

December 11, 2014

So how's the Hillary campaign you ask? We will spend some time looking at it today.

Michael Barone is first up. He says her futures are not doing well.

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*Most Americans may have been content with a foreign policy of "leading from behind." But as the world spins out of control, they don't like the results. ...*

Roger Simon tries to make sense of her "empathy" remark.

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*Hillary, as most know now, is not a master of the English language in general. ...*

Jennifer Rubin doesn't think bad polls will stop her.

Henry Enten at Five Thirty Eight asks what it would take for Hillary Clinton to decline to run for president. My first thought was: **Embalming fluid**. This is a woman who, since her days in Arkansas, has craved money and power — and now, thanks to her ludicrously excessive speaking fees and delayed presidential announcement, she has found a way to do both.

*Enten earnestly looks at polls suggesting Hillary Clinton's numbers are not all that impressive. ("The current environment suggests Clinton would need to be stronger than a generic Democratic candidate to be considered the favorite. Instead, her standing has deteriorated. ...*

**Besides, Jennifer** points out that Clinton, Inc. is a profitable enterprise.

*Hillary Clinton's greed knows no bounds. "Hillary Clinton is scheduled to deliver a paid speech in March 2015, a point on the calendar that raises questions about when she will announce her decision on running for president and whether she intends to leave the Democratic Party uncertain of her plans until next spring," reports the Wall Street Journal. The report continues: "[I]t would seem unlikely that she would be an announced candidate for president and still be delivering paid speeches. Were she to do that, she would open herself to criticism that her interests are divided. She would also be vulnerable to criticism that private interests were trying to curry favor with a potential president of the U.S. by paying her speaking fees. Such considerations would suggest that she won't announce her candidacy until at least the spring of 2015 — after she is done with her paid speeches."*

*For starters, it is a little late to be worrying about private interests "trying to curry favor with a potential president of the U.S. by paying her speaking fees." That has already happened, and she will have to explain, especially to the newly energized populist left, why she has taken millions of dollars in speaking fees from hedge funds, banks, car dealers and other big-business groups.*

*Mother Jones* described the problem thusly: "Hillary's for-profit speaking gigs raise a serious question for a possible presidential candidate: ...

**Jonathan Tobin** wonders if the Dem left can get Liz Warren to challenge Hillary.

*While conservatives eagerly seize on each new Hillary Clinton gaffe as proof that she is not the invincible presidential candidate Democrats believe her to be, the political left is looking at the former secretary of state's struggles from a different perspective. Tired of being the doormat for their party's establishment wing led by the Clintons and unhappy with the former first family's level of comfort with Wall Street, the so-called progressive wing of the Democrats is ready to assert itself. That's the dynamic that is driving both a new assertiveness on the part of congressional liberals as well as the decision of Moveon.org to try to derail Clinton's coronation in 2016 by starting a movement to draft Senator Elizabeth Warren to run against her.*

*The Moveon.org effort may be nothing more than a stunt by a group that has struggled to maintain its once central role in pushing the liberal agenda in recent years. ...*

**Bret Stephens** closes out the Hillary items.

*... Here's another question: If Mrs. Clinton is at least prepared to attempt a show of empathy for the Putins and Khameneis of the world, why so little empathy for American allies? In March 2010 a minor Israeli official announced the approval of some additional construction in a Jerusalem neighborhood, mischaracterized as a "settlement," when Vice President Joe Biden was in the country. It was an ordinary bureaucratic bungle by the Israeli government.*

*So what did Mrs. Clinton do? She called Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu to yell at him. "I told the Prime Minister that President Obama had viewed the news about East Jerusalem as 'a personal insult to him, the Vice President, and the United States,' " as she recounts in her memoir.*

*Such has been the pattern of the Obama administration, whose foreign policy record Mrs. Clinton cannot escape or finesse: misplaced understanding toward our adversaries, shrill lectures for our friends. The next president needs to make it the other way around.*

The NY Times had an interesting picture essay of Detroit by Air in last Sunday's edition. The pictures are intriguing. The first is a long shot of the downtown area but with enough foreground to show how the city's homes are being disappeared. Close to downtown in the center of the shot is Comerica Park where the Tigers play and just to the left is Ford Field, the covered stadium for the Lions. The writer/photographer is a typical liberal weenie. Here's how he closes;

*... I think that the inner ring of Detroit will win out in the long run, as cities are and will continue to be the greenest places to live on a per-capita basis. This is made only more striking when I fly over the suburbs and see the inefficiency of single-family homes. They are dependent on cars, for one thing, and are connected by miles of paved roads to single-use zones of office and retail developments. These areas will not fare well, if we begin to mitigate climate change through measures like a carbon tax.*

*Detroit's rebound is just a matter of time. Someday, I believe, it will be comparable to the once rundown sections of New York, Boston, Minneapolis and San Francisco, cities that are now thriving.*

Quelle horreur! A Harvard prof was overcharged \$4 on a \$50 Chinese take-out order and he makes a federal case of it. Power Line has the story.

