



California Review

University of California, San Diego's Conservative Journal for News and Opinion

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An unapologetic celebration of American Ideals since 1982.

Volume XXVIII, February 2009

The Minutemen and the Accusation of Racism: Questions and (Some) Answers - Hannah Jackman

On Thursday, October 16th, Jim Gilchrist, President and founder of the Minutemen project, was scheduled to speak at UCSD. A group of students exercised their freedom of speech and gathered to protest Gilchrist's presence on campus and the Minutemen in general. Afterwards, I asked a girl who had participated in the protest what it was exactly that she took issue with about the Minutemen as an organization. She replied incredulously, "Because they're racists!"

Accusations such as these have the desired effect of obscuring the debate over illegal immigration and border security. In truth, for most people concerned about border security, it almost goes without saying that "race" is rarely among their concerns over a porous border. Yet the opposition has not only made race an issue in the debate over border security, but the focal point. This is a common tactic; the employment of this sort of accusation is designed, regardless of the topic, to discredit the opposition's position, put him on the defensive, but most importantly, to shut him up. Baseless accusations of racism only serve to stifle any chance of engaging in a real debate based on facts. It is of course possible that the Minutemen, like any organization, has racists in it—but at the risk of stating the obvious, this does not mean that the organization itself has a racist agenda. In fact, these accusations often only seem to be leveled on one side of the aisle, so to speak. The name of Hispanic advocacy group "La Raza" literally translates to "the race." But then, in the parallel universe that is political correctness, racism is only racism if it is directed toward certain groups and not others.

So, now that we've moved past the name-calling we can move on to discussing the very real reasons why organizations like the Minutemen and others have reason to be concerned about securing the border.

The position of those opposed to tightening border security seems to be predicated on the sentiment that Mexicans and Central Americans are disadvantaged and should not be denied an opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their families. This evokes a romantic archetype of the kind of person crossing our southern border illegally: an impoverished man with unparalleled work ethic, just trying to eke out a living and feed his family. And who can blame him? In America he can not only find a job, but his children will get a good (free!) education and (free!) emergency health care and (free!) "nutrition assistance" (for those unfamiliar with the euphemism, that's food stamps, a form of government welfare).

Poverty, without a doubt, tugs at all our heartstrings. There are impoverished people around the world, many of whom would sacrifice much to come to the United States for a better life. The massive quantity of people, numbering in the millions, who want to immigrate to America continues to be our greatest compliment; here, there is the possibility for everyone to enjoy success. And the vast majority of Americans want to share our opportunities with everyone willing to come here and work hard.

Which begs the question: who do we let in? How many? And who gets priority? Of the millions of people who want to come to the United States, many are escaping persecution, extreme poverty, oppression, and economies that have failed to provide enough work for them to raise a family on. Others are doctors or scientists with advanced degrees in their own countries who have much to contribute to our society. Do Mexicans and Central Americans somehow have more value than people from other countries using legal channels and waiting in line? Should they have priority simply because we share a border with them, even if many have no intention to become American citizens at all, but consider themselves first and foremost Mexican citizens who are only here to make money before returning home? (Which makes me wonder, why this allegiance to a corrupt government that doesn't make an effort to better the lives of its citizens? Isn't that why they left in the first place?)

In a perfect world, we would like to rescue everyone who has hardships. In the real one, we have to make decisions. Americans have a generous spirit. We as a people have a sense of global responsibility and disdain injustice and fight it, to the extent we can, wherever it occurs in the world. But to what extent are we responsible for the failure of other countries to give their people opportunities? To what extent can we be made responsible for their remedying their poverty? Is it your or my responsibility to be forced to sacrifice large portions of our hard-earned income to subsidize the poverty we have been absorbing? (Or for that matter, subsidize the Mexican government? The money Mexican nationals send home from America is its second greatest source of income.) Because illegal aliens in the U.S. use public services like schools, hospitals, welfare benefits, etc. but in many cases do not pay back into the system through taxes, they create a massive burden on our economy and on us as taxpayers. The massive influx of illegal aliens cannot be discounted in the consideration of the financial problems California has experienced in recent years.

Even if you feel for these poor Mexican and South American families, and we all do, it is important to remember that it is not only those people that are crossing the border illegally. A secure border also prevents people from crossing who would do American citizens harm. Mexican gang members and drug traffickers also take advantage of our porous southern borders. Los Angeles, in particular, has been ravaged by the Mexican Mafia and other dangerous Hispanic illegal alien gangs like the infamous MS-13 and 18th Street gangs (interspersed with our own home-grown variety, of course). These gangs kill rival gang members, some Americans, some not, with such frequency it barely makes local news anymore. And too often innocent American citizens get caught in the crossfire as their neighborhoods have turned into war zones. Ironically, while students protest the "racism" of the Minutemen, many of these murders on the streets of Los Angeles are racially motivated. For example, a 14-year old black girl, Cheryl Green, was shot by Hispanic gang members in what was believed to be a racially motivated shooting.

Moreover, do not think that those with terrorist ties and evil intent toward Americans do not see the vulnerability of our southern border. They do, and have already begun to exploit it. The findings included in a Homeland Security intelligence report obtained by the Washington Times in 2007 are disturbing: "Islamic extremists embedded in the United States — posing as Hispanic nationals — are partnering with violent Mexican drug gangs to finance terror networks in the Middle East, according to a Drug Enforcement Administration report." More frightening still, the article also asserts that "Al Qaeda has been trying to smuggle terrorists and terrorist weapons illegally into the United States. This organization has also tried to enter the U.S. by taking advantage of its most vulnerable border areas. They seek to smuggle OTMs [other than Mexicans] from Middle Eastern countries into the U.S." In a post-9/11 world, this is unacceptable.

