

February 18, 2014

Walter Russell Mead on the disaster in Syria.

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The President can only count his one remaining blessing: the press is still busy trying to shield itself from understanding the full damage this administration’s painfully inept Syria policy has done. Our Syria response has harmed America’s position, our alliances in the Middle East, and our relationships around the world — to say nothing of the humanitarian disaster we’ve implicated ourselves in.

To bluster heroically about how ‘Assad must go’, then do nothing as he stays; to epically proclaim grandiose red lines and make military threats that fall humiliatingly flat; to grasp with pathetic eagerness an obviously bogus Russian negotiating ploy; to sputter ineffectually as the talks collapse...it is rare that American diplomacy is conducted this poorly for so long a period of time.

To some degree we sympathize with those in the mainstream media who turn their eyes from the sight. It’s not just the decomposing corpse of Obama’s Syria/Russia policy that’s stinking up the joint. The comforting assumptions and diplomatic ideas of a whole generation of ambitious Washington foreign policy wonks are being discredited. They thought to build a new Democratic consensus foreign policy on the tomb of George W. Bush’s failures, but “smart diplomacy” turns out to be deeply flawed. The left is moving toward the kind of meltdown moment that many neocons had as the Bush foreign policy went off the rails. ...

More kudos for Jonathan Turley, this time from Peter Wehner.

During the period of the impeachment of Bill Clinton, there were few intellectually honest liberals to be found. George Washington University Law Professor Jonathan Turley was one of them.

Professor Turley is a liberal who was deeply troubled by President Clinton’s abuse of power and violations of federal law. I recall having had lunch with Professor Turley and William Bennett during that period, and being mightily impressed with Turley’s independence of judgment.

Some 15 years later, I still am.

Professor Turley appeared on FNC's The Kelly File to discuss his concerns about President Obama's willingness, even eagerness, to "rewrite or ignore or negate federal law." Mr. Obama's repeated and unilateral actions amount to "the usurpation of authority that's unprecedented in this country." The liberal "cult of personality" that has grown up around the president worries Professor Turley, who says we are "turning a blind eye to a fundamental change in our system."

"I think many people will come to loathe that they remained silent during this period," according to Turley. ...

Turns out Bill de Blasio is really a typically hypocritical leftist as he tries to suppress charter schools in New York City. His opponent there is Eva Moscovitz who is the subject of this weekend's interview in the Wall Street Journal.

For several months running, the Bill and Eva Show has been the talk of New York City politics. He is the new mayor, Bill de Blasio, an unapologetic old-school liberal Democrat, scourge of the rich and of public charter schools. She is Eva Moskowitz, fellow Democrat and educational-reform champion who runs the city's largest charter network.

How did Ms. Moskowitz, a hero to thousands of New Yorkers of modest means whose children have been able to get a better education than their local public schools offered, end up becoming public enemy No. 1?

She is the city's most prominent, and vocal, advocate for charter schools, and therefore a threat to the powerful teachers union that had been counting the days until the de Blasio administration took over last month from the charter-friendly Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Assailed by Mayor de Blasio and union leaders, Ms. Moskowitz is fighting back with typically sharp elbows.

"A progressive Democrat should be embracing charters, not rejecting them," she says. "It's just wacky."

As she reminds every audience, the 6,700 students at her 22 Success Academy Charter Schools are overwhelmingly from poor, minority families and scored in the top 1% in math and top 7% in English on the most recent state test. Four in five charters in the city outperformed comparable schools.

"We think one of the sins of American education is intellectually underestimating children," she says. "It's so much more engaging for kids when they're challenged." Her other complaint about many traditional schools: "It's incredibly boring." While those public schools don't have her flexibility to design a curriculum and hire and fire teachers, "engagement doesn't cost any money. It can be done tomorrow if the adults decide that boredom is not acceptable and you embrace a curriculum that's interesting and rigorous."

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NY Post editors still want to hear from Lois Lerner.

The American people still need to hear from Lois Lerner. That's a point that can't be made often enough.

Remember her? She's the IRS official who gave a statement before Congress declaring herself innocent of any wrongdoing — and then promptly took the Fifth.