*Everyone remembers Bill Buckley's famous axiom that he'd rather be governed by the first 2,000 names in the Boston phone book than the faculty of Harvard University. My great teacher Harry Jaffa had a corollary to the Buckley Theorem, which held that it would be better to be educated by the first 2,000 names in the Boston phone book than the faculty of Harvard.*

*Either way, fresh evidence of the Buckley Theorem and Jaffa Corollary comes this week from Harvard Business School's professor Ben Edelman, who, though a mere associate professor, is clearly striving for tenure as a full jerk. (This adds evidence, by the way, that business schools are succumbing to political correctness and intellectual triviality as much as any law or other graduate school.)*

*It seems the good Prof. Edelman recently ordered about \$50 worth of food from a Chinese take out, and—sit down for this outrage—was overcharged \$4 on his bill. Okay, so maybe this immigrant merchant, who suffers from not having a favored Hispanic surname\*, cheated a little on the bill. Or maybe, just maybe, it was an honest mistake. Whatever the truth of the matter, the shriveled soul that is Prof. Edelman wants to make a federal case out of the \$4, though I suspect Prof. Edelman's salary at HBS is likely greater than the profits of this Chinese takeout joint, and I thought Harvard profs were all about sharing the wealth. ...*

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## Examiner

### **Clinton's stock declining in futures market**

by Michael Barone

Is the market in Hillary Clinton futures collapsing? Quite possibly so.

A year ago Clinton seemed likely to become the next president. Presumably she and her husband had not yet started to call themselves, Bush style, 42 and 45. But she had an overwhelming lead in the polls for the Democratic nomination and was getting 50 percent or more in most polls against possible Republican candidates in general election pairings.

Ratings of Clinton's performance as secretary of state were positive. She seemed poised to hold and add onto Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 majorities.

Things look different now. Obama now gets negative marks on foreign policy, and some of the luster is off Clinton's record as well. With the Islamic State ravaging much of Iraq and Syria, the decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq looks dubious. With Vladimir Putin's Russia rampaging through much of Ukraine, Clinton's reset button looks ludicrous.

Most Americans may have been content with a foreign policy of "leading from behind." But as the world spins out of control, they don't like the results.

And over the course of 2014 Clinton's favorability ratings have declined. Her memoir of her Cabinet service had a curiously defensive title — *Hard Choices* — and her book tour was something like the opposite of a ringing success. Sales were slim and readership probably even slimmer. The prospect of a Clinton presidency may thrill a few aging feminists, but few others seem to find her very interesting.

There's plenty of bad news for Clinton in last month's [Quinnipiac poll](#), the first national survey conducted since the November election. Clinton runs 1 point behind Mitt Romney, 1 point ahead of Chris Christie, 4 points ahead of Paul Ryan and 5 points ahead of Jeb Bush, Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee. None of this can be blamed on low off-year turnout; the poll is of registered voters.

All these Republicans except Romney are significantly less well known than Clinton. When asked whether their feelings are favorable or unfavorable, only 5 percent of poll respondents have no opinion on Clinton and 14 percent on Romney; the numbers for the other Republicans run between 29 and 39 percent. So she's running even with the best-known candidate while the others all have room to grow.

Even more significant are Clinton's percentages against these candidates: 44, 45, 46, 46, 46 and 46. In seriously contested 2014 Senate races, Democratic incumbents tended to run about even with their poll numbers, while their Republican challengers ran well ahead of theirs. If you apply the same rule to Clinton's Quinnipiac numbers, she ends up with about the same percentage as John McCain in 2008 or Democratic House candidates in 2010 and 2014.

Now, things may be different by 2016. Obama's job approval could rise, and Democrats generally could regain the advantage over Republicans they enjoyed a year ago. Increased economic growth could strengthen the incumbent party — although, as RealClearPolitics.com analyst [Sean Trende](#) points out, even significantly greater growth would not point to a Democratic victory under most political scientists' election prediction formulas.

