

The Record

New York's Republican



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Around the City...

Commentary from the Editor



Finally! Spring is here! And that means the NYYRC Running Club is active again. When spring comes to New York the entire City jumps to life with everyone emerging from their winter holes. The energy is contagious and activity flourishes. And yes, that includes Republicans as well. The NYYRC Running Club meets every Saturday morning at 11am in Central Park.

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This year when we say that spring is blessed, we mean it literally. Pope Benedict XVI recently visited the United States and there was not a soul that did not notice. He brought with him a refreshing message of hope and healing for everyone in our great nation. Religion and faith has guided America for centuries and as we move deeper into the dynamic 21st Century, we must not lose sight of what is important in life. In my opinion those things are faith, family, and helping others. These may sound like generic terms but it's up to each of us to look into these words and ask ourselves what they mean to us. We will all surely have our own meanings to apply to each word but the trick is to make sure we actually do look deeper. The message the Pope brought was inspiring indeed and as for me your editor, it made me see the glossy insensitiveness that this busy city can start to put in people.

Anthony Genovese, who was up close and personal with Pope Benedict XVI talks about faith in America and how we move forward in the 21st Century. The Catholic

Church is at an interesting point here in the United States and Anthony, more than most, has a very solid understanding of what the challenges and potential are of religion, and especially Catholicism, in America are today.

And while America may be becoming increasingly introspective about its religion (and much more) in this presidential season, Manish Maheswari looks at a new relationship forming in the midst of this tumultuous time for America. He breaks down the history of the relationship between India and the United States. India, its economy being red hot, and America are becoming very strong strategic partners. As India embraces the free market and all the benefits it brings to a country, America embraces a future global power to counter balance the Chinese's regional and global influence.

While the United States and India have not always had a pleasant relationship, the 21st Century promises to bring these two countries much closer. In the first of a two part series, Manish outlines the first thing we all should know about any relevant subject, the history. Next month Manish will tell us about modern developments, current workings between the two countries, and what the future holds for the U.S. and India.

The future is what we are thinking about here at *The Record as well*, and this issue is editorially important, so take note. It marks several new avenues that we are going to expand upon in future expanded issues and also on our website that will be up by year's end. One important topic is the United Nations. The United Nations sits right here in our backyard and yet the going-ons there go severely under reported.

International institutions do have to be utilized by the United States but the U.N., being severely corrupt, limits its potential. The

usefulness of international institutions should not be underestimated but in today's world they can be a paradox. They do a lot of good but at what cost? Can we keep these institutions fair, balanced, and competent?

There is also talk nowadays about a "League of Democracies" but would this just alienate China, Russia and others, and lead to another Cold War facedown?

There are many questions to explore and we intend to do just that, all the while making sure to keep the U.N. honest. We all want the U.N. to work effectively and live up to its mission, but is it still able to?

While *The Record* will be bringing you global understanding, we also will be expanding our local coverage. New York City and New York State politics are giant balls of yarn and with expanded coverage we will be able to bring the local citizen easy access and easy understanding of what just exactly is going on. Molly Casey does a tremendous job and there is so much more to write about each month and also daily as we aim to expand.

Finally, if you notice on the back page, William Palumbo dips his hand into a satirical piece about an Obama presidency. We've all thought about just what would happen if Obama were to win the general election and I'm sure we've all come to some sort of socialist conclusion. Obama's not ranked the number one most liberal Senator for nothing.

As always, we are looking for more help, this time in advertising and sales. If you would like to help out in any way just email publications@nyyrc.com. And please, if you disagree with an article or want to comment, write us a letter and we'll publish it next month. Enjoy this beautiful weather and we'll see you at the Annual Dinner (email: dinner@nyyrc.com) on June 25th!
- Kellen Giuda

The Record is a monthly Republican news, analysis, and lifestyle magazine. The articles published in *The Record* are written by members of the New York Young Republican Club or by persons approved by the NYYRC Publications Committee.

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Moments of Grace

Reflections on the Papal Visit and the American Church

By Anthony Robert Genovese

I recall being a student of Religious Studies at Fairfield University, a Jesuit college in Fairfield county Connecticut. It was there that I learned many things about scripture, Catholic literature and even religion and psychology. With time however, my memory seems but only to ruminate on the countless moments that embodied what for many a contemporary American-Catholic education entails: A seemingly endless litany of both the faults of the Church and the longings of a vocal, liberal, and lay minority.

I recall then my visit this April to Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York to spend a Saturday with seminarians at the Catholic Youth Rally for the pope and then attending the Papal Mass on Sunday at Yankee Stadium. Unlike my four years at a 'Catholic university,' my two days celebrating the Pope's visit to America are marked for me as true moments of grace.

For some, the erosion of institutions of Catholic education, like a Jesuit university, embodies a major quandary for the American Church. This issue chiefly concerns itself with the core principles and tenets of the Catholic faith fading into obscurity as new generations of Catholics grow ignorant of Church precepts. The anxiety of the devoted over this predicament coincides with their concern in the decline of seminarians, and those entering religious life. Both groups are fundamental elements to the Catholic faith.

For others, the crisis of the American Catholic Church is not primarily this lack of edification amongst adherents in the catechism. Rather, many faithful continue to be stricken with grief over the lingering scandal of sexual molestation at the hands of clergy. For these troubled Catholics, anger and disgust over sexual abuse by priests corresponds with similar sentiments for what they believe to be a grossly insufficient response by particular episcopates to this evil.

Amidst this tangled mass of ecclesiastical discontents is the growing threat of violent fanatical Islamic-fascism. For all Americans this is a peril both foreseeable and realized, as on September 11, 2001 we saw the extent of the enemy's wickedness. It is a threat not taken lightly by the Vatican either. Pope Benedict's life was seriously threatened after controversial comments made on Islam drew the ire of many Muslims.

Along with the fear of terrorism, the American Church also has cause for trepidation over the lingering threat of secularism and moral relativism within the community of the faithful. The Christian churches of Europe are already terminally ill with this nihilistic cancer. In America, this "dictatorship of relativism" permeates not solely amongst many young men and women, but is both tacitly and overtly advocated by both the academic and mainstream cultures of our society.

This paints a rather grim picture of the American Church, yet the issues posed are ones all groups within Christianity are facing. The institutional weakening of the Catholic Church in regards to the amount of priests and religious is not a unique one; all major Christian denominations report a decline in clergy. Neither are reports of clerical sexual abuse exclusive to Catholicism, or even to Christianity. Statistics show that the percentage of sexually abusive clergy within the Catholic Church is proportional to its prevalence in all other faiths. This is not an apology for

such iniquity, but highlights instead the problem sin poses to all persons. And hardly could Islamic terrorism, secularism and moral relativism be seen as threats only to the Catholic Church. Indeed the troubles of the American Catholic Church are the troubles shared not only with our American-Christian brethren, but also with our brothers of all faiths.

