

Grasping Reality with Both Hands

The weblog
of Brad DeLong. Since 1999.
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Briefly Noted for 2020-08-11

Plato: *The Republic* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1497/1497-h/1497-h.htm>: ‘Come, then, and I will tell you the story of Er...

Bob Pozen: *Proactive Indexing: Index Funds & IPOs* <https://mailchi.mp/6bfedcf64bb7/proactive-indexing-index-fundsand-ipos?e=7e7976b4fc>: ‘Index funds could generate excess returns if they bought IPO stocks when they were initially offered.... There is risk...

Raghuram G. Rajan: *Should Governments Spend Away?* <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/government-spending-debt-burden-on-future-generations-by-raghuram-rajn-2020-08>: ‘Painful reminders of what happens when countries cannot service their debts.... The notion that anyone should be made whole because the pandemic “wasn’t their fault” immediately becomes untenable...

Sean Guynes: *The Ursula K. Le Guin Reread* [https://www.tor.com/series/the-ursula-k-le-guin-reread/...](https://www.tor.com/series/the-ursula-k-le-guin-reread/)

Matt Mikalatos: *The Great C.S. Lewis Reread* [https://www.tor.com/series/the-great-c-s-lewis-reread/...](https://www.tor.com/series/the-great-c-s-lewis-reread/)

Duncan Black: *Down Up* [https://www.eschatonblog.com/2020/08/down-up.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed: +blogspot/bRuz+\(Eschaton\)](https://www.eschatonblog.com/2020/08/down-up.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+blogspot%2FbRuz+(Eschaton)): ‘I’d like to ask some of the people who spun out their fantasies of how to open schools safely if any of them actually believed anything they suggested was possible, or if it was just a propaganda effort...

David Corn: *The Republican Party Is Racist and Soulless. Just Ask This Veteran GOP Strategist.* <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/08/racism-republican-party-stuart-stevens/>: ‘Stuart Stevens says he now realizes the hatred and bigotry of Trumpism were always at the heart of the GOP...

Josh Tyler: *Star Trek: Lower Decks Review: The Best Trek Since DS9* <https://www.giantfreakinrobot.com/ent/star-trek-lower-decks-review.html>: ‘That the people making [it]... actually know something... is a much bigger deal than it might seem.... JJ Abrams... loudly declared he didn’t like Star Trek.... Abrams handed... over to his acolyte Alex Kurtzman... [who] wouldn’t know a Tholian from a Gorn if they were standing right in front of him...

Plus:

Scott Lemieuxc: *Real Americans* <https://www.lawyersgunsmoneyblog.com/2020/07/real-americans>: ‘Most troubling of all, perhaps, was a sentiment the expert said a member of Kushner’s team expressed: that because the virus had hit blue states hardest, a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense politically.... That logic may have swayed Kushner. “It was very clear that Jared was ultimately the decision maker as to what [plan] was going to come out”.... For you young people out there, it’s almost impossible to convey how long the idea that Democrats are snooty elitists who don’t care about anyone outside coastal urban areas was taken as a given in mainstream political coverage.... John Kerry was disciplined enough not to make a gaffe so... Maureen Dowd... [made] up a quote about NASCAR.... But when reactionaries from Wallace to Palin to Trump talk about REAL AMERICA, they mean it—it structures their entire worldview. Jared’s belief that the lives of people in blue states (who are less affluent than he is) are worth nothing is just a blunter statement about the ethos that governs Republican politics. It’s no different when Wisconsin Republicans declare they have the permanent right to minority rule because cities shouldn’t really count and the Republicans on the Supreme Court wink at multiple provisions of the Constitution to agree with them. They’re completely straightforward about it, and yet it gets much less attention than John Kerry ordering Swiss cheese on a cheesesteak...

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