But it's hard to avoid the conclusion of FiveThirtyEight.com analyst [Harry Enten](#). Clinton, he wrote last Monday, "no longer looks like such a juggernaut. Not only are her numbers dropping, but she is running on par with a Democratic brand in its weakest shape in a decade."

That's not what optimistic Democrats were expecting earlier this year. They thought nostalgia for Bill Clinton's presidency would enable Hillary Clinton to run ahead of party lines. Voters not eager for a third Obama term might welcome a third Clinton term.

But those are appeals that look to the past. Voters expect presidential candidates to look to the future. Hillary Clinton has wide leads in polls for the Democratic nomination. But her record is a bad fit for the Democratic primary electorate in which the energy currently comes from the left. Lurching to the left and then tacking toward the center doesn't project a clear vision of the future.

In 1991, candidate Bill Clinton gave three policy speeches to overflow crowds at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall. When Hillary Clinton spoke there last week, the balcony was almost empty and there were empty seats in the lower level, too.

Clinton futures were on the rise 23 years ago. They seem to be in decline 23 years later.

## Roger L. Simon [Explaining Hillary's 'Sympathy for the Devil'](#)

When I first read that Hillary Clinton said we should have "[empathy](#)" for our enemies, my first thought was — is she senile? Who is she talking about? Empathy for Hitler? Pol Pot? Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi? Surely if we only empathized with the ISIS leader a bit more, they wouldn't be slicing off as many heads or placing as many women in sexual slavery, not to mention shooting large groups after having had them dig their own mass graves, Nazi-style. All that business about global jihad and caliphates and "see you in New York" would go away with a little sympathy. (Cue [Mick Jagger](#).)

Yes, I know sympathy is often defined as "feeling for" someone and empathy "feeling into," but let's not get bogged down in minor distinctions. It's hard for anyone with basic morality to have empathy or sympathy for ruthless transnational mass murderers motivated by extreme religious fanaticism. On *Fox News Sunday*, even Hillary's normally complaisant supporter Jane Harman seemed repelled. [George Will](#) rose to her defense (sort of) by explaining Hillary's peculiar word choice by saying Clinton employed "gaseous new-age rhetoric" about respect and empathy. True enough, and witty, but I suspect it's more than that. Why would her mind even go in that direction?

Hillary, as most know now, is not a master of the English language in general. She misspeaks herself frequently or simply reacts, as in the "what difference does it make?" outburst about Benghazi. In this way she is following in the footsteps of Bush 43 and Obama, neither of whom

could be mistaken for [Demosthenes](#), although Obama had some Greek pretensions in his [scenic design](#) preferences.

Bush stumbled with words because of weak linguistic facility he often joked about. For Obama it was something considerably worse, almost always to do with deception. He frequently lies and almost never speaks with candor, so ultimately the normal reaction is to tune him out, as most have at this point.

For Hillary, the problem is she no longer knows *what* she thinks — an absolute prescription for filling a void with “gaseous new-age rhetoric.” These days, it’s the first thing that comes to mind. You can almost see the wheels grinding when asked a question:

*What did I think in the days of Saul Alinsky? What did I think back in Little Rock? What did I think when Bill was president, first term, second term? Should I bake cookies? Why did Monica keep that dress? How could I have left those billing records in the White house? Is this good in Ohio? What did I think when senator? When do the Watergate hearings start? What did I think when secretary of State? Is this a war zone? Am I under fire? What did Sergei Lavrov do with that reset button? Will Lanny Davis back me up on Fox? Why does Putin always show off his pecs? Is my old friend Suha still at the Bristol? I should ask Huma. What did Obama say? Should I be separating from him on this one or not?*

TILT!

Yes, like a pinball player, you can only handle so much. With all those different personas, opinions and rationalizations racing around in the brain, the machine overloads. And in Hillary’s case that machine is long overfilled, like one of those computer hard drives we’ve all junked. What we have here is not a “failure to communicate.” We have someone quite literally with nothing left to say — except perhaps “Elect me! Elect me! Elected me!” Oh, and by the way, I’m a woman.

So is half the rest of the human race. Do they all get to be president?

## Right Turn

### [Clinton doesn't care about her polls](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

[Henry Enten](#) at Five Thirty Eight asks what it would take for Hillary Clinton to decline to run for president. My first thought was: *Embalming fluid*. This is a woman who, since her days in Arkansas, has craved money and power — and now, thanks to her ludicrously excessive speaking fees and delayed presidential announcement, she has found a way to do both.

