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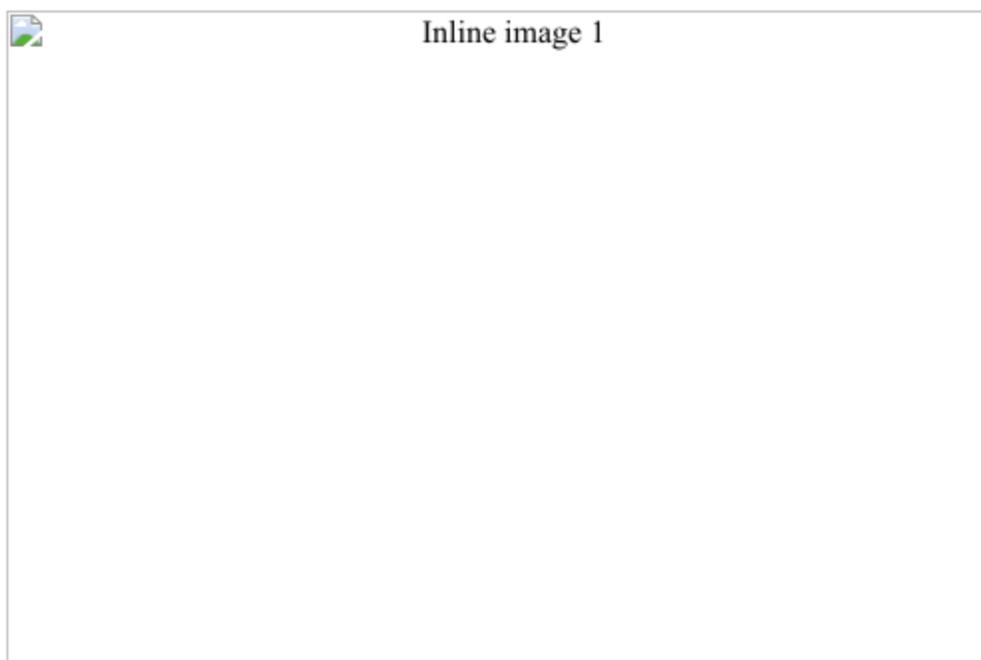
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Elizabeth_Warren_says_the_U.S._economy_is_rigged._Many_conservatives_agree_Jaime_Fuller_TWP_June_27,_2014.docx

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DEAR FRIEND.....

Jimmy Carter Drops a Truth Bomb: White Men Identify with GOP Because of 'Race'



At the age of 89, former President Jimmy Carter no longer cares about political correctness or defending the status quo. In his latest book “**A Call to Action**,” subtitled “**Women, Religion, Violence and Power**,” Carter is unafraid to tackle controversial topics: sexual assault on campus and the military; religious leaders of all faiths who use sacred texts to justify oppression; punitive prison sentences weighted against the poor and against racial minorities; American drone wars and endless military operations. If this wasn’t enough Carter says that Bush didn’t win in 2000 to discussing the fallacy of cherry-picking bible verses. And now he’s called out Southern Republicans, saying that they flock to the GOP because of race. Asked why white males have embraced the Republicans, Carter, 89, was unequivocal. “*It’s race*,” he said.

The conversation was a part of an interview **Salon** held with Carter:

Salon: “You were elected governor and president as a white male Southern Democrat, which is a segment of the population that has deserted the Democratic Party. In some Southern states now it will be maybe 30 percent of white Southern males who back the Democrats. This is something your grandson Jason is dealing with now, certainly, as he runs for governor of Georgia. But why do you think this is? The economy only gets tougher, inequality only worsens, and the response of white men in the South is to back the party of the 1 percent. Is it race? Gender? Fear?”

Carter: “No, it’s race. It’s race. That’s been prevalent in the South, except for when I ran, I secured every Southern state except Virginia. Ever since Nixon ran — and ever since Johnson didn’t campaign in the Deep South, the Republicans have solidified their hold there. And even this year, as you may know, the Republicans have put forward a proposal that we have a license plate made available in Georgia with a Confederate flag on it. Well, those kinds of things, the subtle things and the appeal to richer people, which is almost always white people, and the derogation of people that get food stamps and that sort of thing, which are quite often poor people. And the allegation that people who go to jail are just guilty people, when they’re mostly black people and Hispanics and mentally ill people. Those kind of things just exalt the higher class, which is the whites, and they draw a subtle, but very effective racial line throughout the South.”

Carter talked about a number of other issues in the Salon interview, including slut-shaming, cable news, the United States’ involvement in armed conflict, and more. Attached please find a condensed summary of the interview as the former President in his post-presidency, has grown into one of our finest global citizens.



Inline image 8

Yesterday, was the 100 anniversary when the first two shots of World War I were fired in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the day that Europe exploded. On June 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian crown prince Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, where he had come to inspect his occupying troops in the empire's eastern province. The shots fired by Serb teenager Gavrilo Princip sparked the Great War, which was followed decades later by a second world conflict. Together the two wars cost some 80 million European their lives, ended four empires — including the Austro-Hungarian — and changed the world forever. The continent's violent century started in Sarajevo and ended in Sarajevo with the 1992-95 war that took 100,000 Bosnian lives.

For the Serbs, Princip was a hero who saw Bosnia as part of the Serb national territory at a time when the country was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His shots were a chance for them to include Bosnia into the neighboring Serbian kingdom — the same idea that inspired the Serbs in 1992 to fight the decision by Muslim Bosnians and Catholic Croats to declare the former republic of Bosnia independent when Serb-dominated Yugoslavia fell apart. Their desire is still to include the part of Bosnia they control into neighboring Serbia. Serbia itself flirts with both — the EU opposed unification with the Bosnian Serbs and its own EU membership candidacy.

World War I, which began 100 years ago, has moved from memory to history. But its resonance has not faded — on land and geography, people and nations, and on the causes and consequences of modern war. 8.5 million or more from both sides who died, and 20 million who were severely wounded. In Europe's first total war, called the Great War until the second one came along, fifty million civilians also died.

World War I could be said to have begun in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, by a young nationalist seeking a greater Serbia. The four and a half years that followed, as the war spread throughout Europe, the Middle East and Asia, reshaped the modern world in fundamental ways. The war destroyed kings, kaisers, czars and sultans; it demolished empires; it introduced chemical weapons, tanks and airborne bombing; it brought millions of women into the work force, hastening their legal right to vote. It gave independence to nations like Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic countries and created new nations in the Middle East with often arbitrary borders; it brought about major cultural changes, including a new understanding of the psychology of war, of 'shell shock' and post-traumatic stress.

It also featured the initial step of the United States as a global power. President Woodrow Wilson ultimately failed in his ambitions for a new world order and a credible League of Nations, setting off much chaos with his insistence on an armistice and his support for undefined for "*self-determination*." And the rapid retreat of the United States from Europe helped sow the ground for World War II.

Historians still squabble over responsibility for the war. Some continue to blame Germany and others depict a system of rivalries, alliances and anxieties, driven by concerns about the growing weakness of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires and the growing strength of Germany and Russia that was likely to produce a war in any case, even if there was some other *casus belli*.

But the emotional legacies are different for different countries. For France the war, however bloody, was a necessary response to invasion. Preventing the German Army from reaching Paris in the first battle of the Marne spelled the difference between freedom and slavery. The second battle of the

Marne, with the help at last of American soldiers, was the beginning of the end for the Germans. This was France's "good war," while World War II was an embarrassing collapse, with significant collaboration.

For Germany, which had invested heavily in the machinery of war, it was an almost incomprehensible defeat, laying the groundwork for revolution, revanchism, fascism and genocide. Oddly enough, says Max Hastings, a war historian, Germany could have dominated Europe in 20 years economically if only it had not gone to war. *"The supreme irony of 1914 is how many of the rulers of Europe grossly overestimated military power and grossly underestimated economic power,"* Mr. Hastings said, a point he now emphasizes when speaking with Chinese generals. The Germans, too, are still coming to terms with their past, unsure how much to press their current economic and political strength in Europe.

For Britain, there remains a debate about whether the British even had to fight. But fight they did, with millions of volunteers until the dead were mounded so high that conscription was finally imposed in 1916. The memory of July 1, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme — when 20,000 British soldiers died, 40,000 were wounded and 60 percent of officers were killed — has marked British consciousness and become a byword for mindless slaughter.