See Minutemen, P. 5

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The History Behind the California Review
- Patrick Todd

The California Review has a rich and storied history. Founded in 1982, this journal of news and opinion has provided a counterpoint to the usual leftist rhetoric blasted at students on a daily basis by our beloved professors and student activists. The paper you now read today has passed its stewardship through many Editors-in-Chief throughout its history. However, the California Review in its current incarnation owes its existence to Lucas Simmons. In 2001, he was able to resurrect the paper from the ashes of neglect and create a well-read, frequently published publication. The layout of the paper, the logo, the motto and the overall style of the paper trace its origins to Simmons' designs. Ryan Darby followed Simmons in his own revival of the California Review. Although he left the style of the paper much the same as Mr. Simmons, he greatly improved the organization of the California Review and recruited many writers and editors to the paper. Under Darby's leadership, the paper was published twice quarterly and in full color. The next editor to significantly shape the California Review was Chris Fennell. He changed the format of the California Review to that of a news magazine format. Mr. Fennell also added more feature content to The California Review including reviews of a local auto show. After Mr. Fennell's tenure, Jonathan Israel took the helm. He reverted the paper back to the newspaper format used previously. He was able to repeat Mr. Darby's success in printing large issues frequently. Editor Alea Roach carried the torch left by Mr. Israel until she left for the UCDC program. She was finally succeeded by the current Editor-in-Chief Alec Weisman, who was left to restore the California Review to its former glory after almost two years without an issue of the California Review being printed. There are many others who have been instrumental in the success of the California Review putting their blood, sweat and tears into creating the best conservative newspaper possible. Everyone who has written, edited, drawn, or done layout for the paper has given their time and energy to help shape the paper. It is with a great sense of honor that we continue the tradition of the California Review at UCSD.

From the Source

Welcome back! To everyone who enjoyed our last issue, the California Review is grateful for your support. For those of you who disagreed with what you read but gave up your time to read a different perspective, thank you. Keeping an open mind and listening to viewpoints not traditionally expressed on college campuses serves as the foundation of our mission at the California Review. I am proud to dedicate this issue of the California Review in the memory of the bicentennial of the Sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Why is Abraham Lincoln a major focus in this issue of the California Review? As February 12, 2009 serves as the two hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and because President Barack Obama has just taken office, it appears fitting to dwell a little upon the legacy of President Lincoln. Of course there are many other issues are pressing to the California Review, and we will continue to focus on those as well. Over the next few issues we will be radically shifting the format of the California Review into a more detailed argument for conservative principles and ideals, as well as seeking to grow our base.

My thanks go out to the Staff of the California Review for their time and effort placed into writing the articles serving as the basis for the California Review; Inez Feltscher and Joshua House, my Associate Editors, for their effort in refining the focus of California Review towards a stronger defense of conservative ideology in a more in depth and academic format; Misty Tienken, my Advertising Manager, and Daniel Church, my Business Manager, for their dedication to the California Review. I would also like to thank the College Republicans at UCSD, the Marksmanship Club at UCSD, the Libertarian Club at UCSD, and Tritons for Israel for contributing members to serve as writers for the California Review. Finally, my thanks goes out to everyone who looks forward to reading this edition of the California Review and many more to come in the future.

- Alec Weisman
Editor-In-Chief

California Review

"Imperium Libertatis"

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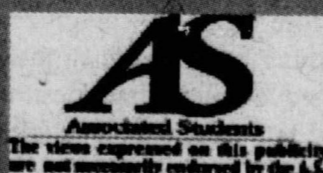
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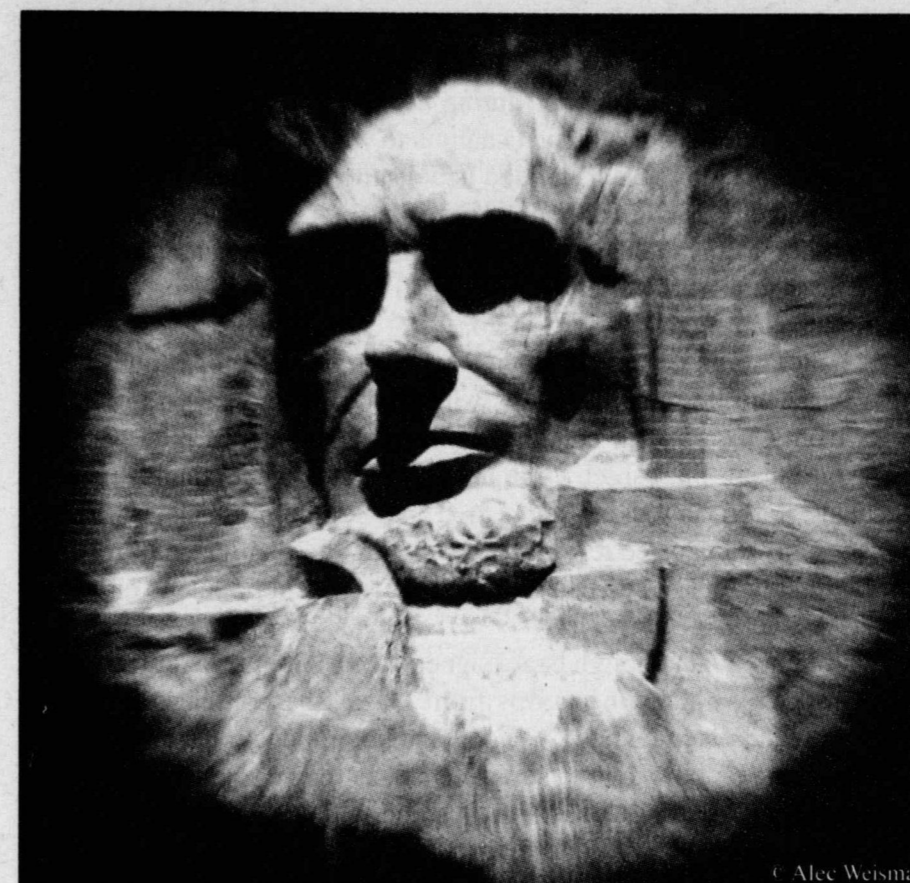
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LINCOLN'S LEGACY