Recently, Congress unearthed another IRS e-mail on which she was copied, talking about taking "off-plan" a discussion about how to harass the 501(c)4 groups the IRS had targeted. Meanwhile, leaks from officials involved in the investigation claim the FBI has not found anything criminal.

That's an amazing finding, given the statement by the American Center for Law and Justice, which represents the IRS targets, that the FBI hadn't interviewed a single of the center's 41 clients. ...

For some reason E. J. Dionne thought he had the intellectual firepower to take on Hayek and his followers. Foolish man. **Volokh Conspiracy** post deals with him.

Last week, E.J. Dionne Jr. penned a column in the Washington Post that blamed adherence to the tenets of the Austrian school of economics for gridlock in Washington. Well, sort of. He seemed to say that Austrian economics simultaneously was an obscure set of ideas of which no one has heard (except Ron Paul) and is yet powerful enough to provide the rallying cry for the Republican Party in Washington. More important, he says that Austrian economics is troublesome as a practical matter by blocking activist-government Keynesian-style interventions and deficit spending that would spur the economy and bring about greater wealth redistribution, but Austrian economics is wrong as a theoretical and historical matter. (As an aside, listening to the recording of Ron Paul's speech, it doesn't sound like he says "We're all Austrians now." He says, "I'm waiting for the day when we can say 'We're all Austrians now.'").

Dionne's column is problematic in two ways. First, he completely misrepresents the central argument of Friedrich Hayek's Road to Serfdom, which seems to be his central target. Second, he fails to accurately reflect the debate over the historical record of Keynesianism during the Great Depression and in particular the "stagflation" episode of the 1970s, which shattered the Nixon-era consensus on the wisdom of Keynesian economics. ...

American Interest

The Syria Nightmare

Slaughter in the Cities, Ineffectual Mumbling in the White House

by Walter Russell Mead

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To some degree we sympathize with those in the mainstream media who turn their eyes from the sight. It's not just the decomposing corpse of Obama's Syria/Russia policy that's stinking up the joint. The comforting assumptions and diplomatic ideas of a whole generation of ambitious Washington foreign policy wonks are being discredited. They thought to build a new Democratic consensus foreign policy on the tomb of George W. Bush's failures, but "smart diplomacy" turns out to be deeply flawed. The left is moving toward the kind of meltdown moment that many neocons had as the Bush foreign policy went off the rails.

President Obama is actually a much smarter man than his current foreign policy troubles would lead one to suppose. He remains, however, trapped between two sets of impulses. On the one hand, he feels a Wilsonian drive to make the world a better place. On the other, he has a Jeffersonian urge to keep America's head down, reducing the scope and scale of our international commitments and ambitions. In his Wilsonian moments he dreams of nonproliferation, overthrows dictators in Libya, and 'speaks out' against human rights violations. But in his Jeffersonian moments, he backs down and works to build 'realistic' relationships with the same people his Wilsonian side periodically insults.

In truth, neither his Wilsonian nor Jeffersonian instincts provide a solid basis for American foreign policy. Moreover, the messy compromises and agonized public hesitations that result when he tries to balance his two sides make things even worse. This is not just about the use of force. An aggressive, boots-on-the-ground foreign policy wouldn't be an improvement over the current mess. The Jeffersonian goals of safeguarding America's core interests with as little risk and cost as possible are necessary, commendable and sound. But trying to coerce Iran to a nuclear deal while allowing it both to tighten its grip on Syria and to wage a regional sectarian war is about as unrealistic a policy as one can imagine. Begging Russia for help in Syria while spitting ineffectively at its Ukraine policy is a bewildering mix of provocation and appeasement. Both of these approaches betray an immense confusion at the heart of the Washington policy process.

President Obama's political ascent was rapid and his opponents were ineffectual. He made it to the Oval Office and won a second term against a series of imploding candidates. For readers old

enough to remember those halcyon days of 2008, he swept into office on a tide of unearned adulation that would have gone to anyone's head. He was then quickly greeted with an equally unearned rush of global adulation in the Nobel Peace Prize. Perhaps because of all of this, he doesn't seem comfortable with the hard-nosed realities around international power.