Enten earnestly looks at polls suggesting Hillary Clinton’s numbers are not all that impressive. (“The current environment suggests Clinton would need to be stronger than a generic Democratic candidate to be considered the favorite. Instead, her standing has deteriorated. YouGov has been polling Clinton’s favorable ratings among adults over the past six years (adults overall tend to be more Democratic leaning than just registered voters.”) Really, do we think Clinton would look at her poll numbers and decide for the sake of the party and the country that she would let, say, Sen. Elizabeth Warren become the first woman president?

To the extent Hillary Clinton looks at polls, she is almost certainly thinking — and we strongly believe she is, since her spinners are making the case — that there is no one of national stature on the Democratic side, that the GOP may tear itself apart or nominate a dunderhead, and that once she and Bill get out there to remind the country of the wonderful 1990s, everything will turn out fine. If you have been watching the Clintons for the past quarter-century, you know they have the affliction that many politicians suffer from: *The complete inability to distinguish between what is good for the country and what they want to do.*

Moreover, as [The Fix explains](#), Clinton is looking for redemption for her awful 2008 campaign. The only one with more to prove in 2016 is Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who certainly does not want Americans' final memory of him to be the 2012 presidential debates. Unlike Clinton, however, Perry was humbled by the experience and is doggedly studying issues and writing and speaking about his specific policy ideas, and he is determined to out work and out hustle those who take him too lightly. If Clinton has an inordinate sense of entitlement, Perry has remarkable self-awareness and insight into his challenges.

Ironically, now that Republicans have figured out how vulnerable Clinton is (because of her longevity on the national stage, her State Department record, her political ham-handedness and her inability to figure out how to simultaneously cling to Obama and reject him), they are single-minded in focusing on how to beat her. It is a gift, really, to know with such a high degree of certainty who you think your opponent will be. That makes messaging and your own side's candidate selection so much easier. Meanwhile, for the very reason Republicans are excited, there is some decided nervousness in Democratic ranks and boredom verging on exasperation in the media, which are already [fed up with Clinton's waiting game](#) and likely dread a noncompetitive primary.

Barring (God forbid) some health or personal crisis, Clinton is almost certain (as in over 90 percent) to run. The real question becomes whether she stumbles early — Iowa is her bete noire, of course. If that occurs and there is a competent opponent, as there was in 2008, Clinton could find herself reliving 2008, not the 1990s. But step away without giving it a shot? No way.

## Right Turn

### [\*\*Hillary Clinton Inc. is profitable indeed\*\*](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

Hillary Clinton's greed knows no bounds. "Hillary Clinton is scheduled to deliver a paid speech in March 2015, a point on the calendar that raises questions about when she will announce her decision on running for president and whether she intends to leave the Democratic Party uncertain of her plans until next spring," reports the [Wall Street Journal](#). The report continues: "[I]t would seem unlikely that she would be an announced candidate for president and still be delivering paid speeches. Were she to do that, she would open herself to criticism that her interests are divided. She would also be vulnerable to criticism that private interests were trying to curry favor with a potential president of the U.S. by paying her speaking fees. Such considerations would suggest that she won't announce her candidacy until at least the spring of 2015 — after she is done with her paid speeches."

For starters, it is a little late to be worrying about private interests "trying to curry favor with a potential president of the U.S. by paying her speaking fees." That has already happened, and she

will have to explain, especially to the newly energized populist left, why she has taken millions of dollars in speaking fees from hedge funds, banks, car dealers and other big-business groups.

[Mother Jones](#) described the problem thusly: “Hillary’s for-profit speaking gigs raise a serious question for a possible presidential candidate: Is she being courted by and/or providing access to the well-heeled companies and industry groups—including Goldman Sachs, the Carlyle Group, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the National Association of Realtors, and the US Green Building Council, among many others—that have paid her to speak?” Well, isn’t that the whole point?

Aside from the insatiable desire for more money (how much will be enough to [convince that her she is rich](#)?), she apparently thinks these events are good for her presidential prospects. Otherwise, she would be doing [charitable work in Africa](#), volunteering her time with [wounded warriors](#) or working with [Afghan women](#) — that sort of thing. But what about the Clinton Foundation?

