

July 31, 2013

Tim Carney at the Examiner posts on why you should consider shopping at Sam's Club rather than Costco.

If you're a millionaire corporate bigwig using your wealth to influence elections, and using your company's clout to influence legislation, President Obama might give you a tongue-lashing. Unless you're a fundraiser and donor for the Obama Victory Fund, and your company's lobbying agenda coincides with the White House's — then Obama will give you a shout-out in a major economic address.

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There were a couple of good posts at Dilbert's Blog on the reactions to the Zimmerman verdict.

... My understanding of the Trayvon Martin protests is that the participants would like the public to stop believing that young African-American males are crime-prone. The strategy for accomplishing this involves holding largely peaceful protests in which a small number of young African-American males are likely to be filmed by news crews wearing masks, breaking store windows, threatening innocent motorists, and getting arrested. That's exactly what I watched on the news last night as Oakland was starting to heat up.

The trouble-makers are a small percentage of the protesters - maybe 1%. The problem is that the 1% gets the lion's share of news coverage, thus reinforcing the racial bias that the peaceful protesters are trying to combat. In terms of managing the public's impressions, the protests are an epic fail. ...

Dilbert's creator, Scott Adams, was so taken with one comment he posted it on the blog.

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So if there are a bunch of people that dress a certain way, and act a certain way, they are creating a brand for themselves.

There's a nerd brand. There's a metro-sexual brand. There's a jock brand, a cheerleader brand, a gothic brand... I can go on but of course you know what I mean.

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David Garman and Sam Thernstrom report on Europe's growing problems with power produced by renewables.

... Another challenge of Europe's growing dependence on renewable energy is far more serious: the potential loss of reliable electrical supply. It's one thing to ask consumers to pay more for cleaner energy; it's another to force them to endure blackouts.

Since large amounts of electricity cannot be easily or inexpensively stored, it must be generated and delivered ("dispatched") to meet the constantly changing demand for power. As millions of consumers turn electric lights and appliances on and off, power generators and grid operators must match supply to demand to ensure that current is moving across wires at the proper frequency to avoid power failures, brownouts and other problems.

Normally, this is fairly straightforward. Grid operators generally rely on coal and nuclear plants to meet baseload demand while modifying gas and hydroelectric power output to meet shifting demand. But electricity from wind and solar is variable and intermittent. Nature determines when and how much power will be generated from available capacity, so it is not necessarily "dispatchable" when needed.

When intermittent renewables are small players in the grid, they can be easily absorbed. But as they reach European levels of penetration, the strain begins to show. There are increasing reports of management challenges resulting from wind and solar across the European grid, including frequency fluctuations, voltage support issues, and inadvertent power flows. Anxious operators are concerned about potential blackouts. ...

Gabriel Schoenfeld takes the time to remind us of Howard Zinn's lack of scholarship.

... It is not that Zinn was a naked falsifier in the manner, say, of the historian and Holocaust denier David Irving. Rather, he was a mythmaker who was at constant pains to portray the American story as one long chronicle of exploitation, oppression and deceit. To Zinn, the dark strands of our country's past — of which there is genuinely no shortage — became the only strands, all of them useful in telling a left-wing morality tale in which class interests always determine the development of ideas and control the course of events.

To take one example of how the grist emerges from Zinn's historical mill, the political philosopher John Locke is introduced by Zinn with the observation that his "Second Treatise on Government," which so heavily influenced our Founding Fathers, "talked about government and political rights, but ignored the existing inequalities in property" — an unsurprising fact when one notes that Locke was "a wealthy man, with investments in the silk trade and slave trade, income from loans and mortgages."

To Zinn, the Great Depression of the 1930s is a demonstration that “the capitalist system was by its nature unsound: a system driven by the one overriding motive of corporate profit and therefore unstable, unpredictable and blind to human needs.” In this narrative, the safety net Franklin Roosevelt erected with the New Deal was not a step forward in constructing a more humane society, but simply a way “to stabilize the system for its own protection” and to avert :the alarming growth or spontaneous rebellion” that the crisis of capitalism had created. ...

More from [Paul Mirengoff](#) at Power Line.

From time to time, we have noted President Obama’s lack of knowledge about American history. The most recent manifestation — his claim that Ho Chi Minh was inspired by America’s Founding Fathers — suggests that Obama’s ignorance is to some extent willful.

It is, in any event, not accidental. From [Stanley Kurtz](#), we learn that Obama is a fan of the leftist historian Howard Zinn. Stanley cites this passage from James T. Kloppenberg’s book [Reading Obama](#):

It shouldn’t come as a surprise that President Obama had a special interest in the views of an anti-American historian. And it is only mildly surprising that Americans elected a president with a special interest in those views. As the NRO editors warn: “From kindergarten through graduate school, American education is a sewer of left-wing ideology.”