A Southerners Take on Abraham Lincoln
Alice Chao

I was born and raised in the Deep South, Georgia, to be more specific. I look back fondly on my time there and hope to move back someday, not just because of the great people there, but because of the values which many, if not most Southerners, hold. Considering that this will be Lincoln's two hundredth birthday, a discussion of Lincoln's views is in order, as my view of Lincoln's legacy in the South is only one of many. Sadly, the small minority of stereotypical Southern racist rednecks seems to define the way all Southerners are seen by the rest of the nation.

But here's to setting the record straight. Lincoln was, without a doubt, one of the best Presidents this country has ever had. And Lincoln was a member of the (then fairly new) Republican Party; formed in almost direct opposition to the Democrats, who had long been pro-slavery. Speaking for myself, as one who was formerly immersed in Southern culture, Lincoln is a hero. The South was absolutely wrong in fighting for the institution of slavery during the Civil War and the Republican Party and Lincoln were right in taking up arms against the South.

The Republicans, the party that Lincoln brought to the forefront of the American stage, have continued to stand for what is right, whether it be fighting against slavery or the Jim Crow laws that the Democrats of that day were so fond of, or fighting for the rights of the unborn with no voice of their own, or fighting for the institution of traditional marriage.

My Personal Connection with Abraham Lincoln
Guest Writer - Geraldine Minas

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 2009, my personal recollections of our greatest President come to mind.

Growing up in Springfield, Illinois, also known as Lincoln Land, I became immersed in the legends surrounding our 16th President early. My Lincoln connection seemed to have begun immediately when my parents took me to my first home, which happened to be directly across from Lincoln's Springfield house. Not everyone can claim that her first home is now a national monument. That home has now been torn down, as every building on the street that wasn't there in the 1840's and 1850's, when Lincoln lived there, was demolished.

Every Sunday I walked past Lincoln's home on the way to my Grandparents' house down the street. My friends and I often took the tour of the Lincoln home. In the 1940's only the first floor of his home was available for public viewing. It was more sparsely furnished than it is now. Lincoln and his family lived there for 16 years.

In Springfield's grammar schools it was required that the students memorize Lincoln's Farewell Address to Springfield when he left by train to assume the Presidency, and his Gettysburg Address.

My family was in Springfield a few years ago and we toured the magnificent new Lincoln museum. We also visited New Salem where Lincoln grew to manhood. When I was young, my parents often took me out there to visit the log cabin village.

Second only to the Bible are books about Lincoln. I have accumulated quite a few and have devoted one room in my home to displaying Lincoln souvenirs and pictures that I have collected over the years.

No matter how many books I read about Lincoln, there has never been a word written to tarnish his brilliance and sense of morality. There has never been another President since that could wear Lincoln's hat, stand in his shadow or walk in his shoes.

Lincoln brought moral ideals of right and wrong to the national stage, and a new and improved beginning to the post-bellum South; today because of Lincoln, the South has become a thriving metropolis of big business and racial tolerance. Although a racist minority still exists in the South, these same bigoted people live everywhere else as well.

Would Lincoln have approved of the policies of Barack Obama? Probably not. Lincoln led a war for those without a voice. Lincoln surely would have also taken to fighting for another group without a voice: the unborn. Barack Obama has not done so, he continues to support abortion, a highly morally questionable practice. Lincoln fought for all that had no voice, Obama (and the Democrats in general) seem only after their own agenda of abusing the rights of those who have no voice.

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INSIGHTS INTO ISRAEL

My Personal Connection to the Conflict in Gaza

Dafna Barzilay

Defining the many issues involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be done by one person or through so many words. A conflict that has so many layers, complexities, and involves political issues as well as personal issues cannot be judged or simplified down to the mere basic surface as is being done at UCSD.

I spent time in Israel a week into the war in Gaza. My winter break started with 10 days of travel on a program called Birthright, a free ten day trip to Israel for Jewish students ages 18 to 26. For my peers, the trip opened up a fresh view of a modern Israel that is filled with Jewish unification through history, while my experience allowed me to revisit my homeland. I spent the first half of my life living in Israel prior to moving to California, thereafter traveling to Israel every summer to see my relatives. Being in Israel this winter allowed me to introduce and reveal my culture, and validate my strong inclinations to side with Israel in the Israel-Palestinian conflict to my peers at UCSD.

I spent the rest of break with my family and close friends, most of whom serve in the Israel Defense Forces. When the war erupted there was no unusual vibe in the central area where I was staying. This was not because the attacks by Hamas were unexpected. Instead, the ordinary circumstances of living in a land that has dealt with war since its existence caused most civilians to live on their feet, prepared for any type of attack. While the civilians in the southernmost part of Israel were the most affected in the first few weeks of the war, the entire country sacrificed one thing or another in order to help. My best friends serving in the IDF had to work on emergency duty, doing anything from calming down victims after they have witnessed a crash of a rocket, to bandaging up injured families. My uncle, a father in his forties, had to leave his family for weeks to train air force pilots. Other families, living in the safer north part of the country hosted families who were in danger in the south for the duration of the war.