How happy then the church should be to have had Pope Benedict XVI come to America! I write church and not 'Church' because the pope's visit should be both a source of joy to the Catholic community, as well as the non-Catholic communities of faith in America. In that spirit I use the word church to invoke the meaning of the Greek root word *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* literally means "a gathering of citizens." And indeed in America, all citizens of faith should take comfort in the pontificate of Benedict XVI. The Papal trip to America makes this point abundantly clear.

Before the Holy Father had yet to land in America he proved to the world he was serious about tackling the major issues facing the Church. His denouncement of sexual abuse by clergy stating he was personally "deeply ashamed" of the scandal began a process

of healing incorporated into his papal journey. Pope Benedict ended the Vatican policy of timidity regarding clerical pedophilia by using almost ever public occasion to convey his sadness, regret and appeal for reconciliation. He expressed disapproval to his American brother bishops and met also with abuse victims from Boston, one of the most notorious dioceses for sexual abuse. This was both bold and unprecedented leadership by the Holy Father which should do much to mend the Church's wounds.

These were his condemnations of secularism, materialism, and moral relativism, the Unholy Trinity plaguing Western faith. He referred continuously to his encyclical messages of *Spe Salvi* (*Spe Salvi facti sumus* - in hope we are saved) and *Deus Caritas Est* (*God is Love*). He used these messages to remind American Christians (not solely Catholics) that our faith should be paramount to all things. In fact, in the Pope's speeches he oft remarked on the strong caliber of American religious life. He called



Pope Benedict XVI at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, Saturday April 19, 2008. As the ninth German Pope, Pope Benedict XVI proclaims relativism's denial of objective truth—and more particularly, the denial of moral truths—as the central problem of the 21st century.

on Americans to continue their strong spiritual lives not solely by being some of the world's most charitable believers, but to also champion the causes of their faith in all arenas. This is certainly a message with worth for Americans of all beliefs.

"Our hearts are one with theirs as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering." These are the words Pope Benedict prayed at Ground Zero. The modern papacy has made huge strides toward pacifism. This unyielding stance on peace has often put the Holy See at odds with the White House, both Bush presidencies faced Vatican opposition to both Iraq wars. It is nonetheless in Pope Benedict that America has found a pontiff who shows no fear in condemning the hollow nature of the message of Islamic fanaticism while demonstrating immense support for freedom, liberty and America. One need only to recall the numerous times the Pope enthusiastically exclaimed "God Bless America!" This kinship with America and with the principles indicative to its people, history and life was reinforced in this papal visit. Pope Benedict is the only Head of State to ever be honored with a presidential welcoming and escort.

I remarked earlier that many Catholics dismay over the decline in priests and in the decay of the catechism in Catholic education. On the latter point the Pope used his trip to reach out to the Catholic educators of America. He called on them to reinforce their mission of education and evangelization. He buttressed this endeavor by also recruiting the efforts of the bishops. His Holiness encouraged both clerical and lay efforts to strengthen both the heterodoxy of dioceses and to enrich and enliven the diakonic life of the Church.

On the issue of the quantity of priests I can say that my time at the youth rally with many seminarians opened my eyes in a new way to this issue. I met hundreds of young men from throughout the country, of all ages both those in seminary and those in high school, college or older seriously considering entering seminary. This was a great joy to me and indeed to the Holy Father who came within five feet of us to bless us and greet us. You could see the happiness in his face and indeed he should be as the numbers of seminarians of late have been increasing.

I heard a minister once reflect on the nature of grace being that which is given to we who do not deserve it. It was an observation not intended to denigrate humanity, but rather to exalt the magnanimity of God's love. When I reflect on the state of religion in America I see great faith riddled with great obstacles. But when I summon to memory the days His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI spent in our great country I am filled with immense hope. The ekklesia of the American faithful should heed the words he spoke, remember the love he showed and relive it daily. If we are to do this, it is then, that this country of so many faiths united in common goodness and love can take the moments of grace we had with the Holy Father and make them eternal. □



60,000 people welcomed the Pope to Yankee Stadium. He said that the Catholic Church must build upon its "solid foundations" and "impressive legacy" in America, "From a small flock...the church in America has been built up in fidelity to the twin commandment of love of God and love of neighbor."

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New York, A Political Training Ground

Living in the Liberal Capital of the U.S. builds tough Republicans

By Kerry Picket



Conservative activists from all over the country very often wonder if their passion for the movement should take them to Washington, DC. Living in New York City, I continued activities within the New York GOP and various right of

center circles after my time as a College Republican at Denison University. Some activists will remain in the city while others head to the Hill in Washington, DC. Both environments are challenging for right of center individuals, but unlike New York, the number one industry in DC for all young professionals is politics.

Conservative activists who head to our nation's capital are likely to work on the Hill as a staffer in a Congressional office. Other likely areas for activists to work include: the media, non-profits, think tanks, or in one of our government's numerous departments. From these jobs a web of both political and social networking happens, and helping each other's cause or campaign is seen as self-benefiting for individuals and their organizations. Conservative non-profits have reciprocal relationships with one another while competing for attention from donors, press, and our three branches of government at various levels. In order to effectively accomplish goals, staffers at non-profits and think tanks very often work and socialize with one another at various weekly forums, monthly events, and yearly galas. By supporting one another, these non-profit staffers learn about the importance of each organization's issues. In fact, many non-profit employees are likely to have previously worked for another conservative non-profit or for a politician on the Hill. GOP Hill staffers network among each other and friends at non-profits. Conservative media find many of their stories from the research done at non-profits and think tanks, while they chase politicians, Hill staffers, and government bureaucrats. Finding motivation to further the right of center goals is easy because it is part of everyone's job and individuals are supporting not only a cause but their friends as well.

While many know the fight for political relevance in New York City has been a struggle for the Republican Party, finding and keeping members of the party somewhat active can be frustrating. Many New York Republicans join the Young Republican Club as an escape. Most New York City Professionals work in left leaning offices so attending a monthly YR meeting in the middle of Manhattan is always a nice way to vent pent up political frustrations. Nonetheless, largely attended right of center social gatherings still struggle to translate into a mass of active volunteers for local city campaigns. In essence, party leaders must persuade young GOP professionals, who mainly work in the private sector, to interpret their enjoyment of talk radio, Fox News, and various conservative Internet sites into local activism. While their DC conservatives find camaraderie from commonality in their workplace causes and personal beliefs, New York conservatives will usually come together only because of personal beliefs; however, many will consider simply being the lone conservative in an office of liberals to be enough activism in their lives. Monthly meetings happen for several right-of-center organizations, but finding motivation to take political action takes an extra effort to appeal to the personal beliefs and

convictions of conservatives working in various non-political industries. I particularly discovered this issue after helping the New York County GOP with candidate petitioning, and long time Republicans refused to sign our candidate petition papers. In fact, it has always been difficult to simply recruit GOP volunteers to help with the petitioning process. One is exposing himself as an enemy to the political majority of the neighborhood, and the Democrat incumbent is likely to challenge the signatures to throw a GOP candidate off the ballot. However, petitioning must be done, and it is a long drawn out process. Being the underdog can seem noble, but it can become taxing to activists who want to see their labor bear fruit. Unlike DC conservatives, their counterparts in New York City may find difficulty



The Washington D.C. Capital Building is the epicenter of the country's political activity. In New York, arguably the economic center of the world and the liberal capital of our Country, a right of center effort builds a political toughness not obtained in many other areas. As long as foundations can laid and expanded upon, a politically balanced NYC is not unfeasable.

realizing what each individual gets out of his or her own activism. However, for politically ambitious young New York conservatives, the experience of learning the political process in a big city provides a strong foundation for challenges and opportunities in the future. Understanding how to participate in politics from a position of disadvantage can make someone more resourceful and stronger in the end. In fact, those who choose to remain in New York as political activists for right of center causes do so because giving up on the city one loves early in the game can feel like his or her beliefs and convictions were not good enough for the hometown.