"The sense that the war was futile and unnecessary still hangs over a lot of the discussion in Britain," said Lawrence Freedman, professor of war studies at King's College, London. In Britain there is also a deep presumption that the generals were incompetent and cold to human sacrifice, that "lions" — the brave ordinary Tommies — were *"led by donkeys"* like Field Marshal Douglas Haig. *"That was almost certainly true at the start, but not true at the end,"* Mr. Freedman said. *"But the notion that lives were lost on an industrial scale because generals kept trying to launch offensives for a few feet of ground is widespread."*

In fact, the beginning of the war was mobile and extremely bloody, as were the last few months, when the big offensives of 1918 broke the German Army. The rate of killing in the muck and mud of the trenches was much lower than during the mobile part of the war. If the inheritance is mixed, the war still casts a long shadow, refracted through what can now seem the inevitability of World War II and our tumultuous modern history. This is also, after all, the 75th anniversary of the start of that war and the 25th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The end of the Cold War was in a sense a return to the end of World War I, restoring sovereignty to the countries of Eastern Europe, one reason they are so eager to defend it now. Analysts wonder if the period of American and European supremacy itself is fading, given the rise of China and the return of traditional nationalism, not just in Russia but in the many euroskeptic voters in France, Britain and Denmark.

Inevitably, analogies are drawn. Some analysts compare Germany after the war to Russia now, arguing that just as Germany rejected the *"Carthaginian peace"* at the end of World War I, so Russia is now rejecting the *"settlement"* of the Cold War, seeing it as unjust, chafing over its defeat and prompting a new Russian aggressiveness and irredentism. Some question whether the lessons of 1914 or of 1939 are more valid today. Do we heed only the lessons of 1939, when restraint was costly, and miss the lessons of 1914, when restraint could have avoided the war?

Some see a continuing struggle between Germany and Russia for mastery of Europe, a struggle that marked both world wars and continues today, and not just in Ukraine, where a century ago its people fought on both sides. Others see World War I, at least as it began in Sarajevo, as the third Balkan War, while the post-Cold War collapse of Yugoslavia and its multinational, multicultural, multireligious model continues to present unresolved difficulties for Europe, in Bosnia, Kosovo and beyond. Similar tensions persist in Northern Ireland, the rump of Ireland's incomplete revolution that began with the Easter Rising of 1916.

Others point to the dangers of declining powers faced with rising ones, considering both China and the Middle East, where the Syrian civil war and the advance of Islamic militants toward Baghdad are ripping up the colonial borders drawn up in the Sykes-Picot agreement by the French and British, with Russian agreement, in 1916, the middle of the war, when the Ottoman Empire was cracking. The carnage at Gallipoli helped shape the national identity of the inheritor state, modern Turkey, let alone Australia.

Even the Balfour Declaration, which threw British support behind the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, was signed during the war, in November 1917.

On that fateful day the archducal couple were on their way to a civic reception in the yellow-and orange-banded city hall, an endowment of the Hapsburg era that borrowed from Moorish Spain, when the violence began, with a conspirator tossing a homemade bomb from a bridge over the Miljacka River. It bounced off the folded canopy of the archduke's car before exploding. What ensued stands as a monument to imperial folly and to the role of chance and mischance in history. Shortly before 11 a.m., the couple left the reception, deeply shaken by the bombing but determined to see the day's formalities through. With the archduke in a military tunic and helmet, and the duchess in a dress of white filigreed lace with a matching hat and parasol, they headed back along the lightly guarded Miljacka embankment — and, 500 yards on, to their fateful encounter with Princip.

A century later, Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and Croats remain deeply divided in their attitudes toward Princip. Many Serbs view him as a heroic fighter against Austro-Hungarian rule — on behalf of Serbs first, but also, they say, on behalf of Croats and Muslims — and thus as an early standard-bearer for the South Slav kingdom of Yugoslavia, which emerged from the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and disintegrated amid the resurgent nationalist and sectarian passions of the 1990s.

Among the largely Catholic Croats and some Bosnian Muslims, many of whom looked to the authorities in Vienna at the time of the assassination for protection against Balkan domination by the mainly Orthodox Serbs, it is more common to condemn Princip as an anarchist or terrorist, as the Sarajevo court did when it sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment. He died of tuberculosis, proud and unrepentant, in a Hungarian prison in 1918.

Today, Europe diligently promotes an ideology of harmony, broad areas of the continent, the Middle East and elsewhere continue to struggle with versions of the destructive forces unleashed that day. But we should remember that on June 28, 1914 when the excuse of the assassination of two individuals set in motion for Germany, Russia, Great Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire to march head on in lockstep to an unmitigated carnage that continues on through today.... To me, what is happening in many other parts of the world, is very much like the beginning of the 20th century, we continue to find excuses to go to war..... So why should anyone believe that we have hardly moved on at all? Because if

I remember correctly from history in school, WW1 was touted as *The War To End All Wars.....*
What Happened and why haven't we learned anything?

As former President aspirant Gary Hart wrote this week in an op-ed – *The Destruction of Memory* – in *The Huffington Post* – “You can't claim to love your country and hate its government.” Yet somehow these media driven attacks on “Washington” are now routine by most candidates of both parties, but especially on the right, to run against “Washington.” That is, even when one's own party is running “Washington.” An off-shoot of this bizarre political tactic that involves seeking office in a government one opposes, was the pre-Tea Party movement for term limits. That lasted only as long as it took term limit candidates to get to Washington and find out that it wasn't such a bad place after all and begin to reject their own term limit pledges. What the pro-term limiters began to realize was the pretty obvious truth that there is value in experience in government. But the constant churning of elected representatives pledged to “change things” in “Washington” devalues experience and produces a constantly changing panoply of legislators and administrators with little if any experience and no knowledge of history.

Take, for example: national security and intelligence. That required top secret clearances, the first of many thereafter. **Foreign Affairs**, the biblical publication of the foreign policy establishment, just produced four case studies of what really happened in the use of covert operations as an instrument of foreign policy in Iran, Chile, Congo, and Bangladesh decades ago. In each case we have been living with the unintended and destructive consequences of those ill-advised operations since then. Think about a farmer or rancher who wins a congressional seat coming to Washington for the first time and being confronted with policies issues in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa. Or a former state legislator in on the West Coast who has worked his/her way up through the ranks to a Congressional seat being confronted with cap and trade issues for the first time. What experience do they bring to the table on this issues?

We want our pilots who fly our commercial aircraft to have thousands if not tens of thousands of hours flying and our surgeons to have years if not decades of experience before repairing a blood vessel in our heart or removing a clot in our brain or reattaching a detached retina. Why then are we limiting experience when it comes to politics in both Washington and in our state houses around the country? We value experience almost everywhere else then in politics. A current example is that Brazil is favored to win the World Cup, not because they have the world's best player, Lionel Messi for Argentina, but because they have won the World Cup six times.... And yes, they may not win this year but they are considered the odds-on favorite because of the fact that they have won it six times.

As Gary Hart points out that it would have been helped Barrack Obama to weave his way through the new world of the 21st century as President if he had first served in the Senate Select (Church) committee on intelligence oversight. Because he would have learned invaluable lessons about the follies and long-term consequences of covert operations, the limits on military force to rearrange history, the laws of unintended consequences, and the truth that nothing ever remains secret for long. The same observation would have applied to President George W. Bush who, given that kind of experience, might have been less inclined to trust unquestioningly the concerted advice of a group of ideologues about the ease with which America could remake the entire Middle East by invading Iraq (using less than factual arguments about non-existent weapons of mass destruction.)