He isn't a coward or a weakling. He can kill people, and he can order people to fight in faraway wars well enough. But he doesn't seem to know how to make choices that over time increase his power and prestige on the international scene. His strategic choices don't get him closer to where he wants to be, and as time goes by he doesn't appear to be getting any better at international strategy.

Bureaucratic inexperience can't explain this. The President's foreign policy problems don't come from his inability to manage a huge and restive bureaucracy. He is sometimes incapable in that way, as we learned when he publicly touted his health care website without knowing it was about to crash and burn. But that inexperience hasn't been a factor when it comes to foreign policy. Here the president has managed to whip the State Department and the Pentagon into shape, imposing tight White House control over the process in a way that many of his predecessors would envy.

If he were making better strategic choices, he would be able to impose them on the bureaucracy pretty well. His defenders try to shout down criticism by labeling the president's critics as reflexively hawkish neocons nostalgic for the Cheney days. Some of the critics do indeed fall into that category, and perhaps this kind of defense can delay the erosion of support for the president among Democrats. But it doesn't do him any good in the long run. President Obama more than anything else needs to get to grips with the reality that his basic strategic choices aren't working out. This is personal; the memoirs and reportage coming out of the administration make it perfectly clear that some of his most controversial decisions came when he overruled senior advisors and imposed his own stamp on important policy choices.

The President needs to get out of the bubble and take a long hard look at what is going wrong. Jimmy Carter (a man whose basic foreign policy instincts are very close to President Obama's) had a sudden moment of clarity when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. As his defenders correctly point out, the decisions he made in the last 18 months of his presidency prepared the way for Ronald Reagan's more confrontational approach. It's a moment like this that President Obama needs. Perhaps at some point the accumulation of snubs, rebuffs, and failures coming out of his Syria policy will help him push the reset button on a foreign policy approach that's increasingly corroding his and his country's standing in the world.

Contentions

[An Intellectually Honest Liberal Academic](#)

by Peter Wehner

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For now I don't want to go into the merits of what Turley is arguing (which are certainly important). I simply want to point out that he is someone who is willing to make arguments that cut against his political predilections. In that sense, he's an impressive exception to those who engage in "confirmation bias" (a topic that [Jonathan Haidt has written about](#) often and eloquently). He is not blind to the failures of those whose politics he's in agreement with. Rather than simply pushing a partisan political agenda, Professor Turley is willing to call out his own side for violations of basic constitutional principles—and to do so in a thoughtful, informed, and civilized manner.

In that sense, Jonathan Turley is a model for the rest of us.

WSJ - Weekend Interview

[Eva Moskowitz: Teachers Union Enemy No. 1](#)

Her 6,700-strong network of students in New York has come under attack by the new mayor. But she's used to battling against politicians and their union backers.

by Matthew Kaminski

For several months running, the Bill and Eva Show has been the talk of New York City politics. He is the new mayor, [Bill de Blasio](#), an unapologetic old-school liberal Democrat, scourge of the rich and of public charter schools. She is [Eva Moskowitz](#), fellow Democrat and educational-reform champion who runs the city's largest charter network.

How did Ms. Moskowitz, a hero to thousands of New Yorkers of modest means whose children have been able to get a better education than their local public schools offered, end up becoming public enemy No. 1?

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English on the most recent state test. Four in five charters in the city outperformed comparable schools.

"We think one of the sins of American education is intellectually underestimating children," she says. "It's so much more engaging for kids when they're challenged." Her other complaint about many traditional schools: "It's incredibly boring." While those public schools don't have her flexibility to design a curriculum and hire and fire teachers, "engagement doesn't cost any money. It can be done tomorrow if the adults decide that boredom is not acceptable and you embrace a curriculum that's interesting and rigorous."

Such astringent assessments of public education-as-usual are fighting words in New York and other cities where schools find themselves struggling to explain chronic underperformance.

