it's hard to think of a weapon more suitable to the task than an AR-15, if one could have been under the bartender's shelf at the Pulse club last week. Dozens of lives might have been saved if just one good guy had had one at the ready at that moment.

Those of us who have friends or family members who have been crime victims or are under real threat of harm or death understand perfectly well why an AR-15 might be a candidate tool for personal protection. If you live in some idyllic part or social stratum of America where no one has been robbed, raped, or murdered in a hundred years, may God continue to bless you. But don't render helpless those of us who are not as fortunate. We live here...

Of course, we can't rewind the clock to save victims who are already dead. And we also can't ensure that no bad guy ever gets a hold of a gun again no matter how strictly we legally control guns, any more than we can stop all drug abuse via drug prohibition laws. Addicts and narco-traffickers find a way, to the great profit of the latter.

At the moment of the inevitable assault, the best thing we can do is to even the odds for potential future victims. The right to bear arms is the right to self-preservation, the primordial moral imperative that trumps (sorry) all other law. The reasons we baked this right into the Constitution are as valid today as they were in 1787. Any law or regulation that infringes upon this right, even if it increases hurdles by degrees for criminals and terrorists, puts the latter at a relative advantage over their victims. Innocent Americans are hurt more by gun control laws than the scumbags are.

Why should anyone need or want an AR-15? To save innocent lives, like those in Orlando, San Bernardino, and Paris. As the French say, *parce que c'est bon*—because it's good. ^{*10}

Anything But Evil

The left is in a frenzy to blame Dylann Roof's actions on anything but evil. It's the gun. It's the Confederate Flag. It's racism. It's conservatism. Why isn't it that he was an evil, twisted, anti-social cretin, the sort of person who used to be a pariah in a civilized society? Because the left is full of such people, and they can't afford for the rest of us to see that clearly. They'll say anything to divert the conversation away from the fact that as progressives have grown their control of our society and its direction for the last 40 or more years, aggression and violence toward others for their thoughts has become a much more prominent and acceptable part of our culture. Evil is at home on the left.

Once upon a time in America, morality was understood to be a vital part of our national fabric. Parents disciplined their children, taught them right from wrong, and implanted in them the judgment and discretion to make sound decisions on the basis of what a moral person should do. Their guidance and our traditions came from Biblical teachings. They were mostly Godly people, or knew how to be. Parents taught their children that selfish whims and demands were not acceptable. They knew how to work, how to earn, how to contribute, and how to do without. Misbehavior was met with censure and disapproval. It was shameful to stray too far from the expectation of honorable behavior. Miscreants were not victims, but embarrassments.

Driving all of this was an underlying morality. It didn't matter if one was Christian, Jew, or unbeliever. People mostly adhered to an objective standard of right and wrong, and tried to opt for what was right. With the rise of the left, however, many have abandoned moral norms and standards in favor of secular self-worship. The left would say good riddance, but look what has arisen in its place. Godless, amoral propagandists have filled the vacuum, ready to do anything, and say anything, to achieve power over other citizens. They happily exploit the evil they condone to blame America and the Americans they hate for what their ideology has done.

Dylann Roof is a product of the left's "progress." He has taken the president's concepts of "enemies" entirely to heart. He decided that in our new uncivil society, his self-centered grievances were so much more important than the larger society that he was entitled to do any damage he could imagine to gratify himself and his vision. In the new America of unhinged and enabled malcontents, he decided that he held the power over which Americans would be allowed to live, and which must die. Driven by a hate unrestrained by morality, he decided that his superiority gave him the right to kill.

Granted, the left did not send Dylann Roof out to do his damage, but it created the environment and the foundation that encourages those who believe they are superior to their philosophical enemies to do whatever they wish to those enemies, because their enemies are a sub-species to themselves. That makes them less deserving of freedom, of rights, and of life. The left believes it alone is the rightful arbiter of such things. They will decide what we can say, where we can say it, to whom we can say it, what punishment there is for straying, how we can worship, who we can worship, whether we can defend ourselves against them, who will marry, who will invade our borders, who will live and who should die. The superiority of the left, as they see it, is authority enough to grant rights or deny them. Roof decided that because he was superior to his victims, it was his right to do to them as he saw fit. He is the antithesis of all that is good about America, and is the embodiment of the aggression and self-righteous anger that is a hallmark of the liberal left. They hate what they don't approve, and they work every day to damage those with whom they disagree. They have no desire or intention to live peacefully together, to "coexist," as their ridiculous bumper stickers proclaim. They intend to put their enemies in their place, to degrees that rational people could never condone.