Unless Mitch Daniels and others succeed in improving this state of affairs, the distorted Obama/Zinn view of America likely will prevail within a decade or two. And a self-hating America does not have a promising future.

[Ilya Somin](#) with a great post pointing to the Baptist/bootlegger alliance attempting to strangle marijuana legalization.

Public choice economist Bruce Yandle famously developed the concept of a “[baptist-bootlegger coalition](#)” to describe situations in which regulation is supported by a strange bedfellow alliance of groups who favor it for narrowly self-interested reasons and those who support it out of moral or ideological considerations. The paradigmatic example was the way in which Baptists (who opposed alcohol for religious reasons) and bootleggers (who wanted its sale to be illegal in order to protect their business interests) supported Prohibition in the 1920s. It looks like [a similar alliance is emerging to oppose marijuana legalization](#):

Pot legalization activists are running into an unexpected and ironic opponent in their efforts to make cannabis legal: Big Marijuana. ...

Late Night from [Andy Malcolm](#).

Leno: *Eliot Spitzer is now taking the moral high ground in his bid to become comptroller of New York City. He's saying he's not been with a prostitute in five years. New slogan: 'Whore-Free since 2008.'*

Fallon: Obama's big speech on the economy. Really big! Longer than his State of the Union. He opened with 20 minutes of Anthony Weiner jokes.

Leno: In his economy speech President Obama said we've all been distracted by phony scandals. He prefers we be distracted by his phony recovery.

Fallon: Obama had a big retreat at Camp David the other day for all his Cabinet members and their families. Joe Biden couldn't make it because he was in Asia. That's because Obama told him the retreat was in Asia.

Washington Examiner

[Costco backs Obama, Obama touts Costco](#)

by Timothy P. Carney



If you're a millionaire corporate bigwig using your wealth to influence elections, and using your company's clout to influence legislation, President Obama might give you a tongue-lashing. Unless you're a fundraiser and donor for the Obama Victory Fund, and your company's lobbying agenda coincides with the White House's — then Obama will give you a shout-out in a major economic address.

In his nationally televised speech Wednesday (**last week**), Obama sang the praises of retail giant Costco, whose founder Jim Sinegal gave Obama the maximum contribution in two elections and hosted fundraisers for his reelection. Costco has also lobbied for many of Obama's legislative priorities, including higher minimum wage, Obamacare, and price controls on financial processing fees.

Given the company's politics and tendency to seek profit through big government, Costco stands out as a model of Obamanomics. The money trail and the free advertising also give off a whiff of cronyism.

Sinegal [contributed the maximum \\$35,800](#) to the Obama Victory Fund last year and also held [a \\$35,800-a-plate fundraiser for Obama](#). In the 2008 election, Sinegal gave \$43,500 to the DNC ([here](#) and [here](#)), which is, in effect, a contribution to Obama. On top of that, the Costco founder gave the [maximum \\$2,300 to Obama's campaign](#). So that's more than \$80,000 personally to Obama. Add in [\\$100,000 to Obama's](#) SuperPAC, Priorities USA, plus the \$2 million the July 2012 fundraiser reportedly brought Obama, and you've got a healthy amount of support.

Obama's gotten even more, though, from Sinegal and his company.

Sinegal lobbied for Obamacare in 2009. His company has supported a higher minimum wage. Both of these regulations impose proportionally greater costs on the company's smaller competitors — and almost every competitor is smaller, because Costco is the nation's No. 2 retailer behind only Wal-Mart. Sinegal also spoke in Obama's favor at the 2012 convention.

Costco's founder did all these favors for Obama over five years, and on Wednesday, Obama [returned the favor](#):

We'll need our businesses, the best in the world, to pressure Congress to invest in our future, and set an example by providing decent wages and salaries to their own employees. And I'll highlight the ones that do just that — companies like Costco, which pays good wages and offers good benefits; or the Container Store, which prides itself on training its workers and on employee satisfaction — because these companies prove that this isn't just good for their business, it's good for America.

To recap: Raise \$2 million for him, give his campaigns \$180,000, lobby for his legislation, and the President will advertise for your store.

Sinegal in 2012 tried to justify Obama's "You Didn't Build That," comments, [writing](#): "thanks to a strong nationwide transportation system and internal infrastructure, we've opened warehouses across the country and around the world."

But, [as I wrote at the time](#), "You Didn't Build That," wasn't just about highways and bridges. Obama was arguing for a far more interventionist economic policy. And Costco eats that sort of thing up.