Mr. de Blasio explicitly campaigned last year against charters—and against Ms. Moskowitz in particular. In May at a forum hosted by the United Federation of Teachers, or UFT, the potent government-employee local: "It's time for Eva Moskowitz to stop having the run of the place. . . . She has to stop being tolerated, enabled, supported." In July, on his plans to charge charters—which are independently run public schools—for sharing space with city-run public schools: "There's no way in hell Eva Moskowitz should get free rent, O.K.?"

She gave as good as she got: Last fall, when it became clear that Mr. de Blasio was likely to become the next mayor, Ms. Moskowitz led nearly 20,000 parents, teachers and students in a pro-charter rally at Brooklyn Bridge. As long as Mr. de Blasio was making it personal, she noted in a New York Post op-ed that his son attends a selective, high-performing public high school. "Most parents don't have a public school option that's as good as de Blasio had access to for his son," Ms. Moskowitz wrote. She added that his message to parents in neighborhoods with bad schools was simple: "Drop dead."

In the six weeks since taking office, Mr. de Blasio has energetically begun to make good on his campaign promises. He cut all funding for charter-school construction after 2015. He announced a "moratorium" on putting new charters inside existing schools. He is considering ways to roll back 25 co-locations already approved for the next school year, including 10 Success Academies.

"I have to hope he doesn't understand something . . . that the most at-risk children would be sent back to failing schools," says Ms. Moskowitz, which comes as close to conciliatory as she gets.

Mr. de Blasio has chosen a formidable opponent. The svelte, 49-year-old former history professor drives her staff hard and makes enemies easily. The married mother of three keeps her voice level and chooses words with care, but there's a calm, relentless intensity about her. She favors fashionable dresses and high heels and wears a heart pendant around her neck. Her hard-charging style contrasts with other charter leaders who shun politics, and she makes an inviting union target. So does her salary—\$475,244 in 2011-12—that's more than double the pay for New York's schools chancellor, who runs a system of 1.1 million students.

Asked about the salary, she is briefly stopped, but then pushes back, noting that the organization's board sets her pay, which is "pretty much in keeping" with executive compensation at a New York nonprofit. She has come to expect being clubbed on the subject. "If they didn't have my salary," she says, "they'd find something else."

The Success Academy headquarters in Harlem, up a floor from a French brasserie and around the corner from Bill Clinton's office, resembles a hi-tech startup, full of young people and bright children's paintings on the walls. The fast growth of Success since its first school launched in 2006 has disproved the critics' contention that these schools aren't scalable.

Union leaders dismiss the charters as a boutique effort, with only 4% of the national school population—yet teachers unions and their political allies also treat charters as an existential threat. Charters hire teachers who don't have to join and pay union dues, and who work outside the traditional system.

The schools are also mushrooming nationwide. Nearly half the public schools in Washington, D.C., and virtually all in New Orleans are charters. One reason the friction in New York is especially bad comes from the city's practice during the Bloomberg years of having charters share space with regular schools. The charters then often proceeded, embarrassingly, to outperform the other schools.

"They do payback at a pretty intense level," Ms. Moskowitz says of the teachers union. "There's a lot of bullying."

Ms. Moskowitz's challenge in the coming years will be showing that the charter movement can survive in this hostile political environment. Mr. de Blasio would seem to have the leverage today. "Political leverage comes in many forms," she replies. "You may disagree, but I think that being on the right side of history is a point of leverage. Performance does matter even if politicians don't always recognize it," and "slowly we're building a constituency of elected officials" in support of educational choice.

To that end, Ms. Moskowitz and other reformers are looking to New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) for help. Mentioned in Democratic presidential talk, he has shown an eagerness to strengthen his centrist bona fides and clip the wings of the progressive upstart now running New York City. The governor opposes Mayor de Blasio's tax hike on the city's rich to fund the expansion of pre-K and he says charter schools should be included in the plan (it's not clear they will be). Mr. Cuomo also supports merit pay for teachers.

The lobbying efforts have intensified. According to a tally by the online educational journal Chalkbeat, backers of Ms. Moskowitz's Success Academy schools have donated nearly \$400,000 to the Cuomo re-election campaign. Ms. Moskowitz's political-action committee, Great Public Schools, has given \$65,000 since 2011, according to Chalkbeat.

