

February 8, 2015

Larry Arnn gives a send off to Martin Gilbert, historian.

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The Duchess sailed on safely, past the icebergs of Labrador, “marvelous for children to behold [and] among my first memories,” Gilbert wrote. Soon after, another boat with 77 children evacuees was sunk by the Germans, drowning them all, and the scheme was abandoned.

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Churchill specifically asked the Admiralty to make sure, amid other responsibilities in the aftermath of the Normandy landings, that there be enough life jackets for the extra children.

So began the life of Sir Martin Gilbert, who died at age 78 on Tuesday in London. He is best known as Churchill’s official biographer. He served as adviser to Prime Minister John Major and was soon after awarded knighthood in 1995. ...

Weekly Standard has more on Gilbert.

The passing of Sir Martin Gilbert at the age of 78 marked a sad milestone. He achieved popular acclaim as the official biographer of Winston Churchill, the man whose in-depth eight-volume biography served as the gold standard reference work about the greatest statesman of the twentieth century. He also was a prolific writer of Jewish history, an observer of world events, and an author of many atlases. He was an excellent researcher, with a keen eye to detail, who skillfully distilled complex issues into flowing narrative with popular appeal.

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As does the Washington Post.

Martin Gilbert, who documented the life of Winston Churchill, the events of World War II and the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel and the course of the 20th century in more than 80 volumes that made him known as a preeminent historian of his era, died Feb. 3 in London. He was 78. ...

... The grandson of Eastern European Jews, Mr. Gilbert grew up in England during the momentous events that he would later document, meticulously and tirelessly, as one of the most prolific

scholars of modern history. “He writes books,” a reviewer once observed, “the way the rest of us write shopping lists.”

“He had a unique way,” said Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt, “of absorbing a plethora of details, personalities, facts, figures and weaving them into a coherent whole and making them utterly accessible both to the historian who would learn tremendous detail from his work and to the layperson who . . . would be captivated by his style.”

For a jarring juxtaposition, we move to Matthew Continetti's post on the problems experienced by Martin Scorsese as he tried to create a Bill Clinton biopic. Written in the style of a Hollywood script we are left to wonder how the same culture created Martin Gilbert and President Pig.

...“I’ve worked with Keitel, De Niro, Pesci, Liza Minelli, with Jerry Lewis—Jerry Lewis—Sharon Stone, Brad Pitt, Willem Defoe and Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz and Nick Cage and DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey—some of the surliest, most Method-obsessed, prickly bat-s—t crazy sons of bitches on the planet. And they have nothing on these people. Nothing. A producer credit for Chelsea, yeah. Maybe I’ll name the frigging granddaughter key grip. That will make grandma glow.”

Scorsese arrives at his destination: A brownstone in the middle of the block. He walks up the front steps and unlocks the door.

The camera pushes in as he speaks so that his face and the phone fill the frame by the end of the monologue.

“Here’s the thing, you know, the thing is, they are terrified about losing. Absolutely terrified. Her book went nowhere, she can’t fill a room unless she’s talking to Goldman Sachs, they are yesterday’s news and they are so obsessed with projecting an aura of inevitability they won’t allow any message to go out that they haven’t already pre-approved and, you know, groped. That’s why they killed the television shows, went after the authors, why they won’t let me make the movie I want to make.”

A pause. We hear him opening the door.

“And you know why they’re terrified? They know this is it. This is the final go-around. End of line.”

He listens for a moment, and then laughs.

“Yeah. Exactly. The Last Waltz.”

Scorsese leaves the frame. We hear the door close.

And we fade to black.

Ed Morrissey posts on yet more history nonsense from President Trainwreck. The Democrat party has a lot to answer for between Pig and Trainwreck.

The Washington Post reports on the blowback, with critics arguing that the President of the United States has more important tasks than finger-wagging about events from 600 or more years ago ... like developing a national strategy to fight the threats in this century:

"Obama's remarks spoke to his unsparing, sometimes controversial, view of the United States — where triumphalism is often overshadowed by a harsh assessment of where Americans must try harder to live up to their own self-image. Only by admitting these shortcomings, he has argued, can we fix problems and move beyond them.

"There is a tendency in us, a sinful tendency, that can pervert and distort our faith," he said at the breakfast.

But many critics believe that the president needs to focus more on enemies of the United States.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, called Obama's comments about Christianity "an unfortunate attempt at a wrongheaded moral comparison."

What we need more is a "moral framework from the administration and a clear strategy for defeating ISIS," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State."

Also at the Post, Aaron Blake notices that Obama refuses to link Islam to present terrorism in the same way he linked Christianity to the Crusades and slavery, and that even Democrats are beginning to tire of it: ...

The **head of the Gallup organization** has just discovered the unemployment figures are lies. This has been plain to see for years.

Here's something that many Americans -- including some of the smartest and most educated among us -- don't know: The official unemployment rate, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, is extremely misleading.

Right now, we're hearing much celebrating from the media, the White House and Wall Street about how unemployment is "down" to 5.6%. The cheerleading for this number is deafening. The media loves a comeback story, the White House wants to score political points and Wall Street would like you to stay in the market.

None of them will tell you this: If you, a family member or anyone is unemployed and has subsequently given up on finding a job -- if you are so hopelessly out of work that you've stopped looking over the past four weeks -- the Department of Labor doesn't count you as unemployed. That's right. While you are as unemployed as one can possibly be, and tragically may never find work again, you are not counted in the figure we see relentlessly in the news -- currently 5.6%. Right now, as many as 30 million Americans are either out of work or severely underemployed. Trust me, the vast majority of them aren't throwing parties to toast "falling" unemployment. ...