While Washington, DC provides a loosely structured machine for conservatives to advance and grow, New York City toughens up conservatives and creates very resourceful activists in the private sector. Finding motivation to act politically is part of the political training, which can mold young conservatives in New York City to become effective locally and as effective on the Hill. □

Kerry Picket was Public Relation Chair, Liaison, and Speakers Chair for the New York Young Republican Club between 2002 and 2007. She presently works in the Washington DC area.

Indo-US Relations: Past, Present and the Future

By Manish Maheswari



As the bond between the United States and India grows, it is important to understand the history and relationship between the U.S. and a future superpower.

India's role in America's discovery

Year 1492; Christopher Columbus set sail to India after having finally convinced the King of Spain that he could reach India by sailing west across the Atlantic rather than the usual route through Africa. India during those days was a source of precious spices and silk and there was a huge rivalry between the European sailors to find the shortest route to this fabled land. After a month of voyage, Christopher Columbus sighted the land. Thinking that he had reached India, he called the indigenous inhabitant of the land "Indians". The rest as they say is history.

An Introduction to Yoga and Indian Spirituality

Year 1892; At the World's Parliament of Religion in Boston a young Indian monk by the name of Swami Vivekananda took the American intelligentsia by storm through his seminal speeches on the Indian system of philosophy and spirituality. For the first time the American public was introduced to Yoga, Ayurveda, vegetarianism, meditation and the Indian system of thought. Since then hundreds of holy men have graced American shores bringing with them the spiritual wisdom of a millennia and an alternate way of life far removed from the more material civilization of the west.

The Cold War Years

Year 1947, after more than 200 years of tyranny, India finally threw off the yoke of British rule though a large portion of it was partitioned into what is the modern day Pakistan. Eager to assert its independent foreign policy, the first prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru decided to be non-aligned against major power blocs namely Soviet Union and USA. Thereafter in 1955 under India's leadership Non Alignment Movement (NAM) was formed, an international organization of around 118 states (mostly developing countries of Asia and Africa) considering themselves not aligned to any power blocs.

In succeeding years Indian foreign policy drifted from non-alignment to a marked tilt towards Soviet Union thereby antagonizing the Americans. The Soviet Union offered India new avenues of trade and economic assistance and endorsed its entire range of foreign policy especially India's position against Pakistan regarding Kashmir. The Indo-U.S. relationship deteriorated further when John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower's Secretary of State pronounced the Non Alignment Movement as immoral and declared it incompatible with friendship with the United States.

The Washington establishment considered India strategically irrelevant and the relationship between these two countries reached a nadir when the U.S. overtly supported Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. There were nevertheless brief periods of rapprochement during the Sino-India war of 1962, when India, setting aside its non-alignment posture accepted military assistance from the USA to counter Chinese aggression. But these gestures were more symbolic than substantial. The Indo-U.S. relationship during the Cold War years, according to Strobe Talbott, was "a victim of incompatible obsessions - India's with Pakistan and America's

with the Soviet Union." Both countries were at logheads again as India flatly refused to support the anti-Soviet operations in Afghanistan. The thorny relations saw no signs of abating as the pro-Pakistan tilt of Washington and its policy of hyphenating India with Pakistan antagonized India to no extent.

But far away from the political posturing and the media spotlight, there was something brewing in the American university campuses that would change forever, America's perception of India.

The Best and the Brightest

Year 1965; President Lyndon Johnson signs the INS Act of 1965 into law, eliminating per-country immigration quotas and introducing immigration on the basis of professional experience and education. As a result of this act, American Universities started to attract some of the best and brightest Indian minds to its classrooms. The trickle started to gain momentum in the 80's and 90's as more Indian students gained acceptance into elite American colleges. These newly minted university graduates went on to form some of the world's best technology companies like Sun Microsystems, Hotmail and assume CEO level position in Corporate America including Indra Nooyi of Coca Cola, Vikram Pandit of Citigroup and Rajat Gupta of McKinsey. Indians, are one of the most educated and prosperous immigrant communities in the United States. As a matter of fact, more than a third of the scientists at NASA and software engineers in Silicon Valley are of Indian origin. India's emergence as a global technological and economic powerhouse, coupled by the growing economic clout of the Indian-American community and their immense contribution to US scientific and economic development, Washington could no longer relegate it to a pariah status.

Nuclear Test and Its Aftermath

Year 1998; India, in defiance of the international community conducted atomic tests. President Bill Clinton reacted by organizing extensive sanctions on India and taking the lead in international condemnation. All the progress that he had made in normalizing relations came to a standstill. Ironically India's emergence as a full nuclear power forced the American establishment to engage India in serious and concerted dialogue which led to a greater understanding and appreciation of their respective positions. As relations improved, most of the economic sanctions were eliminated in 2001 and the technological sanctions were done away by the Bush administration in 2005.

Success of the Bush Administration

Year 2005; U.S. decided to take the relationship with India to a new level by outlining the second Bush administration's Grand Strategy for India. As a first step, the U.S. would reverse three decades of its opposition to India's nuclear program and make civilian nuclear cooperation the centerpiece of the new relationship. Growing bilateral trade, counter terrorism and military co-operation has made India an important ally in the post-Soviet world. India's emergence as a potential superpower and its commitment to democracy, human rights and civil liberties makes it a natural partner of the United States. The Neo-Con establishment in Washington considers India a strategic counterweight against the Chinese expansionist designs in Asia. A possible military partnership between India and the U.S. to contain China cannot be ruled out.

