

February 23, 2015

"Countering violent extremism?" Mark Steyn is on it.

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Undeterred, President Obama has unveiled the summit's bumper sticker: "Religions Don't Kill People. People Killed People." It got him through to the next round in the middle-school debate-team county quarter-finals, so who knows the impact it will have on the Islamic State. I'm thrilled to discover that my tax dollars are now going to fund something called the International Center for Excellence in Countering Violent Extremism. Seriously. It's in Dubai. But perhaps we can open a branch office in Mosul, and Derna, and Sana'a and Kandahar and Copenhagen. One is reminded of the Montgomery Burns Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Excellence. Indeed, given the style and production values that the Islamic State have brought to Islamic snuff videos, perhaps this conference could prevail on the Oscars to introduce an Academy Award for Outstanding Excellence in the Field of Extremism.

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This is Europe now, 2015. What will 2016 bring, and 2020, 2025? And yet France or Denmark is all you've ever known; you own a house, you've got a business, a pension plan, savings accounts... How much of all that are you going to be able to get out with? These are the same questions the Continent's most integrated Jews - in Germany - faced 80 years ago. Do you sell your home in a hurry and take a loss? Or maybe in a couple of years it'll all blow over. Or maybe it won't, and in five years the house price will be irrelevant because you'll be scrambling with a suitcase. Or maybe in ten years you won't be able to get out at all - like the Yazidi or those Copts.

If you're living history as opposed to reading it in a sophomoric chatroom with metrosexual eunuch trustiefundies, these are the calculations you make - in Mosul, in Raqqa, in Sirte, in Sana'a, in Donetsk, in Malmö, Rotterdam, Paris...

Even the blind left media can see. The Daily Caller quotes Andrea Mitchell.

The White House's Summit on "Countering Violent Extremism" may be on day two, but some left-of-center personalities think the ongoing response from the Obama administration is nothing more than a charade.

On her Wednesday show, MSNBC host Andrea Mitchell called the White House's summit on terrorism "a dog and pony show" due to the lack of high level officials from foreign nations.

"Here he has the summit, no heads of government coming, the participation has not been at a particularly high level. We'll have foreign ministers, we'll be speaking to the Egyptian foreign minister shortly, who will be participating," Mitchell said. "But there hasn't been a whole lot of support from Europe or the Middle East at a very high level for what the president is setting out here."

"It seems to be more of a dog and pony show," Mitchell added. ...

The last eight years of the economy have been the worst run in 62 years. Pajamas Media has the story.

... A couple of publications have noted that 2014 was the ninth consecutive year during which the U.S. economy grew by less than 3 percent.

They're being too kind. Last year was the eighth year in a row of sub-2.5 percent growth, following four straight years (2003-2006) of higher growth.

It's hardly a coincidence that the first year of that awful 2007-2014 streak just so happens to have been the same year that the Democratic Party took legislative control in Washington.

The nation's political and media elites were quite pleased with themselves when the November 2006 elections brought about that result, largely because their daily hostility to all things Republican and/or conservative contributed mightily to it. They were absolutely ecstatic when Barack Obama, Mr. Perfectly Creased Pants, won the November 2008 presidential election and took office in January 2009.

As will be seen shortly, the former event marked the beginning of the U.S. economy's worst eight-year stretch since 1945-1952. Obama's presence in the Oval Office until January 2017 virtually ensures that we'll have at least two more years of the policies which brought on that miserable result. ...

Michael Goodwin says the president is on a rampage.

He can't bring himself to call Islamic terrorists what they are, but President Obama finally said something with which we can all agree. Speaking of his remaining time in office, he said: "Two years is a long time."

He can say that again — and did, attaching a scary promise about his plans for the twilight of his - tenure.

"Two years is also the time in which we're going to be setting the stage for the next presidential election and the next 10 years of American policy," he told wealthy donors in San Francisco. "So I intend to run through the tape and work really hard, and squeeze every last little bit of change."

There you have it. Instead of cleaning up the messes he's created, Obama is hell-bent on making more of them.

The word that comes to mind is "rogue." As in, the president is going rogue. Like an elephant on a rampage, he's breaking free of all constraints.

That makes the next two years extremely dangerous. Not just for Americans, but also for people around the world who count on us for their security and well-being. ...

After the flap that greeted Rudy Giuliani's comments about the president's lack of love for the country, Jim Hoft of Gateway Pundit reminds us of 2008 Obama comments questioning Bush's patriotism.

In 2008 then Senator Obama called President Bush "unpatriotic" for adding trillions to the national debt. Bush added about four trillion to the debt in eight years after the 9-11 attacks and mortgage crisis. Barack Obama then added the same amount of debt in less than three years.