If Costco has a store, in other words, there's a decent chance that you, the taxpayer, *did* build that. First, consider the company's [aggressive use of eminent domain](#) — government theft of land — to acquire property. Second, Costco leans heavily on local corporate welfare for new stores.

From [my own neighborhood](#), for instance:

County Executive **Ike Leggett** has agreed to contribute \$4 million from the Economic Development Fund, over two years, to aid in the construction of the mall's 232,000-square-foot addition, which will include 148,000 square feet for Costco on the second level.

This is Obamanomics — if you're cozy with government, your business gets plenty of help.

Dilbert's Blog **A New World Record**

by Scott Adams

It's hard to measure this sort of thing, but I nominate the Trayvon Martin protests as the least effective protests in modern history. They might qualify as some sort of world record. And that is a tragedy on top of a tragedy.

You can Google Trayvon Martin if you're not familiar with the case. I assume it's not getting much coverage overseas.

My understanding of the Trayvon Martin protests is that the participants would like the public to stop believing that young African-American males are crime-prone. The strategy for accomplishing this involves holding largely peaceful protests in which a small number of young African-American males are likely to be filmed by news crews wearing masks, breaking store windows, threatening innocent motorists, and getting arrested. That's exactly what I watched on the news last night as Oakland was starting to heat up.

The trouble-makers are a small percentage of the protesters - maybe 1%. The problem is that the 1% gets the lion's share of news coverage, thus reinforcing the racial bias that the peaceful protesters are trying to combat. In terms of managing the public's impressions, the protests are an epic fail.

On a related topic, I'm fascinated by the way humans reflexively group things. In this case, most observers see this as a racial situation: black versus non-black. And yet no one believes Zimmerman would have made the same boneheaded moves if he had seen an African-American woman in his neighborhood instead of a man. Or an African-American child at age ten. Or even a middle-aged black dude in a sweater-vest. The fact that Trayvon was young and male was at least half of what made him seem suspicious to Zimmerman, one presumes.

As a male who was once young, I can confirm that most of my offenses against humanity happened in my early years. My testosterone was high and my frontal lobes were only partly formed. That's a recipe for trouble, and I caused my fair share. I also grew out of it, right on schedule.

The most effective type of protest I can imagine after the Trayvon Martin verdict would involve demands for greater science literacy. That sort of movement doesn't attract too many vandals and it effectively puts racists in the "ignorant" box instead of the "evil" box. That's a game-

changer. In the year 2013, perhaps the African-American community needs fewer leaders who are ministers and more who are scientists. Just a thought.

Dilbert's Blog

The Power of a Word

by Scott Adams

In reaction to my prior post about Trayvon Martin, a reader here named Happy left a comment that is so well-worded I'm going to reproduce it below. The central brilliance of Happy's writing is that he substituted an unloaded word for a loaded word and it transformed the argument. I even like his choices for line spacing and pacing. And check out the word economy; nothing wasted.

I'm not endorsing Happy's opinion. I'm just impressed by the persuasiveness of his writing. In Happy's words...

"When I buy a can of Coke, I see the label, and I know what to expect.

Stereotypes are wrong of course. But brands are good.

So if there are a bunch of people that dress a certain way, and act a certain way, they are creating a brand for themselves.

There's a nerd brand. There's a metro-sexual brand. There's a jock brand, a cheerleader brand, a gothic brand... I can go on but of course you know what I mean.

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This may be shocking, but if you dress like a gangster - talk like a gangster - and ride around in a car like a gangster, people are bound to pick up on the brand you're showcasing.

I suppose it could be related to race - but I don't think so. I can have the above stereotypes in any race - no problem.

If you want to be treated like a nerd, dress like a nerd. You want to be treated like a gangster, knock yourself out, and dress and act like a bad-ass.

But when you do, don't get upset when people react to the brand you're pushing.

Does that make it right for someone to beat you up because you're a nerd, or shoot you in cold blood because you look like a gangster? Hell no - of course not.

But on the other hand - if you dress like a respectable member of society, the chance of getting treated better is certainly going to be higher.

So why bother acting like a bad-ass?

I don't get it.

I'm not going to get into the specifics of this case - that's not the point. The important thing to remember for us and our families is that it's important to portray the right, positive brand. It won't hurt to make the world a better place, now will it?

So put away the gangster image. Don't do it - and don't let your family do it. The world will be a better place for it."

Someone famous once said, "You're not a writer until a writer tells you you're a writer." You're a writer, Happy. But I suspect you already do that for a living.