Bill Ayers, first-friend of the president and a highly respected liberal mind, once revealed in the presence of Larry Grathwohl, who infiltrated the Weather Underground, his vision of the future of America as fundamentally transformed into a communist utopia. As Ayers and other members of the organization confided, their plan would require that those who resisted would need to be eliminated. They estimated 25 million persons might need to die. They were prepared to commit mass murder to usher in a country in which their visions were realized. After all, what does it matter that lives are snuffed out, as long as architects of human misery prevail over those who are living the promise of a free and prosperous America? While the scale of Roof's vision pales in comparison to Ayers', they both believed in the right to take the lives of others for their sickening ideology of domination and control over those they considered less worthy than they are.

No comparable belief exists on the conservative right. Conservatives, who are blamed for everything the left has enabled and encouraged, have nothing whatsoever in common with the ideology of human enslavement and psychological control. Those who come to conservatism do so because they freely reject an ideology of domination over the lives and rights of other citizens, seeing in that movement a future like that envisioned by Bill Ayers and those with whom he associated, then and since. Conservatives see the evil in a country governed by the basest of human flaws and failures, unmoored from God and morality. They see the utter failure of liberalism long before it is fully realized, and they see in it the evil that drives the weak and malleable to hate or kill any who fail to behave as the left has decided they must.

The left's solution to every event is to punish the enemies of the revolution, regardless of the lack of their enemies' fault, and despite their own complicity. If they can accomplish their revolution piecemeal through these tactics, that's fine. But what will happen when the Dylann Roofs of the left finally tire of merely stripping us of our rights as citizens, trying to force our surrender to their superiority? Haven't we seen this enough times before to know where it leads? Evil walks and talks among us every day. It engenders the lies that warp the thoughts and feelings of the pliable, enabling them to reach false conclusions that always fit the ideology. It causes them to become enraged at those having nothing to do with their misplaced hatred, and encourages them to harm others whom they believe are deserving of violence, which their peers condone or overlook. Eventually, given encouragement and feeding, evil kills the soul, so that murder, whether of 9 souls or 25 million, is justifiable in the minds of the "tolerant" people who would rule us. ^{*11}

ComeFlyWithMe33

Join Date: Jun 2015
Location: Washington, DC
Posts: 6

This lady is not telling the truth

I was actually on this flight on Friday evening from ORD to DCA. I have been a reader of this forum for a long time but seeing this all over the news made me sign up so I could tell you what really happened here and hopefully stop this liar in her tracks. I was sitting close enough to her to hear everything that was said. The flight attendant came up to the lady (I believe she even took her order first in the entire cabin as she was seated in the bulkhead 7d) and took her order. She ordered a coke zero and a hot green tea with a Splenda. The flight attendant handed her a full diet coke with a cup on top and then told her that the green tea would take a few minutes and she would get it to her ASAP. The lady said very rudely and condescending to the FA that she ordered a coke zero and basically pushed the soda back to the flight attendant. The FA said she was sorry and attempted to find a coke zero for her (which she did not have many of) and told her that she could only give her a portion of the can not the full can. This is when the lady in question started to freak out and told the FA "What do you think I will use this as a weapon?! Why can't I have the whole can? I think you are discriminating against me. I need your name...." The lady just kept yelling to her "I need your name... I am being discriminated against." This is when a few passengers told her to calm down and one guy told her to "shut her mouth and she is being ridiculous over a can of coke". No one ever said anything anti-Muslim to her at all. She was the one who started screaming discrimination when she did not get what she wanted. The FA asked her numerous times if she would like anything else when the lady just basically pushed her away with a hand in her face. The lady then got onto her phone with her credit card and paid for the internet so she could start spinning this story on social media and she was never in tears. This person is a liar plain and simple and is just pulling the discrimination card.

University Will Allow Students to Opt Out of Anti-Stress Program... If They're Too Stressed

Though Florida State University is mandating that all of its incoming students complete a program designed to mitigate stress on campus, the university will waive that requirement if a student is too stressed to do it.

It's not clear how the public university will evaluate whether a student can opt out. An official with knowledge of the program emphasized to *The College Fix* that it was "manageable" and could even help students with "relaxation and stress management."

FSU is rolling out a program this semester called the Student Resilience Project, intended to "strengthen student emotional and academic coping skills," according to the program's website. All incoming freshmen, as well as transfer students, will be required to finish a mandatory portion of the program prior to registering for classes in the spring.