Via Flopping Aces:

You certainly didn't hear any reporters lecturing Obama for his uncivil rhetoric after that outrageous attack.

This week former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani accused President Obama of not loving America. He promptly received death threats. The Obama White House said Giuliani's comments were "horrible."

Kevin Williamson says the president does not even like this country.

... Does Barack Obama like America? The people around him certainly seem to have their reservations. Michelle Obama said — twice, at separate campaign events — that her husband's ascending to the presidency meant that "for the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country." She was in her mid 40s at the time, her "adult lifetime" having spanned decades during which she could not be "really proud" of her country. Barack Obama spent years in the Reverend Jeremiah Wright's church as the churchman fulminated: "God Damn America!" The Reverend Wright's infamous "God Damn America!" sermon charges the country with a litany of abuses: slavery, mistreatment of the Indians, "treating citizens as less than human," etc. A less raving version of the same indictment can be found in the president's own speeches and books. His social circle includes such figures as Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, who expressed their love of country by participating in a murderous terrorist campaign against it.

Does Barack Obama love his country? Call me a rube for saying so, but it's a fair question.

To ask the question is not the same as venting the familiar swamp gasses: that he's a foreigner, at heart if not in fact; that he's a Manchurian candidate sent to undermine the republic; that he's a secret Marxist or secret jihadist sympathizer; etc. Put it this way: Why would anybody who sees the world the way Barack Obama does love America?

For the progressive, there is very little to love about the United States. Washington, Jefferson, Madison? A bunch of rotten slaveholders, hypocrites, and cowards even when their hearts were in

the right places. The Declaration of Independence? A manifesto for the propertied classes. The Constitution? An artifact of sexism and white supremacy. The sacrifices in the great wars of the 20th century? Feeding the poor and the disenfranchised into the meat-grinder of imperialism. The gifts of Carnegie, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Morgan, Astor? Blood money from self-aggrandizing robber barons.

There is a personality type common among the Left's partisans, and it has a name: Holden Caulfield. He is adolescent, perpetually disappointed, and ever on the lookout for phoniness and hypocrisy. ...

Steyn On Line

Living History

by Mark Steyn



In the Libyan desert, Islamic State officials burn "un-Islamic" drum kits.

Even the Obammyboppers of an otherwise adoring media seem to understand his big conference on "countering violent extremism" is [a bit of a joke](#).

Undeterred, President Obama has unveiled the summit's bumper sticker: "[Religions Don't Kill People. People Killed People](#)." It got him through to the next round in the middle-school debate-team county quarter-finals, so who knows the impact it will have on the Islamic State. I'm thrilled to discover that my tax dollars are now going to fund something called the [International Center for Excellence in Countering Violent Extremism](#). Seriously. It's in Dubai. But perhaps we can open a branch office in Mosul, and Derna, and Sana'a and Kandahar and Copenhagen. One is reminded of [the Montgomery Burns Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Excellence](#). Indeed, given the style and production values that the Islamic State have brought to Islamic snuff videos,

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If you want the difference between the worldview that sets up an International Center for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Extremism and the real world distilled to a single Tweet, consider this contribution from senior pajama boy at Vox.com, [Max Fisher](#):

People who think Christian sectarian militias are the solution to Iraq's problems could stand to read a history of the Lebanese civil war.

Richard Fernandez does a pretty good job analyzing [the particular defects of this comparison](#), but give Mr Fisher credit: when it comes to preening, condescending analogy-deployment, at least, unlike the President, he's come up with one that's within living memory.

Rather than the substance of his "argument", it's the near perfect metaphorical selfie-stick of preening attitudinal pose I find most interesting. As it happens, being an old-school imperialist, I read a lot of history. No doubt I "could stand to read" more, as Fisher advises. Before the civil war, Beirut was known as "the Paris of the east". Then things got worse. As worse and worsen as they got, however, it was not in-your-face genocidal, with regular global broadcasts of mass beheadings and live immolations. In that sense, the salient difference between Lebanon then and ISIS now is the mainstreaming of depravity. Which is why the analogies don't apply. We are moving into a world of horrors beyond analogy.

A lot of things have gotten worse. If Beirut is no longer the Paris of the east, Paris is looking a lot like the Beirut of the west - with regular, violent, murderous sectarian attacks accepted as a feature of daily life. In such a world, we could all "stand to read" a little more history. But in Nigeria, when you're in the middle of history class, Boko Haram kick the door down, seize you and your fellow schoolgirls and sell you into sex slavery. Boko Haram "could stand to read" a little history, but their very name comes from a corruption of the word "book" - as in "books are forbidden", reading is forbidden, learning is forbidden, history is forbidden.