... *There's no other way to say this. The official unemployment rate, which cruelly overlooks the suffering of the long-term and often permanently unemployed as well as the depressingly underemployed, amounts to a Big Lie. ...*

WSJ

A Scrupulous Historian and Churchill Biographer

The late Martin Gilbert brought to his work a classic devotion to accuracy and original sources.

by Larry P. Arnn



Historian Martin Gilbert in 1968, working at his home near Oxford, England.

In summer 1940, as war raged, the British government sent several hundred children, including 3-year-old Martin Gilbert, to safety in Canada. The children berthed aboard the *Duchess of Bedford* in a 50-ship convoy, and after the destroyer escort turned back, the convoy was attacked by the Germans and five ships sank.

The *Duchess* sailed on safely, past the icebergs of Labrador, “marvelous for children to behold [and] among my first memories,” Gilbert wrote. Soon after, another boat with 77 children evacuees was sunk by the Germans, drowning them all, and the scheme was abandoned.

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Churchill specifically asked the Admiralty to make sure, amid other responsibilities in the aftermath of the Normandy landings, that there be enough life jackets for the extra children.

So began the life of Sir Martin Gilbert, who died at age 78 on Tuesday in London. He is best known as Churchill's official biographer. He served as adviser to Prime Minister John Major and was soon after awarded knighthood in 1995.

Gilbert taught as a fellow of Merton College, Oxford. He wrote 88 books, including histories of the Holocaust, of the world wars and of the 20th century. Regarding the Holocaust, he said that the "tireless gathering of facts will ultimately consign Holocaust deniers to history."

The Churchill biography is a thing of magnificence. It is the largest biography ever written, befitting one of the largest lives ever lived. It is now 25 volumes and more than 25,000 pages, with six document volumes that Hillsdale College, in Hillsdale, Mich., has been tasked with completing in his absence.

Churchill was prolific: hundreds of speeches, 50 books, and thousands of articles, memos and official minutes. Thus, Gilbert's biography is monumental. To do this work, he had the "treasure trove" of the Churchill archives, traveled to public and private archives throughout Britain, and corresponded with hundreds of Churchill's contemporaries, many of whom became his friends.

Gilbert utterly rebelled against the view that the facts of history change with time. In this way he agreed with the classics. He wrote the biography faithfully, from primary-source materials and with the greatest care to tell the story as it happened. Gilbert's stewardship is significant, as Churchill is a man of our time and one of its greatest blessings.

I was privileged to work as research assistant to Gilbert on the biography in the 1970s and continue as his friend and colleague afterward. For years I witnessed and wondered at the care and energy he put into his work. He desired original sources, nothing less. "You must get everything. We must have it all here," he once told me.

He would say, "You have a good memory, and I have a good memory; we do not rely upon our memories." I learned to look things up again and again. If you used the term "perhaps," his eyebrows would go up, and he would say, "Perhaps not!"

I have never known anyone so tireless in his vocation. Once he was stricken with Bell's palsy, which paralyzed part of his face, yet he worked regardless, the same hours, holding his pen in one hand and in the other a handkerchief pressed against his mouth to keep it closed.

Gilbert's Oxford tutor, the historian A.J.P. Taylor, told him in 1960 that "if you go in for historical research, you will work for weeks on end and find nothing." Gilbert was persevering and fierce, but his manner never so.

He sought to give life and breath to history. In 1997, he said in an interview with C-Span that he wanted to be remembered "as someone who brought ordinary people, or people, into the equation, not merely governments and powers and themes, but human beings with flesh and blood and names and ages."

Mr. Arnn is president of Hillsdale College.

Weekly Standard

Martin Gilbert, 1936-2015

by Michael Makovsky

The passing of Sir Martin Gilbert at the age of 78 marked a sad milestone. He achieved popular acclaim as the official biographer of Winston Churchill, the man whose in-depth eight-volume biography served as the gold standard reference work about the greatest statesman of the twentieth century. He also was a prolific writer of Jewish history, an observer of world events, and an author of many atlases. He was an excellent researcher, with a keen eye to detail, who skillfully distilled complex issues into flowing narrative with popular appeal.

Gilbert took on the role of official historian of Churchill in 1968 after Churchill's son Randolph died. Randolph began the official biography of his father, leading a team of researchers, which included Gilbert beginning in 1962. Randolph and his team wrote two volumes of the biography, and they were disjointed and not very well written. I once asked Gilbert why Randolph's volumes were so lacking, and he said that Randolph had great ideas but wasn't disciplined in his execution. Gilbert was, to say the least, more disciplined, and he executed Randolph's plan very well.

Gilbert took over the effort and completed the final six volumes of the biography, completely transforming the work and greatly elevating the quality. These six books chronicled Churchill's life in great, well-written detail, offering extensive information in a flowing narrative. This was no mean feat given Churchill's long and epic life, during which he was involved in virtually every major British domestic and international issue, about which there are thousands of documents and books. The full biography was so thorough and rich in detail that it has served as the jumping-off point for virtually every serious scholarly study of Churchill.

Gilbert condensed the 8-volume biography into a 1,000-page one-volume work, and he continued and expanded upon Randolph's idea of editing companion volumes of documents that supported the biography, with extremely informative footnotes. The companion volumes are a treasure trove for historians (and it costs a bit of treasure to purchase them). He authored derivative works, such as *Churchill and America* and *Churchill and the Jews*, but it was his comprehensive biography and edited volumes of supporting selected documents that are his greatest legacies.