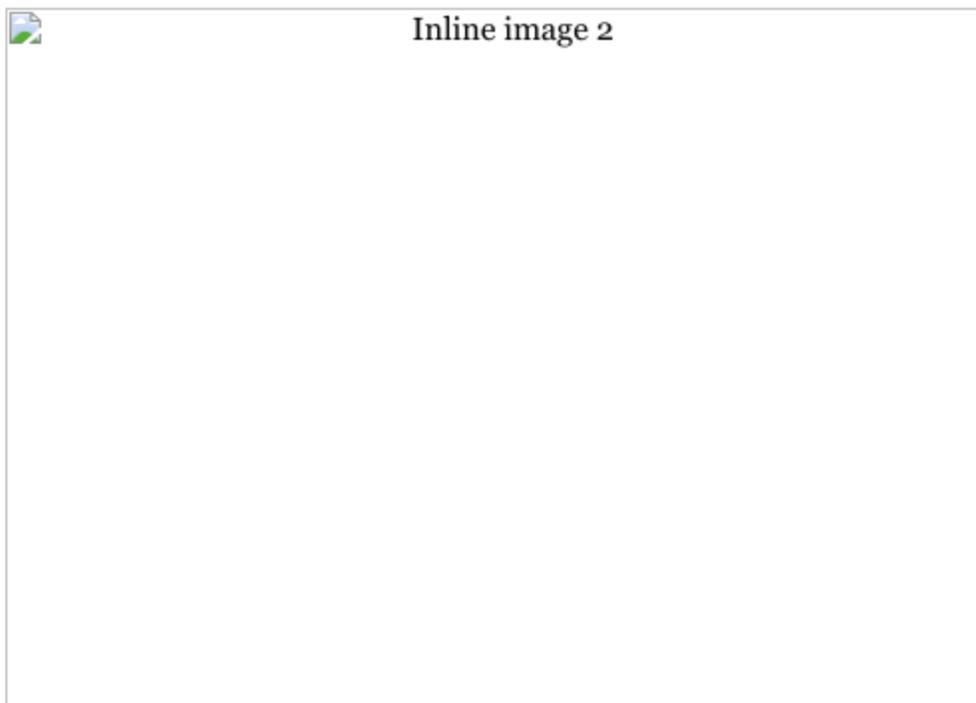
Foreign policy is being driven by two wings of interventionism: the human rights interventionists, largely Democratic, who wish to use military force to liberate oppressed people; and hegemonic interventionists, largely Republican, who wish to use military force to achieve political dominance in the Middle East, Asia, and elsewhere. The vast majority of Americans, however, are by nature cautious about sending troops and ships here and there willy-nilly. They are not isolationists. They are realists. They know the lessons of history more than right and left ideologues. Hart says that reading Lawrence in Arabia provides invaluable lessons in the history of the Middle East and how late colonial ambitions and competition between Britain and France during and after World War I, a century ago, still returns to plague us. Sykes and Pico drew arbitrary national boundaries that forced tribal societies and theological enemies, Sunnis and Shia, into awkward nation-states that, soon after the British and French were forced to leave following World War II, required dictators, oligarchies, and new royal families to bring order by force. Now those arrangements are coming unglued and the region faces disintegration.

In the early 1950s, the Iranian people democratically elected a progressive prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh, whom we, the United States, covertly overthrew because he nationalized Iran's British-controlled oil company. Anyone who denies that we are living with the consequences of that does not deserve to be taken seriously. Likewise, now we are reportedly trying to evict Nouri al-Maliki in Iraq because he has failed to govern in ways we approve. It is reliably reported that one of the candidates being touted to replace him is Ahmad Chalabi, the neo-conservatives' candidate for prime minister who promised that when marched on Baghdad in 2003 that we would be greeted as liberators and Iraqis would embrace US style democracy. What a crock? Nothing changes. And so it goes. So, the churning of leadership in an effort to destabilize the government of the country we all claim to love has many consequences, not least of which is the loss of experience, the lessons of history, and any recollection of what failed in the past and is not likely to succeed now and in the future. By undermining our government, we are destroying our national memory. And then it is easy to repeat the same mistakes as well as make them worse. Didn't we try *Nation Building* in Vietnam in the 1960s, then why did we try it again in Afghanistan and Iraq and somehow believe that it would work this time?

I watched in horror last week as the same knuckleheads (Wolfowitz, Feith, Bremer, Bolton, Kristol and Cheney) who led us into the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were saying that President Obama was somehow responsible for the current carnage in Syria and Iraq because he pulled our troops out of Iraq and not supported "*the Moderates*" fighting against Assad in Syria. These guys had their chance and not only did they blow it, they efforts totally destabilized the entire Middle East. We can forget the fact that there were never any WMDs and remember that al Qaeda didn't exist in Iraq during the reign of Saddam Hussein and he was the sworn enemy of Iran. When you hate your government you also hate the good that it can do but more importantly hate is the easiest emotion that can be used by others to manipulate the collective. The Tea Party hates Washington. Republicans hate President Obama. Our politicians openly hate the Iranian Government vowing to bring it under their control. The Conservative Right hates Muslims and Arabs openly lamenting that President Obama is their tool. And it seems that everyone in Government hates Putin. And we wonder why we are hated. If ISIL isn't a threat to Brazil, Japan, China, Switzerland, New Zealand, India and South Africa then why are they a threat to us in the United States? Maybe the reason is because we are the *original haters* who hate our own government even though we are demanding that other countries use it as their role model.....

More than three quarters of conservatives say the poor “*have it easy*”

The Pew Research Center is out with part two of its huge survey of American politics. The first part, released a couple weeks ago, focused on political polarization. For this round, Pew's researchers have created a political typology which “*sorts voters into cohesive groups based on their attitudes and values.*” There's plenty to say about this - and you can see where you fall in Pew's typology quiz here! - but for now I want to focus on the chart below, particularly the left half.



So much for compassionate conservatism.

More than three quarters of conservative Americans - those in the steadfast conservative, business conservative, and young outsider typology groups - agree that “*poor people have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything.*” Only seven percent of steadfast conservatives say that the poor “*have hard lives.*”

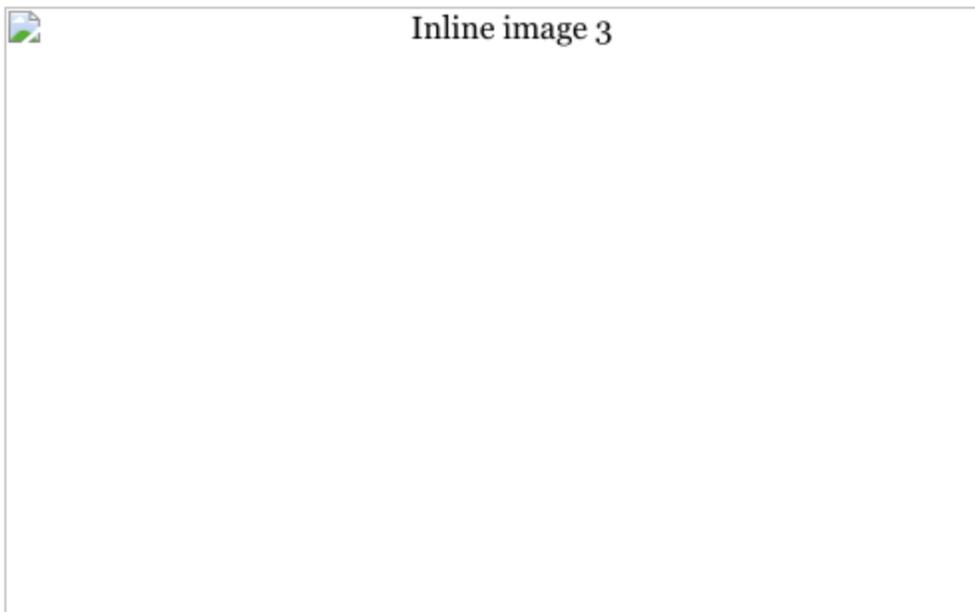
Even a not-insignificant share of left-leaning groups say that the poor have it easy. But overall the widespread agreements among conservatives on this point is what's really striking here. There are reasonable, well-intentioned arguments on either side of many poverty-related issues - about the causes of poverty (see the right half of the chart), or whether government benefits provide a leg up or simply perpetuate poverty, for instance.

