

# David Brooks: You Are "Ruining America"

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POITOU, FRANCE – Poor David Brooks...

This morning, while waiting for one dose of claptrap, we were whacked by another.

Fed chief Janet Yellen was scheduled to speak before the House Financial Services Committee on Capitol Hill at 10 a.m. But before we read a column by Mr. Brooks in *The New York Times*:

Recently I took a friend with only a high school degree to lunch. Insensitively, I led her into a gourmet sandwich shop. Suddenly I saw her face freeze up as she was confronted with sandwiches named “Padrino” and “Pomodoro” and ingredients like soppressata, capicollo and a striata baguette.

I quickly asked her if she wanted to go somewhere else and she anxiously nodded yes and we ate Mexican.

## Recommended Link



### [“Deadbeat” Stock Bests Apple, Google, and General Electric... COMBINED](#)

You’ve never heard of this company. You’ve never used one of its products... or seen its CEO on CNBC. But a few months ago it did something extraordinary: **This “deadbeat” stock went up more in a SINGLE day... than Apple, Google, and General Electric have in the last DECADE... COMBINED!** There are hundreds more like it. And after 7 years of fine-tuning, our Wall Street insider is unveiling [the world’s ONLY strategy](#) designed to find them.

## Flattering Frauds

Mr. Brooks is making a very sensitive comment about how very sensitive he is.

He is also talking nonsense.

His lament is that there is a big gap between the elite and everyone else, illustrated by the divide between someone “with a high school degree” and himself.

But what kind of higher education would you need to know what soppressata and capicollo are?

A degree in Italian cooking!

And what kind of person, high school degree or not, could possibly care?

That’s the problem with social codes: They are mostly a waste of time.

No matter how much education you’ve suffered, remembering the ingredients in every gourmet concoction in Manhattan is probably not the best use of brain capacity.

And it takes no PhD in psychology to see that Mr. Brooks has spent too many hours looking at himself in the shiny metal sandwich shop counters. He needs to get some fresh air.

America’s elites are on top of the world – with more money, more power, and more status than any elite since 4th-century Rome.

just before the barbarians arrived.

Studying themselves in the mirror, they wonder: How come we're so great?

This naturally leads to a lot of flattering frauds. We're smarter. We're nicer. We're the "indispensable nation." We're more... We have a better sense of humor and better air conditioning.

Success makes people vain. Then, vanity makes them stupid.

#### Recommended Link



#### [You won't believe how he outperformed every hedge fund WORLDWIDE](#)

We scored an interview with the one man who beat the markets by nearly 1,200% in 2016... and outperformed every hedge fund in the world. Wall Street's No. 1 trader will explain how he achieved the impossible... and how you can too. [here for details \(while there's still time\).](#)

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#### Dervish of Distractions

Every student of Economics 101 learns that markets work better than central planning. But Nobel Prize-winning economists on setting the price of credit – the most important price in the economy – by committee.

Meanwhile, billionaires ask for tax hikes... and give their money to charities – knowing full well that wealth is much more fruitful in private hands with profit motives.

Then there is Donald J. Trump – billionaire extraordinaire... *capo di tutti capi*.

Not only is he as rich as Croesus, but he also sits at the elite's most powerful and prestigious desk.

Mr. Trump shrewdly recognized that voters were sick of people like Mr. Brooks and the elite they represent. They wanted... But there he is – up to the same limp tricks as Clinton, Bush, and Obama.

He's not taking away the elite's cushy privileges. He's merely swapping one for another... fidgeting with the tax code, rumormongering around with Obamacare – a dervish of distractions, whirling from crisis to gaffe while remaining in the same place!

But the thinking elite – endlessly interested in themselves – look more closely. They find faults. Then they find solutions.

#### Recommended Link



#### [Will This Eerie 9/11 Warning Haunt You Too?](#)

*I almost can't believe this...* but our intelligence sources confirm this story is 100% authentic. Two months before the World Trade Center was viciously attacked, a **shocking report** was issued. It forecast 9/11 in terrifying detail. Now, the author of this report, a multimillionaire businessman and high-level government insider... has come forward with another bombshell. [American Ground Zero.](#)

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#### Ruining America

"They hate our freedoms," said President Bush, vainly trying to understand how anyone could have a grudge against such

wonderful people.

In the last few years, much has been done to correct this problem. Thanks largely to the Patriot Act, civil asset forfeiture, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), and other efforts, Americans' liberties have been greatly curtailed.

But much remains to be done. The empire is aging and degenerating, with many new wrinkles appearing on the face of the elite.

David Brooks, for example, thinks we are "ruining America":

Over the past generation, members of the college-educated class have become amazingly good at making sure they retain their privileged status.

They have also become devastatingly good at making sure the children of other classes have limited chances to join the ranks.

Mr. Brooks identifies the chief strategies used by the elite to keep their kids among the winners. They develop "behavioral" skills. They get tutors and internships for their children... and take them on resume-enhancing trips.

They also use the government as the elite always do: to exploit the common folk.

Zoning restrictions keep poor people out of good neighborhoods and out of good schools.

The public school system is also a tool for wealth-based segregation. The elites live in good areas with good schools. Their kids are surrounded by other good students from good families... and they go to good universities, later getting good jobs.

Mr. Brooks singles out zoning restrictions for reinforcing class differences and lowering economic growth:

These rules have a devastating effect on economic growth nationwide. Research by economists Chang-Tai Hsieh and Enrico Moretti suggests that zoning restrictions in the nation's 220 top metro areas lowered aggregate U.S. growth by more than 10 percent from 1964 to 2009. The restrictions also have a crucial role in widening inequality.

An analysis by Jonathan Rothwell finds that if the most restrictive cities became like the least restrictive, the inequality between different neighborhoods would be cut in half.

Now we're getting somewhere.

Elites always try to protect their status and privileges. They do whatever they can get away with – from sumptuary laws to subtle language codes and foreign-language menus. (The Romans used Greek as an elite language after Sulla's victory over the Greek army in 86 BC).

But if Mr. Brooks really wants to know what separates the elite from everyone else, we suggest he stop looking at himself and begin looking at the fake-money system.

It has done far more damage than zoning. And you can't fix it with Botox.

More to come...

Regards,

Bill