Earlier this week, Ms. Moskowitz did the rounds in Albany. She didn't want to get drawn out on details, adding that "a legislative solution" may not exist to lift the uncertainty around the future of the city's charter schools. While Mayor de Blasio can't stop the creation of charters, he controls access to the most treasured asset in New York City, real estate.

Some see a possible role for Gov. Cuomo by brokering a compromise on rent. The state could make up for the mayor's slashing of capital expenditures and provide rent support or alternative space for the charters. Mr. de Blasio may not be open to such a deal. And while City Hall reconsiders recent co-location decisions, de Blasio allies in the UFT and their political vehicle, the Working Families Party, are suing to stop the new schools from opening next fall.

Ms. Moskowitz won't concede that charters must pay rent one way or another. Her schools, run by an independent nonprofit, don't charge tuition to students, who are enrolled through a lottery. The state gives charter operators \$13,527 per student, less than what it costs to educate a regular public school student.

"I feel so strongly: Why would you make public schools pay rent?" she asks. "Mind you, do you know that there are CBOs—Community Based Organizations—that use space in the schools?" Mr. de Blasio isn't going after them. She says the charters take underutilized space in a school system with 200,000 empty seats.

Born in New York, Ms. Moskowitz went through the city's public schools and graduated from Stuyvesant, its star high school. She left for college at Penn and a Ph.D. in history at Johns Hopkins, but gave up the tenure track in academia and returned home and ran for City Council. She was interested in education. "You know, people told me you couldn't be a Democrat and run on the fact that the public school system needed to be fixed. I thought why the hell not. I didn't listen to all those advisers. And I lost." The UFT backed her opponent—as it has in all of her subsequent races.

On a second try, in 1999, Ms. Moskowitz won a council seat representing Manhattan's Upper East Side. Three years later, she took the helm of the council's education committee. A competitor for that chairmanship was a Democratic councilman from Brooklyn, Bill de Blasio.

Ms. Moskowitz says the union had previously controlled the committee and set its agenda, even providing cue cards to members. At a delicate moment for the UFT's talks with City Hall on a new contract, Ms. Moskowitz held hearings on the teachers union's work rules and other restrictions in the contract. That move secured the enmity of Randi Weingarten, who ran the local union then and is now president of the American Federation of Teachers.

"The unions decided to get political retribution and they succeeded," Ms. Moskowitz says. The UFT led the opposition to her failed 2005 bid for Manhattan borough president. Ms. Moskowitz soon after decided to try to reform in New York another way, starting the inaugural Harlem Success Academy. It was quickly bounced from its shared home at a public school.

"Randi Weingarten came in and said, 'Over my dead body,' " according to Ms. Moskowitz. But a former political sparring partner, then-Schools Chancellor [Joel Klein](#), became an ally. The Bloomberg administration wanted to "flood the zone" in Harlem with alternatives to failing district schools. Half the kids in Harlem today attend charters, among them KIPP, Democracy Prep and Harlem Children's Zone. Across New York, 70,000 students go to a charter.

The other night, at a private loft in Tribeca, Ms. Moskowitz was speaking before a roomful of donors and supporters. The mood was somber. Ms. Moskowitz said that Success Academy's soon-to-be 10,000-strong student network makes it one of the 10 largest school districts in New York state. At the current rate of growth, in seven or eight years, "we'd be the 15th largest school district in America," she said. "But that's obviously highly in doubt."

Mr. Kaminski is a member of the Journal's editorial board.

NY Post - Editorial
[Calling Lois Lerner](#)



The American people still need to hear from Lois Lerner. That's a point that can't be made often enough.

Remember her? She's the IRS official who gave a statement before Congress declaring herself innocent of any wrongdoing — and then promptly took the Fifth.

Recently, Congress unearthed another IRS e-mail on which she was copied, talking about taking “off-plan” a discussion about how to harass the 501(c)4 groups the IRS had targeted. Meanwhile, leaks from officials involved in the investigation claim the FBI has not found anything criminal.

That's an amazing finding, given the statement by the American Center for Law and Justice, which represents the IRS targets, that the FBI hadn't interviewed a single of the center's 41 clients.