But one should have a hard time understanding how anyone could read about the experience of families relying on food stamps to eat, or those trying to manage chronic conditions with Medicaid, and conclude that these people somehow have it easy. For context, here is a brief and wildly incomplete list of the ways life is *"easy"* when you're poor:

- Compared to middle and upper-income Americans, the poor are three times less likely to have health insurance coverage, and more likely to put off or skip necessary medical treatment as a result;
- They are three times more likely to be victimized by crime;
- The daily stresses of living under poverty impose a cognitive burden equivalent to losing 13 IQ points;
- Poor children are three times more likely to be affected by food scarcity and obesity;
- Poor children receive a lower quality education in public school, and the ones who make it to college are more likely to drop out;
- Poorer Americans breathe dirtier air, they sleep less, and they even have less sex;
- And in the end all this "easy living" literally shaves decades off their lives.

The notion that poor people have it easy is at odds with the data.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has built a sizable political profile — including the requisite presidential speculation — by espousing a simple idea: that the system is *"rigged"* against average Americans. And you might be surprised who agrees with her: A whole bunch of conservatives. According to the new Pew survey mentioned above, 62 percent of Americans think that the economic system unfairly favors the powerful, and 78 percent think that too much power is concentrated in too few companies. The discontent isn't limited to those who share Warren's liberal ideology; 69 percent of young conservative-leaning voters and 48 percent of the most conservative voters agree that the system favors the powerful, according to Pew. Still as mentioned above a majority of Conservatives believe that the poor have it easy.

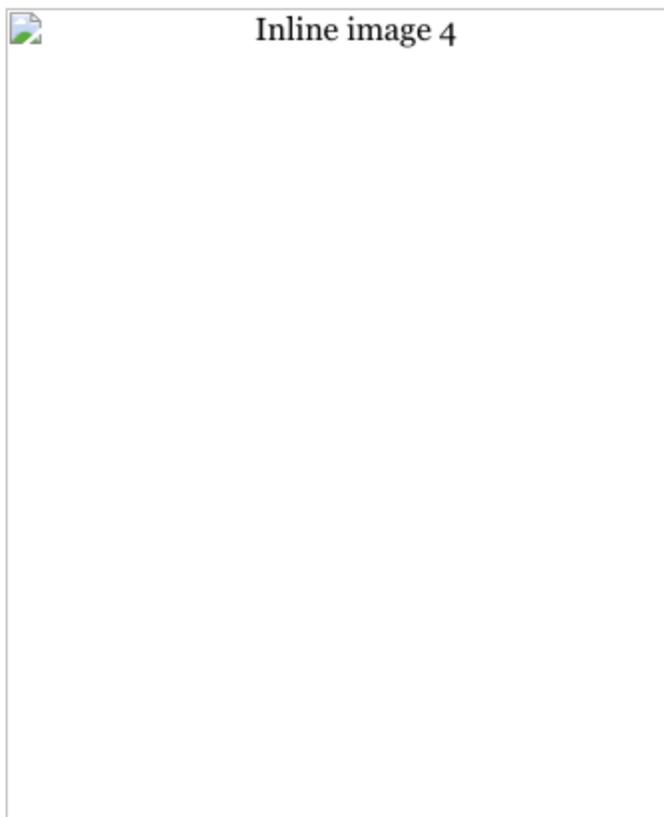


Although Warren seems an outlier in the legislative branch for her fiery discontent with inequality — and the role she says Wall Street plays in exacerbating it — the Pew survey suggests that the vast majority of Americans are at least open to her underlying premise. Everyone, that is, except business conservatives. This faction has vastly different views of the American economic system than most

Americans. Two-thirds of business conservatives think the economic system is fair to most people, and 57 percent think that large companies do not have too much power.

The demographics that bind business conservatives go a long way toward explaining why they diverge on this issue. The business conservatives that Pew surveyed were the most affluent of the seven political typologies they defined — 45 percent have family incomes above \$75,000. Fifty-seven percent of business conservatives say they are interested in business and finance, and 68 percent invest in the stock market. No other typology has them beat on these two measures. Americans' political beliefs are generally grounded in how they see politics interact or interfere with their own lives. We can focus on the diner-embed model of analyzing politics day and night, but for most Americans, gossiping about how a next-door neighbor lost their house or a cousin got a promotion at Goldman Sachs is all they've got. Business conservatives think the economic system is fair; others who aren't as enmeshed in it disagree.

So does conservative discontent with the current economic system mean that the rest of Congress is going to hang Thomas Piketty posters on their office walls and head to Zuccotti Park? (Or vote for Elizabeth Warren?) Don't count on it. Business conservatives' confidence in the economic system might differ from everyone else, but business conservatives are politically active enough to make a big impression on politicians. Seventy-one percent of the business conservatives surveyed by Pew say they always or nearly always vote in primaries. "Steadfast conservatives" are similarly active too, but they aren't quite as affluent as their conservative counterparts, and they don't donate nearly as much money.

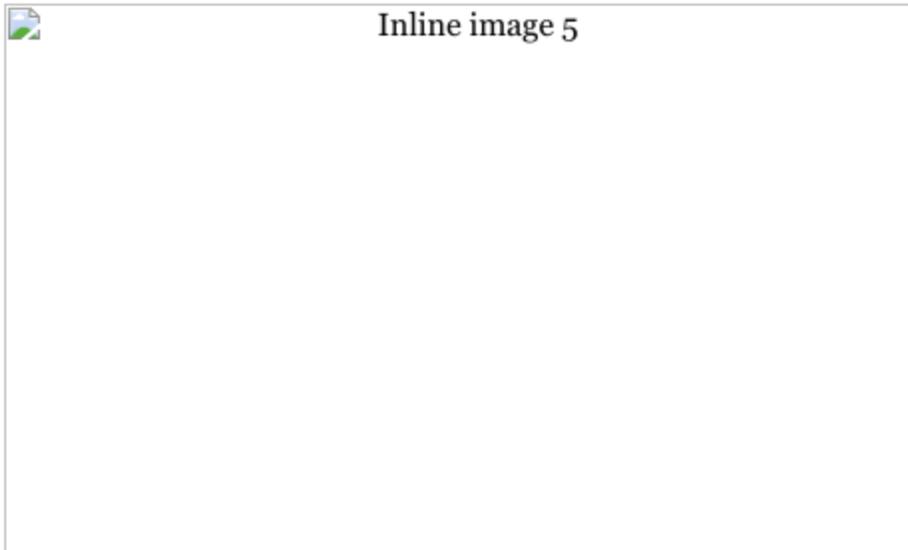


Another reason conservative politicians aren't about to join hands with Warren? The conservatives — and many of the liberals — who agree with her on the economy's unfairness don't agree with her on the source of the problem. Skeptics, solid liberals and young conservative outsiders were the only political typologies more likely to think Wall Street was hurting the economy more than it helped it. Until Americans agree on what needs to be done to fix the economy, their disappointment with its

underpinnings are unlikely be met with any sweeping populist changes in policy. And this poll suggests that's not happening today.

I am not against big business especially when we are living in a global economy where size does matter and our private enterprises compete with state own and/or sponsored competitors on almost every continent. And like Elizabeth Warren and other liberals I believe that the economy is rigged in favor of Big Business and the rich at the expense of the Middle Class and the Poor and the *Big Ugly* is that not only does our political leaders seem not to care but a huge part of society is willing to blame the victims for being poor and falling through the cracks **and this is my rant of the week....**

WEEK'S READINGS



Scientists in London have developed a pain-free filling that allows teeth to repair themselves without drilling or injections. The new treatment, **Electrically Accelerated and Enhanced Remineralisation (EAER)**, could be available within three years. Scientists have developed a new pain-free filling that allows cavities to be repaired without drilling or injections. The tooth-rebuilding technique developed at **King's College London** does away with fillings and instead encourages teeth to repair themselves.

Tooth decay is normally removed by drilling, after which the cavity is filled with a material such as amalgam or composite resin. The new treatment, called **Electrically Accelerated and Enhanced Remineralisation (EAER)**, accelerates the natural movement of calcium and phosphate minerals into the damaged tooth. A two-step process first prepares the damaged area of enamel, then uses a tiny electric current to push minerals into the repair site. It could be available within three years. Additionally, the method can also be used to whiten teeth, with the repair at least as cost-effective as current dental treatments.”