I'm almost two decades old and have faced by more international conflict directly than most of my fellow American friends. With the second Intifada, the second Lebanon War, and now the war with Gaza, Israeli citizens, already used to almost constant conflict, have become even more familiar with the concept and day-to-day life of war. While I condemn violence and prefer negotiation, I simply believe that the state of Israel does not have any other choice in fighting terror, and has every right to defend itself.

We the staff of the *California Review* support Israel's right to self defense and the actions it has taken in Gaza. We condemn the terrorism fostered by Hamas over the past 8 years. Although we show concern for all civilian lives on both sides of the conflict, we remain in solidarity with the Israeli citizens who have been affected by the rocket fire which has been carried out by the terrorist government of Hamas. It is only right that Israel acts to protect its citizens and end the threat posed by the terrorists of Hamas.

A Perspective on the Israel Situation

Yelena Altman

Being an Israel supporter during the last few weeks has been difficult. From rallies and protests on campus to what I would call Israel-hate on facebook, our job as clear-minded Israel supporters has been extremely difficult. Although nothing we do on campus can be equated to what Israeli soldiers do, as they are sent into Gaza to fight against the Hamas insurgents who terrorize the lives of Israeli civilians daily, we can try to bring understanding to UC San Diego.

Israel wants peace. However, Israel, like any other country, has a right to defend herself. Israel has withstood over eight years of rocket attacks from Gaza, and to continue to let things continue how they had been would mean that Israeli civilians would have to continue to endure homemade Katyusha rockets being fired into southern Israel. Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, has instigated terrorist attacks on bus stations, disco clubs, and coffee shops in populous cities like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

I believe that although Israel signed a ceasefire just a few days ago, and has begun withdrawing troops from Gaza, she continues to have a right to defend herself. The U.S. Congress unanimously passed a resolution supporting Israel's right to self-defense, as they agree the invasion of Gaza was an act of self-defense. And I stand with the U.S. and Israel.

In 2005, Israel even disengaged from the Gaza Strip, in the hopes of beginning a two-state solution for peace. Instead, Hamas became even more aggressive towards Israel and overthrew the elected government of the more moderate Fatah. Since the disengagement, the Gaza strip has been turned into a haven for smuggling activities and terrorist plots. For example, in 2006, Hamas terrorists kidnapped Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit. From ongoing threats and numerous bombings and rocket fire, Israel finally retaliated by invading Gaza trying to prevent further aggression towards Israeli civilians.

Finally, Israel has not reacted disproportionately. Israel's reaction is not only justified and right, but is necessary and appropriate under such extreme circumstances. As House Resolution 34 recognizes, "Israel has a right to defend herself against attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process."

On campus, defending Israel has become my mission and the mission of many others all across the country. As Americans, we should support Israel's right to defend herself and rally together in support of Israel and her mission of peace.

FOCUS: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

See The Minutemen and the Accusation of Racism, P.1

Another argument for why we should keep our borders open seems to be that people perceive that we need illegal immigrants because our economy depends on them. Apparently, we need them to do work "Americans won't do." American citizens, however, will take virtually any unpleasant job, provided the money is good enough. But corporate greed has led to companies cutting labor costs by hiring illegal aliens for a mere pittance instead (which, to be fair, is still more than they would be making in Mexico) in order to give you, the consumer, a lower price, rather than paying an American citizen a fair wage for his labor. In truth, encouraging the use of illegal alien labor is perhaps the most racist argument. It advocates the creation some sort of permanent underclass of people, a never-ending supply of Hispanic illegal immigrants, to do our "dirty work." It supports a system in which we enjoy low-cost goods on the backs of people who work very hard for very little. By favoring the current system, you are complicit in a form of racism.

The Minutemen are an organization born from the concern of ordinary citizens about the effect the huge influx of illegal aliens—some estimates as high as 12 million!—and the effects it has on our community and the economy. Its aim is not to intimidate those here illegally but to make a point to state and federal governments that their inattention to our southern border has created such a dire situation that the citizenry has had to organize itself to help protect it. The Minutemen are not vigilantes out in the desert using illegal aliens crossing the border for target practice, they are simply volunteers notifying a massively understaffed border patrol when they see illegal crossings (a job which the border patrol should be doing anyway.) Gilchrist saw an opportunity for ordinary citizens to make a difference, but more importantly, to make a statement.

Larry Elder, a news commentator for KABC radio in Los Angeles, often likes to quote one of his professors from Brown law school: "When the law is on your side, you pound on the law. When the facts are on your side, you pound on the facts. When you have neither the law nor the facts on your side, you pound on the table." This accusation of racism leveled at the Minutemen and others who want our borders secure is the argumentative equivalent of "pounding on the table." It has no basis in fact and does little to produce a constructive environment in which to debate the problems at the border. So if you are for keeping open borders, let's dispense with the venom and have a real discussion on the benefits and consequences of this policy. And please, leave the name-calling for the school yard.

Stop Illegal Immigration

- Chris Chang

"What's to talk about? It's illegal." -- Sonny Bono on illegal immigration
Nothing more needs to be said. Thanks for reading. "...But it's a bad law, and bad laws deserve to be ignored!" an illegal immigration advocate may argue. Okay, okay, I guess there is more to say.

If there's no reasonable alternative, yes, I can't fault ignoring a bad law. But there is an alternative. And just because the law is not perfect -- certainly the bureaucracy could use some cleaning up -- does not mean it is bad.