Ah, now there is a can of worms. First, there were [\\$8.448 million in travel expenses – last year alone](#). Is this a foundation that requires extensive travel or a luxury travel operation under the cover of a foundation? Then, there is the matter of donors — foreign governments, big business, political operatives and the like. In 2008, in conjunction with Clinton’s nomination as secretary of state, a partial list was released. Imagine if the GOP candidate ran a foundation that took up to [\\$25 million from Saudi Arabia](#). At the time, the [New York Times reported](#):

Saudi Arabia alone gave to the foundation \$10 million to \$25 million, as did government aid agencies in Australia and the Dominican Republic. Brunei, Kuwait, Norway, Oman, Qatar and Taiwan each gave more than \$1 million. So did the ruling family of Abu Dhabi and the Dubai Foundation, both based in the United Arab Emirates, and the Friends of Saudi Arabia, founded by a Saudi prince.

Also among the largest donors were a businessman who was close to the onetime military ruler of Nigeria, a Ukrainian tycoon who was son-in-law of that former Soviet republic’s authoritarian president and a Canadian mining executive who took [Bill] Clinton to Kazakhstan while trying to win lucrative uranium contracts.

And finally, with respect to the foundation, allegations of [mismanagement and conflicts of interest](#) have been [widely reported](#). Is this about the poor and needy or about the Clintons and the elites who want to [attend showy events](#) and be seen doing good?

“Strategic” and “meeting” partners listed for the 2014 Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting included Barclays, Cisco, Monsanto and Goldman Sachs, Exxon Mobil, Dow and Blackstone. No conflict of interest or cronyism problem there, no siree. It is so easy to convince oneself that speaking, attending and making deals (so many wealthy people, so many finance men and advisers peddling their wares) during these shindigs are all in the service of the needy. Indirectly and partially they are — but by means that leave the rich richer and the famous more famous. One can do a lot more good, a lot less expensively and with a lot less public self-congratulation. But what fun would that be?

In short, the ongoing speeches and the foundation revive the age-old question about the Clintons: Is this all about us, or all about them getting rich?

## **Contentions**

### **Can Moveon Nudge Warren to Run?**

by Jonathan S. Tobin

While conservatives eagerly seize on [each new Hillary Clinton gaffe](#) as proof that she is not the invincible presidential candidate Democrats believe her to be, the political left is looking at the former secretary of state's struggles from a different perspective. Tired of being the doormat for their party's establishment wing led by the Clintons and unhappy with the former first family's level of comfort with Wall Street, the so-called progressive wing of the Democrats is ready to assert itself. That's the dynamic that is driving both a new assertiveness on the part of congressional liberals as well as [the decision of Moveon.org to try to derail Clinton's coronation in 2016](#) by starting a movement to draft Senator Elizabeth Warren to run against her.

The Moveon.org effort may be nothing more than a stunt by a group that has struggled to maintain its once central role in pushing the liberal agenda in recent years. Once George W. Bush left the presidency and was replaced by Barack Obama, his administration, with its top-down culture that squelches disagreement and debate, has dominated the Democrats leaving left-wingers to kibitz impotently on the sidelines. But with Obama moving into the lame duck period of his presidency, the time may have come for the left to get into the fight again as they seek to emulate the success of their Tea Party antagonists on the right, [as Politico noted in an article today](#).

Moveon does have a huge mailing list of what they claim are eight million left-wing activists that belong to their movement. But while that sounds impressive, it has yet to be seen whether Moveon still has the ability to mobilize these people in a coherent way so as to emulate the kind of local grassroots activity that made the Tea Party such a force in 2010 even if its national leadership was far more divided than that of Moveon.

Just as problematic is the question of whether Warren is even interested in running. She has, as her staff again said yesterday, repeatedly told those asking about the possibility that she won't do it. Whether that was merely a case of a prudent politician not wishing to tilt against windmills by challenging the Clinton machine or a genuine lack of desire for the presidency, we don't know.

Can Moveon start something that could lead to Warren changing her mind?

It cannot have escaped the Massachusetts senator that Clinton's post-State Department public appearances have been less than successful. Most of the party is treating Clinton as if she is the presumptive nominee but as everyone remembers from 2008, she is not a brilliant politician. Her string of gaffes during her book tour and subsequent misstatements have not dented her poll numbers when matched up against the motley crew of other potential Democratic presidential candidates. But Warren is someone who, like Barack Obama, can capture the hearts of the party's liberal base. Moreover, being opposed by an even more liberal woman would rob Clinton of the main narrative of her presidential juggernaut: the effort to elect the first female president.

Any challenge to Clinton would be politically perilous and a savvy operator like Warren is rightly shy about jumping into a fight with a family that plays for keeps. Warren may not be sure that her left-wing support will be enough to compensate for the money the Clintons can raise or their ability to cash in IOUs from politicians around the country. But while waiting her turn seems like the smart play, at 65, 2016 may actually be Warren's best shot at the presidency, especially if Clinton does run and serve two terms.