Gilbert's detractors, and they are mostly British, considered him a hagiographer. Of course, his job as official biographer was to unearth facts and present them in a sympathetic light in an appealing narrative, and he accomplished that exceptionally well. He also was criticized for simply presenting and not analyzing his material, and indeed he was more reliable chronicler than a probing scholar. But it was a chronicle for the ages.

A caring Jew and ardent Zionist, Gilbert was active in the Soviet Jewry movement during the Cold War, and wrote books about the Holocaust and Jewish and Zionist history. He also produced some excellent atlases on Israeli history and the Israel-Arab conflict. When I first met him about two decades ago, it was in Jerusalem. I recall walking down a street with him once and he was excited to see a plaque on a building he hadn't noticed before. He loved detail, and Israel.

In my limited contact with Gilbert I sensed that it wasn't always easy for him to be a Jew in his position. On the one hand, it was in a sense appropriate, since Jews in Britain and elsewhere were among Churchill's most consistent supporters and admirers. Churchill was philo-Semitic and grew to become a leading Zionist, which caused him friction with Conservatives and Socialists alike. I recall Gilbert telling me that Randolph Churchill was also philo-Semitic. If memory serves, Gilbert

said that Randolph had a penchant for hiring Jews as his researchers, and that he once hired an Indian, figuring he'd hire someone not Jewish for a change, but it turned out that man was Jewish as well! Still, in the half-century that Gilbert worked many in Britain weren't sympathetic to Jews or Israel, and some were outright hostile to each, and I gathered that Gilbert felt his Jewishness wasn't always well received.

Clearly, Gilbert's legacy will far outlive his life. We are all indebted to him for his excellent research and writing about Churchill, making accessible to anyone who cares to read detailed knowledge about the life and achievements of this monumental statesman, which is in itself a significant contribution to history and Western civilization.

Michael Makovsky is CEO of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs and author of Churchill's Promised Land (Yale University Press, 2007), a diplomatic-intellectual history of Winston Churchill's complex relationship with Zionism.

Washington Post

[Martin Gilbert, preeminent Churchill biographer and Holocaust historian, dies](#)

by Emily Langer

Martin Gilbert, who documented the life of Winston Churchill, the events of World War II and the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel and the course of the 20th century in more than 80 volumes that made him known as a preeminent historian of his era, died Feb. 3 in London. He was 78.

The cause was sepsis, according to his wife, Esther Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert had previously suffered a brain injury caused by a heart arrhythmia.

The grandson of Eastern European Jews, Mr. Gilbert grew up in England during the momentous events that he would later document, meticulously and tirelessly, as one of the most prolific scholars of modern history. "He writes books," a reviewer once observed, "the way the rest of us write shopping lists."



Martin Gilbert, a preeminent biographer of Winston Churchill and scholar of the Holocaust, died Feb. 3 at 78.

“He had a unique way,” said Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt, “of absorbing a plethora of details, personalities, facts, figures and weaving them into a coherent whole and making them utterly accessible both to the historian who would learn tremendous detail from his work and to the layperson who . . . would be captivated by his style.”

Mr. Gilbert’s oeuvre encompassed British, European, Jewish and Israeli history. In the realm of biography, he was regarded as a foremost expert on Churchill, Britain’s wartime prime minister.

Churchill selected his son, the writer Randolph Churchill, to be his official biographer. As a young Oxford don, Mr. Gilbert assisted the younger Churchill on the first two volumes of the biography, covering the period from Churchill’s birth through his years in the early 1900s as a young statesman.

Randolph Churchill died in 1968, three years after his father, having covered only four decades of his father’s 90 years. Mr. Gilbert confessed to some trepidation when he was confronted with the chance to pick up, as the prime minister’s official biographer, where Randolph Churchill had left off.

“I knew this phrase ‘official biographer’ would be tacked on to it,” he once told an interviewer, “and therefore it would be assumed that it would contain an element, or even a dominance, of apology.”

Mr. Gilbert also said that if he had known the task would consume the better part of 20 years, he might have declined. “The Challenge of War, 1914-1916,” the first volume written by Mr. Gilbert alone, appeared in 1971. Later volumes covered the interwar period, Churchill’s leadership during World War II, and his later years. The eighth and final volume in the series, “Never Despair, 1945-1965,” was published in 1988.

Mr. Gilbert said that at no time did the Churchill family ask to approve his writing. He also noted that the project required a degree of sleuthing as he sorted through a reported 15 tons of material. One stash of correspondence was unearthed at the New York Public Library, filed under the American novelist also named Winston Churchill.

After their publication, the contents of the eight volumes, containing some 9 million words, were condensed into a one-volume edition, which the writer and journalist Herbert Mitgang described as “the most scholarly study of Churchill in war and peace ever written.”

Mr. Gilbert produced shelves of books documenting Jewish history and, in particular, the Holocaust. Those volumes included “Auschwitz and the Allies” (1981) and the thousand-page book “The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War.”

“Martin Gilbert tells the story from beginning to end,” Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel wrote in a Chicago Tribune review. “This book must be read and reread.”

Widely regarded as a master of archival materials, Mr. Gilbert also availed himself of the privilege, unique to modern historians, of interviewing people who witnessed the events he documented. A London taxi driver who told Mr. Gilbert that he survived the Holocaust later was mentioned in one of the author’s books.