The mandatory portion of the assignment will take an estimated 25 to 30 minutes, Ann Perko, the director of special projects at the Institute for Family Violence Studies at the university's College of Social Work, told *The Fix* in an email.

Among the mandatory requirements are "watching the Introduction to Trauma and Introduction to Resilience videos, listening to at least two audios of the student's choice, and learning about one new skill in the skills section," according to the website.

"We believe that the mandatory elements of the project are manageable," Perko said.

Yet despite the mandatory requirement, students will not be required to complete the anti-stress program if they are too stressed to do so, another official told *Inside Higher Ed*. "We're not out to punish," said Jim Clark, dean of the College of Social Work.

Perko did not directly answer whether the program has measures in place to ensure that students aren't falsely claiming to be too stressed to do the anti-stress program. The Fix also asked how stressed students have to be for administrators to release them from the mandate.

"We hope students will find that a small investment of their time will help them connect to their own strengths and the resources here on campus to help them be as successful as possible," Perko told *The Fix*..

Chong said research shows that universities across the nation "are reporting an increase in students seeking services," particularly for "symptoms of anxiety or stress," which "account for the top presenting concerns for university counseling centers across the country."

The project will be released to all students in late September.

"It is an FSU priority to increase students' sense of belonging and connectedness, safety and well-being. FSU is proud to transform university faculty expertise into an accessible resource for students," the website reads. ^{*12}

Media Needs to Stop Hiring Young Know-Nothings

The American news media is quick to blame President Trump for their current woes, but they have no one to blame but themselves. A revealing poll issued Tuesday shows how much the public's trust in the news media has tanked over the past ten years: Nearly 70 percent of Americans and 95 percent of conservatives have lost faith in the media since 2008.

This year's collective and shameful performance by the Fourth Estate will erode that trust even more. We have endured the silent acquiescence of the press as a vulgar comedian insulted the president's press secretary; public tantrums by the White House press corps; numerous corrections to articles and cable news segments that oddly always must walk back an anti-Trump angle; the revelation of unethical and possibly illegal *quid pro quo* between reporters and federal law enforcement officials; the publication of a petulant opinion piece authored by an unnamed Trump official clearly miffed that Trump and not he is president; and the ongoing insane, unjustified obsession with the bogus Trump-Russia collusion plotline.

It's hard to imagine how the press could restore its lost credibility any time soon.

One way to clean house would be to stop populating the newsrooms and green rooms of the top media outlets in the country with young, inexperienced, and vulnerable reporters. Ben Rhodes, one of President Obama's top aides, bragged of how easy it was to manipulate news coverage: "The average reporter we talk to is 27 years old, and their only reporting experience consists of being around political campaigns. They literally know nothing."

Rhodes was right. Earlier this year, we learned that Ali Watkins, a 20-something reporter, was collaborating with the security chief at the Senate Intelligence Committee to leak classified information tied to the Trump-Russia investigation. Not only was Watkins reporting the secret details under her byline, she carried on a three-year affair with the official, a married man 30-plus years her senior. (He has been arrested for lying to federal investigations about illegal leaks and his relationship with Watkins.)

Instead of being banished from the profession for her tawdry behavior, Watkins was *promoted* repeatedly because of it. With little journalistic or political experience, in less than four years, Watkins earned a prestigious byline at the *New York Times*; the paper's editor refused to fire her after her sex-for-scoops scheme became public.

Another young reporter who appears to be a bit over her skis is Natasha Bertrand, a writer for *The Atlantic*. In 2014, Bertrand was an intern with Business Insider. Less than four years later, the 26-year-old Vassar graduate is covering national security and the intelligence community for *The Atlantic*. She has frequent gigs on MSNBC and is an NBC News contributor.

But Bertrand's articles and commentary most often regurgitate anti-Trump talking points instead of reporting anything substantive about the nation's security issues. (It seems odd, for example, that a national security reporter has not written a single piece about U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley or National Security Advisor John Bolton.)

Her bio at *The Atlantic* should reflect the fact that her work is mostly about the Trump-Russia probe instead of giving her cover for her partisan rants by pretending she is some kind of credentialed or seasoned national security expert. She goes out of her way to justify Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Her recent articles suggest there are still sinister "missing piece[s]" and "lingering mysteries" about the president's ties to the Kremlin. One of Trump's lawyers last year asked the young reporter if "she was on drugs" for pursuing a story about a letter the

president drafted (and did not send) that outlined his reasons for firing ex-FBI Director James Comey. Bertrand insisted the letter was “pivotal” evidence of obstruction of justice.

