

# Grasping Reality with Both Hands

The weblog of Brad DeLong. Comments (mostly) welcome, or email me at [delong@hey.com](mailto:delong@hey.com) with "delong-weblog" as the subject.  
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- Grasping Reality with Both Hands  
Market Made for Man...
- Archives  
Note to Self: Slavery Course Topics...
- Highlighted  
Why Are University of Chicago Professional Republicans so Stupid?...
- Previously Featured  
Grand Narrative: The 20th Century...
- Edit Posts
- Coronavirus  
Reading Big, Difficult Books...

## Kristol: Is the Republican Party a Lost Cause?—Noted

**William Kristol:** *Is the Republican Party a Lost Cause?* <https://thebulwark.com/can-the-republican-party-be-saved/>: ‘With embarrassingly few exceptions at every level, the Republican party is Donald Trump’s party. So in many ways it deserves to be a lost cause. On the other hand, after November 3, the GOP may stop—more or less suddenly, and more or less convincingly—being Donald Trump’s party. It might even stop being the party of Trumpism. On the third hand, it will still have been Donald Trump’s party. And that moral and political stain can’t, and shouldn’t, simply be wished away. On the fourth hand: It would be good for the country if there were a conservative party that wasn’t a nativist/proto-authoritarian/nationalist-populist party. This would be the case for not giving up on the GOP, but rather fighting to save it. But on the fifth hand, wishing for a sound conservative party won’t make it so. And even fighting for one may not make it so, either. It may be that American conservatism has been so damaged that a “new center”—whether as a party or some sort of cross-partisan coalition—is a better way to go than trying to save the GOP. On the sixth hand (I know, we’re in octopus territory here): Maybe we should root for the GOP to be salvaged, while acknowledging it won’t be saved by us people like us. After all, if the GOP is to be rebuilt, it will likely have to be done by people who have been complicit in Trumpism.... So Never Trumpers will be personae non gratae. The only people who will be afforded the opportunity to save the GOP are the ones who helped wreck it.... Such is politics.... Often the best one can do is... simply to fight for an outcome that is right and just in the short term. While at the same time keeping an open mind for the medium and long term. I will admit that my heart, today, is with “the Republican party is a lost cause” faction... .#noted #2020-07-16

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