Mr. Gilbert wrote several books about Soviet Jews who were denied permission to emigrate during the Cold War, and with whom he maintained extensive correspondence. He was in Israel during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and later charted the history of the state and of Zionism. His book with the broadest historical sweep was the multi-volume “A History of the Twentieth Century.”

If there was criticism of Mr. Gilbert, it was that he followed chronology too closely, at the expense of analysis. But chronology “is the key to understanding everything,” he once told the New York Times. “I regard the term ‘chronicler’ as the highest praise.”

Martin John Gilbert was born Oct. 25, 1936, in London. His father, a jeweler, had acquired the surname from relatives who immigrated to England and received an Anglicized name.

As a child during World War II, Mr. Gilbert was evacuated for a period to Canada. He returned to England in time for V-E Day in 1945 and witnessed a bonfire that consumed effigies of Mussolini and Hitler, he told the Jerusalem Post. Mr. Gilbert later devoted books to V-E Day and D-Day.

Mr. Gilbert served briefly in the British army in the 1950s. He received a bachelor’s degree in 1960 and a master’s degree four years later, both from the University of Oxford, where his tutors included the noted historian A.J.P. Taylor.

Mr. Gilbert’s first book, “The Appeasers” (1963), written with historian and journalist Richard Gott, focused on prime minister Neville Chamberlain and British foreign policy during Hitler’s rise to power.

As an instructor at Oxford, Mr. Gilbert became skilled at drawing maps on chalkboards. He later produced numerous volumes of cartography.

Mr. Gilbert was knighted in 1995. At the end of his life, he was serving on an official panel investigating Britain’s role in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

His marriages to Helen Robinson and Susan Sacher ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife of 10 years, the former Esther Goldberg of London; a daughter from his first marriage, Natalie Gilbert of London; two sons from his second marriage, David Gilbert of Leeds, England, and Joshua Gilbert of London; two stepchildren, Shoshana Israel of Jerusalem and Mirit Poznansky of Canmore, in Alberta, Canada; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Mr. Gilbert said that he once visited the grave of Mandell Creighton, a 19th-century British historian.

“It is always worth visiting the graves of historians,” Mr. Gilbert told an interviewer. “It makes you realize they are as finite as their subjects — and there was a wonderful inscription: ‘He tried to write true history.’ I often ponder that.”

Free Beacon

[Raging Bill](#)

Martin Scorsese fights the Clinton mafia

by Matthew Continetti



Darkness. A beat, then the following appears on the screen:

[“A Scorsese Documentary on Bill Clinton Is Stalled”](#)

—*New York Times*, January 22, 2015

Fade in on movie director Martin Scorsese—72 years old, white hair, bushy eyebrows, horn rimmed glasses—talking on the phone. As he speaks, the camera pulls back, showing him pacing in a nondescript conference room. Posters for *Mean Streets*, *Taxi Driver*, *Hugo*, *The Departed*, *Bringing Out the Dead*, and *Wolf of Wall Street* hang on the walls.

“It’s ridiculous,” Scorsese says. “I can’t believe it. Are you serious? I spent two years with the guy. Two years. I went to Africa with him. I actually traveled to Africa for the first time since [Kundun](#). Mali, I think. Or Zimbabwe. Maybe Rwanda. You should have seen the shots I had to take. No not film shots, shot shots. Anyway we had a crane rigged so I could get a high angle of him opening a youth clinic or something. I flew a frigging crane to Africa for this guy. Spent hours on the plane with him talking: Health care, the economy, Fleetwood Mac, his favorite movies, the last time he saw Hillary six months ago, you name it, he mentioned it. Kept referring to [Russ Meyer](#). No we didn’t fly commercial. A friend of his gave us a ride—[Epstein](#), I think. A weirdo. I’m talking [Daniel-in-character](#) levels of weird here. No, Leo wasn’t with us. Clinton wanted him to come along though.”

A door opens. A pretty woman in her mid-twenties enters and carries a pile of screenplays to a table in the center of the room.

Scorsese waves a hand in acknowledgment and then gestures for her to leave.

“You there?” he says to the phone. “Yeah, okay, no it was just Jeanne. So what was I saying? How’d it get started? Back in—when was it—2008 or something when I did [Shine a Light](#). Right, right, the Stones picture.”

The monologue continues as a voice over. Still images from Scorsese’s Rolling Stones documentary appear on the screen.

“Well I had always thought it odd, you know, there I was, I was about to have a heart attack because Jagger wouldn’t tell me what song he was going to open with, and the entire theater was filled with lights and sound equipment, and I had laid track throughout the whole place and there was a crane there too, and who shows up but the Clintons. The entire frigging family. And like 30 guests. They all show up. And I’m about to lose it, I’m saying to myself I’m getting too old for this junk, I’ve got too much to do, no one’s telling me how the band’s going to start, I’ve got a set of flares there ready to go that could light Mick Jagger on fire and *we cannot burn Mick Jagger*.”

A pause. The screen is filled with a photo of Bill Clinton, Scorsese, the Rolling Stones, and a couple of guests. All smiling.

We cut back to Scorsese. A hand-held camera follows him around the room. We’re shooting in black and white.

Cue “[Sympathy for the Devil](#).”