The Future of the Partnership

Despite significant improvements in the bilateral relations, there is still a long way to go before the debris of past misunderstanding and suspicion clears out completely. America's refusal to support India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council and India's reluctance to sign the civilian nuclear deal with America still smacks of the Cold War mindset. However the last decade of cooperation between India and the U.S. has led to a better appreciation of their mutual concerns and an eagerness on both sides to look beyond their differences to build a strong partnership based on the common values of respect for individual liberty, rule of law and democracy. □

Special Election in the 30th City Council District

With the resignation of Queens Republican City Councilman Dennis Gallagher following a sexual assault plea deal, a vacancy was created in the 30th City Council District which is comprised of Middle Village, Glendale, Ridgewood and parts of Richmond Hill, Woodhaven and Forest Hills. While sex scandals involving elected officials have hardly been a rarity lately there is something unique in this situation – Gallagher was one of only three Republican council members out of the 51 districts. The other two Republicans, Vincent Ignizio and James Oddo both represent Staten Island. While the loss of this third Republican-held seat would hardly effect any change to the council chamber, another loss for Republicans in New York City where we continue to lose traction in elections at all levels would be demoralizing.

With all the talk about political parties and endorsements in reference to this race, it is easy to forget that this election is non-partisan. The candidates do not run on party lines, which renders primaries defunct and leads to dissent and infighting as members of the same political party go up against each other in a general election. As in many small, residential communities the political climate in Queens with all of its alliances and discord has long been considered unstable and the unexpected opening of this seat sets the stage perfectly for these rivalries to play out.

The drama began between the two leading Republicans when they arrived at the Board of Elections (BOE) in downtown Manhattan to file petitions, a process that guarantees the first one the top of the ballot. Anthony Como, who resigned from his post at the BOE on the same day that Gallagher resigned from the council, arrived first and secured the coveted spot. Ognibene claimed that Como used his ties at the agency to get in first and ensure his petitions were recorded before any of the other hopefuls. He has since called for an investigation into the matter. While Como had signed in before the official opening time, the waiting area was open to the public and his paperwork was not handled until 9am. Ognibene did not show up until quarter past.

Joining Tom Ognibene and Queens GOP-backed Anthony Como from the Republican side is Joseph Suraci. On the Democratic side, the two contenders are Elizabeth Crowley, who is backed by the Queens Democratic Party, and Charles Ober. The political histories of these candidates are long and intertwined. Elizabeth Crowley is the cousin of Democratic Representative Joseph Crowley, who

also serves as the party's county chair. Ognibene is a former chairman of the Queens GOP and actually held the council seat before Gallagher, leaving in 2001 due to term-limits. He also ran for Mayor in 2005 against Mike Bloomberg on the Conservative Party line.

The Queens Conservative Party again lent him their backing in this race, citing his experience as the main factor in their decision. While party endorsements do not add additional lines for the candidates in a non-partisan election, their backing can be beneficial in terms of support, both monetarily and in providing volunteers. This endorsement could lead to some animosity down the road regarding Republican State Senator Serf Maltese's (15th Senate



New York City's City Hall holds the Mayor's Office and the New York City Council Chambers. It is the oldest City Hall in the United States that still houses its original governmental functions.

District) upcoming re-election this November.

The only other candidate that was being considered for the Conservative Party endorsement was Anthony Como and their backing of Ognibene may be seen as a personal blow. Tom Long, Chairman of the Queens County Conservative Party addressed this possibility and said he hoped that it wouldn't cause any sort of split. He expressed the sentiments that standing together and winning seats is more important than engaging in personal battles. The race in the 15th SD is likely to be one of the most competitive this November, making it important for all the leaders in Queens to iron things out and work together to make sure it is not lost.

In terms of fundraising, Como and Ognibene were about even at the time of the last disclosure, each having raised about \$30,000 and spent around \$10,000. Crowley had raised an impressive \$110,000 and spent \$66,000 - over three times what the Republicans spent combined!

The special election for the 30th CD has been called by Mayor Bloomberg for June 3rd. □



New York News

Molly Casey

More Jobs Trounced by Bad Politics

By Matthew Bucklin

America currently has a \$4 billion trade deficit with Colombia. Not surprising, since in 2007 America imported \$700 billion more than it exported. What is surprising is 90% of Colombian exports enter the US duty free, while U.S. exports to Colombia face high tariffs. On April 7th, 2008, the Bush administration put forth the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement to equalize trade between the two nations, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi immediately sidelined the bill, arguing that Colombia needs to do more to protect Colombian labor union activists. The economics are simple: America will benefit from free trade with Colombia. Politics however, are getting in the way.

Free trade with Colombia will increase American exports, create high-tech jobs, and support a democratic ally. It is estimated that U.S. exports to Colombia will increase by \$1.1 billion. The increased demand for farming machinery and agro-chemical products in Colombia will stimulate new jobs in the U.S., specifically in the manufacturing sector. Most estimates suggest free trade will boost US GDP by \$2.5 billion, creating many new jobs. But perhaps the most obvious reason to trade freely with Colombia is there is no risk of U.S. jobs being shipped overseas since Colombia already trades freely here. History has taught us that free trade usually benefits more the larger country than the smaller.

Opponents of this free trade agreement argue that the oppression of labor union activists in Colombia needs to stop before Colombia should be rewarded with preferential trade. It is true that Colombia, and Latin America in general, is a dangerous place for unionized workers. In 2004, 145 labor union activists were murdered, 225 were tortured, and 445 received death threats in Colombia. Colombia can also be a dangerous place for any person. Guerrilla groups like FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) are considered a terrorist organization by the United States and often kidnap Americans. There is a saying in Latin America, in English "it (corruption) is the cost of doing business." Corruption is so deeply ingrained in Colombian business culture that leniency needs to be applied when there is real progress. Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe has made it a priority to protect labor union leaders. Since elected in 2002, homicides in Colombia have dropped by 40%, kidnappings by 82%, and FARC terrorist attacks by 77%.

So if the situation in Colombia is rapidly improving, why is Nancy Pelosi opposing free trade with Colombia? Politics. She is using this bill as a bargaining chip to pressure President Bush to cooperate in bailing out individuals affected by the mortgage crisis. Also, presidential hopefuls and politicians up for reelection are trying to gain votes in economically depressed regions of the country, by appearing to protect American jobs (although we know this isn't the case).

Besides benefiting the U.S. economy, free trade with Colombia is good foreign policy. The U.S. should support the pro-American government of Colombian President Uribe. This bill will boost Colombia's legal exports by \$487 million, and decrease illegal exporting of drugs by making other safer and legal crops more profitable. This will also greatly improve President Uribe's credibility in the region. The United States is struggling for influence in Latin America as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is successfully spreading anti-American brand socialism. The Colombian people have a chance to prosper with Uribe under a pro-Western democracy, in stark contrast to Venezuela's impoverished socialism. The

Commentary on regulation, economy and the markets...

United States is in a unique position to support a democratic ally abroad and stimulate new jobs at home. It is unfortunate for the American people that good economics are being trounced by bad politics. □

COLUMBIA TRADE FACTS

With Colombian crime reaching historically low levels and so called "suppression of unionists" being eliminated, why are Democrats preventing new American jobs and opportunities from being created, stifling the voice of a key democratic ally in Latin America, and from helping hundreds of thousands of Columbians out of poverty.