WSJ

Europe's Renewable Romance Fades

High energy bills and threats of blackouts ended the honeymoon. America, take note.

by David Garman and Samuel Thernstrom

Europe has bet big on wind and solar energy, and many environmental advocates would like America to follow. Wind and solar have a role in the U.S. energy economy, but we would be wise to see the cautionary tale in the European experience and adjust our plans accordingly.

Wind and solar generate 3.5% of America's electricity today, but Denmark gets 30% of its electricity from wind and hopes to produce 50% by 2020. Germany, Europe's largest national economy, produces roughly 12% of its electricity from wind and solar today, and it wants renewable energy to account for 35% of electricity generation by 2020.

Clean energy powered by renewable resources is understandably attractive. But the honeymoon with renewables is ending for some Europeans as the practical challenges of the relationship become clear.

The first challenge is cost. Germany has reportedly invested more than \$250 billion in renewable energy deployment, and its households pay the highest power costs in Europe—except for the Danish. On average, Germans and Danes pay roughly 300% more for residential electricity than Americans do.

Another challenge of Europe's growing dependence on renewable energy is far more serious: the potential loss of reliable electrical supply. It's one thing to ask consumers to pay more for cleaner energy; it's another to force them to endure blackouts.



Wind turbines near Buetzow, Germany.

Since large amounts of electricity cannot be easily or inexpensively stored, it must be generated and delivered ("dispatched") to meet the constantly changing demand for power. As millions of consumers turn electric lights and appliances on and off, power generators and grid operators must match supply to demand to ensure that current is moving across wires at the proper frequency to avoid power failures, brownouts and other problems.

Normally, this is fairly straightforward. Grid operators generally rely on coal and nuclear plants to meet baseload demand while modifying gas and hydroelectric power output to meet shifting demand. But electricity from wind and solar is variable and intermittent. Nature determines when and how much power will be generated from available capacity, so it is not necessarily "dispatchable" when needed.

When intermittent renewables are small players in the grid, they can be easily absorbed. But as they reach European levels of penetration, the strain begins to show. There are increasing reports of management challenges resulting from wind and solar across the European grid, including frequency fluctuations, voltage support issues, and inadvertent power flows. Anxious operators are concerned about potential blackouts.

In an April 17, 2012, letter to EU Commissioner for Energy Gunter Oettinger, for example, Daniel Dobbeni, the European Network of Transmission System Operators president, said grid operators are "deeply concerned about the difference in speed between the connection of very large capacities of renewable energy resources and the realization in due time of the grid investments needed to support the massive increase of power flows these new resources bring." He also expressed great concern "about the potential destabilizing effect of outdated connection conditions for distributed generation that are not being retrofitted anywhere fast enough."

There are solutions for these problems—upgrades to electricity transmission and distribution and expansions of "dispatchable" generation capabilities, coupled with "demand-response" and other efficiency measures. But the additional cost will be significant. The International Energy Agency has warned that Germany will need to invest between €47.5 billion (\$62.9 billion) and €72.5 billion (\$96 billion) in transmission and distribution over the next 10 years.

For now, the American picture is different. Unlike Europe, the U.S. has excess generating capacity and generally adequate transmission and distribution systems, so variability in the small amount of electricity produced by wind and solar in most markets is not a significant problem. But renewables are growing quickly. As older nuclear plants are decommissioned and new Environmental Protection Agency regulations shut down coal-fired plants, states such as California that are increasing renewable requirements will start to look more like Europe, with its cost structure and grid-management challenges.

There is also an important lesson in the European experience with energy subsidies: Focus incentives so they reward the right behavior. Lavish subsidies for wind and solar have changed Europe's generation mix, but the costs have been high because the subsidy structure prioritized mass deployment rather than efficiency, reliability and innovation. Even in the U.S., the wind-production tax credit has occasionally produced "negative pricing"—that is, turbine operators pay grid operators to take their power even though it isn't needed, just so the wind generators can collect tax credits.

If Congress insists on subsidizing renewable energy (and to be fair, Washington subsidizes all forms of energy), it should reform subsidies to incentivize innovations that would improve the efficiency and reliability of wind and solar, as well as the development of improved energy-storage technologies.

It is not surprising that many Americans share the European passion for wind and solar. But, as with any relationship, once the initial infatuation fades and difficult issues start to emerge, thoughtful action is needed before the relationship sours. Careful reform of our policies, informed by lessons learned from Europe, could avoid an ugly divorce down the road and help renewables find their place in America's energy economy.

Mr. Garman, an assistant secretary and under secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy (2001-07), is on the board of directors of the Energy Innovation Reform Project. Mr. Thornstrom is executive director of EIRP.