“Well I knew he would be there. Bing had set up the whole thing. Yeah, [Steve Bing](#), the real estate heir. What’s he worth now, [like half a billion](#) or whatever. Some egregious, you know, some obscene amount of money. He and Clinton are friends. They hang out. They travel together, [hit Vegas](#). And Bing produced *Shine a Light*, you know. And we shot it during a benefit for the Clinton Foundation and everything. You know, they had the whole theater—the Clinton Foundation. They must have made a lot of money that night. So I knew Clinton would be there. But showing up just as we’re about to start? With a frigging entourage like he was the Sultan of Brunei? I was floored, you know, shocked. Stunned.”

Scorsese chuckles and says, “Agog.”

We watch the following scenes from *Shine a Light* in a series of fast, jarring cuts divided by flashes of paparazzi-like camera bulbs:

1. Bill Clinton telling the Rolling Stones, “My nephew’s coming, he’s ten or eleven.”
2. Bill Clinton introducing the Stones to the former president of Poland Lech Kaczynski.
3. Mick Jagger telling Clinton he’s worried the movie cameras may interfere with his performance as Clinton, biting his lower lip, confidently surveys the scene.
4. Hillary Clinton greeting her mother by saying, “They’re so nice to wait for her, so nice. Hi ma—the Rolling Stones have been waiting for you!”
5. Extreme close up of Hillary Clinton as her fake and uncomfortable and discomfiting laugh reverberates throughout the room.
6. Freeze frame on Huma Abedin lurking in the background.
7. Bill Clinton joking to the sold-out house that he’s “opening for the Rolling Stones.”
8. Clinton discussing climate change.
9. Clinton stating, in all seriousness, that the collection of geriatric sex-and-drug addicts who are about to take the stage led by a hip-thrusting prancing goat “Know as much about these issues as we do, and they care as much about these issues as we do.”
10. Scorsese putting his head in his hands.

Cut to the busy interior of Rao's restaurant in Harlem, New York. We're looking over the shoulders of two friends sitting at a table with Scorsese, who continues his monologue over a bowl of *Pasta e Fagioli* and a bottle of Pellegrino.

"[Angelina](#)" can be heard playing softly from a jukebox in the background.

"So we did the Stones movie, and it turned out pretty well, I thought, the concert was good, you know, Jagger's voice is going but that's between us. And I do these documentaries now. It helps me relax. I do a fiction film, and then I do a non-fiction film. It's sort of a cycle I'm in now. I like it. And, you know, I did one on Dylan, I did one on Fran Lebowitz, I did one for Bob Silvers."

The camera holds on Scorsese as one of his friends, a dark-haired man, asks, "Who's Bob Silvers?"

"He edits the *New York Review of Books*."

"Never heard of him."

"So when HBO and Bing and the Clinton people and I get to talking in 2012 about following the president, I'm saying to myself, you know, hey, what can go wrong?"

The song ends. We continue to watch over the friends' shoulders as an unidentified patron walks to the jukebox behind Scorsese.

We cut to the jukebox's coin slot into which the hand of the unidentified patron deposits a quarter.

The camera follows the hand as it operates the jukebox's electronic catalog before settling on a page of songs by the Rolling Stones.

We cut to a bird's-eye view of the restaurant.

We return to the over-the-shoulder shot of Scorsese eating dinner with friends.

"[Gimme Shelter](#)" begins to play.

Scorsese: "I mean, we announced the project and my office released a statement where I said, and I'm quoting from memory here, but I'm pretty sure I said something like, '[A towering figure who remains a major voice in world issues, President Clinton continues to shape the political dialogue both here and around the world.](#) ...'"

He pauses, snapping his fingers, eyebrows flexing as he tries to recall the quote.

"Oh yeah, 'Through intimate conversations, I hope to provide greater insight into this transcendent figure.' Transcendent. Think about that. Transcendent. I can't believe I said that. Sheesh."

The monologue continues in voice over as we see action of the moments Scorsese describes.

"Before you know it they're telling my assistant director that I have to [clear all questions with Clinton's people before interviews. That Clinton gets final cut. That Chelsea wants a producer's credit.](#) They deny everything. But what are they worried about? What concerns them? That I'm going to be tough on the mother-f—r? I just shot 18 hours of film of a magazine editor sitting on his

ass dictating emails to twenty-something assistants, and *I'm* going to be tough on a former president whose worldview I basically share and whose donor—this guy Bing has donated more than \$16 million to Democrats over the last 20 years— whose donor is financing the frigging movie?”

The other unidentified friend, a woman, interrupts: “Where’d you learn that?”

“Learn what?”

“About the \$16 million.”

“I read it on some anti-Clinton blog—the *Free Bacon*? Anyway, what do these people have to be afraid of? I’m going to talk about the blue dress? Me? I’ve got my own problems. Forget about the dress. It’s a frigging dress. How can these people who I like and support be so thin-skinned and conniving and, what’s the word, petty that they believe, they actually, seriously believe I’m going to ambush them in a frigging documentary for HBO? HBO? Prima donna, is what I mean. A prima donna.”

The male friend sniggers. “More like prima nocta,” he says.

We cut to a New York street scene. It’s day. Scorsese is dressed for the cold.

The camera tracks with him as he walks down a cross street on the Upper East Side, speaking into a cell phone.