Nearly two years after the FBI formally began an investigation into Trump’s campaign and 14 months after the start of Mueller’s probe—both empty-handed so far on Russian collusion crimes—Bertrand wrote a piece titled, “The Case for a Trump-Russia Conspiracy Just Got a Little Stronger.” Unfortunately, her article relied on a widely-discredited CNN story that claimed Trump’s personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, would testify that Trump knew about the infamous June 2016 Trump Tower meeting. (Lanny Davis has since recanted his comments about Cohen’s knowledge.) *The Atlantic*, unlike other outlets, has not corrected her article.

Bertrand often runs cover for Fusion GPS, the firm hired by the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton campaign to dig up Russia-related dirt on Trump. She tweets about Fusion—a lot. She occasionally refers to Fusion’s co-owner Glenn Simpson as “Glenn” and insisted there was no reason for congressional investigators to be looking at him. She also wrongly claimed Natalia Veselnitskya, the Russian lawyer at the Trump Tower meeting, was not tied to Fusion.

While working for *Business Insider* last year, Bertrand was the sole recipient of a statement by Simpson that accused Trump and Senate Republicans of “desperately trying to smear” him. Immediately after the House Intelligence Committee released the transcript of Simpson’s closed-door testimony, Bertrand leapt into spin mode, publishing a hot mess of an article that claimed his answers “left a massive pile of breadcrumbs for Trump-Russia investigators.” She trotted out every Trump-Russia conspiracy theme that Fusion has tried to peddle since early 2016, and reported how committee Democrats asked “pointed questions about Russian organized crime, and whether Trump could be susceptible to Russian blackmail.”

According to Bertrand, folks like dossier author Christopher Steele and biased FBI agent Peter Strzok are victims, while House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) is a villain. Nunes is a frequent target of her reporting: Bertrand was hired by *The Atlantic* a few days before the release of Nunes’s memo detailing FISA abuse. Her first six articles were hit pieces on the California congressman now leading the charge to expose Justice Department corruption in 2016 and 2017. She incorrectly claims Nunes was “recused” from the initial investigation.

In an article on August 28, Bertrand reported that Nunes traveled to London to get more information on Steele. Citing anonymous sources (she’s a big fan of those), Bertrand wrote that British intelligence officials rejected his request to meet over concerns he was “trying to stir up a controversy.” Her story went viral.

The problem? It wasn’t true. Nunes’ office denied the account, calling it an “utterly false story based on anonymous sources.” Bertrand has not yet updated or corrected her story.

The architects of the Trump-Russia collusion hoax have depended on sympathetic, ideologically-aligned “reporters,” many of them fresh out of college, to promote their scam to the American public. We know that Fusion paid several journalists to plant its political dirt in the news media; those names are being kept under seal by a court order.

There is no proof that Bertrand was part of Fusion’s payola scheme. But her blatant Trump-Russia boosterism, reliance on anonymous sources, targeting of Trump allies, and refusal to correct stories that are later proven to be false should raise plenty of questions—and eyebrows. News organizations would be wise to stop promoting young, inexperienced reporters who are all too eager to please their friends and benefactors on the Left. ^{*13}

Learning to Read: The Simple Truth

“As a 27 year old staff attorney for the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate investigation, Hillary Rodham was fired by her supervisor, lifelong Democrat Jerry Zeifman.”

—Internet meme that circulates constantly

Several times a week, The Fact Checker receives some version of the above statement in our Twitter and Facebook feeds. We’ve usually responded by sending a fine debunking done several years ago by Snopes. And yet it persists. It’s simply one of those lies that will not die.



Zeifman was chief counsel of the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate inquiry that began in 1973. Hillary Clinton, who was Hillary Rodham at the time, had just graduated from Yale Law School as impeachment was considered against President Richard Nixon...