Congress has been trying to get to the bottom of things with hearings, but it has not had much help from the administration. That's partly because the Department of Justice is hiding behind the idea that it can't do anything that might jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.

We believe this gets priorities backward.

The Constitution does not hold government agencies such as the IRS accountable to the FBI. The Constitution holds the government accountable to the people, acting through their elected representatives in Congress.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, one of the heroes in this effort, signed a letter this month to Attorney General Eric Holder, asking for Congress to be briefed. Let's hope they persist.

Because the real resolution of this issue is not whether Lerner goes to jail but whether the American people get to learn what the heck went on at an agency that has the power to ruin people.

The point is, we still need Lerner to testify, and one way to get her is to offer immunity. Of course, Congress would be wise not to make such an offer until it has the documents and evidence it has requested in hand — as well as an idea from others it has interviewed what she likely knows and what questions it wants to ask.

Remember, even if not charged by Justice, she can go to jail if she lies to Congress.

The president says not a "smidgen" of corruption has been unearthed. Like Gowdy, we'd like to know how he knows this.

And we hope Congress is making clear that whatever happens with the Justice investigations, the American people need to get Lois Lerner back on that stand to answer questions under oath.

Volokh Conspiracy

Dionne v. Hayek

by Todd Zywicki

Last week, [E.J. Dionne Jr. penned a column](#) in the Washington Post that blamed adherence to the tenets of the Austrian school of economics for gridlock in Washington. Well, sort of. He seemed to say that Austrian economics simultaneously was an obscure set of ideas of which no one has heard (except Ron Paul) and is yet powerful enough to provide the rallying cry for the Republican Party in Washington. More important, he says that Austrian economics is troublesome as a practical matter by blocking activist-government Keynesian-style interventions and deficit spending that would spur the economy and bring about greater wealth redistribution, but Austrian economics is wrong as a theoretical and historical matter. (As an aside, listening to the recording of Ron Paul's speech, it doesn't sound like he says "We're all Austrians now." He says, "I'm waiting for the day when we can say 'We're all Austrians now.'").

Dionne's column is problematic in two ways. First, he completely misrepresents the central argument of Friedrich Hayek's *Road to Serfdom*, which seems to be his central target. Second, he fails to accurately reflect the debate over the historical record of Keynesianism during the Great Depression and in particular the "stagflation" episode of the 1970s, which shattered the Nixon-era consensus on the wisdom of Keynesian economics.

Start with Hayek. Dionne's attack on Hayek is summarized in this paragraph:

Hayek and Mises perceived little difference between democratic governments that used their power to plan against recessions and dictatorships that did the same thing. In this view, the policies of Franklin Roosevelt led down what Hayek called [the "Road to Serfdom"](#) and were thus objectively comparable to those of Hitler or Stalin.

Later on, Dionne conflates this statement with what he represents to be the takeaway from Hayek's critique of the New Deal and related policies:

Hayek believed, Judt said, that "if you begin with welfare policies of any sort — directing individuals, taxing for social ends, engineering the outcomes of market relationships — you will end up with Hitler."