“I’ve worked with Keitel, De Niro, Pesci, Liza Minelli, with Jerry Lewis—*Jerry Lewis*—Sharon Stone, Brad Pitt, Willem Defoe and Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz and Nick Cage and DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey—some of the surliest, most Method-obsessed, prickly bat-s—t crazy sons of bitches on the planet. And they have nothing on these people. *Nothing*. A producer credit for Chelsea, yeah. Maybe I’ll name the frigging granddaughter key grip. [That will make grandma glow.](#)”

Scorsese arrives at his destination: A brownstone in the middle of the block. He walks up the front steps and unlocks the door.

The camera pushes in as he speaks so that his face and the phone fill the frame by the end of the monologue.

“Here’s the thing, you know, the thing is, they are terrified about losing. Absolutely terrified. Her book went nowhere, she can’t fill a room unless she’s talking to Goldman Sachs, they are yesterday’s news and they are so obsessed with projecting an aura of inevitability they won’t allow any message to go out that they haven’t already pre-approved and, you know, groped. That’s why they killed the television shows, went after the authors, why they won’t let me make the movie I want to make.”

A pause. We hear him opening the door.

“And you know why they’re terrified? They know this is it. This is the final go-around. End of line.”

He listens for a moment, and then laughs.

“Yeah. Exactly. [The Last Waltz.](#)”

Scorsese leaves the frame. We hear the door close.

And we fade to black.

Hot Air

[High horses and bull pockey: Professor Obama's history lesson a dud](#)

by Ed Morrissey

If Barack Obama missed the incongruity of lecturing today's Christians about their attachment to the Crusades and slavery while dismissing connections between Islam and ISIS, al-Qaeda, and other *present* threats from Islamist terror groups, he may have been the *only* one who did. Noah skewered it as “[Voxplaining Islamist fundamentalism](#),” but it's worse than that — and plenty of people noticed. [The Washington Post reports on the blowback](#), with critics arguing that the President of the United States has more important tasks than finger-wagging about events from 600 or more years ago ... like developing a national strategy to fight the threats in *this* century:

Obama's remarks spoke to his unsparing, sometimes controversial, view of the United States — where triumphalism is often overshadowed by a harsh assessment of where Americans must try harder to live up to their own self-image. Only by admitting these shortcomings, he has argued, can we fix problems and move beyond them.

“There is a tendency in us, a sinful tendency, that can pervert and distort our faith,” he said at the breakfast.

But many critics believe that the president needs to focus more on enemies of the United States.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, called Obama's comments about Christianity “an unfortunate attempt at a wrongheaded moral comparison.”

What we need more is a “moral framework from the administration and a clear strategy for defeating ISIS,” he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State.

[Also at the Post](#), Aaron Blake notices that Obama refuses to link Islam to present terrorism in the same way he linked Christianity to the Crusades and slavery, and that even Democrats are beginning to tire of it:

In the context of Obama's long-standing remarks on Islam and terrorism, though, invoking the Crusades and the Inquisition are wholly unsurprising. What is more surprising is that he hasn't done this sooner.

Obama, for the duration of his presidency, has forcefully tried to separate Islam from what terrorists who claim that faith do, in the name of it. The most striking example was in September, amid the growing threat of the Islamic State, when Obama declared not only that the terrorists were perverting their religion — as he has often said — but that they [were actually “not Islamic” at all](#).

“No religion condones the killing of innocents, and the vast majority of [the Islamic State's] victims have been Muslim,” Obama said.

In recent weeks, Obama’s critics — and even some Democrats, such as Iraq war veteran Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) — have cried foul that Obama will not refer to “radical Islam” or to terrorists as “Islamic radicals.”

Blake also points out that Obama’s losing the argument:

Americans used to sympathize more with Obama. But the rise of the Islamic State appears to be pushing things in the opposite direction. A Pew poll in September showed, for the first time, that [50 percent of Americans viewed Islam as more likely to encourage violence than other religions](#). Another 39 percent said it was not more likely to encourage violence.

It probably doesn’t help that the Crusades argument is nonsense anyway, [Jonah Goldberg writes](#):

Obama’s right. Terrible things have been done in the name of Christianity. I have yet to meet a Christian who denies this.

But, as odd as it may sound for a guy named Goldberg to point it out, the Inquisition and the Crusades aren’t the indictments Obama thinks they are. For starters, the Crusades — despite their terrible organized cruelties — were a *defensive* war.

“The Crusades could more accurately be described as a limited, belated and, in the last analysis, ineffectual response to the jihad — a failed attempt to recover by a Christian holy war what had been lost to a Muslim holy war,” writes Bernard Lewis, the greatest living English-language historian of Islam. ...

It is perverse that Obama feels compelled to lecture the West about not getting too judgmental on our “high horse” over radical Islam’s medieval barbarism in 2015 because of Christianity’s medieval barbarism in 1215.

It’s also insipidly hypocritical. President Obama can’t bring himself to call the Islamic State “Islamic,” but he’s happy to offer a sermon about Christianity’s alleged crimes at the beginning of the last millennium.

We are all descended from cavemen who broke the skulls of their enemies with rocks for fun or profit. But that hardly mitigates the crimes of a man who does the same thing today.

To further that point, [author Brad Thor](#) sent a link to [this concise explanation of the context of the Crusades](#). If the President wanted to argue comparative religious development, [says Jeff Dunetz](#), that might have been useful:

The President wasted what could have been a valuable lesson. If he had gone on to say, “Yes Christianity had done horrible things but it learned and evolved, and now Islam must do the same thing,” it would have been a brilliant and relevant lesson. Instead he seemed to excuse the violence by radical Muslims today because of the violence of Christians six to ten centuries ago. ...