From failing public schools that had previously succeeded (California's public school performance has dropped from above the median to the bottom 10% in the last four decades) to a global financial meltdown-scale mortgage crisis with massive Hispanic over representation among the foreclosure victims, the signs are all around us that we're not doing a good job of assimilating Mexican immigrants. Either this problem is currently within our capacity to solve, or it isn't. If it is, the logical thing to do is FIRST fix our systems until existing immigrants really are integrating, and THEN admit more as we're able. This works to the benefit of all, directly addressing most Americans' worst fears and simultaneously maximizing what we do for Mexicans. I'd rather not think about the second case, beyond observing that the same strategy handles it better than what we're doing at the moment.

Now, things were roughly as bad in 1909, and we got through that just fine. But HOW did we manage that? By imposing increasingly strict immigration quotas in the face of popular discontent, until the borders were almost closed between 1924 and 1965. Do I know for sure that this restriction was necessary? No. Indeed, it's a pity we didn't admit more families fleeing Hitler's wrath. But "we were in situation A, did B, and came out fine" is support for doing B, reducing immigration soon, rather than C, its opposite. (And for all I know, if we had done a better job of moderating immigration before 1933, we would have been happier to accept European refugees in the dark years that followed).

Could the argument for increasing immigration ultimately be the strongest? Perhaps. But there's little justification for breaking the law, let alone proudly advocating such behavior, in that case. We live in a democracy, with a tried-and-true system for dealing with bad laws -- convincing the voters to want to change it. Those who think the American people are too irredeemably ignorant or racist to deserve self-government may have an audience in China's Politburo. But they are not welcome here.

Tritons for Israel

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REPUBLICAN RESTORATION

A Call for Conservatives The Future of the Republican Party Joshua House

There has been many an article, polemic, and book about the future of the Republican Party. It is generally accepted that the party has seen a decline since the 2006 elections. Some have blamed the Iraq war; others, the Bush administration. Regardless, most within the party see the need for reform. In searching for the answer for the current anti-Republican sentiment developing among the American electorate, I have seen the importance of analyzing past successes as well as the current and bygone failures in advancing Republican ideals. It has become clear that the party thrives when advancing the Conservative ideals of limited government, strong national defense, and cultural conservatism. Likewise, the party falters when it fails to follow through on any of these fronts. It is a return to Conservative values that will restore the Republican Party to favor with the American people and, perhaps, preserve the greatness of our country.

First, we must examine what is going, and has gone, wrong with the party. In evaluating the past 8 years of executive power, what do we make of the Republican performance? It must be said that the Bush administration offered up a unique platform. During the primaries, when running against the notably economically liberal John McCain, Bush presented himself as the supreme Free-marketeer. However, approaching the general election, Bush began to emphasize his other identity, the 'compassionate' conservative. It was described by him as a free-market ideology softened by improved educational services and the occasional subsidy or tax break for charitable organizations. Alas, the true colors of the Bush administration, finally came out. The promotion of the automaker bailout alienated many Conservative Americans. The financial bailout was an easier sell; most Americans do not understand the intricacies of our modern banking system, let alone monetary policy. However, Americans do know how sales and manufacturing work. They are also familiar with cars, not to mention the quality thereof. Americans understand that when companies are not run well, and when they do not produce quality products, they will likely go under. Even former Governor Mitt Romney, whose family fortune was made in Detroit, opposed the bailout. Americans are right to see that something is not right. They are right to see that it is foolish logic to claim to "save the free market" by "abandoning free market principles". This is not the first time this claim was made.

Popular myth has it that, after the stock market crash of 1929, President Herbert Hoover worsened the economic condition of our nation by advocating a policy of laissez-faire. Hoover did nothing, it is said, thus creating the tragic state of affairs we remember via pictures of bread lines and "Hoovervilles". Unfortunately, this is complete fantasy. Beginning in 1930, Hoover launched major building projects, similar to those Obama is proposing. Hoover also promoted the passage of new tariffs, lessening the benefits of free trade in order to raise American employment. Even Franklin D. Roosevelt is on record as worrying about the spending of Hoover. Indeed, it must be said that the "New Deal Era" begun with Hoover, not FDR. Many economists today believe that the Great Depression may not have been as bad, had Hoover stuck to free market policies but that was not to be and The Hoover administration has gone down in history as a failed Republican administration.

Having evaluated Republican failures, let us examine a success. The classic success story of the Republicans has been the Reagan administration. Essentially one must be an admirer of Reagan to be a Republican. But this success story did not happen overnight. Many in the 60's and 70's saw the socialization of America as inevitable. Europe had gone the way of the nanny-state, the United States seemed soon to follow. However, a revolt had begun by both American intellectuals and lay people alike. Economists, philosophers, and even the ordinary American had begun to see that something was very, very wrong with the "Great Society". Economists saw it as financially untenable, philosophers had moral qualms regarding the growth of the state, and citizens used common sense to see that it simply was not working. An avalanche had started and those on the other end of the political spectrum could not stop its force.

Ironically, the Conservative movement was, to a certain extent, progressive. It was, to use the analogy of William F. Buckley, Jr., a movement standing athwart history yelling, "Stop!" Reagan, worked for the goals of limited government, national defense, and cultural conservatism. Though not all of his methods were preferable, his goals were Conservative. America's most respected Republican was a Conservative.

The unfortunate part of the success story is that, with the Reagan administration, Conservatives became 'the Man'. No longer could conservatives claim to be different, as they were in control. The Republican Party, became stale. Despite a revival in 1994, most would agree that the Bush administration has exemplified the threadbare state of the party.