- America's two-way trade with Colombia reached \$18 billion in 2007, making Colombia our fourth largest trading partner in Latin America and our largest export market for U.S. agriculture products in South America. In 2007, total U.S. goods exports to Colombia reached \$8.6 billion, up from \$6.7 billion in 2006. The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will further open this dynamic and growing economy to American goods and services. It will provide particular benefits to U.S. farmers and ranchers by immediately eliminating Colombia's duties on high quality beef, cotton, wheat, soybeans, key fruits vegetables and many processed foods upon entry into force of the agreement.

- More than 9,000 U.S. companies export to Colombia, of which nearly 8,000 are small and medium-sized firms. The number of companies exporting to Colombia will greatly expand under a new Free-Trade Agreement.

NEW YORK STATE IMPACT

New York's exports of merchandise to Colombia in 2007 totaled \$114 million. This number will dramatically increase with the U.S.-Colombian TPA. These goods come from machinery manufacturing (19.7%), computers & electronics (17.1%), chemical manufacturing (16.0%), misc. manufacturing (7.9%), all others(39.3%).

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REALTY



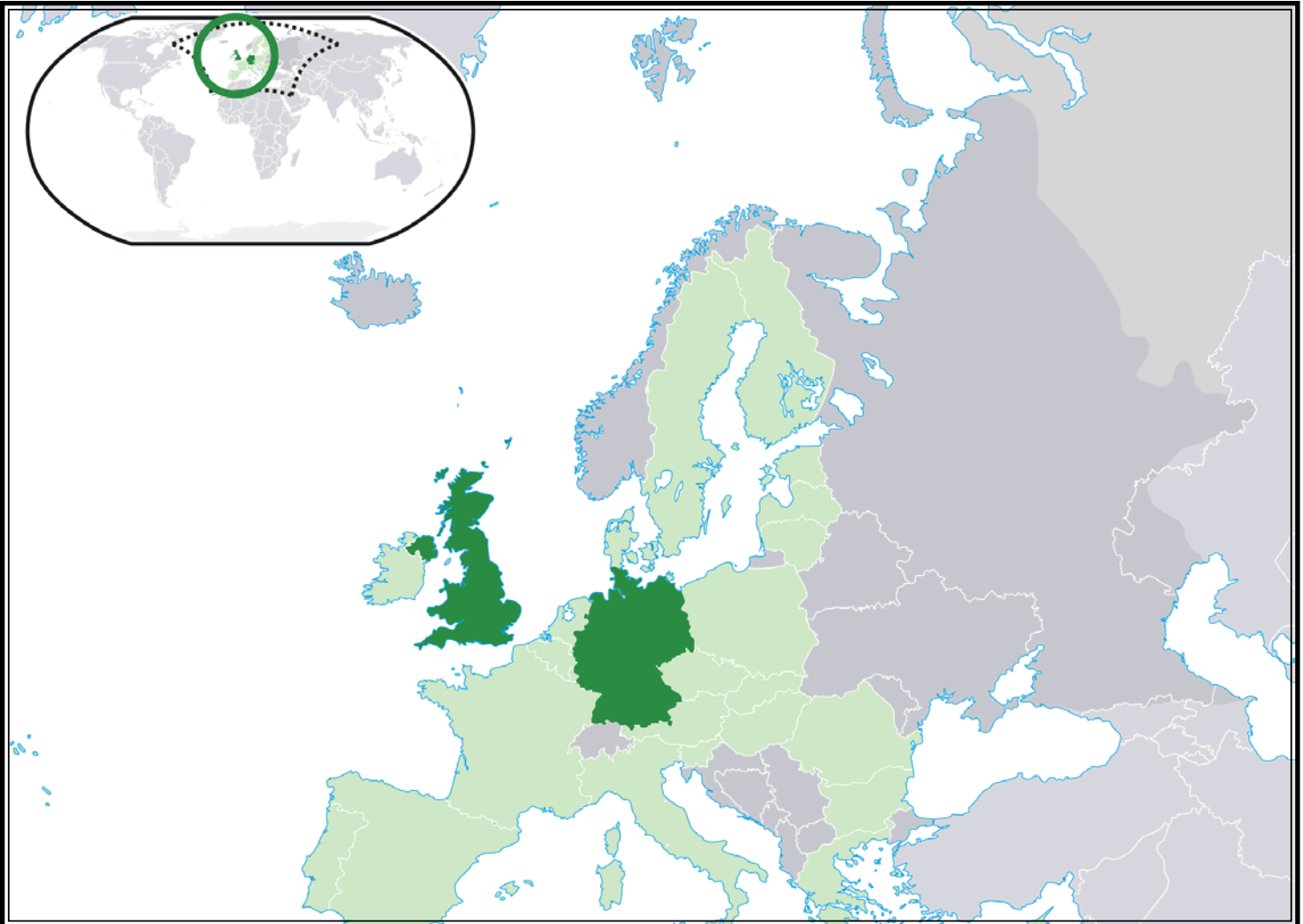
International

Political Commentary from around the Globe each month. Local issues reported by local participants.

Correspondents:

United Kingdom, Nitesh Palana: Nitesh is in his 20s, based in London and works for the UK's only financial services regulator. He has experience in lobbying and is involved with the British Conservative Party, the main center-right political party in the UK; with experience in both campaigning in general elections and working as an adviser to the Party on Trade and Industry.

Germany, Sirko Schulz: Sirko is Vice President of the Capital City Section of the Young Professionals of the Free Democratic Party of Germany.



A Conservative Mayor for London

Nitesh Palana, London

While I was flying across the Atlantic after work on a Friday evening, journalists, political animals and even politically apathetic Londoners in the UK were eagerly awaiting the results of the London Mayoral election that had taken place on that Thursday. Local council election had also taken place on the same day and the results on Friday morning made it quite clear that the governing Labour Party had suffered significant losses. In fact, it was the worst council results for the Labour Party in 40 years and the centre-right Conservative Party picked up most of the seats that Labour lost. The mayoral election results, which were meant to have been announced on Friday evening, were delayed and it was not until I landed in New York and read my text messages that I learned that Boris Johnson had become the new mayor of London and the first directly elected Conservative mayor in history.

London, unlike New York, has only had a directly elected mayor since 2000. I presume that Republicans were annoyed with the election of Cornelius W. Lawrence, a Democrat, as the first directly elected mayor of New York in 1834, in the same way that I too was annoyed that Ken Livingston had become mayor of London in 2000. However, similar to New York, London had a history of mayors that were not directly elected and, after a succession of left-wing mayors and high-spend socialist policies, in 1985 Margaret Thatcher abolished the Greater London Council and the role of the mayor of London.

The last non-directly elected mayor was Ken Livingston, also known as 'Red Ken' for his socialist policies. In 1997, the Labour Party won by a landslide in the elections and decided to establish the Greater London Authority and have a directly elected mayor. At the time Ken had fallen out with the Labour Party because they did not select him as their mayoral



Nitesh Palana with the newly elected Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

candidate and he decided to run as an independent candidate. Livingstone beat the Labour candidate and eventually he was accepted back into the Labour Party. After two terms of serving as mayor, and seeking a third term, Ken lost the election to the Conservative Boris Johnson earlier this month.