If the President had started with the Christian massacres and ended with saying, they moderated and now teach peace, and now Islam should do the same he would have made a magnificent point. Instead he made a political point that is being ridiculed on both sides of the aisle.

This came up during [my show yesterday afternoon](#) (skip ahead to ~25 minutes or so), and my take was similar to Russell Moore's. The entire lecture was a non-sequitur, an academic dissertation in the middle of a war that President Obama wants to pretend isn't happening. Even if Obama's superficial and faddish take on the Crusades was accurate, how are the Crusades, the Inquisition, slavery, or Jim Crow (the latter two which ended largely *because* of Christian activism) relevant to the discussion of what's happening now with ISIS?

I'll make a deal with Obama. If he finds the people responsible for the Crusades, the Inquisition, or American slavery still alive and malicious, we'll bomb them too. In the meantime, how about we start telling the truth about the Islamist terrorists who are *right now* literally enslaving young girls as sex objects, slaughtering anyone who doesn't think like them, acquiring territory in the Middle East, and threatening attacks on the US and Europe? History professors can blather on *ad nauseam* about events 1,000 years ago, but Presidents are supposed to focus on the here and now. Skip the ignorant and hypocritical lectures, and *do your job*.

Gallup

[The Big Lie: 5.6% Unemployment](#)

by Jim Clifton

Here's something that many Americans -- including some of the smartest and most educated among us -- don't know: The official unemployment rate, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, is extremely misleading.

Right now, we're hearing much celebrating from the media, the White House and Wall Street about how unemployment is "down" to 5.6%. The cheerleading for this number is deafening. The media loves a comeback story, the White House wants to score political points and Wall Street would like you to stay in the market.

None of them will tell you this: If you, a family member or anyone is unemployed and has subsequently given up on finding a job -- if you are so hopelessly out of work that you've stopped looking over the past four weeks -- the Department of Labor doesn't count you as unemployed. That's right. While you are as unemployed as one can possibly be, and tragically may never find work again, you are *not* counted in the figure we see relentlessly in the news -- currently 5.6%. Right now, as many as 30 million Americans are either out of work or severely underemployed. Trust me, the vast majority of them aren't throwing parties to toast "falling" unemployment.

There's another reason why the official rate is misleading. Say you're an out-of-work engineer or healthcare worker or construction worker or retail manager: If you perform a minimum of one hour of work in a week and are paid at least \$20 -- maybe someone pays you to mow their lawn -- you're not officially counted as unemployed in the much-reported 5.6%. Few Americans know this.

Yet another figure of importance that doesn't get much press: those working part time but wanting full-time work. If you have a degree in chemistry or math and are working 10 hours part time because it is all you can find -- in other words, you are severely underemployed -- the government doesn't count you in the 5.6%. Few Americans know this.

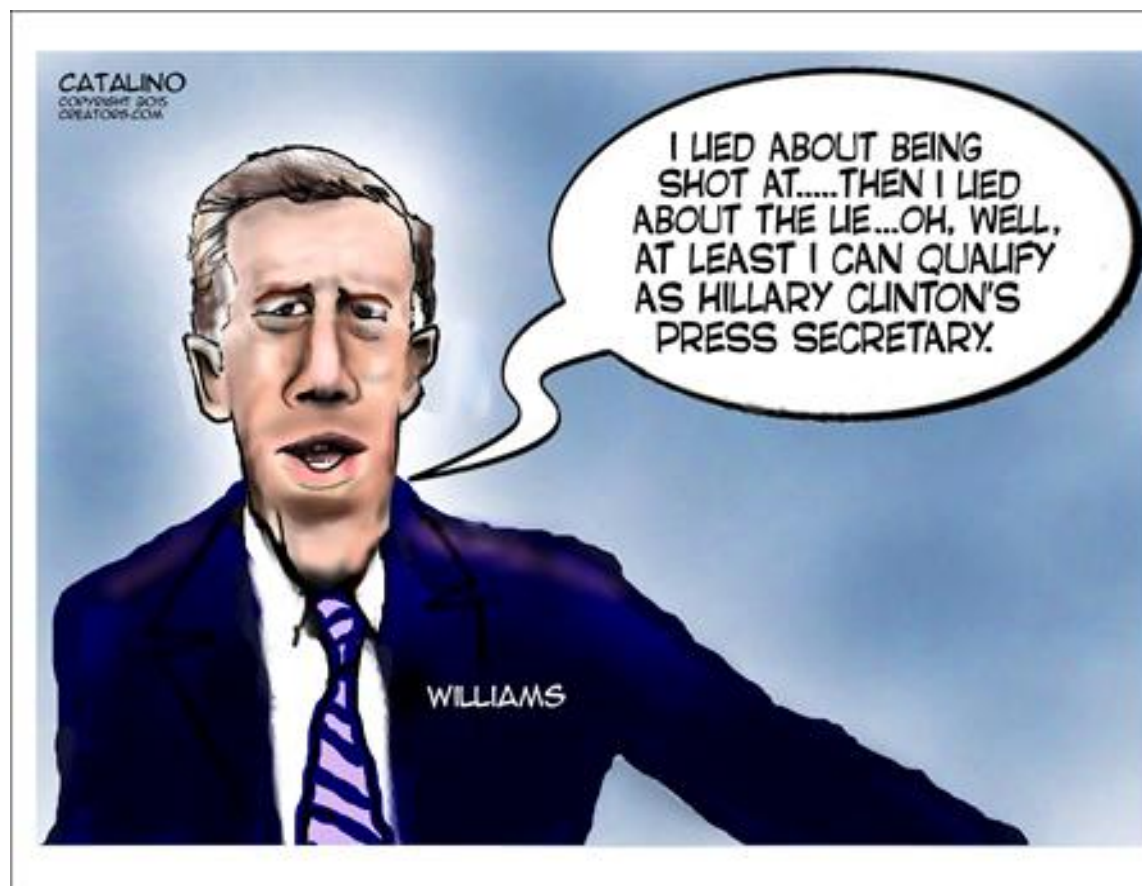
There's no other way to say this. The official unemployment rate, which cruelly overlooks the suffering of the long-term and often permanently unemployed as well as the depressingly underemployed, amounts to a Big Lie.