Professor Nigel Pitts, from **King's College London's Dental Institute**, said: *"The way we treat teeth today is not ideal. When we repair a tooth by putting in a filling, that tooth enters a cycle of drilling and refilling as, ultimately, each 'repair' fails. "Not only is our device kinder to the patient and better for their teeth, but it's expected to be at least as cost-effective as current dental treatments. Along with fighting tooth decay, our device can also be used to whiten teeth."*

A spinout company, **Reminova**, has been set up to commercialize the research. Based in Perth, Scotland, it is in the process of seeking private investment to develop EAER. The company is the first to emerge from the **King's College London Dental Innovation and Translation Centre**, which was set up in January to take novel technologies and turn them into new products and practices.

King's College is a participant in **MedCity**, a project launched by the London mayor, Boris Johnson, to promote entrepreneurship in the London-Oxford-Cambridge life sciences *"golden triangle"*. The chairman of **MedCity**, Kit Malthouse, said: *"It's brilliant to see the really creative research taking place at King's making its way out of the lab so quickly and being turned into a new device that has the potential to make a real difference to the dental health and patient experience of people with tooth decay."* I can't wait until this new treatment reaches American shores because I hate when my dentist drills in my mouth.



Reince Priebus and Scott Walker

The Republicans have been claiming voter fraud as the reason for instituting stricter voter ID laws and other voter suppression legislation. Since 2011, Republican lawmakers in swing states have pushed hard for new restrictions on voting, from voter identification to new rules on early voting and ballot access. *"Nine states have passed measures making it harder to vote since the beginning of 2013,"* notes the New York Times, and other states *"are considering mandating proof of citizenship, like a birth certificate or passport, after a federal judge recently upheld such laws passed in Arizona and Kansas."*

Voting rights advocates have attacked these laws as blatant attempts to suppress the votes of low-income and minority voters, but Republicans defend their actions as justified to protect *"voter integrity"* and ensure *"fairness"* and *"uniformity"* in the system. Here's Wisconsin state Sen. Glenn Grothman on a bill — signed last week by Gov. Scott Walker — to end early voting on weekends. *"Every city on election day has voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The idea that some communities should have weekend or night voting is obviously unfair,"* he said. *"It's a matter of uniformity. I don't know what all the hoopla is over,"* he told **Reuters**.

It's always seemed strange that Wisconsin Republicans like Reince Priebus and Scott Walker would insult their own state by claiming that it has a problem with voter fraud and needs tougher laws to prevent it. Wisconsin has traditionally been known for an uncommonly clean political culture (until recently, anyway), and I've never quite understood why conservatives would want to impugn it. Now we learn about the curious case of Robert Monroe, a 50 year old health executive who is accused of voting a dozen times in 2011 and 2012, including seven times in the recalls of Scott Walker and his GOP ally Alberta Darling. Wisconsin officials say it's the worst case of multiple voting in memory. And now it appears that Monroe is a white Republican stuffing the ballot box in favor of GOP candidates.

Investigators say Monroe voted twice for Alberta Darling in her 2011 recall, and five times for Walker in the June 2012 recall. He's used his own name, his son's name, and his girlfriend's son's name. (They can't be sure exactly who he voted for in each case, but he gave money to Darling and Walker.) Then in the November presidential election, he voted first in Shorewood, then again in Lebanon, Indiana, where he also owns a home. He claims he had temporary amnesia and doesn't remember any of the Election Day events.

Right before the 2012 recall, Reince Priebus claimed that Democratic voter fraud could account for up to two percent of the vote on Election Day. *"I'm always concerned about voter fraud, you know, being from Kenosha, and quite frankly having lived through seeing some of it happen,"* Priebus told reporters. *"Certainly in Milwaukee we have seen some of it, and I think it's been documented. Any notion that's not the case, it certainly is in Wisconsin. I'm always concerned about it, which is why I think we need to do a point or two better than where we think we need to be, to overcome it."* Walker wouldn't go as far as Priebus, but endorsed his view that voter fraud was a problem in his state. *"We have seen problems in the past in Wisconsin,"* Walker said. *"I don't know what percentage to predict on that. I hope it's none. I hope there is none. But certainly we're cautious, and we want to make sure there are enough volunteers out there."*

Even at the time, voting rights advocates pushed back. If 1 to 2 percent of the vote in Wisconsin's 2010 gubernatorial election were fraudulent, that would amount to 21,000 to 42,000 votes, or 6 to 12 fraudulent votes in the state's 3,630 precincts, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel found. A 2008 bipartisan voter fraud investigation resulted in 20 prosecutions, mainly of felons who tried to vote after being disenfranchised. "They have zero, zero evidence to substantiate it," said voting rights attorney Richard Saks said. "It's simply demagoguery to whip up fear."

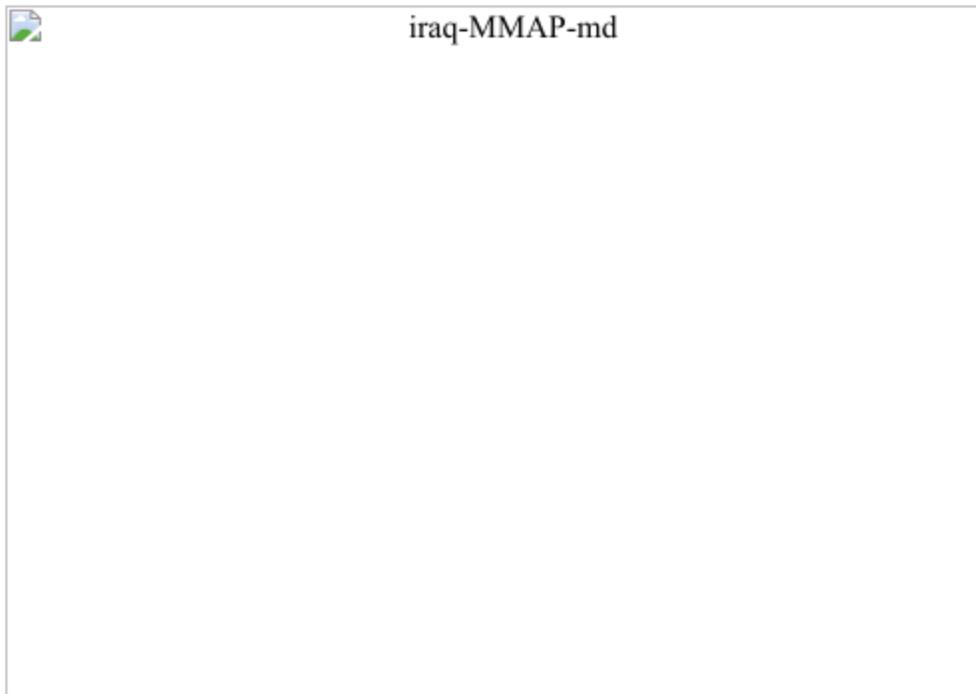
Or maybe it's projection, since the most notorious case of voter fraud turns out to be a Republican. "During 2011 and 2012, the defendant, Robert Monroe, became especially focused upon political issues and causes, including especially the recall elections," the complaint against him alleges. And Republicans became especially focused on fighting voter fraud as well as cutting back on early voting, primarily used by low-income Democratic voters in Milwaukee. Of course, the federal judge who invalidated Wisconsin's new voter ID law in April found no evidence of voter fraud. U.S. District Court judge Lynn Adelson wrote in his decision (h/t Andrew Cohen):

The evidence at trial established that virtually no voter impersonation occurs in Wisconsin. The defendants could not point to a single instance of known voter impersonation occurring in Wisconsin at any time in the recent past. The only evidence even relating to voter impersonation that the defendants introduced was the testimony of Bruce Landgraf, an Assistant District Attorney in Milwaukee County. Landgraf testified that in "*major elections*," by which he means gubernatorial and presidential elections, his office is asked to investigate about 10 or 12 cases in which a voter arrives at the polls and is told by the poll worker that he or she has already cast a ballot.

However, his office determined that the vast majority of these cases—approximately 10 each election—have innocent explanations, such as a poll worker's placing an indication that a person has voted next to the wrong name in the poll book. Of course, Adelson didn't know about Robert Monroe. Unbelievably – or not – Wisconsin conservatives are saying the Walker supporter's crime is "the Democrats' fault," because Democrats opposed the voter ID law. I suppose it's just a matter of time until we hear that from Reince Priebus, too.