Now the Republicans are anything but content. Power has been lost in both the legislative and executive branches. Calls for reform are profuse. Having outlined both successes and failures incurred by the party, I would like to advocate what I see as crucial to future success. The Republican Party must return to Conservatism. Compassionate conservatism and Neo-conservatism have invaded the party's platform, giving Conservatives and Americans the impression that the Republican party lost its fundamental principles. Indeed, the creation of the Libertarian Party in the 1970's was largely a result of Nixon's Neo-conservative policies. To avoid further schism, the Republican Party must re-embrace Conservatism.

First and foremost, a return to Conservatism means a return to limited government, especially on the federal level. One of the main appeals of Conservatism was that it relied on the Jeffersonian model of government; that is, that government ought to be bottom-up, not top-down. Increased states rights and a smaller, less wasteful federal government are necessary to achieve this goal. Limited government, and the ideal of individual freedom it entails, implies the necessity of free market economic policy. Aside from the utilitarian benefits argued by economists, the free market provides a value that socialism never could: individual freedom.

Second, Conservatives must argue for a strong national defense, not necessarily a specific military doctrine. Debate is needed on specific methods of executing foreign policy. Still, I consider three points to be universal. Above all, military equipment and technology must continue to develop. This is not an excuse for a mismanaged budget, but due to the rapid growth of technology, a free people must possess an advanced military, else those freedoms may not last long. Next, if war occurs, it must proceed constitutionally and with the full intent of winning. There must be declaration of war and support by congress. After the declaration, a plan of attack ought to be devised as to insure victory. This implies that victory must be possible and against a predetermined and clearly declared enemy. Last, foreign policy must be carried out with full consideration for the natural rights of freedom and self-determination of foreign peoples. It would be hypocritical to fight for liberty at home and forsake it abroad. Albeit, these are general principles, but I believe the Conservative debate on foreign policy must use them as ideals, even if methods differ.

Third, Conservatives in the Republican Party must promote cultural conservatism. Above all, let me stress that this does not mean legislating moral values. While many laws are based on morality, individual actions that have no effect on society need not be legislated, even if they are discouraged. The legality of an action does not mean it is condoned. That being said, it is inherently American that personal responsibility is considered a virtue and can only be protected by limiting the powers of government. Another virtue of Conservatism is reverence for tradition. This does not mean valuing ritual over reason. Most of our founders would have scoffed at the notion of legislating for the sake of tradition without appeal to reason. The classical liberalism our nation was founded on gives immense value to the concept of reason - even seeing it as somewhat divine. Acknowledging our roots is important for the proper development of progress. No good can come from ignoring history. Finally, the issue of religion in the public square. While religion and faith are not to be forced upon people via government under the principle of freedom of conscience, it does not follow that they must be avoided. The simple fact that our constitution appeals to natural rights, given to us by Nature, God, Providence, etc., shows the importance of religion to our nations history. To be sure, one may argue that it is not believing in a specific deity that is crucial to our freedoms, it is simply denying our own divinity. Rights are not conferred by man, they originate from designs out of our control. Paying homage to this philosophy, ought not be avoided.

It is by these three principles that Conservatism has seen success, it is through Conservatism that the Republican Party has seen success, and it is by returning to these principles that the party will succeed. It is not the particulars of the platform that need reforming. William F. Buckley, Jr. made the argument that it is possible to have conservative positions, without being a Conservative. A capital-'C' Conservative, he said, holds conservative ideals and is ever fighting for them. To rescue the party, Republicans need to stop voting conservatively and to become Conservatives. The Republican Party must return to being a party of principle.

CONSERVATIVE DISCUSSION

See Fascist, P. 8

All these elements lead me to conclude that the key distinctions between fascism and communism are not in their essential platforms, but rather in the way that fascism sought to consolidate socialism with the extremely powerful force of nationalism, as socialism in a single nation. This was opposed to the traditional line of Marxist-Leninist thought, which portrayed nationalistic struggles as simply struggles between the bourgeoisie classes in different countries. This struggle was seen as extraneous to the international workers collective, the goal of which was to create an international workers rule, where national distinctions were irrelevant and class distinctions were all that mattered. Seen in this light, fascism is thus best characterized as a different, explicitly nationalistic brand of the unarguably leftist philosophy of socialism or collectivism.

Strange as it may seem to those who try to characterize them as polar opposites, fascism and Marxist socialism were competing for the support of mostly the same base of people. Almost inarguably, this is the way the movements saw themselves during their early days: as competing leftist philosophies. Hitler liked to brag about how the Communists that would come to his Workers Party meetings to cause trouble would often end up joining his fascist movement (Hitler 484-5). The Nazis won over working class support by appealing to similar redistributionist class warfare rhetoric as the Communists, but still embracing an explicitly nationalistic bent and actually following through on its promises to win battles for the German workingman against the Jewish finance elite. Peasants, burghers, and workers were convinced of the utility of National socialism by its attacks on bankers and usurers (Schuman 118). An essay contest held by American sociologist Theodore Abel revealed that many of Hitler's Nazi Party members were drawn to Nazism as an alternative socialism to international Marxism (Goldberg 74). All over Germany, left wing radicals who had been frustrated by Marxism's insistence on the destruction of the nation, and emphasis on unity between the workers of the world, found the call of Hitler's National Socialist Party appealing.