Well, Nigeria... Wild and crazy country, right? Oh, I don't know. A half-century ago, it lived under English Common Law, more or less. In 1960 Chief Nnamdi Azikiwe, second Governor-General of an independent Nigeria, was the first Nigerian to be appointed to the Queen's Privy Counsel. It wasn't Surrey, but it wasn't savagery.

Like Lebanon, Nigeria got worse, and it's getting worse. That's true of a lot of places. In the Middle East, once functioning states - whether dictatorial or reasonably benign - are imploding. In Yemen, the US has just abandoned its third embassy in the region. According to the President of Tunisia, one third of the population of Libya has fled to Tunisia. That's two million people. According to the UN, just shy of four million Syrians have fled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and beyond. In Iraq, Christians and other minorities are forming militias because they don't have anywhere to flee (Syria? Saudi Arabia?) and their menfolk are facing extermination and their women gang-rapes and slavery.

These people "could stand to read" a little history, too. But they don't have time to read history because they're too busy living it: the disintegration of post-World War Two Libya; the erasure of

the Anglo-French Arabian carve-up; the extinction of some of the oldest Christian communities on earth; the metastasizing of a new, very 21st-century evil combining some of the oldest barbarisms with a cutting-edge social-media search-engine optimization strategy.

These are Libyans, Syrians, Iraqis, citizens of some of the most unlovely polities of the planet. But they had lives - homes, possessions, cars, children in schools, favorite restaurants... Twelve years ago, I drove through al-Baghdadi, now seized by the Islamic State and where 45 people were apparently burned alive by ISIS the other day. It was a dump but it had streets and stores. I bought some warm, sugary soda from the local market and had a reasonably pleasant social interaction, and then motored on down the Euphrates.

When you're living history as opposed to reading it, the trick is knowing when to head for the exit. One of the things I appreciate about, say, Mittel Europeans of a certain age is that, when you meet them in their grand Paris apartments or rambling house on the edge of Hampstead Heath, somewhere deep inside is the memory of the 3am knock on the door or a little boy crouched under the eaves in the attic. A couple of years back, at a very agreeable cocktail party, I found myself talking to a Hungarian Jew about the last days of the war in Budapest. The jig was up but the German puppet regime had figured they might as well kill as many Jews as they could. No time for niceties any more - for trains and camps and paperwork. There was a shortage of ammunition, so they tied the Jews together in a line, dragged them out into the Danube, and then shot the ones at each end. Everyone in between drowned. Aware of what was happening, a family took in my friend and hid him. He now enjoys a prosperous and comfortable life in the United States, but in his core, deep down within, he remembers his teenage self living day to day and never knowing whether the next morning would be his turn to be roped out in the river.

Much of the world thinks it's beyond all that stuff. Ukraine has a border with the European Union, and many of its citizens assumed that their future lay westward - eventual EU membership, and a Ukrainian flag at tedious Euro-summits listening to Brussels commissioners discoursing on beefed-up regulations on the curvature of cucumbers. Now in southern and eastern Ukraine a little short of a million people have fled. Like the Libyans and Syrians, they have reached that moment when you leave behind everything in your life except what's necessary for the journey and a couple of treasured photographs.

Why should that stop at the EU border? Laura Rosen Cohen is forceful and impassioned about [those Europeans who object to Netanyahu's call for Continental Jews to leave for Israel](#). In the most basic sense, she is right: Jews have no future in Europe - because the actions necessary to restore normality to Jewish community life on the Continent will never be taken by its ruling elites. But incremental evil is not as instantly clarifying as ISIS riding into Benghazi and running their black flag up the pole outside City Hall. Jews cannot safely ride the Paris metro with identifying marks of their faith, or walk the streets of Amsterdam, or send their children to school in Toulouse, or attend a bat mitzvah in Copenhagen. As much as those Nigerians and Libyans and Yemenis and Ukrainians, Europe's Jews are living history rather than reading it. They are living through a strange, freakish coda to the final solution that, quietly and remorselessly, is finishing the job: the total extinction of Jewish life in Europe - and not at the hands of baying nationalist Aryans but a malign alliance of post-national Eutopians and Islamic imperialists. Sure, it'd be nice to read a book - maybe Obama could recommend one on the Crusades. But you've got to be careful: in France, in 2015, you can be beaten up for [being seen with the wrong kind of book on public transportation](#). As Max Fisher says, we could all stand to read a little history, and the Jewish Museum in Brussels has a pretty good bookstore, but, if you swing by, try not to pick one of the days when they're shooting visitors.