The mayor of London has a wide range of powers and Johnson's recent win will make him the most influential Conservative in the UK, as he will be the only Conservative politician who has powers to make and implement policy. This is obviously good news for London, but along with Conservative supporters, I am interested in what the results mean in the wider political context. I remember May 1st 1997, when the party I support suffered huge losses in the General Election and Labour came to power with Tony Blair as the Prime Minister; eleven years later, May 1st 2008 saw a huge swing to the Conservatives who are now expected to win the next General Election. The UK Government is required to hold a General Election before 2010, which means that it is possible that we will witness the first long-term Conservative and Republican partnership since Reagan and Thatcher – an unforgettably great period in history.

Johnson is a popular political personality in the UK. He is a former journalist and author and he was elected Member of Parliament in 2001. During his relatively short career in politics, he has been responsible for a significant number of political gaffes, with a famous quote to make each one memorable, for example, when he was sacked from the Conservative front bench he said, "My friends, as I have discovered myself, there are no disasters, only opportunities. And, indeed, opportunities for fresh disasters".

Despite his flaws, I am a Boris supporter and I believe that London will see a huge difference with a Conservative mayor. Unfortunately, I did not have much time to campaign for Boris in the recent elections because I was travelling and had a very busy schedule, but I did vote for him. London needs sensible centre right policies, especially in this difficult time of economic uncertainty. □

Huis Clos in the City Center

Sirko Schulz, Germany

The circulating scenarios of climate change, promoted mainly by government-funded institutions and impressive media reports, have created a troubled public opinion. It has opened a window of opportunity for new regulations. Since it was believed that the market would not be able to respond appropriately to ensure that people behave in a responsible manner, the government needed to impose regulations. Even regulations that barely have a link to the climate change issue are being forced into that connection, because few people are willing to speak out and therefore be denounced as oil-lobbyists.

All major cities crafted some new concept of traffic regulation and few were honest enough to reveal the real reasons. The inability to cope with traffic and the direct impact of exhaust gas on people's health, fine particulates for example, was one. Obtaining additional tax payer's money was another. Link it to climate change and you find yourself in a coalition of do-gooders who support your initiative! Bloomberg linked his congestion pricing-initiative to the fight against climate change in the same manner that Klaus Wowereit – Mayor of Berlin – attached his environmental zone to the issue.

The environmental zone includes the inner city of Berlin. Cars are only allowed to enter if they have a badge in a specific color, which depends on its emissions. By 2010 only cars with a green badge will be allowed to enter. Most diesel-fueled and older cars are affected by the ban. Since all major sights, shopping malls and institutions are within the environmental zone, practically everybody needs the badge and cars which are prohibited will become worthless. What may be a temporary chance for retailers to sell more cars is a disaster for middle and lower income families and small manufacturers operating in Berlin.

While placing a huge burden on the people and companies, the outcome of the initiative is barely clear. 10% of fine particulates emitted in Berlin are due to traffic and a large part of that contingent is a result of abrasion from tires and brakes. By locking out a small percentage of cars, the maximal effect is marginal for

air quality, but the consequences for persons affected are severe. Softer government actions – like for example roadside planting – has a bigger effect on the absorption of fine particulates, but has the disadvantage of offering no chance of additional taxation. The Bloomberg plan, which works like an entrance fee, seems to focus stronger on the reduction of traffic in general, since it does not take the car's emissions as a basis in the pricing, though he claims it is a component in the fight against climate change.

Neither of the two systems works like a Pigovian tax that punishes negative externalities and uses the revenue to soften the consequences. But both follow the popular doctrine that severe government action is necessary. They come along in a package of measures: more regulation, additional taxation and more government surveillance. The ideas are not new, but the window of opportunity offers a chance to enact them. Instead of making the aims transparent and discussion about suitable instruments, the initiatives leave the impression of symbolic policies. □



"Environmental Zone": A new sign that German drivers will now encounter

CALENDAR

There are many events each month around NYC. From political meetings, lectures, book signings, and social events, just watch www.nyyrc.com/calendar for all of them. If you wish to submit an event please contact publications@nyyrc.com.

				May 15	16	17
				NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹		
18	19	20	WNRC²: 21	22	23	24
			Wed. May 21st, 6-7:30pm -- The Civic Affairs Committee invites you to a discussion on detection and avoidance of identity theft with NYPD detective Diane Menig, who specializes in the ever expanding area of identity theft. Members: \$10 None-Members: \$15 Patrons: \$50			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June 1	WNRC²: 2	3	WNRC²: 4	MET REPBLCN CLUB: 5	6	7
	6-8pm – First Monday Reception ...an ideal time to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to introduce friends and colleagues to our beautiful clubhouse. Members / Non-Members No Charge		WNRC Library Committee... invites you to an evening with Susan Neiman, author of Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-up	6:30PM- 9:00PM First Thursday Monthly Social Join us for our monthly informal social.		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Idealists. Members: No Charge Non-Members: \$10	\$10 for members \$15 for non-members Refreshments and light food served.		
15	16	17	18	NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹ 19	20	21

¹ The New York Young Republican Club holds their monthly meetings every third Thursday of every month at the Women's National Republican Club Headquarters @ 3 West 51st Street, New York , NY 10001. www.nyyrc.com

² The Women's National Republican Club holds all their events at their headquarters located @ 3 West 51st Street, New York , NY 10001. Please see www.wnrc.org for more information on all events.

For more information about any events listed here please contact publications@nyyrc.com.



BOOK REVIEW | *No Option*

Book/Movie/Art Review offers you the latest thoughts, inspirations and trends with a Republican bend

Surrender is Not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations, By John Bolton

Expect a refreshingly direct discourse of the actual events that took place before and during the Ambassadorship of John Bolton representing the United States of America to the United Nations. You cannot put this book down. If you want to know what really happened, this is where you will find it.

Did you know that John Bolton's father earned a living as a plumber and later on as a fireman and had to take on a second job at night as a machinist? John Bolton's modesty is displayed when he describes his background: "Neither [of my parents] had graduated from high school, but I have no doubt my own academic record was based on the genes I inherited from them, since it certainly did not come from our social contacts or standing in society." As his mother felt the Baltimore schools were inadequate she had him apply for a scholarship to a prestigious private school in Maryland which of course he aced and proceeded to live for the next six years.

During a school break he campaigned for Barry Goldwater. He received another scholarship, this time to Yale University, where he earned his BA graduating Summa Cum Laude. He then attended Yale Law School and did a summer internship for Vice President Spiro Agnew. Even though he went on to practice law at Covington & Burling he was really more interested in politics and international law and doing something for his country.