Republican voter suppression might not be an explicit attempt to target low-income and minority voters, but as far as effects go, it doesn't matter. The outcome is still one where minorities and low-income Americans have a harder time at the polls. It should be said that none of this is new. Most Americans are familiar with race-based voter suppression — the poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses of Jim Crow — but those are part of a larger history of partisan voter suppression that stretches back to the early 19th century when a flood of Irish immigrants tipped the electoral scales and threatened Whig electoral prospects in New York. Whig lawmakers rushed to pass tough new registration rules for New York City, which contained the largest concentration of Irish voters. What's more, in states like Missouri, Maryland, and Indiana, Know-Nothing and Whig lawmakers sought to delay voting rights for naturalized citizens, fearing the political consequences of large-scale immigrant enfranchisement.

It turns out that voter fraud is real, and Republicans are guilty of doing it. I just love the irony of Republicans suppression efforts in light of the fact that the worst case of voter fraud in Wisconsin has been perpetrated by a supporter of Scott Walker having been charged with 13 felonies. So where is Scott Walker and Reince Priebus now that voter fraud in Wisconsin has been proven?



Does anyone remember what Iraq looked like a dozen years ago, when Saddam Hussein still ruled the country and the United States was about to invade? On the one hand, Iraqis, especially Shiites and Kurds, suffered under the iron heel of an oppressive dictator — who may have killed 250,000 or more of his own people during his 25-year reign. They also struggled against the privation caused by U.S.-led sanctions — some estimates at the time placed the number of sanction-caused infant deaths alone at 500,000. On the other hand, the country worked. It had a number of successful export-oriented industries like leather goods and agricultural products like dates that offered employment to hundreds of thousands of relatively well paid workers and entrepreneurs. It also had a resilient electrical, water, and highway infrastructure (though increasingly decrepit thanks to those sanctions). In addition, it had a best-in-the-region primary and higher educational system, and the finest (free) health care in the Middle East. In a nation of 27 million people, it also had — in comparison to other countries in the area — a large, mainly government-employed middle class of three million.

These pluses all flowed from a single source: the 2.5 million barrels of oil that Iraq produced each day. The daily income from the sale of the “*national patrimony*” undergirded the country’s economic superstructure. In fact, the oil-based government budget was so ample that it supported Hussein with multiple palaces, enriched all his relatives and allies, and financed his various wars, both on other countries and on Iraq’s Kurds and Shiites. This mixture of oppression and prosperity ended with the U.S. invasion. Despite denials that it would ever touch the Iraqi “*patrimony*,” the Bush administration went straight for those oil revenues, diverting them away from the economy and into “*debt payment*” and soon enough, a pacification campaign. Despite promises from Washington that, under an American occupation, production would soon rise to six million barrels per day, the struggle to take control of energy production out of Iraqi hands ended up crippling the industry and reducing production by 40%.

In fact, the occupation government was a whirlwind of economic destruction. It quickly began dismantling all government-run (and oil-subsidized) industrial plants, bankrupting the private industries that depended on them. It disrupted or destroyed commercial agriculture, again by discontinuing Saddam-era oil-financed subsidies and by air attacks on insurgents in rural areas. It imposed both austerity measures and a “*de-Baathification*” program on the country’s educational and medical systems. Since most Iraqis holding any position of significance had no choice but to belong to Saddam’s Baath Party, this proved a disaster for middle class professionals, a majority of whom found themselves jobless or in exile in neighboring countries. Since they had managed such systems, often under increasingly terrible conditions, the effect on the management of the electrical, water, and highway infrastructure was devastating. Add in the effects of bombing campaigns and the privatization of maintenance and you had a lasting disaster.

When, in 2009, the Obama administration first began withdrawing U.S. combat troops, Iraqis everywhere — but especially in Sunni areas — faced up to 60% unemployment, sporadic electrical service, poisoned water systems, episodic education, a dysfunctional medical system, and a lack of viable public or private transportation. Few Westerners remember that, in 2010, Maliki based his election campaign on a promise to remedy these problems by — that figure again — increasing oil production to six million barrels per day. Since the existing production was more than sufficient to operate the government, virtually all of the increased revenues could be used to reconstruct the country’s infrastructure, revive the government sector, and rehabilitate all the devastated public services, industries, and agricultural sectors.

Despite his obvious Shia sectarianism, Sunnis gave Maliki time to fulfill his campaign promises. For some, hopes were increased when service contracts were auctioned off to international oil firms with the aim of hiking energy production to that six million barrel mark by 2020. (Some, however, just saw this as the selling off of that national patrimony.) Many Iraqis were initially reassured when oil production began to rise: in 2011, the Hussein-era mark of 2.5 million barrels per day was finally reached, and in 2013 production finally exceeded 3.0 million barrels per day.

These increases raised hopes that reconstruction from the invasion and occupation era would finally begin. With oil prices holding steady at just under \$100 per barrel, government oil revenues more than doubled, from about \$50 billion in 2010 to more than \$100 billion in 2013. This increase alone, if distributed to the population, would have constituted a windfall \$10,000 subsidy for each of the five million Iraqi families. It also would have constituted a very promising down payment on restoring the Iraqi economy and its social services. (The electrical system in itself required tens of billions of dollars in new investment simply to restore it to inadequate pre-war levels.) But none of this oil wealth trickled down to the grassroots, especially in Sunni areas of the country where signs of reconstruction, economic development, restored services, or jobs were hard to discern. Instead, the vast new revenues disappeared into the recesses of a government ranked by Transparency International as the seventh most corrupt on the planet.

So here's where Iraqi oil, or the lack of its revenues at least, comes into play. Communities across Iraq, especially in embittered Sunni areas, began demanding funding for reconstruction, often backed by local and provincial governments. In response, the Maliki government relentlessly refused to allocate any oil revenues for such projects, choosing instead to denounce such demands as efforts to divert funds from more urgent budgetary imperatives. That included tens of billions of dollars needed to purchase military supplies including, in 2011, 18 F-16 jets from the United States for \$4 billion. In a rare moment of ironic insight, Time magazine concluded its coverage of the F-16 purchase with this comment: "The good news is the deal will likely keep Lockheed's F-16 plant in Fort Worth running perhaps a year longer. The bad news is that only 70% of Iraqis have access to clean water, and only 25% have clean sanitation."

In the beginning Maliki use some of the new oil revenues to begin restaffing wrecked government agencies and social service institutions, but virtually all of the new employment went to Shia citizens in Shia areas, while Sunnis continued to be fired from government jobs. This lack of employment — which meant, of course, the lack of oil money — has been key to the Sunni uprising. As Patrick Cockburn of the British newspaper, the Independent, wrote, "*Sunni men were alienated by not having a job because government funds were spent elsewhere and, on occasion, suddenly sacked without a pension for obligatory membership of the Ba'ath party decades earlier. One Sunni teacher with 30 years' experience one day got a crumpled note under his door telling him not to come to work at his school anymore because he had been fired for this reason. 'What am I to do? How am I going to feed my family?' he asked.*"

With conditions worsening, Sunni communities only became more insistent, supplementing their petitions and demonstrations with sit-ins at government offices, road blockades, and Tahrir Square-type occupations of public spaces. Maliki's responses also escalated to arresting the political messengers, dispersing demonstrations, and, in a key moment in 2013, "*killing dozens*" of protestors when his "*security forces opened fire on a Sunni protest camp.*" This repression and the continued frustration of local demands helped regenerate the insurgencies that had been the backbone of the Sunni resistance during the American occupation. Once lethal violence began to be applied by government forces, guerrilla attacks became common in the areas north and west of Baghdad that the U.S. occupiers had labeled "*the Sunni triangle.*"

Many of these guerrilla actions were aimed at assassinating government officials, police, and — as their presence increased — soldiers sent by Maliki to suppress the protests. It is notable, however, that the most determined, well planned, and dangerous of these armed responses targeted oil facilities. Though the Sunni areas of Iraq are not major centers of oil production — more than 90% of the country's energy is extracted in the Shia areas in the south and the Kirkuk region controlled by the Kurds — there are ample oil targets there. In addition to a number of small oil fields, the "*Sunni triangle*" has almost the entire length of the only substantial pipeline that exits the country (to Turkey), a significant refinery in Haditha, and the Baiji petroleum complex, which contains an electrical power plant serving the northern provinces and a 310,000 barrel per day oil refinery producing a third of the country's refined petroleum.