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In my book *After America* ([personally autographed copies](#) of which are [exclusively available](#) for the Boko Haram warlord in your family), I write:

For all the economic growth since World War Two, much of the world had gone backwards – almost the whole of West Africa, and Central Africa, and Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Bosnia. Yet none of the elite asked themselves a simple question: What's to stop that spreading? In a world after America, the reprimativization of the map would accelerate: The new Jew-hating Sweden... The French banlieues where the state's writ ceased to run... Clapton, East London, where Shayna Bharuchi cut out her four-year old daughter's heart while listening to an MP3 of the Koran...

We could all stand to read some history. Alas...

Reprimativized man lives in an eternal present tense, in the dystopia of the moment.

History is written by the victors, and from West Africa to the Hindu Kush the victors are illiterate.

And in the halls of power the "leader of the free world" gives exclusive interviews to favored nuancy boys in which they can backslap each other about the sophisticated rationale behind their inertia. Boko Haram hate books, so it probably wouldn't help to carpet-bomb them with the latest Fareed Zakaria opus. The Islamic State is destroying musical instruments, so parachuting in James Taylor is unlikely to work - because, although his cheery rendition of "You've Got A Friend" can light up a room, in Ramadi the room would light up him. So the global hyperpower has been reduced to convening a symposium on whether they need to open up more community-college scholarships at the new Center for Outstanding Achievement in Analogies of Extremism.

Daily Caller

[Andrea Mitchell: Obama's Terror Summit 'A Dog And Pony Show'](#)

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“Here he has the summit, no heads of government coming, the participation has not been at a particularly high level. We’ll have foreign ministers, we’ll be speaking to the Egyptian foreign minister shortly, who will be participating,” Mitchell said. “But there hasn’t been a whole lot of support from Europe or the Middle East at a very high level for what the president is setting out here.”

“It seems to be more of a dog and pony show,” Mitchell added.

The summit was the administration’s response—in large part—to not sending a high level official to the March for Unity in Paris in the aftermath of the attack on Charlie Hebdo, which was attended by the likes of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

Pajamas Media

The Economy’s Worst 8-Year Run in 62 Years

by

With two more rough years on the horizon.

A couple of publications have noted that 2014 was the ninth consecutive year during which the U.S. economy grew by less than 3 percent.

They’re being too kind. Last year was [the eighth year in a row](#) of sub-2.5 percent growth, following four straight years (2003-2006) of higher growth.

It’s hardly a coincidence that the first year of that awful 2007-2014 streak just so happens to have been the same year that the Democratic Party took legislative control in Washington.

The nation’s political and media elites were quite pleased with themselves when the November 2006 elections brought about that result, largely because their daily hostility to all things Republican and/or conservative contributed mightily to it. They were absolutely ecstatic when Barack Obama, Mr. [Perfectly Creased Pants](#), won the November 2008 presidential election and took office in January 2009.

As will be seen shortly, the former event marked the beginning of the U.S. economy’s worst eight-year stretch since 1945-1952. Obama’s presence in the Oval Office until January 2017 virtually ensures that we’ll have at least two more years of the policies which brought on that miserable result.

Raising the minimum wage was a key agenda item for new House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority leader Harry Reid after their party took over Congress in 2007. The resulting effects on overall employment have been gruesome, to the point where the people who arbitrarily determine such things have absurdly decided, in the interest of covering their tracks, that the 4.5 percent unemployment rate seen during the middle of the past decade is no longer achievable, and that “full employment” is [really a rate of 5.5 percent](#).

The higher minimum federal wage, and the even higher hourly minimums seen in many states and cities, have been especially disastrous for the very people supposedly targeted for help. Since the end of 2006, the seasonally adjusted black teen unemployment rate [has risen by 5.5 points](#) to 29.7 percent; that rate got perilously close to 50 percent during the recession. The only reason that the number of unemployed black teens [is barely higher now](#) than it was eight years ago is that far fewer of them are even bothering to look for work, and therefore aren't considered part of that statistic. The average black teen labor force participation rate during 2014 [of 27.2 percent](#) was 6.8 points lower than that seen eight years earlier; the 2014 average employment-population ratio [of 18.2 percent](#) was 5.9 points lower.

Not satisfied with the number of job prospects they have already ruined for those who most need their first gainful employment opportunity, President Obama continues to push for a minimum-wage increase to \$10.10 per hour, while leftist fever-swamp cities like Seattle are heading towards hourly rates as high as \$15. More unemployment and more of the harmful effects of idleness await.