Daily News

[An honest history of Howard Zinn](#)

Mitch Daniels is on solid ground crusading against propaganda

by Gabriel Schoenfeld

It seems that the ghost of [Howard Zinn](#) needs to be exorcised yet again. The most recent siting of the late historian's visage came earlier this month at Indiana's Purdue University. Zinn's magnum opus, "A People's History of the United States," was discussed in some emails written

by Indiana's former governor, [Mitch Daniels](#), now president of Purdue, which recently came to light thanks to the state's freedom of information act.

"A truly execrable, anti-factual piece of disinformation that misstates American history on every page" is what Daniels said of the book in a 2010 email to one of his staffers. "Can someone assure me that it is not in use anywhere in Indiana? If it is, how do we get rid of it before any more young people are force-fed a totally false version of our history?"

Daniels is being pilloried for this by some on the left and in the media as an opponent of academic freedom. "Mitch Daniels looked to censor opponents" was the headline of an Associated Press story on July 16. "Astonishing and shocking," said Cary Nelson, a professor of English at the University of Illinois, as quoted by the AP.

Not really.

Zinn, a longtime professor at Boston University who passed away in 2010 at the age of 87, was one of the more visible lights of a school of New Left historians that emerged in the 1960s. "A People's History of the United States," the first edition of which appeared in 1980, sold in the millions and is now assigned in growing number of high school and college classes.

That itself is a scandal. Zinn certainly had his talents as a writer, but his strengths in that department are inversely proportionate to his fidelity to historical truth.

It is not that Zinn was a naked falsifier in the manner, say, of the historian and Holocaust denier David Irving. Rather, he was a mythmaker who was at constant pains to portray the American story as one long chronicle of exploitation, oppression and deceit. To Zinn, the dark strands of our country's past — of which there is genuinely no shortage — became the only strands, all of them useful in telling a left-wing morality tale in which class interests always determine the development of ideas and control the course of events.

To take one example of how the grist emerges from Zinn's historical mill, the political philosopher John Locke is introduced by Zinn with the observation that his "Second Treatise on Government," which so heavily influenced our Founding Fathers, "talked about government and political rights, but ignored the existing inequalities in property" — an unsurprising fact when one notes that Locke was "a wealthy man, with investments in the silk trade and slave trade, income from loans and mortgages."

To Zinn, the Great Depression of the 1930s is a demonstration that "the capitalist system was by its nature unsound: a system driven by the one overriding motive of corporate profit and therefore unstable, unpredictable and blind to human needs." In this narrative, the safety net Franklin Roosevelt erected with the New Deal was not a step forward in constructing a more humane society, but simply a way "to stabilize the system for its own protection" and to avert "the alarming growth or spontaneous rebellion" that the crisis of capitalism had created.

Turning to relatively current events — the Reagan and Clinton presidencies — Zinn (by now quite predictably, as one wends across the 700 pages of his book) finds a wealth of reasons to slam both. Thus under Reagan "new requirements eliminated free school lunches for more than one million poor children," while under Clinton "the United States continued to supply lethal arms

to some of the most vicious regimes in the world” while it took aim at social services even as it awarded “huge contracts to military contractors and generous subsidies to corporations.”

This kind of crude reductionism — employed to portray the United States, all the way from Columbus to Clinton, as a voracious, predatory state — had one purpose and one purpose alone: to serve the agenda of the New Left in its battle to upend the American “establishment” and its superstructure of ideas.

There was no length to which Zinn would not go in pursuit of that objective. Even Nazi Germany’s war against the Jews is turned around by him to hammer the point that America’s blacks “might not see their own situation in the U.S. as much different.”

It is noteworthy that many of Zinn’s colleagues in the historical profession, even those who identify with his political leanings, have been discomfited by the bald readiness to paste useful snippets of the past into a piece of writing that more resembles a political tract than a work of historical scholarship.

“For all his virtuous intentions,” writes Michael Kazin of Georgetown University, “Zinn essentially reduced the past to a Manichean fable.” Sean Wilentz of Princeton is only a shade harsher in saying that Zinn’s interpretation of America’s past amounts to little more than taking “all of the guys in white hats and put them in black hats, and vice versa.” “Howard Zinn’s Influential Mutilations of American History” was the title of a recent analysis of his work undertaken by the historian David Greenberg in the liberal New Republic.

Which brings us back to Mitch Daniels and his concern that the young people of Indiana not be “force fed a totally false version of our history.” Daniels’ worry was well-placed. “A People’s History” was being employed by the state of Indiana as a textbook for summer courses for teachers to earn “professional development credit.”

Removing it is not censorship; it is, rather, setting responsible academic standards — much like using Darwin and not the Bible in science class.