In the coming months, Warren will concentrate on leading a liberal guerilla war against moderate Democrats in Congress and hope to become the face of resistance to the GOP majority. But at the same time she will probably stay out of the presidential fray and watch and wait to see if Clinton is still stumbling through 2015 as she prepares for an inevitable run. But if Moveon can provide a viable platform for left-wing resistance to Clinton's nomination, a Warren candidacy will be made a bit more feasible. Though Moveon isn't by itself enough to scare Clinton, she should be very afraid of Warren and the passion of an aroused left-wing base. If the senator runs, Hillary will be in for the fight of her life.

**WSJ**

## **Hillary Clinton's Empathy Deficit**

**'Smart power' shouldn't include shrill lectures for our friends.**

by Bret Stephens

Hillary Clinton is being pilloried by pundits on the right for saying, at a recent speech at Georgetown, that America's leaders should "empathize" with America's enemies. But what's so wrong about that?

"This is what we call smart power," she said, using the phrase that was supposed to define her tenure as secretary of state. "Using every possible tool and partner to advance peace and security. Leaving no one side on the sidelines. Showing respect even for one's enemies. Trying to understand, in so far as psychologically possible, [and] empathize with their perspective and point of view."

As a matter of politics, "empathize" was a lousy word choice, a reminder that Mrs. Clinton is as tineared as she is ambitious: Expect a GOP political attack ad if and when she runs for president.

But empathy isn't sympathy. Understanding an enemy's point of view does not mean taking their side. Respect is not solidarity. "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles," Sun Tzu teaches in "The Art of War." "If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

It's good advice. Mrs. Clinton isn't wrong to adopt it. Her problem is that she appears to be a singularly lousy empathizer.

In April 2005 Vladimir Putin said the collapse of the Soviet Union was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." In 2006 a Russian dissident in London was poisoned by polonium—a nuclear attack in miniature—leading to a breakdown in relations between London and Moscow. In 2008 Russia invaded Georgia. That same year, educational manuals for Russian social-studies teachers took the view that Joseph Stalin was "the most successful Soviet leader ever."

What about the Great Terror of the 1930s, in which millions of Soviet citizens were killed by Stalin's henchmen? That, according to the manual, happened because Stalin "did not know who would deal the next blow, and for that reason he attacked every known group and movement." Commenting on the Terror, Mr. Putin allowed that the killing was terrible "but in other countries worse things happened."

Such was the man Mrs. Clinton had every reason to “understand” when she arrived at the State Department in 2009. What conclusions was she supposed to draw about someone whose core ambition was to restore the reputation, and the former borders, of the old Soviet Union? That the time had come to clink glasses and announce a reset?

Or take Iran. In her most recent memoir, Mrs. Clinton asks: “If Iran had a nuclear weapon tomorrow, would that create even one more job for a country where millions of young people are out of work? Would it send one more Iranian to college or rebuild the roads and ports still crumbling from the war with Iraq a generation ago? When Iranians look abroad, would they rather end up like North Korea or South Korea?”

These are the kinds of questions that often confound Americans who too easily assume that the things democratic politicians want for their people are the same things dictators want for themselves. South or North Korea? That’s easy: Tehran’s ties to Pyongyang run deep because both capitals see themselves resisting American imperialism. Nuclear weapons or a better economy? That’s easy, too, since the former allow you to bully your neighbors and dominate the region, while the latter merely create a growing middle class demanding greater civic and political freedoms.

If Mrs. Clinton made a serious effort to see things from the ayatollahs’ point of view, maybe she’d get this. If she had real respect for them, she wouldn’t suppose that they are merely too stupid, or blinded by prejudice, or stuck in the past, to understand their own values and self-interest. Why do liberals who celebrate diversity seem to think that, deep down, all people want the same things?

Here’s another question: If Mrs. Clinton is at least prepared to attempt a show of empathy for the Putins and Khameneis of the world, why so little empathy for American allies? In March 2010 a minor Israeli official announced the approval of some additional construction in a Jerusalem neighborhood, mischaracterized as a “settlement,” when Vice President [Joe Biden](#) was in the country. It was an ordinary bureaucratic bungle by the Israeli government.

So what did Mrs. Clinton do? She called Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu to yell at him. “I told the Prime Minister that President Obama had viewed the news about East Jerusalem as ‘a personal insult to him, the Vice President, and the United States,’ ” as she recounts in her memoir.