Congressional actions hostile to the economy during 2007 and 2008, poorly resisted by President George W. Bush and the Republican congressional minority, were bad enough. After Obama sewed up the Democratic presidential nomination in the spring of 2008, he and his party worsened matters. Their hostility towards developing energy resources and their intent to impose tax and regulatory overkill if elected became readily apparent, sending the economy into a far bigger swoon than the housing bubble alone would have caused. Thus was born [the Pelosi-Obama-Reid \(POR\) economy](#).

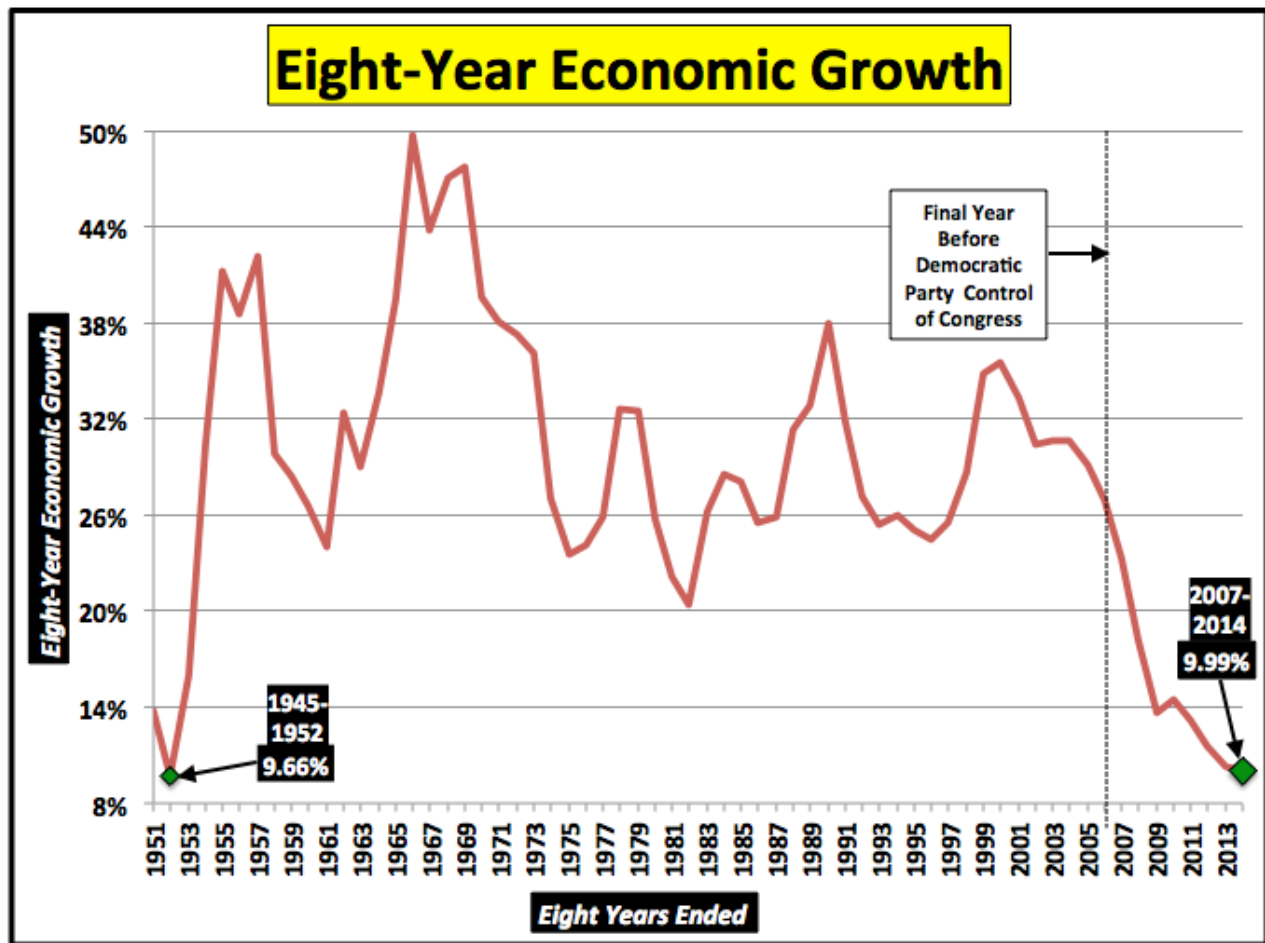
When I first recognized the rapidly deteriorating situation, [I asked](#):

In this business climate, are you going to hire more people? Replace employees when they leave? Expand your business?