And it's a lie that has consequences, because the great American dream is to have a good job, and in recent years, America has failed to deliver that dream more than it has at any time in recent memory. A good job is an individual's primary identity, their very self-worth, their dignity -- it establishes the relationship they have with their friends, community and country. When we fail to deliver a good job that fits a citizen's talents, training and experience, we are failing the great American dream.

Gallup defines a good job as 30+ hours per week for an organization that provides a regular paycheck. Right now, the U.S. is delivering at a staggeringly [low rate of 44%](#), which is the number of full-time jobs as a percent of the adult population, 18 years and older. We need that to be 50% and a bare minimum of 10 million new, good jobs to replenish America's middle class.

I hear all the time that "unemployment is greatly reduced, but the people aren't feeling it." When the media, talking heads, the White House and Wall Street start reporting the truth -- the percent of Americans in good jobs; jobs that are full time and *real* -- then we will quit wondering why Americans aren't "feeling" something that doesn't remotely reflect the reality in their lives. And we will also quit wondering what hollowed out the middle class.

Jim Clifton is Chairman and CEO at Gallup.





OBILLARY 2016

LET'S NOT GET ON OUR HIGH HORSE and CONDEMN THOSE POOTIE-HEADS.

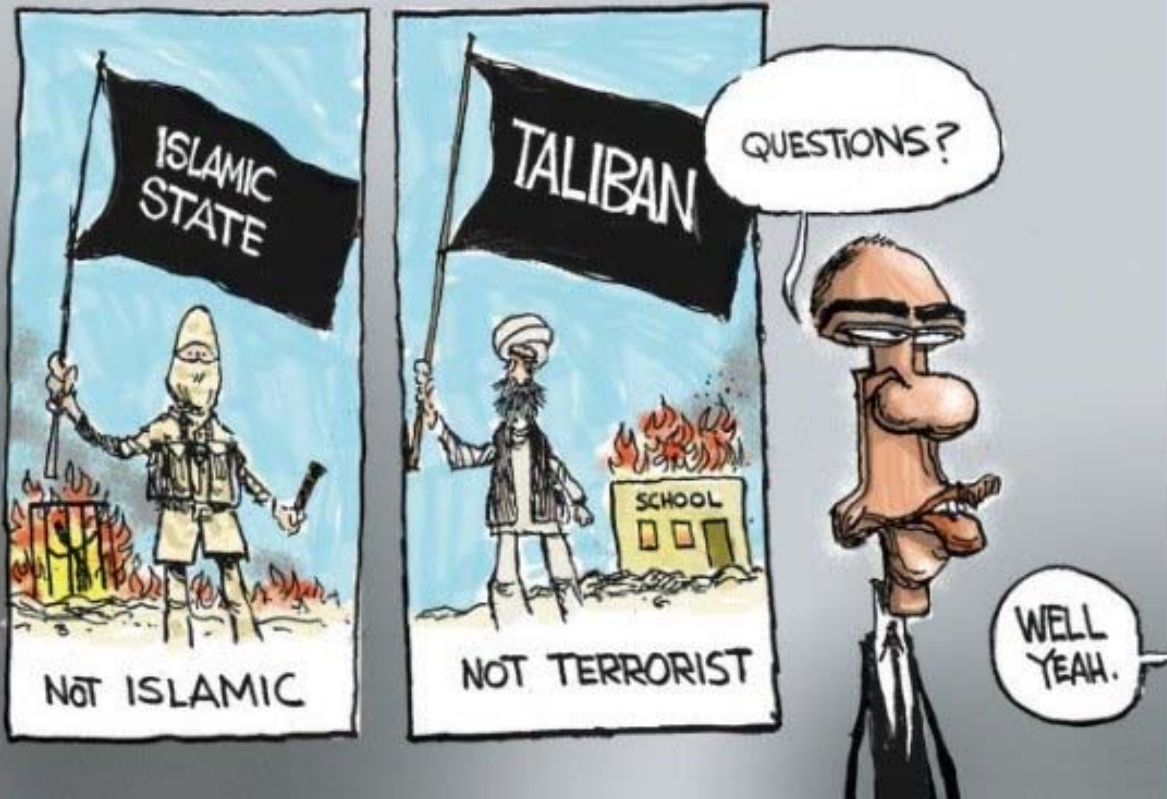
CHRISTIANS have BEEN JUST as BAD...
UH, 1000 years ago.

SHOULDN'T HE BE ATTACKING "RADICAL ISLAM?"

WE CAN'T EVEN SAY "RADICAL ISLAM."



OBAMA the ALOOF HEART.



"If we ever capture the ISIS thug who burned a heroic pilot alive, let's pray we don't pour a cup of water on his face. That would be cruel."

James Woods