Such has been the pattern of the Obama administration, whose foreign policy record Mrs. Clinton cannot escape or finesse: misplaced understanding toward our adversaries, shrill lectures for our friends. The next president needs to make it the other way around.

**NY Times**

**Detroit by Air**

by Alex S. MacLean

You can learn a lot about a place by seeing it from the air. I’m a pilot and an aerial photographer; I am also trained as an architect. I’ve always been interested in how the natural and constructed worlds work together, and sometimes collide. Issues like income inequality also reveal themselves quickly from above, and in Detroit and the surrounding area, the stark contrast between the haves and the have-nots couldn’t be more apparent.

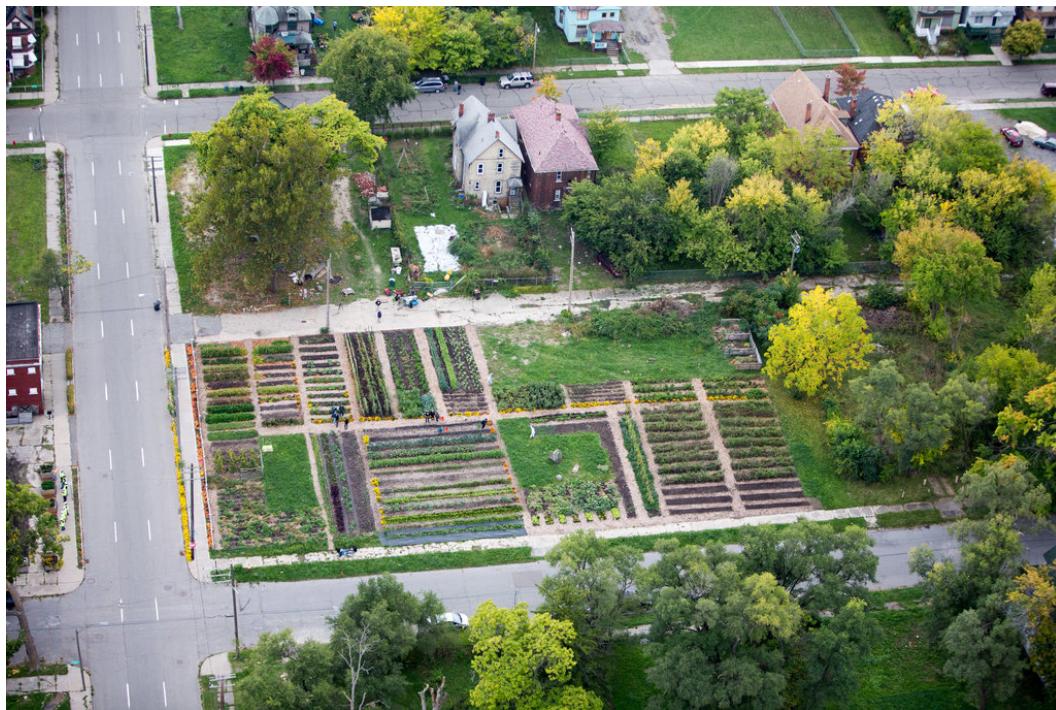
Outside the city center, I flew over new homes built alongside lakes and country clubs. Five-car garages, swimming pools and pool houses decorated elaborately landscaped yards. However, once I crossed into the city limits, the urban fabric of Detroit looked like a moth-eaten blanket. Vast depopulated areas were filled with vacant lots and blocks of boarded-up and burned-out homes. This type of blight is visible in other American cities but few compare to the emptiness that surrounds Detroit's downtown.

I first photographed Detroit from the air during the Reagan-Carter campaign 34 years ago. Housing abandonment was well underway. The city had lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs as the auto industry contracted and moved parts of its operations out of Detroit. "White flight" from the city, exacerbated by race riots in 1967, also contributed to severe depopulation of the area. Meanwhile, the construction of highways allowed people to live farther away and commute to work, perpetuating the exodus to the suburbs. When I photographed the city in 2004, Detroit was still in decline. I could see from a plane even more abandoned and burned-out buildings, rubble and foundations poking out above the ground. The situation only worsened with the 2008 recession.

From the air today, the decline appears to be slowing. The spaces once covered in rubble are cleared and mowed. Open green spaces, along with new community gardens and orchards, look almost bucolic against the downtown skyline. From my plane, I sense the potential for resurgence in these areas. I can see how neighborhoods could become more walkable and support mixed-use development, with new shops, public transit and nearby parks and schools. However, this resurgence relies on a city that is stumbling out of bankruptcy. It also depends on an agency with the authority to consolidate abandoned lots for development and open spaces.