In neither of his books does Zeifman say he fired Clinton. But in 2008, a reporter named Dan Calabrese wrote an article that claimed that “when the investigation was over, Zeifman fired Hillary from the committee staff and refused to give her a letter of recommendation.” The article quoted Zeifman as saying: **“She was a liar. She was an unethical, dishonest lawyer. She conspired to violate the Constitution, the rules of the House, the rules of the committee and the rules of confidentiality.”** [*This author’s emphasis in bold, as nothing else is relevant.*]

... There is no actual quote from Zeifman saying he fired her. Moreover, in other interviews, Zeifman acknowledged that he did not fire Clinton. In 1999, nine years before the Calabrese interview, Zeifman told the Scripps-Howard news agency: **“If I had the power to fire her, I would have fired her.”** In a 2008 interview on “The Neal Boortz Show,” Zeifman was asked directly whether he fired her. His answer: **“Well, let me put it this way. I terminated her, along with some other staff members who were—we no longer needed, and advised her that I would not—could not recommend her for any further positions.”**^{*14}

It's Not Race That Divides Us, But Culture

The racialists in power have again called us to an “honest discussion” about race. As they foresee it, this honest discussion will involve those of us who do not practice racism, but are not black, to come forward, confess our inherent racism, and be duly chastised or punished. Dialogue is not going to be part of the process, since non-blacks have already been found guilty, and the president’s jury is not remotely interested in evidence.

The trap in the president’s faux invitation is that it focuses our attention on the wrong component. The emphasis on race assumes too much, but does so because it advances the agenda of dividing us on grand scales, which is more conducive to the illusion of victimhood and the cure of entitlement. To divide by race in the way practiced by the president and the left enables them to hide one set of social realities from scrutiny, while predetermining the fault of another social set, based entirely on the colors of their skin, as long as it is understood that the guilty are not black. How is it possible that two or more groups, coincidentally divided by skin color, live in the same country but do not live in the same reality?

To hear our black, democratically elected president tell it, our dystopian nation is a hellhole of virulent racism. Thus, every thought, word or action that is critical of the president, and those who peddle racial victimhood and entitlement, is inherently racist. This is the rationale of a leftist, of a simpleton, because there is far too much history and evidence to the contrary to entertain it as serious. No nation on Earth more consciously ensures equality of treatment than ours.

So, if it’s not race that divides us, what is it? In a word, culture. For decades, a segment of the population that is black has drawn much attention, and critical scrutiny, for the culture that has become synonymous for many with what it is to be black. Not just what whites or non-blacks think constitutes blackness, but what many blacks think it is to be black. However, this is not true of all blacks, which is a critical distinction. There are many blacks who do not subscribe to black culture as it has been manifested in innumerable ways over the prior few decades. Even so, the ones who do, and whose practice of black culture is so visible and overt, make it easy for the lazy to think it is a representation of blackness in general, when it is not.

The president, for example, has no interest in representing the black citizens who live in stable family units, who work hard, provide for their children, encourage success, obey the laws, go to church, and try to do what’s right. He never speaks to their reality. His people, and Eric Holder’s people, are the ones who both celebrate and are imprisoned by a dysfunctional form of black culture. Within that culture there is self-segregation, hostility to other races, paranoia, anger, resentment, bitterness, victimhood, entitlement, crime, poverty, disinformation, deception, exploitation, broken families, destruction of religious faith, and failure.

At the same time within this country there are other cultures, successful social structures that are not afflicted with the same inherent flaws and imminent failure. What’s more, those cultures are not exclusive, because cultures embody the values and expectations of its members. You can subscribe to whichever culture you choose. For that reason, there are black Americans who have nothing to do with black culture as seen in the speeches of community disorganizers and race hustlers, in movies and music, and in videos of rioting in the name of whatever falsehood the left invented before the facts and evidence were made public. Those black Americans have accepted that there is an opportunity to advance and succeed, and create a family history of success and achievement, if they do not accept the invitation to the black culture that is championed by the likes of the president, Mr. Holder, Mr. Sharpton, and countless others whose power comes from using black culture to advance themselves while benefitting its practitioners nothing.