He worked under the Reagan administration and Bush administration within the State Department, the Department of Justice and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

It was thrilling when it was announced that President Bush wanted John Bolton to be the Ambassador to the UN. Unfortunately, the following onslaught of the abhorrent confirmation process where Democrats tried to butcher Bolton's chances dragged on for months. Finally, on August 1, 2005 President Bush made the recess appointment that made Bolton first US ambassador to the UN to be assigned to the post without senate confirmation.

Others have described the UN as a "miasma of cynicism, corruption and anti-Semitism" and Mr. Bolton wanted to try to change all of that and try to fight for American sovereignty and expose the UN's deeply ingrained biases against Israel and the United States. He tried to remove UN funding from the Palestinian Authority's Hamas government but was prevented by enormous opposition from the UN bureaucracy and Europe as well.

This is the story of how he didn't try to blend into the system, he was there to fight for the United States. He literally had walked into a shark tank of corruption, inefficiency, overstaffing, mismanagement of money, millions of dollars were impossible to trace and the scandals of rape and murders were endless. The United States gives 22 percent of the dues to the UN, and yet we are disdained and hated by them. John Bolton quietly went to work and gave it a Herculean effort.

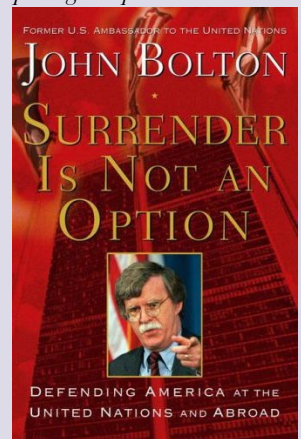
He was undermined almost every step of the way not only within the United Nations but also, sadly, a great deal by the bureaucratic inertia in our own State Department. Mr. Bolton was getting it from all sides. To me he is a great warrior and it troubles me to no end to see great men like John Bolton unable to accomplish what they are meant to do, all because of the dastardly actions of evil corrupt politicians.

On a positive note, he explains how the 21st century can have more security if the United States once again confronts the nuclear weapons that are being built in both North Korea and Iran.

"The fact is that Iran will never voluntarily give up its nuclear program, and a policy based on the contrary assumption is not just delusional but dangerous. This is the road to nuclear holocaust."

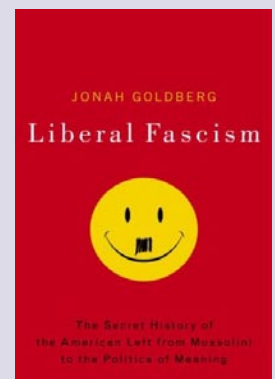
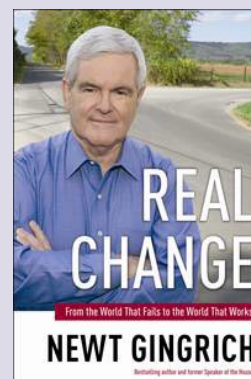
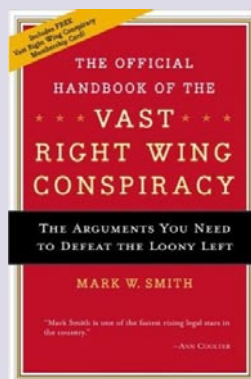
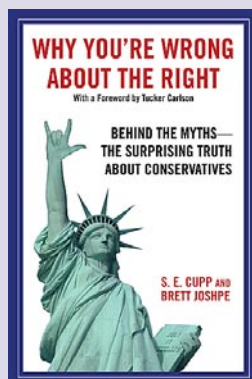
This is an extraordinary book that gives you the inside scoop of what goes on in government, politics, bureaucracy and the on-going United Nations horror show. Read it and learn the story that you won't get in the newspaper or television.

- Vivien Lewis



Past Book Reviews...

- Wrong About the Right
By S. E. Cupp and Brett Joshpe
- Vast Right Wing Conspiracy
By Mark Smith
- Real Change
By Newt Gingrich
- Liberal Fascism
By Jonah Goldberg



Trips to Turtle Bay

Trip 1: The Case for Improving American Activism in Global Institutions

By Jacob Daniel

My purpose in writing this and future articles stems from a concern that we as a Party have taken a cynical, even inimical, view of global institutions and multilateralism at a time when our nation faces many challenges that are global and interconnected by nature. I visited the GOP website to view the latest platform positions and objectives available on this subject. Although global institutions were briefly mentioned in the platform document, it focused on American sovereignty and points of contention rather than use and reform strategies required for multilateral organizations to be effectively integrated into our foreign policy. Furthermore, under the website's issues section, the only mention of an international organization was NATO and the stated objective was to "Strengthen NATO ties." I liken this objective to a couple owning a mint condition car that collects some dirt after some use but is easily washable. Continuing with this analogy, the bigger problem, which the objective fails to reflect, is the couple is now at odds on how and when the car should be used. So, the website only reaffirmed my concerns.

Now, it is not without reason that there are grievances against the polymorph of international organizations. A few of their memorable failures include:

- IMF involvement in the Asian Financial Crisis of the 1990's.
- Intrusion of the International Court of Justice into US state court criminal rulings.
- World Trade Organization rulings making many US commodities less competitive to foreign producers.
- United Nation's 1975 resolution equating Zionism to racism.

Also, our trust further eroded when we witnessed the results of the Clinton Administration placing too much faith in multilateral systems wrought with inefficiency and corruption. The culture of the administration was to maintain cordial relations irrespective of long term American interests. This attitude manifested itself in a number of bad policy decisions like Clinton's signing of the Rome Statute of 2000, which if ratified would have made us unduly beholden to the International Criminal Court. Another multilateral fad Clinton attached himself to was the Kyoto Protocol. It provided unfair advantages for developing countries like delaying their time to implement the agreement's mandates while forcing American companies to immediately absorb billions in costs. And the failed legacy of Clinton's multi-party negotiations with North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program is still haunting us today.

Unfortunately, Clinton's misuse of multilateralism, led to Bush's virtual no use of global institutions. This irrational fear has impacted our ability to secure the peace in Iraq and Afghanistan, emboldened OPEC to continue keeping oil production well below world demands, and strengthened regional coalitions like the EU and ASEAN that subvert American influence. Relying on either administration's extreme view will not solve the major foreign policy issues that Republicans have made their own like promoting and protecting free trade and democratization, ending radical Islamic terror, and diversifying energy sources. Rather, I contend that Republicans must take the lead in shaping and leading the institutions needed for global governance. Global governance is not a replacement for national sovereignty or necessary unilateral engagements. It is simply a



The United Nations Headquarters on the East River in Manhattan, also known as 'Turtle Bay'.

natural evolution in maintaining order in our new "flat" world. Effective global institutions enable nations to work together in solving "common" problems. Strangely enough, securing consensus on defining the word "common" is what frustrates most multilateral institutions from succeeding. The second inhibitor to consistent success is the web of procedural inefficiencies entangling these institutions. By leveraging America's greatest strengths, its sole superpower status and democratic traditions, Republicans can overcome these problems and institutionalize American values and leadership needed for global stability and prosperity.