The only “astonishing and shocking” thing about this whole episode is that Daniels is being attacked for upholding critical standards. That is neither censorship nor an infringement of academic freedom. It is sanity. Daniels should be celebrated as an educator who is passionate about American history and American freedom. Howard Zinn was in his own way an enemy of both.

Schoenfeld is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

Power Line

[The Obama-Zinn connection](#)

by Paul Mirengoff

From time to time, we have noted President Obama’s lack of knowledge about American history. The most recent manifestation — his claim that Ho Chi Minh was inspired by America’s Founding Fathers — suggests that Obama’s ignorance is to some extent [willful](#).

It is, in any event, not accidental. From [Stanley Kurtz](#), we learn that Obama is a fan of the leftist historian Howard Zinn. Stanley cites this passage from James T. Kloppenberg's book [Reading Obama](#):

Obama filled out his education in American history as well as politics while he was working in Chicago. Mike Kruglik had been a doctoral candidate in American history at Northwestern before he became an organizer, and when he and Obama talked, they discussed the reasons why a nation supposedly dedicated to freedom and equality provided so little of either.

They talked about the differences between the populists and the progressives and the reasons why ordinary people never seemed to get anywhere in modern America. *Kruglik recalls that Obama had a special interest in the work of the radical historian Howard Zinn.* (Emphasis added)

John and Steve commented on Howard Zinn [here](#). Steve nailed it when he wrote:

The main defect of Zinn is that he takes the deviations from the perfect realization of America's founding principles to be the whole of America, and hence argues that America is therefore wholly fraudulent, missing the paradox that it was precisely America's founding principles (especially individual equality) that made possible the liberal reform tradition. Once you ponder this, you recognize that Zinn, like his intellectual cousin Noam Chomsky, is simply a hater.

Today, the NRO editors summarize Zinn's errors and distortions [here](#). They note:

Zinn misrepresents everything from slavery in the Chesapeake colonies to American involvement in Cuba to the Tet offensive. He reports as fact the story of Polly Baker, a woman persecuted for having an illegitimate child, when the story is in truth a work of fiction, penned by Benjamin Franklin.

Zinn himself described A People's History as "a biased account," that bias being in favor of socialism, a political tendency that Zinn favored and thought would be popular but for the fact that "the Soviet Union gave it a bad name." Mao Zedong and Fidel Castro didn't help much, either, though Zinn had kind words for their revolutions.

Zinn denied being a member of the Communist party, though he was identified as such by several other members and served as an officer in a CPUSA front group. Presented with evidence (including a confession) that Soviet spies Zinn had defended were in fact guilty as charged, his response was: "To me, it didn't matter whether they were guilty or not." Later in life, he trafficked in 9/11 conspiracy theories.

Zinn's book is as notable for what it excludes as it is for its distortions. It is a history of the United States in which there is no Gettysburg address, no Wright brothers, no moon landing, no D-Day landing at Normandy. The thought of Joan Baez receives more prominent attention than does that of Alexander Hamilton.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that President Obama had a special interest in the views of an anti-American historian. And it is only mildly surprising that Americans elected a president with a special interest in those views. As the NRO editors warn: "From kindergarten through graduate school, American education is a sewer of left-wing ideology."

Unless Mitch Daniels and others succeed in improving this state of affairs, the distorted Obama/Zinn view of America likely will prevail within a decade or two. And a self-hating America does not have a promising future.

Volokh Conspiracy

Baptists, Bootleggers, and Marijuana Prohibition

by Ilya Somin

Public choice economist Bruce Yandle famously developed the concept of a [“baptist-bootlegger coalition”](#) to describe situations in which regulation is supported by a strange bedfellow alliance of groups who favor it for narrowly self-interested reasons and those who support it out of moral or ideological considerations. The paradigmatic example was the way in which Baptists (who opposed alcohol for religious reasons) and bootleggers (who wanted its sale to be illegal in order to protect their business interests) supported Prohibition in the 1920s. It looks like [a similar alliance is emerging to oppose marijuana legalization](#):

Pot legalization activists are running into an unexpected and ironic opponent in their efforts to make cannabis legal: Big Marijuana.

Medical marijuana is a billion-dollar industry — legal in 18 states, including California, Nevada, Oregon and Maine — and like any entrenched business, it’s fighting to keep what it has and shut competitors out. Dispensary owners, trade associations and groups representing the industry are deeply concerned — and in some cases actively fighting — ballot initiatives and legislation that could wreck their business model.

That pits them against full legalization advocates, who have been hoping to play off wins at the ballot box last fall in Colorado and Washington state that installed among the most permissive pot laws in the world. Activists are hoping to pass full legalization measures in six more states by 2016....