As anyone could have predicted, the answers were "No," "No," and "Heck no."

During the presidential transition, Obama let his community organizer mask slip on a few key occasions, inflicting further serious damage. One such incident [occurred](#) when he supported union workers illegally occupying a bankrupt company's plant by telling reporters: "They're absolutely right." I [wrote at the time](#) that Obama's statement of solidarity "set off alarms in the offices of entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and investors everywhere." In the first full month after the sit-in, the economy [shed more jobs](#) than in any other month since such records have been kept.

Two years of Democratic control of Congress followed by six years of Obamanomics have given us the worst economic performance in 62 years:



The 1945-1952 result contains four difficult years of transition to peacetime following World War II; two minimum wage increases during that period may also have held the economy back. After that, the economy stayed generally healthy over long-term periods for over 50 years, until 2006. Even someone not conversant with economic policy can recognize that something has gone terribly wrong since then.

The already awful 9.99 percent result for 2007-2014 seems destined to drop a bit further. The latest estimates for fourth-quarter economic growth are coming in at an annualized [1.7 percent to 2.0 percent](#), far lower than [the 2.6 percent](#) the government reported in late January.

They are dozens of contributors to the current malaise, but three of them capsulize the horrid situation:

- The Obama administration has spent six years passive-aggressively [dithering](#) over approving the 1,200-mile Keystone Pipeline — even though the nation currently [has 2.6 million miles](#) of oil and gas pipelines in place functioning virtually without incident.
- Operators of certain legal but politically incorrect businesses have seen their banking relationships terminated by financial institutions [intimidated into their decisions](#) by the government's Operation Choke Point. This is a development which [one observer correctly noted](#) should be "terrifying to business owners in every industry."
- The administration has been operating a "shadow immigration system," which during the past six years has [issued 5.5 million work permits to non-citizens](#). No wonder legal U.S. citizens aren't impressed by the government's reported job-growth numbers.

Thus, agenda-driven regulators are deliberately holding up economic progress and bullying existing businesses, while illegal competition undercuts citizens who want jobs. It's utterly amazing that the U.S. economy is growing at all. Given [a recent report](#) that "fewer native-born Americans are working today than were at the end of 2007," perhaps the "U.S. citizen economy" really hasn't.

Madnesses such as those just described, and so many others, will continue as long as Congress is unwilling to fully exercise its power of the purse. Unless we see a miraculous change in outlook, that's not going to happen.

Prepare for two more very rough years.

NY Post

Obama is on a rampage

by Michael Goodwin

He can't bring himself to call Islamic terrorists what they are, but President Obama finally said something with which we can all agree. Speaking of his remaining time in office, he said: "Two years is a long time."

He can say that again — and did, attaching a scary promise about his plans for the twilight of his - tenure.

"Two years is also the time in which we're going to be setting the stage for the next presidential election and the next 10 years of American policy," he told wealthy donors in San Francisco. "So I intend to run through the tape and work really hard, and squeeze every last little bit of change."

There you have it. Instead of cleaning up the messes he's created, Obama is hell-bent on making more of them.

The word that comes to mind is "rogue." As in, the president is going rogue. Like an elephant on a rampage, he's breaking free of all constraints.

That makes the next two years extremely dangerous. Not just for Americans, but also for people around the world who count on us for their security and well-being.

It is party time for the bad guys. Imagine you are the head of Islamic State or al Qaeda. Or you are Vladimir Putin, the head of China or the ayatollah of Iran.

You know Obama has spent six years shrinking America's footprint and abandoning allies, leaving behind the vacuums you are filling. It's already a bonanza, and his vow to double down over the next two years means you will never get a better opportunity to make more hay.

The whole world knows that, no matter who the next president is, he or she almost certainly will be determined to reassert some level of global leadership.

Until then, the Putins, the mullahs and the terrorists will match Obama's sprint to the finish with their own. The violence, chaos, millions of refugees and breakdown of sovereign states already under way could be just a preview of the coming dystopian future. From Eastern Europe to Asia to Africa to the Mideast, no populated spot anywhere would be immune from potential upheaval and collapse.

To cite one example, what if Putin isn't content with the parts of Ukraine he's taking and wants a piece of the Baltic states? Unlike battered Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania belong to NATO, and its treaty obliges all members to respond if one is attacked.

Given Obama's fondness for "leading from behind," Putin probably assumes America would do nothing if he gobbled up the Baltics.