There was nothing new about local guerrillas attacking oil facilities. In late 2003, soon after the U.S. occupation cut off the flow of oil revenues to Sunni areas, residents resorted to various strategies to stop production or export until they received what they felt was their fair share of the proceeds. The vulnerable pipeline to Turkey was rendered useless, thanks to more than 600 attacks. The Baiji and

Haditha facilities held insurgents at bay by allowing local tribal leaders to siphon off a share — often as much as 20% — of the oil flowing through them. After the U.S. military took control of the facilities in early 2007 and ended this arrangement, the two refineries were regularly subjected to crippling attacks. The pipeline and refineries returned to continuous operation only after the U.S. left Anbar Province and Maliki once again promised local tribal leaders and insurgents (often the same people) a share of the oil in exchange for “protecting” the facilities from theft or attack. This deal lasted for almost two years, but when the government began cracking down on Sunni protest, the “protection” was withdrawn. Looking at these developments from a petroleum perspective, **Iraq Oil Report**, an online industry newsletter that offers the most detailed coverage of oil developments in Iraq, marked this as a key moment of “*deteriorating security*,” commenting that the “*forces guarding energy facilities... have historically relied on alliances with locals to help provide protection.*”

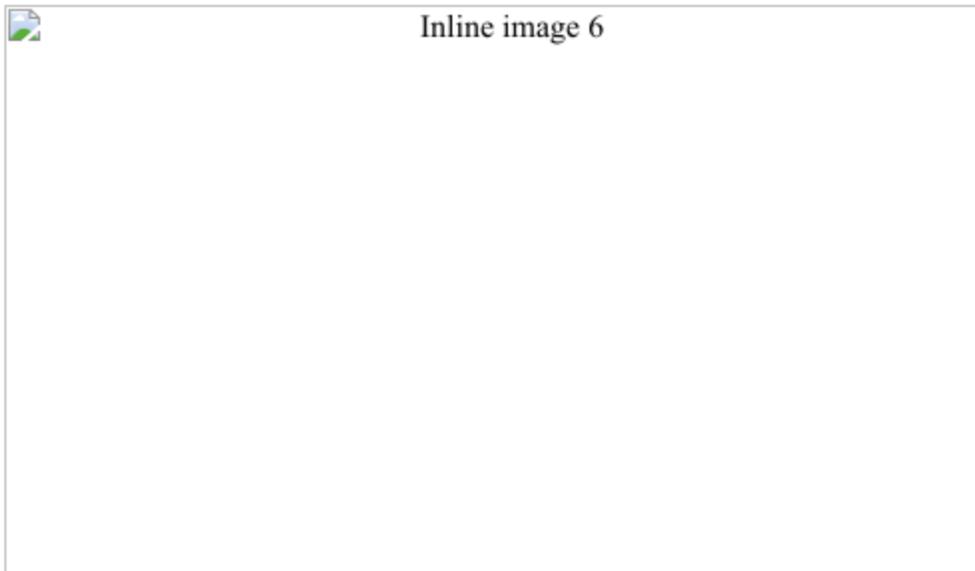
Iraq Oil Report has conscientiously covered the consequences of this “*deteriorating security*” situation. “*Since last year when attacks on the [Turkish] pipeline began to increase,*” the **North Oil Company**, in charge of production in Sunni areas, registered a 50% drop in production. The pipeline was definitively cut on March 2nd and since then, repair crews have been “*prevented from accessing*” the site of the break. The feeder pipeline for the Baiji complex was bombed on April 16th, causing a huge spill that rendered water from the Tigris River undrinkable for several days. After “numerous” attacks in late 2013, the Sonangol Oil Company, the national oil company of Angola, invoked the “*force majeure*” clause in its contract with the Iraqi government, abandoning four years of development work on the the Qaiyarah and Najmah fields in Nineveh Province. This April, insurgents kidnapped the head of the Haditha refinery. In June, they took possession of the idle plant after government military forces abandoned it in the wake of the collapse of the Iraqi army in the country’s second largest city, Mosul.

In response to this rising tide of guerrilla attacks, the Maliki regime escalated its repression of Sunni communities, punishing them for “*harboring*” the insurgents. More and more soldiers were sent to cities deemed to be centers of “terrorism,” with orders to suppress all forms of protest. In December 2013, when government troops began using lethal force to clear protest camps that were blocking roads and commerce in several cities, armed guerrilla attacks on the military rose precipitously. In January, government officials and troops abandoned parts of Ramadi and all of Falluja, two key cities in the Sunni triangle. This month, faced with what Patrick Cockburn called a “*general uprising*,” 50,000 troops abandoned their weapons to the guerrillas, and fled Mosul as well as several smaller cities. This development hit as if out of nowhere and was treated accordingly by much of the U.S. media, but Cockburn expressed the view of many informed observers when he termed the collapse of the army in Sunni areas “*unsurprising*.” As he and others pointed out, the soldiers of that corruption-ridden force “*were not prepared to fight and die in their posts... since their jobs were always primarily about making money for their families.*”

The military withdrawal from the cities immediately led to at least a partial withdrawal from oil facilities. On June 13th, two days after the fall of Mosul, **Iraq Oil Report** noted that the power station and other buildings in the Baiji complex were already “*under the control of local tribes.*” After a counterattack by government reinforcements, the complex became a contested area. Iraq Oil Report characterized the attack on Baiji by insurgents as “*what could be an attempt to hijack a portion of Iraq’s oil revenue stream.*” If the occupation of Baiji is consolidated, the “*zone of control*” would also include the Haditha refinery, the Qaiyarah and Hamrah oil fields, and “*key infrastructure corridors such as the Iraq-Turkey Pipeline and al-Fatha, where a collection of pipelines and other facilities deliver oil, gas and fuel to the center and north of the country.*”

Further proof of this intention to control “a portion of Iraq’s oil revenue stream” can be found in the first actions taken by tribal guerrillas once they captured the power station at Baiji: “Militants have caused no damage and instructed workers to keep the facility online” in preparation for restarting the facility as soon as possible. Similar policies were instituted in the captured oil fields and at the Haditha refinery. Though the current situation is too uncertain to permit actual operation of the facilities, the overarching goal of the militants is clear. They are attempting to accomplish by force what could not be accomplished through the political process and protest: taking possession of a significant portion of the proceeds from the country’s oil exports. And the insurgents appear determined to begin the reconstruction process that Maliki refused to fund. Only a few days after these victories, the **Associated Press** reported that insurgents were promising Mosul citizens and returning refugees “*cheap gas and food,*” and that they would soon restore power and water, and remove traffic barricades. Assumedly, this will be funded by upwards of \$450 million (of oil money), as well as gold bullion, reportedly looted from a branch of the Central Bank of Iraq and assorted other banks in the Mosul area.

The oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein was racked with insurgency, and when vicious repression failed, it delivered a portion of the vast oil revenues to the people in the form of government jobs, social services, and subsidized industries and agriculture. The oppressive United States occupation was racked with insurgency precisely because it tried to harness the country’s vast oil revenues to its imperial designs in the Middle East. The oppressive Maliki regime is now racked with insurgency, because the prime minister refused to share those same vast oil revenues with his Sunni constituents. It has always been about the oil and that the Maliki government has not shared the wealth with the Sunnis and Kurds in the north after the departure of the United States. But the ugly truth is that after more than a decade of war costing hundreds of thousands of lives, trillions of dollars in US taxpayer’s dollars and destruction in Iraq creating more than one million refugees and destabilizing the entire Middle East the country is much worse off than it was ever under Saddam Hussein.



As someone who decided in grade school that repetition was key to me remembering multiplication tables, historical dates and places or conjugating verbs, I found the new study published in **Learning and Memory** that suggests that repetition — while strengthening some aspects of memory, such as factual content and speed of recall — may interfere with our ability to remember nuanced, specific details. Neurobiology researchers Zach Reagh and Michael Yassa of the **University of California, Irvine** presented subjects with images of various objects, which appeared either once or three times. They then tested the subjects’ memories of these images, but with a catch — in the recall phase, students saw the original 300 objects, plus 100 extra “*lure*” objects that were similar, but not identical, to the ones they had seen before.