There is evidence that the leaders, too, followed socialist philosophy. Though Adolph Hitler has been painted as the great right wing dictator of history, his actions and writings make it clear that he saw himself as a great leftist revolutionary. His testimonial *Mein Kampf* is stuffed with leftist and socialist language and ideas. On the great socialist revolution, Hitler wrote, "Some day the German youth will either be the builder of a new folkish state, or they will be the witness of total collapse, the end of the bourgeois world" (Hitler 406). He describes the bourgeoisie class in stereotypically Marxist-Leninist terms, as useless and oppressive (Hitler 407). Similarly, after rising to power, Hitler wrote, "We were not intending to do anything like conserve a bourgeois world. Had communism really intended nothing more than eliminating isolated rotten elements from among the ranks of our so-called upper ten thousand one could have sat back quietly and looked on for a while" (Goldberg 60). Hitler's opposition to the Communist Party and socialist agitators rested more on paranoia about Jewish control of the Marxist movement than an actual objection with its aims. Additionally, Hitler espoused other leftist attitudes, such as "the rejection of rationalism, an emphasis on the organic and holistic including environmentalism And most of all, the need to transcend notions of class" (Goldberg 59). As far as I can see, Hitler was not on the right.

Not only were socialist associations and philosophies a substantial force in the fascist movement and it its leaders thinking, but also, socialism as an economic model was an integral part of fascism as a government system. A British fascist scholar wrote in 1928 that, economically speaking, "The acceptance of fascist principles means the end of Laissez-Faire as an absolute principle," (Barnes 113) and furthermore that through the fascist system, "A transformation of economic conditions away from Capitalism will come to be complete" (Barnes 118). Socialist economics were viewed as an important and inseparable part of fascist doctrine.

Hitler's vision for Nazi Germany was steeped in left wing socialist economics. The Nazi Party's official platform contained, alongside the racial definitions of the German nation, the abolition of unearned (work and labour) incomes, nationalization of industries, breaking of rent-slavery, welfare for the old, land reform, and universal healthcare (Goldberg 412). None of these goals would be out of place on Nancy Pelosi's wish list! The clash between National Socialism and the German Communists did not come from true disagreement over economic policy, but rather from the Nazis instance on "socialism for Germany" (Schuman 117). Even the Nazi's flag showed that "In red we see the socialist idea of the movement, in white the nationalistic idea" (Hitler 497).

Finally, in contradiction to the idea of right wing religiousness that was supposedly embroiled in fascism, Hitler, though he occasionally used religion as a tool, did not like traditional Christianity, or any other major religion. While he did invoke some sense of a Christian identity in *Mein Kampf*, he mostly sought to bend it to his goals, such as the exhortation for the unfit not to bring unhappy children into the world. Because the Nazis and Hitler elevated Germanic folklore, they believed that Germany needed to rediscover its pre-Christian authenticity (Goldberg 363). They replaced the Christian calendar with a Nazi one, and the Nativity scene was banned along with prayer in schools. Religious services were permitted only as they preached about Hitler as the new Jesus, who saves the German Volk from decay (Goldberg 364). And when Protestant pastors tried to protest, Hitler's real views came through. "Christianity will disappear from Germany just as it has done in Russia" (Goldberg 365).

All these mostly unheard features of fascism do not point to the key distinction between Communism and Fascism as that of two polar opposites. Rather, they point to fascism as a new brand or type of leftist socialism, one that allowed for, and indeed, exhorted to the highest extreme, the feeling of ethnic nationalism that Marxian socialism tries to squash in favor of the Socialist International. This is the essential pull that the fascists tried to fill, and that does not make them right wing, but simply a nationalistic take on the leftist idea of socialism.

The term fascism has become fashionable to use on anyone we disagree with, to smear them in the public eye. Take for example, liberals who insist that George W. Bush is America's Hitler or that Ann Coulter is a Nazi pinup girl. It is my hope that Americans will educate themselves about the full and controversial meaning of the word they love to use. Fascism is, ultimately, just another left wing phenomenon.

Full Article and Sources Cited at: <http://conservativeapologist.wordpress.com/>

What is with all the Anger? - Chris Chang

On November 4, 2008, California's voters approved of Proposition 8, and there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

I didn't get it. Or rather, I did get it, but I couldn't take the protesters seriously.

The most commonly heard argument against 8 was an analogy to the "separate but equal" treatment of blacks. But the resemblance is superficial at best. Black children suffered real day-to-day harm from lack of quality teachers and resources. In contrast, California Assembly Bill 205, passed in 2003, granted gay and lesbian domestic partnerships essentially all the rights and responsibilities of straight marriages -- the battle for equality was won in this state, half a decade ago. As for the few legal differences that remain, as much as I'd like to live forever (get to work, bio students!), for now our civilization is still utterly dependent on children for its long-term survival, and straight couples are the only ones capable of naturally conceiving them. How is it fair to exclude homosexuals but not people who are probably too old to conceive, you ask? Well, guess what, there IS an age limit -- if you're over 62 years old and you want to get married, you'll have to put up with being formally recognized as a domestic partner in California.

The institution of marriage has evolved in the West to be the primary socially-sanctioned framework for having and raising kids. "Love" is a strongly related concept, but it's not the exact same thing; and indeed, the point of domestic partnership laws is to recognize love without any expectation of kids! (And I would personally be fine with the law treating gays and lesbians who do have children via IVF exactly the same as married couples, though I may not speak for all Prop 8 supporters). What we really need is a less clumsy term than "domestic partnership" with which to make this distinction.

The bottom line is, despite propaganda to the contrary, Proposition 8 did not delegitimize homosexual love by any stretch of the imagination. It would take a repeal of AB 205 for that, and I'd fight against that just as passionately as the most outspoken Prop 8 protester.

AN INTELLECTUAL DEBATE

A New Look at Fascism: A Specter From the Left?