If Putin does that and gets away with it, NATO would be kaput. It protected II, but it would die a Europe from the Soviet Union and Russia since World War quick death if peripheral members were carved up with impunity. Not incidentally, such a move would consign millions of people to life - under Russia's boot.

The domestic implications of a rogue Obama rampage are less dramatic, but not less radical. From the economy to regulations on business and the Internet, he could do so much damage that would take years to correct, if correction were possible.

Consider immigration. The ruling by a Texas federal judge to temporarily halt the president's executive order on mass amnesty is leading open-border advocates to vow they won't be stopped.

Threats of violence hang in the air.

So far, the White House has said it would suspend its immigration plans in deference to the ruling, but it hasn't always abided by court decisions it doesn't like and has shown only contempt for congressional checks and balances. It's no surprise, then, that Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder are looking for some way around the Texas ruling so they can move the amnesty program forward. After all, how many troops do the judges have?

Even if opponents ultimately prevail in court, that could take so long that it would be politically and practicably impossible to roll back the changes. The immigration genie would be out of the bottle forever.

As those scenarios suggest, Obama's promise "to squeeze every last little bit of change" out of the next two years could wreak havoc with the presidential hopes of Hillary Clinton and a platoon of Republicans.

If they are wise, the candidates will draft their plans in erasable ink. With the Master of Disaster on the prowl, the worst is yet to come.

Gateway Pundit

FLASHBACK: Liberals Cheered Obama When He Questioned George Bush's Patriotism

by Jim Hoft

In 2008 then Senator Obama called President Bush "unpatriotic" for adding trillions to the national debt. Bush added about four trillion to the debt in eight years after the 9-11 attacks and mortgage crisis. Barack Obama then added the same amount of debt in less than three years.

Via [Flopping Aces](#):

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National Review

[Rudy Is Right](#)

Barack Obama doesn't even like America.

by Kevin D. Williamson

Rudy Giuliani is in the stocks for saying that he does not believe that President Barack Obama "loves America." He said this at a small, private dinner for Scott Walker, who probably will not be inviting Giuliani to very many events in the near future.

Giuliani went on to say that he wasn't questioning the president's patriotism — angels and ministers of grace defend us! — only noting that the president's rhetoric is decidedly low-cal on the American exceptionalism but full-fat when it comes to criticism.

It may be the case that the president is a practitioner of the Smokey Robinson school of patriotism: "[I don't like you, but I love you.](#)" *Something's* really got a hold on this guy, and it is not an excessive fervor for the American order.

Questions about patriotism and love of country are, according to our self-appointed referees, out of bounds, déclassé, [boob bait for bubbas](#), etc. Those are questions that we are not allowed to ask in polite society. Why? Because polite society does not want to hear the answers.

Does Barack Obama like America? The people around him certainly seem to have their reservations. Michelle Obama said — twice, at separate campaign events — that her husband's ascending to the presidency meant that "for the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country." She was in her mid 40s at the time, her "adult lifetime" having spanned decades during which she could not be "really proud" of her country. Barack Obama spent years in the Reverend Jeremiah Wright's church as the churchman fulminated: "[God Damn America!](#)" The Reverend Wright's infamous "God Damn America!" sermon charges the country with a litany of abuses: slavery, mistreatment of the Indians, "treating citizens as less than human," etc. A less raving version of the same indictment can be found in the president's own speeches and books. His social circle includes such figures as Bill Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn, who expressed their love of country by participating in a murderous terrorist campaign against it.

Does Barack Obama love his country? Call me a rube for saying so, but it's a fair question.

To ask the question is not the same as venting the familiar swamp gasses: that he's a foreigner, at heart if not in fact; that he's a Manchurian candidate sent to undermine the republic; that he's a secret Marxist or secret jihadist sympathizer; etc. Put it this way: Why would anybody who sees the world the way Barack Obama does love America?

For the progressive, there is very little to love about the United States. Washington, Jefferson, Madison? A bunch of rotten slaveholders, hypocrites, and cowards even when their hearts were in the right places. The Declaration of Independence? A manifesto for the propertied classes. The Constitution? An artifact of sexism and white supremacy. The sacrifices in the great wars of the 20th century? Feeding the poor and the disenfranchised into the meat-grinder of imperialism. The gifts of Carnegie, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Morgan, Astor? Blood money from self-aggrandizing robber barons.