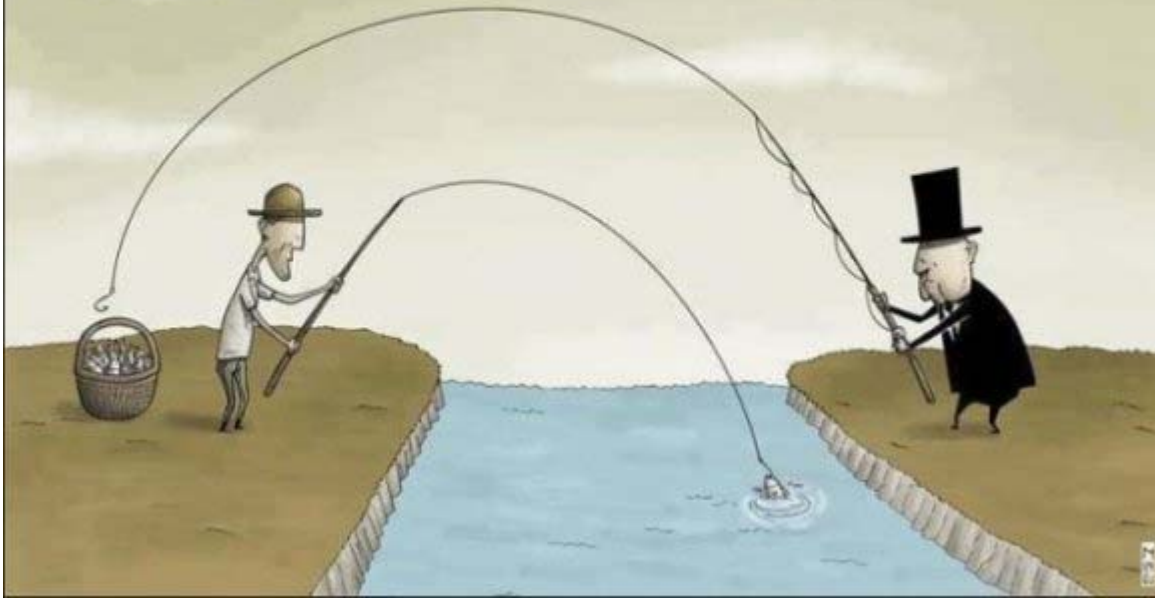
This is not an accurate summary of Hayek's thesis in the book (I observe in passing, it isn't evident from the column that Dionne has actually read *The Road to Serfdom* itself, as opposed to just reading commentators on the book who have also fundamentally misunderstood the book). Hayek did not believe that "if you begin with welfare policies of any sort" that you were necessarily on the road to serfdom. In fact, the entire last part of his famed *The Constitution of Liberty* is dedicated to explaining how many modern welfare-state policies could be implemented in a manner that would not unduly threaten liberty and the rule of law. Hayek *never* said that the basics of the welfare state were incompatible with individual liberty.

Hayek's concern was that comprehensive economic planning of the economy by the state was incompatible with individual liberty and the rule of law over the long run. His attack on the New Deal was not about Social Security, but rather the National Recovery Act and other interventions designed to cartelize industries, erect barriers to entry, raise prices for producers at the expense of consumers, fix wages, and divide markets among incumbent producers. Central planning, not the welfare state, is what was incompatible with individual liberty.

Hayek's argument in *The Road to Serfdom* is straightforward. There is a reality of existence that can be called the "economic problem" (my term, not his). And anyone who has taken Economics 101 knows what it is—the reality of scarce resources in the world and unlimited wants. "Scarce" in the economic sense—that everything has an opportunity cost attached to it. Right now I can either be writing this blog post or shoveling my walkway, but I can't be doing both. Unlimited wants in the sense that people generally prefer more to less of most goods.

So why does that matter? Hayek's point is that given this reality—scarce resources and unlimited wants—there are fundamentally only two ways to allocate scarce resources among unlimited wants. The first is through impersonal processes such as the market process, or more accurately, the market process consists of billions of individuals making billions of decisions every single day on how to spend their time and other resources. In the market process, the guiding principle is the price system—prices are fundamentally amoral in the sense that they simply provide information about what these billions of people believe is the most important allocation of scarce resources. It may be that this means it is children's vaccines or it may mean Honey Boo Boo marathons. In this sense, the price system is completely bottom-up—it is the aggregation of all these marginal and constantly-changing expressions of preferences of people deciding how to allocate their resources and a signal of how resources are valued by other people. Which individual ends are satisfied and at what cost is thus fundamentally driven by billions of individual decisions. You may wish for a career as a Knight of the Roundtable, but in the modern economy it will be prohibitively expensive to pursue that career. In this world, then, Hayek says the role of the government is provide the rules of the road, i.e., should be organized around the rule of law, which is a set of purpose-independent rules that tell people how to go about pursuing their own freely-chosen ends, but doesn't tell them what ends they must choose. To put it another way, the rule of law provides traffic rules, but doesn't tell you which exit you have to get off when you are on the highway.

The Man vs the State





Vegetarian.

Ancient tribal slang
for the village idiot who can't
hunt, fish or ride.