- Inez Feltscher

Fascism is one of the most historically examined political phenomena of the twentieth century. Its social, political and philosophical consequences resonated throughout the century and continue today into the twenty-first. Though the whole topic of fascism is embroiled in controversy, the surprisingly uncontested consensus and common wisdom today is that fascism is an extreme manifestation of right wing principles, just as Communism is considered the logical extreme of the left. I will use the terms left and right wing, in general, as defined by the American political spectrum. That is, I assume that the right wing political philosophy is characterized by classical liberalism both politically and economically (that is, small government principles and laissez-faire economics) as well as containing within it some homage to traditionalist values and resistance to revolutionary change. In contrast, the left is characterized by an overt willingness to progressive change, a predisposition towards a more distributionist or controlled economic policy, and a willingness to allow government to encroach upon the individual as long as it is doing it to help out those who may have been given the short end of the stick by the system at large. These definitions are debatable, but on the whole, generally accepted and not the subject at hand.

The real question is whether or not the last 50 or so years of scholarship correctly gauged the assignment of fascism on the political spectrum as a right wing phenomenon. From where in the political spectrum did European fascism really arise, the left or the right? The most indisputable case of fascist government in Europe during the twentieth century is Hitler's Nazi Germany. Controversial though it may be, when critically examined, the historical evidence shows that Hitler's fascism should rightly (no pun intended) be characterized as a left wing phenomenon, and not as the extreme logical consequence of conservative philosophy.

But even the essential nature of fascism is disputed; scholars disagree over an exact definition for the political system. A fascist government does have several agreed-upon characteristics: a charismatic and powerful leader who embodies the will of the people without the need for liberal institutions, an overarching totalitarian state, at least an emphasis on ethnic nationalism, and more debatably, overt militarism or international aggressiveness. This is the most recognized definition, and this is the series of defining characteristics that will be assumed so that the debate can go forward.

The story of Hitler's ascent to power and subsequent actions is extraordinarily well known, and I will not repeat it here, except for the important note that the fascist movement was popular and democratic without the actual institutions of democracy.

Corporatism, militarism, and overt religiousness have been the three most often-cited supposedly rightist elements of fascism. Many scholars see corporatism as one of the central elements of fascism. A defining element of international fascism was corporatism the Fascist corporate state (Morgan 125). But lay people too, even educated ones; exaggerate the influence of corporatism on the fascist state. Popular television host Bill Maher defined fascism as when corporations become the government (Goldberg 2). There are many who believe that Nazi Germany was financed and to some extent controlled by big corporations. Militarism was undoubtedly present in fascist regimes; Nazi Germany aggressively invaded other nations. Lastly, many believe that Hitler's Germany was explicitly Christian in its self-identity. Such arguments seem to have some initial merit, and it is easy to see why fascism could be regarded as corporatist, militaristic, and religious in nature, and possible to see why these qualities might make it right wing. However, I hold that the far stronger argument is that which explains fascism as a different brand of socialism, a national socialism, opposed to the international socialists, but nevertheless, still socialism, best placed firmly within the bounds of left-wing extremism. The great American intellectual H.G. Wells saw no contradiction between liberalism (the modern American sense of left-wing, not classical liberalism) and his support for fascist governments abroad. He was not forced to be either a liberal or an authoritarian, but could seek liberal ends by means that were anything but (Coupland 542). Indeed, Wells first coined the term liberal fascism in a speech to students (Coupland 543).

It is not that there weren't some rightist characteristics to the fascist revolution in Germany, but rather these aspects have been blown out of proportion, while substantial leftist elements are essentially ignored.

We at the *California Review* would like to introduce the new comic strip called "The Right Side." However, unfortunately for all the fans, our Cartoonist would prefer to remain anonymous for now. The Cartoonist does however hope you enjoy this highly politically incorrect comic.



Fascism is a phenomenon of the left for several key reasons. First, in both central cases, the base of support for the fascist movement was at least in large part the same as that of the Socialist and Communist movements; both rank-and-file fascists and fascist leaders like Hitler, were Socialists, ex-Socialists or Communists. Second, fascism explicitly pursued anti-liberal (classical liberal) aims both politically, which is agreed upon by most, and, more controversially, economically. This includes the fascist call for class struggle and socialist economics. Third, though fascism did not ultimately make war on religion in the same way that Communism did, most key fascist thinkers despised traditional religion and sought to replace God with the all-powerful State. Though they sometimes used traditional religion as a way to appeal to popular society, when closely examined fascism seems to have a similar attitude towards religion as Marxist Communism: as an opiate for the masses and something to ultimately be replaced as societal or national glue by the State.

I will not dispute that German National Socialism had some elements of corporatism, at least as far as corporatism is defined as the melding of state and industry. However, the regime never enjoyed anything like unfettered support from investment bankers or entrepreneurs. The aristocracy and business elite were generally repulsed by Hitler and the Nazis. But when Hitler showed that he wasn't going away, these elites decided it would be wise to put down some insurance money on the upstarts (Goldberg 59). German corporations were hedging their bets, not wanting to end up the losers in the political turmoil of the 1930s. The fact that there were corporatist elements in fascist regimes does not make them conservative, nor does it make them any less socialist.

Militarism is an undeniable part of the fascist state. Hitler built up his army and held aggressively militaristic stances towards other nations around Europe. Nazi Germany had its sights set on, at the least, European domination. However, Goldberg writes, and I agree, that when scholars focus on militarism, they are failing to "distinguish between the symptoms and the disease" of the fascist system (5). Additionally, I fail to see how militarism is in itself, a right wing idea. If overt militarism is all it takes to be right wing, then everyone from Che Guevara and Joseph Stalin to the Imperial Japanese are right-wingers. However, I will not try to argue that fascist regimes are not militaristic, as they clearly were.

See Fascist, P. 7