This spring, the Medical Marijuana Caregivers of Maine joined the usual coalition of anti-pot forces of active law-enforcement groups, social conservatives and public health advocates to oppose a state bill that would legalize possession of small quantities of the drug. The medical marijuana lobby argued that criminal organizations would start smuggling pot to neighboring states, and they complained that the bill’s tax plan was unworkable and unfair.

“The main objections came from the fact that the bill was not built around Maine’s medical marijuana industry,” Paul McCarrier, a lobbyist for the medical marijuana caregivers group, told POLITICO. “Philosophically, we’re not opposed to the decriminalization of marijuana, but the devil is in the details.”

As the *Politico* article quoted above notes, many medical marijuana providers do support full legalization. But those who oppose it seem to be doing so primarily because it would threaten their business interests by breaking their monopoly of legal marijuana sales in those states where medical marijuana dispensaries are legal, but others are still forbidden to sell or cultivate pot.

Investor's Business Daily

Obama dismisses his phony scandals, but hails his phony recovery

by Andrew Malcolm

Letterman: So, Anthony Weiner has apologized for this new scandal. He also apologized for the next one. And the next one after that.

Fallon: British Royal Birth: Kate Middleton's baby weighs about eight pounds. Americans asked, 'How much is that in dollars?'

Conan: At their press conference, Anthony Weiner's wife said she will stand by her husband. Especially when he goes on the computer.

Leno: In a GQ interview, VP Joe Biden says he can die a happy man never having been president. You know what? So can we!

Conan: The other day at LAX, Kanye West punched a photographer. Apparently, Kanye got mad at the guy for not taking his picture.

Conan: The TSA says passengers can soon pass through security without taking their shoes off if they pay an extra \$85. That explains the TSA's new motto, "We catch terrorists who don't have an extra \$85 on them."

Conan: Anyone here go to Comic-Con? I was going to go, but I was stopped by security for "Possession of a Wife and a Job."

Conan: Britain's says it will outlaw "extreme porn." Of course, in Britain, "extreme porn" means the Queen waving without a glove.

Conan: A new study finds the happiest ages are 23 and 69. And the happiest person of all—a 69-year-old dating a 23-year-old.

Fallon: Eliot Spitzer is on the show tonight! He'll only be here for about five minutes, but we're charging him for the full hour.

Leno: Lots of celebrating underway at Buckingham Palace tonight over the new royal baby. I just hope they're able to get up for work tomorrow.

Leno: Can you believe all the publicity over Britain's new royal baby? Unbelievable. You'd think Kim Kardashian and Kanye West were having a kid.

Leno: Antonio Morrison has been suspended from the University of Florida football team after his second arrest in one month. You know what that means? This guy is NFL-ready.

Letterman: A new Batman and Superman movie is coming. I've seen the script. Tired. Batman is the neatnik and Superman is the slob.

Conan: Experts predict the new royal baby could pump \$380 million into the British economy. So the question now is, how do we get this kid to move to Detroit?

Conan: President Obama issued a statement on the royal birth. Obama told the royal baby, "Make sure you hang on to the birth certificate."

Conan: Over the past 30 years, the average American cup size has gone from 34B to 34DD. And that's just the men.

Conan: There's a new brand of cereal designed to increase sexual stamina. It's called "Honey Nut Cheerios-Ohhhhs."

Conan: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is asking a German brewery to build a beer garden in the North Korean capital. Today, Germany said No, adding, "The last time we teamed up with a small Asian country, things got a little crazy."

Leno: San Diego Mayor Bob Filner's ex-aide says he head-locked her and told her to come to work without underwear. You know how many times NBC has told me that?

Letterman: An historic milestone coming. McDonalds is about to sell its 300 billionth hamburger. Yes. And it's closing in on selling its 18th salad too.

Conan: Yesterday, a player for the Tennessee Titans saved a family from a burning car. Then, because he's an NFL player, he murdered them.

Conan: Prince William and Kate Middleton's baby's name is Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge. The parents said, "We wanted a name that reflects his great history and gets him beaten up every day at school."

Leno: Some real serious problems with ObamaCare. First, the president said you *could* keep your doctor. Now, you *might* keep your doctor. And he's changing his slogan from 'Yes, We Can' to 'Perhaps We Could Try.'

Fallon: Anthony Weiner sent nude photos of himself to a woman using a Carlos Danger Yahoo email. His wife was shocked. She was like, "You still use Yahoo?"

Conan: Reports now that LeBron James won't play Olympic basketball for the U.S.. He says he won't play for any country that has less money than he does.