There is a personality type common among the Left's partisans, and it has a name: Holden Caulfield. He is adolescent, perpetually disappointed, and ever on the lookout for phoniness and hypocrisy. His is the sort of personality inclined to believe in his heart the declaration that "behind every great fortune there is a great crime." (He also believes that this is a quotation from Honoré de Balzac, whose works he has not read, when in fact it comes from Richard O'Connor's [*The Oil Barons: Men of Greed and Grandeur*](#).) He believes with Elizabeth Warren that the economy is a rigged game based on exploitation and deceit rather than on innovation, productivity, and competition. He believes with Barack Obama that the only reason (e.g.) Staples does not pay its part-time associates more or schedule them for more hours is so that it can pad its executive pay and protect its "billions" in annual profits. (He believes that Staples, whose financials he has not read, makes "billions," when in fact it does no such thing.) Say an admiring word about Steve Jobs and he'll swear that there are four-year-olds working 169 hours a week in Chinese sweatshops producing iPods at the point of a bayonet. He believes that most people get into Harvard and Yale because they have influential parents (that's the [*University of Texas*](#), unfortunately), that rich Americans mostly inherit their money (in reality, about 15 percent of their assets are inherited, less than for middle-class families), that the U.S. goes to war abroad to enrich contractors at home, and that the entire history of Latin America must be understood through the prism of the United Fruit Company's maneuverings in 1954.

Give Holden Caulfield a television show and you've got Chris Hayes.

Barack Obama has a great, big, heaping dose of Holden Caulfield in him. That and chutzpah: When as a candidate he was in trouble because of his association with the racist lunacy of the Reverend Wright, he responded by giving the American public at large a lecture on racism and its culpability therein, while his minions began proclaiming that the only reason to oppose this politician with the racist associates was — presto-change-o! — racism. But if you believe that the system is basically rotten, that the society that produced that system is basically rotten, that the game is rigged, that your opponents are all phonies and hypocrites, then what's a little intellectual dishonesty in the service of the common good?

There is very little that a man with Barack Obama's views and proclivities should love about the country, beyond the fact that its people are so vulnerable to insipid sentimentality that they twice elected him president.

To love one's country is not to love blindly. After witnessing a spectacular Independence Day fireworks display, William F. Buckley Jr. asked: "Are we being given upscale signs and sounds that serve as phony fermenters of a synthetic patriotism?" This was during the Clinton administration, and he was considering the "disfiguring contemporary data" on crime, abortion, drugs, etc. "Burke said it definitively," he wrote, "that a society, to be loved, must be lovely. The consensus, on the Fourth of July, seemed to be that the American people still think it that, but that some probationary signs are flying."

That was 1998. A decade later and the signs would be far more than probationary. That much is plain to Rudy Giuliani, and it should be plain enough to the rest of us, too.



THINGS I TRUST MORE THAN BARACK OBAMA

Mexican tap water
A porcupine with a 'pet me' sign
Bill Clinton
A fart when I have the flu
An elevator ride with Ray Rice
Taking pills offered by Bill Cosby
A Bigfoot sighting
A Palestinian on a motorcycle
A Hillary Clinton war story
Gas station sushi
Jimmy Carter
Brian Williams news reports
Pete Carroll coaching decisions
Loch Ness monster sightings

~~VICIOUS ZEALOTS~~
~~ISLAMIC TERRORISTS~~
~~KILLED 4 JEWS~~ → RANDOM
~~IN A KOSHER DELI~~ FOLKS

~~SOME~~
~~ISLAMIC TERRORIST~~
~~GROUP ISIS,~~
~~KILLED 21 CHRISTIANS~~ → EGYPTIANS
~~IN LIBYA~~

MY PEN IS MIGHTIER
THAN THE TRUTH



THOUSANDS OF
YAZIDIS MASSACRED
BY ISIS

THIS
IS NOT
ABOUT
RELIGION.



TENS OF THOUSANDS OF
CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED
BY ISIS

THIS
IS NOT
ABOUT
RELIGION.



5 JEWS
SLAUGHTERED IN
SYNAGOGUE ATTACK

THIS
IS NOT
ABOUT
RELIGION.



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21 COPTIC
CHRISTIANS
BEHEADED

THIS
IS NOT
ABOUT
RELIGION.



3 MUSLIMS KILLED
IN PARKING
DISPUTE



IT'S
ABOUT
RELIGION!!





President Obama, blind to Islamic terrorism, yesterday declared, "No religion is responsible for terrorism. People are responsible ... for terrorism." **PAGES 4-5**

YOU MAY BE A LIBERAL

**...IF A
COMEDIAN
RETIRES AND
YOU'RE
FORCED TO
FIND A NEW
NEWS
SOURCE.**



If government had taken over the internet in 1980s, today we'd all be using dial up, and saying, 'If it weren't for the government, we'd have no internet at all.'