I think that the inner ring of Detroit will win out in the long run, as cities are and will continue to be the greenest places to live on a per-capita basis. This is made only more striking when I fly over the suburbs and see the inefficiency of single-family homes. They are dependent on cars, for one thing, and are connected by miles of paved roads to single-use zones of office and retail developments. These areas will not fare well, if we begin to mitigate climate change through measures like a carbon tax.

Detroit's rebound is just a matter of time. Someday, I believe, it will be comparable to the once rundown sections of New York, Boston, Minneapolis and San Francisco, cities that are now thriving.



*The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative's Brush Street farm, north of downtown Detroit. The farm covers a full acre of land.*



*The Jefferson/Mack neighborhood*



*Brush Park Neighborhood*



*The Packard plant, regarded as a sophisticated auto production facility when it opened in the early 1900s, is now in ruins.*



*Alter Road, center, serves as a dividing line between vacant lots in Detroit and the suburb of Grosse Pointe Park, in the foreground, the city's wealthier neighbor. (It's not wealthier. It's just not run by liberal Democrat idiots and crooks.)*

## Power Line

### [Bill Buckley Was Right, Chapter 2,000](#)

by Steve Hayward

Everyone remembers Bill Buckley's famous axiom that he'd rather be governed by the first 2,000 names in the Boston phone book than the faculty of Harvard University. My great teacher Harry Jaffa had a corollary to the Buckley Theorem, which held that it would be better to be educated by the first 2,000 names in the Boston phone book than the faculty of Harvard.

Either way, fresh evidence of the Buckley Theorem and Jaffa Corollary comes this week from Harvard Business School's professor Ben Edelman, who, though a mere associate professor, is clearly striving for tenure as a full jerk. (This adds evidence, by the way, that business schools are succumbing to political correctness and intellectual triviality as much as any law or other graduate school.)

It seems the good Prof. Edelman recently ordered about \$50 worth of food from a Chinese take out, and—sit down for this outrage—was overcharged \$4 on his bill. Okay, so maybe this

immigrant merchant, who suffers from not having a favored Hispanic surname\*, cheated a little on the bill. Or maybe, just maybe, it was an honest mistake. Whatever the truth of the matter, the shriveled soul that is Prof. Edelman wants to make a federal case out of the \$4, though I suspect Prof. Edelman's salary at HBS is likely greater than the profits of this Chinese takeout joint, and I thought Harvard profs were all about sharing the wealth.

Anyway:

Last week, Edelman ordered what he thought was \$53.35 worth of Chinese food from [Sichuan Garden's Brookline Village location](#).

Edelman soon came to the horrifying realization that he had been overcharged. By a total of \$4.

If you've ever wondered what happens when a Harvard Business School professor thinks a family-run Chinese restaurant screwed him out of \$4, you're about to find out.

There follows at the link above screens shots of the email exchanges between Edelman and the Chinese takeout, and they don't reflect well on Edelman. Worth taking in if you have a few spare minutes to see what a total jerk Edelman is. Boston.com continues:

Edelman told Boston.com that investigating pricing discrepancies by neighborhood restaurants isn't something he does every day.

"I mostly look for malfeasance by larger companies," he said. "It certainly seems like a situation that could call for legal redress. But this is a small business in the town where I reside."

As for the troves of angry customers likely looking for recourse? Edelman pointed Boston.com to [Massachusetts General Law, Section XV, Chapter 93A, Section 9](#). (Translation: If you didn't pass the Massachusetts bar, but still feel as though you must do SOMETHING, then just gather all the receipts you've saved, along with all screenshots you took and saved of the website menu in case that dinner order ever ended up in court, find a lawyer whose fees aren't likely to exceed the few dollars you're seeking, and ... voila?)

As for Edelman, he alerted town officials in Brookline about the matter, but told Boston.com he doesn't expect them to take action. He plans to "take a few days" before deciding whether to pursue any further legal action against the restaurant.

Normally I don't go in for the crude vernacular of our time on Power Line, but sometimes you really need to say Whiskey Tango Foxtrot—what a douchebag. Advice to Harvard Business School students: Avoid this guy's courses. You'll thank me later. You're welcome.

\*Harvard's discrimination against Asian applicants is the subject of a new lawsuit. I'd love to hear Prof. Edelman's thoughts on this matter.



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