Conan: The NFL wants to test its players for human growth hormone but they're opposed. Players are saying, "There's a time and place for blood tests, and that's at our murder trials."

Conan: At a Philadelphia restaurant, Taylor Swift left the waiter a \$500 tip and two tickets to her concert. But he still broke up with her.

Conan: In Pakistan, there's a new TV show about a female superhero called "The Burka Avenger." Her fantastic superpowers include flying, X-ray vision and going to college.

Leno: More than a million Brazilians greeted Pope Francis the other day on Copacabana Beach for the annual blessing of the thongs.

Leno: Eliot Spitzer is now taking the moral high ground in his bid to become comptroller of New York City. He's saying he's not been with a prostitute in five years. New slogan: 'Whore-Free since 2008.'

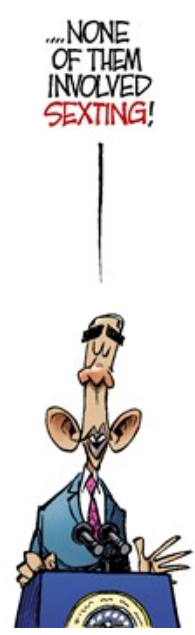
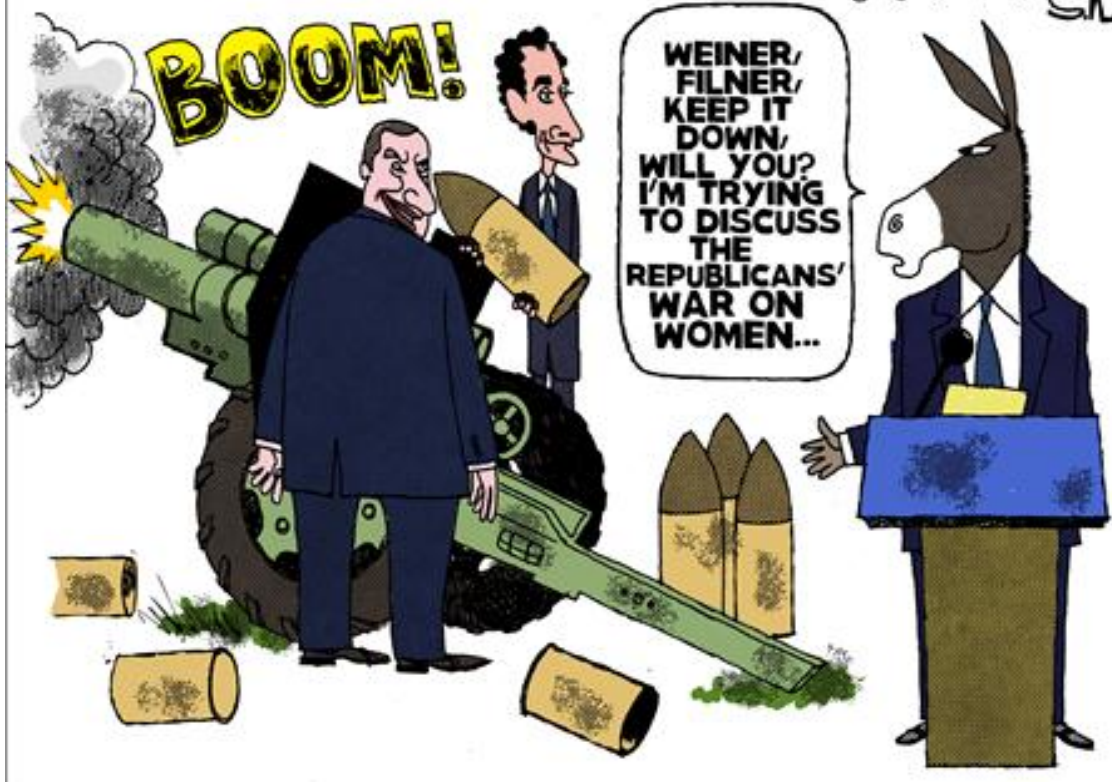
Fallon: Obama's big speech on the economy. Really big! Longer than his State of the Union. He opened with 20 minutes of Anthony Weiner jokes.

Leno: In his economy speech President Obama said we've all been distracted by phony scandals. He prefers we be distracted by his phony recovery.

Fallon: Obama had a big retreat at Camp David the other day for all his Cabinet members and their families. Joe Biden couldn't make it because he was in Asia. That's because Obama told him the retreat was in Asia.

Fallon: Anthony Weiner has fallen to second place in the New York City mayor's race. First place is now held by Carlos Danger.





THE PROBLEM WITH CONSTANTLY PIVOTING - YOU WIND UP GOING IN CIRCLES!