Below is a brief historical review of multilateral successes that should further persuade readers as to the benefits of improving American activism in global institutions.

- 1778 - Revolutionary War becomes a coalition war consisting of allies US, France, Spain and the Netherlands.
- 1823 - Monroe Doctrine proclaims American leadership over the Americas and the right of democratic self-rule by peoples of the Americas. It is initially effective because of British support as well as armed revolts across the Spanish Americas.
- 1899 - Open Door Policy keeps China accessible for American businesses while preserving Chinese sovereignty.
- 1900 - America participates in its first multinational peacekeeping mission - Eight Nation Alliance.
- 1905-1909 - America leads various multi-party arbitration missions such as the Portsmouth, Algeciras, and Pan-American Conferences.
- 1917 - WW I garners America a seat at the victors' table as an acknowledged great power and uses this new status to create Armenia and propose the League of Nations.
- 1941 - WW II shifts world leadership to America and begins global decolonization with help of newly created United Nations.
- 1947 - UN passes Resolution 181 which effectively establishes Israel.
- 1962 - UN aids in de-escalating Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1979 - International Court of Justice decides in favor of US vs. Iran and demands release of US hostages.
- 1989 - Cold War ends after 40 years through the U.S., NATO, and non-NATO allies coalition.
- 1990 - US-UN Coalition removes Iraq from Kuwait
- 1995 - WTO's new Dispute Settlement Understanding increases participation in world trade.

The above is obviously not a comprehensive list of multilateral achievements and some can not be considered perfect. But they do show America's brightest international moments are more often found when we work with partners committed to solving issues of mutual interest.

This article, along with my others will seek to educate readers about the activities of Turtle Bay, better known as the UN, as it is the convergence point for most multilateral activity and is conveniently headquartered in our town. □

An Old Hope: Premonitions of a Super Tuesday to Come

By William Palumbo

Smoke from his cigarette climbed upward. It hung patiently in the air until caught up and dispersed throughout the room by the ceiling fan. It was evening, and he was slouched, contemplating recent events in his leather chair behind a stately oak desk. On a wall hung the framed symbol of the president's party, he stared, considering the party's roots and where they had gone; the image of the donkey became blurred in the smoky haze increasingly filling the room.

It was his third cigarette in a row. Still feeling uneasy, he was hankering for a fourth. He reached for the pack. Replacing the former Camel was a triad of images, the "Health-Awareness Trinity," as it was known: a skull and crossbones, a stillborn fetus, and a pair of blackened lungs - all suggestions from former trade partner, Canada.

He looked at his Trinity United desk calendar. Under a picture of his old chum Reverend Wright scowling in condemnation, he saw that the date was March 5, 2012. Was it really Super Tuesday?

It didn't matter who won the primary. He had a 75% approval rating and was unanimously predicted to win each and every one of the 46.5 United States. Didn't have quite the same ring as "all 50" but that was water under the bridge. Lately he had been branded the "Breakfast Chef President," after adopting the axiom into his repertoire "You have to break some eggs to make an omelet!" Kind of like a new twist on "Morning in America," he mused. No?

The forty-fourth administration had ushered in Hope and Change and truly remade the country in his HIS image. Bush's tax cuts expired, and shortly thereafter the Economic Equalization package raised taxes on the highest earning bracket to 85%. A few months later, socialized medicine was implemented.

Oh was it beautiful! His plan gave lazy and productive alike equal incentive!

Then the secession talk began.

Successful business owners and executives, doctors, financiers, and entrepreneurs originally threatened to move to Switzerland

in protest. But then Governor Mitt Romney suggested since nearly

every other Constitutional law had been broken, it was no longer valid, and started a petition to break away a part of the southwest to form a new country. They reworked the Declaration of Independence, updating the enumerated grievances previously addressed to King George III to "His Majesty, the Obamacrat."

Starting with Texas in April 2009 and followed by New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California by the end of 2011, almost 20% of mainland was now an independent nation. Lately, there was even rebellious talk in Las Vegas! Despite early comparisons to Abraham Lincoln, aside from an eloquent series of speeches threatening consequence and calling for unity, the president did nothing. With most of the military defecting, how could he?

Hey, at least they had somewhere to ship all the outlawed guns.

And what of the previous war? The troops were "redeployed" from Iraq to Germany, Japan, and the suddenly hostile Canadian border. They were issued peace pamphlets and copies of "Dreams of My Father" to re-establish the American brand name around the world. In protest, over half had resigned. Why pay for bullets when you need band-aids? In response to American goodwill, European and Middle Eastern approval ratings had sky-rocketed and now just over 80% of France and Luxemburg approved of America, as well as 78% of Syria and Palestine.

Peace was proclaimed in the former nation of Iraq. Shortly after American troops departed, Iran swept in from the east and the terrorism stopped. Newly crowned Supreme Caliph Khomeini II installed former "terrorist" leaders into administrative and police positions, and soon the unruly population was incredibly docile.

Just then he heard a knock on the door, and it opened. It was his chief political advisor, Jimmy Carter.

"Mr. President, Mr. bin Laden is on the phone," he said.

He rolled his eyes. "I just talked to him last week. What does he want now?" Carter blinked giving him a blank stare. "I know I said I'd listen to our enemies, but I'm having second thoughts about the guy. I mean, did you see his sub machine gun? He calls it "The Equalizer" and it's got my portrait painted on it!"

"Barry, but what can I do?" replied Carter.

The president shut his eyes, and nodded. "Tell him I'll call him back in 10 minutes."

"OK. Will do. Two more things, Mr. President."

"Yes."

"Firstly, the insurrection in Las Vegas is threatening to spread to the rest of Nevada, and there are reports that Florida is growing restless. We've preemptively responded by recalling all campaign re-election staff. I'm sure you approve." Cringing inside, he nodded. "Secondly, about your mandatory metaphysical re-education summer camps, you know, for those who have certain unacceptable faith-traditions."

"What about them?"

"I've taken the liberty to establish a group to deal with the fallout. PPPN: the Presidential Panel for the Prevention of Nihilism. Nice ring, right? Kind of like CCCP."

Jimmy, he thought, most of those people had left to the new Southern League of Freedom anyway. Maybe Jimmy was getting kind of old after all. He sighed, half in disgust, "OK, very well."

"Terrific, happy to hear it. Gotta go now, but remember your call in 10 minutes. It's 9:01 now," Carter replied, and left the room.

President Obama shuddered and took another long drag on his cigarette, somewhat regretting that the prohibition of tobacco started in February, as more regrets vaguely formed among the meanderings of his thoughts.

Suddenly he sat up, now angry, put the cigarette out in his ashtray and the regrets out of his head. He picked up the phone.

They hoped for a change, damnit! Change they got! □



Barack Obama: Full of oratorical rhetoric and a lot of hot air. His version of 'change' are the most liberal policies America has seen in 30 years and a dangerously naive foreign policy outlook.



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