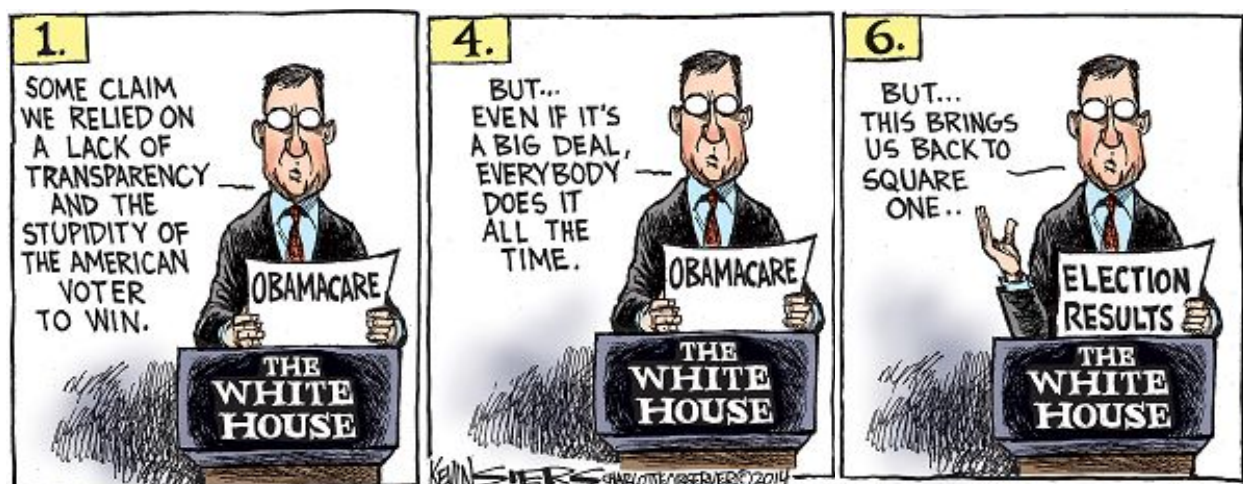
The clash of cultures is what primarily accounts for the divides that exist in reality even though, coincidentally, most of the subscribers to one culture may be black, and most of the subscribers to a competing culture are white or non-black. Race is a tool to inflame passions, using the lie that differences are the product of white and non-black hatred of blacks. Therefore, in black culture outsiders are not welcome. In non-black culture, however, skin color is irrelevant. Membership is defined, without reference to skin color, by one's individual dignity, willingness to strive, adherence to rules of ethics and conduct, responsibility and accomplishments. In truth, the lines between the competing cultures can be crossed, but only one way.

Indeed, the biggest lie told in black culture is that to "act white" is to sell out other blacks, a fraud whereby some blacks define themselves and each other by loyalty to the culture, rather than to the potential and possibilities of the individual. In this way, membership in the culture that self-oppresses is ensured through coercion and shame. To join the other culture is betrayal and disloyalty, rather than an act of exasperation, or optimism. There is a way out, but it will cost many who try dearly in friendships and family ties.

Those of us who do not oppress but merely live our lives with respect for the dignity of others, regardless of skin color, hear and see how black culture describes and defines us, and we cannot pretend to agree or accept their branding. We see the despair, the anger and hatred, the violence of the mob that is literally a single event away from boiling over, and we shake our heads because the wounds are largely self-inflicted. Their choices, be they in culture, leadership, propaganda, beliefs, morals or otherwise, were not made for them by us. They are not forced to remain in their perceived distress, but have chosen by their leaders and ideology to remain there, stuck until a future Moses leads them out of a self-imposed darkness that is unnecessary.

If this were not true, and if ours was a racist nation, the countless foreign nationals who come legally to the United States from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia would all fail miserably, falling victims to the entrenched racism that simply doesn't exist. A major reason those people succeed, seizing upon the opportunities that are there for the taking, is that they are not indoctrinated by a culture that lies to them about what their future is, or could be, in our amazing country. They succeed because no one is preventing them from doing so.

If we were ever to have that honest conversation about race, it would need to start with culture, and how that form of black culture which imprisons its subscribers condemns them to failure. The last thing the president wants is that conversation. If all those people freed themselves from the yoke of that culture, they might turn on the Democrats forever. Imagine that. ^{*15}



ABOVE — (CROPPED) CARTOON BY KEVIN SIERS — 'REVEALS THE SIMPLE REASON WHY VOTERS VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP IN 2016' ^{*16}



DECEPTION

I am so totally doing this on Halloween

ABOVE: ORIGINAL MEME AUTHOR UNKNOWN — 'WHEN YOUR GOAL IS TO DECEIVE, SOON OR LATER, THE BITTER FRUIT IS REVEALED' *17

"From honesty in thinking come truthfulness, simplicity, sincerity, justice, rectitude. There comes a condition of the mental atmosphere in which virtues flourish and virtuous thoughts are conceived or entertained. These thoughts are then projected in speech and acts which show simplicity, sincerity and righteousness. When a man thinks such thoughts and intends such acts, he will not only so conduct himself, but there will come with such virtuous conduct, the qualities of fearlessness, calmness and strength. He will not even contemplate any act concerning which he could not speak truthfully and act with sincerity." —*Harold W. Percival*

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God

The *All* that *IS*.

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