Viewing an object multiple times in the first phase hindered the students' ability to accurately identify the lure version of that object later on. In contrast, viewing an object only once increased the chance that they would be able to tell the lures apart from the original images. When the memory was formed with repetition, it was stronger, but the precise details grew blurrier. Research into the way memories are encoded, stored, and retrieved in the brain has come a long way since the 1960s, when scientists began experiments with H.M.—an epileptic patient who had large swathes of his brain, including the hippocampus, surgically removed, and was no longer able to form long-term memories.

How Many of Your Memories Are Fake?

Neuroscientists now widely accept that the hippocampus is crucial for turning short-term “*memory traces*” — temporary changes in the brain’s wiring that result from experience — into long-term memories, but the debate continues over how memories are retrieved and “updated” once they have been made, and how the act of recalling a memory affects its content. The current study sought to explore the effects of repetition on memory retrieval in order to better understand how the process works.

The results support the authors’ “*Competitive Trace*” theory, which hypothesizes that repeated instances of a learning event—such as seeing the same image multiple times—create a series of similar but not quite identical memory traces in the brain. Even though the image itself is held constant, other factors such as your attention, your emotional state, or the aspects of the image you're focusing on, will vary from one learning event to the next. So later, when you want to recall that image, all of the different memory traces have to compete with each other, and only the overlapping central features of each memory become strengthened in the brain. At the same time, all of the non-overlapping information, the contextual detail, begins to fade.

The authors conclude that when we learn by repetition, we rely upon a sense of familiarity more than we do on an accurate recollection: “*Our findings suggest that although the ability to generally recognize something is strengthened with multiple encounters, one’s ability to discriminate among similar items in memory decays... in contrast to past beliefs, repetition may reduce the fidelity of memory representations.*”

So while repetition may be fine for remembering basic information or concepts, what about when it comes to remembering important scenes from our past, when the small details matter more than the overall gist? This study’s findings — if they hold true over longer periods of time, or for memories more complex than simple image recall—may have implications for the way we conceptualize memory in the classroom, on the witness stand, or in our day-to-day lives. For example, presenting evidence multiple times to those on trial could impact the detail and quality of testimonies. Ultimately, this research reminds us that memory is not a static record of the past embedded in our neurons; it is a living, imperfect form of thinking that is constantly being rewritten, whether we intend it or not.



Inline image 7

House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) announced Wednesday that he intended to initiate a federal lawsuit seeking to declare President Obama's executive orders as an unconstitutional power grab by one branch of the government. Speaker John A. Boehner will ask the House to approve a lawsuit designed to *"compel the president to follow his oath of office and faithfully execute the laws of our country."* The unusual action, he wrote in a letter to his colleagues, stems from President Obama's having *"circumvented the Congress through executive action, creating his own laws and excusing himself from executing statutes he is sworn to enforce."*

Boehner declined to spell out which actions would be addressed in the suit. Obama made an executive decision in 2012 not to deport children of illegal immigrants, and this month he issued an order to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions from power plants. Those executive orders came after the Republican-controlled House and Democrat-controlled Senate deadlocked on these issues over the past few years, taking no action. Republicans have argued that the president does not have the authority to issue such orders given that Congress has not supported them. *"In my view, the president has not faithfully executed the law,"* Boehner told reporters at his weekly briefing.

Speaking to reporters before Boehner confirmed the plans for the suit, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) labeled it *"a subterfuge"* meant to distract from other issues. At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest said the lawsuit fit with a congressional Republican plan of obstructing the president's agenda. *"The fact that they are considering a taxpayer-funded lawsuit against the president of the United States for doing his job is the kind of step that most Americans wouldn't support,"* he said.

Later, Boehner sent a two-page memo to all lawmakers explaining his rationale and the steps that would take place, singling out the issue areas of health care, energy, foreign policy and education. The legal grounding for the suit has recently been advocated by two conservative scholars, David Rivkin, a Washington lawyer, and Elizabeth Price Foley, a law professor at Florida International University. Their views were highlighted in an op-ed column by The Washington Post's George Will.

Democratic legal experts rejected this reasoning and suggested that Obama is following a long tradition of taking executive actions. *"Under our system of separation of powers, the President has the duty to faithfully execute the law, and that is precisely what the Administration has done, while working within the law and the Constitution to act where the House has refused to do so,"* Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), a former federal prosecutor, said in a statement.

Next month, Boehner is set to convene a five-member team of House leaders — three Republicans and two Democrats — that will approve the precise language of the lawsuit and then bring it to the House floor for a vote affirming the decision. The result probably would be a highly partisan vote. The contours of the lawsuit probably will follow Boehner's decision three years ago to hire outside legal counsel to defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Obama administration decided not to defend during the landmark same-sex marriage case that eventually went to the Supreme Court. In that case, also over objections from Pelosi, Boehner and House Republicans spent \$3 million paying a legal team led by Paul Clement, a former solicitor general and top conservative lawyer for federal appellate cases.

The lawsuit probably will take several years to wind through the federal courts, making it probable that it might have more impact on the executive authority of Obama's successor. However, Boehner said that he felt Congress was losing too much ground in the ongoing battles between the executive and legislative branches. Some legal experts have suggested that impeachment is the only redress the House has for correcting what it views as lawless behavior by a president, but Rivkin and Foley contend that the federal courts can resolve this dispute without such a showdown. The speaker emphatically rejected any notion of impeachment. *"This is about defending the institution,"* Boehner said about Congress.

This is generally being interpreted as Boehner (R-Ohio) expressing frustration about executive orders. That's incorrect. At least, that's not the whole picture. This is, really, a fight about executive action. As The Washington Post and others have noted, Obama has actually signed far fewer executive orders than past presidents. The Brookings Institution determined that he'd signed fewer per day of his presidency than anyone since Grover Cleveland. And most of the executive orders he signs are hardly the sort of thing that would seem to put America on the brink of a constitutional crisis. You can see them indexed at the National Archives website. The Washington Post skimmed the topic areas, and figured that the 160-odd orders Obama has signed fall roughly into five categories. At first glance you might think that all of those administrative orders is a problem. But, no. As most orders created various government bodies, like establishing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (E.O. 13595). Only a dozen or so of all of the orders are anything even remotely controversial, and none of them is the sort of thing cited in press accounts of Obama's tendency to act independent of the legislative branch.

At the White House website, you quickly get a sense for what's at work here. Alongside the menu item for executive orders is one for presidential memoranda. And at a quick glance, you can see that the issues tackled in memoranda are very similar to those in the executive orders. One from June 9, picked at random: Federal Student Loan Repayments. *"Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct the following,"* etc., etc. What's the difference between an executive order and a presidential memorandum? New York magazine looked at this in January 2013, and found a 1999 report that summarized the difference flatly. *"Although they possess a different title than executive orders,"* it reads, in part, *"it appears as though these instruments are very much alike. Both are undefined, written instruments by which the president directs, and governs actions by, Government officials and agencies."* The only difference, really, is that orders need to be published in the Federal Register, given that they meet fairly loosely defined parameters.

So let's consider a key example of executive authority that's mentioned when the president's actions are criticized: his 2012 determination that the children of people who entered the country illegally would be allowed to remain. That action went into effect on Friday, June 15, 2012. The closest

executive order to that date is Executive Order 13616, which concerns broadband implementation. Then it must be a memorandum, right? Well, no. The closest memorandum to that date filed on the White House site deals with child soldiers. Obviously Boehner efforts this week is purely political, as almost all of the executive orders that Boehner and other Obama critics are upset with was instituted by the Bush Administration with Republican Congressional support and little resistance from Democrats.

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

"I should write a book on how to get by on \$500,000,000, because apparently there are a lot of people that don't know how to do it."

Warren Buffett

BEST VIDEO OF THE WEEK

A Quick View of the World

This short video takes you to people around the world and shows them in fantastic situations. The photography is absolutely outstanding! It's fast moving. Blink and you will miss something. Very well done. Enjoy.....

Web Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=2HiUMIOz4UQ&vq=large

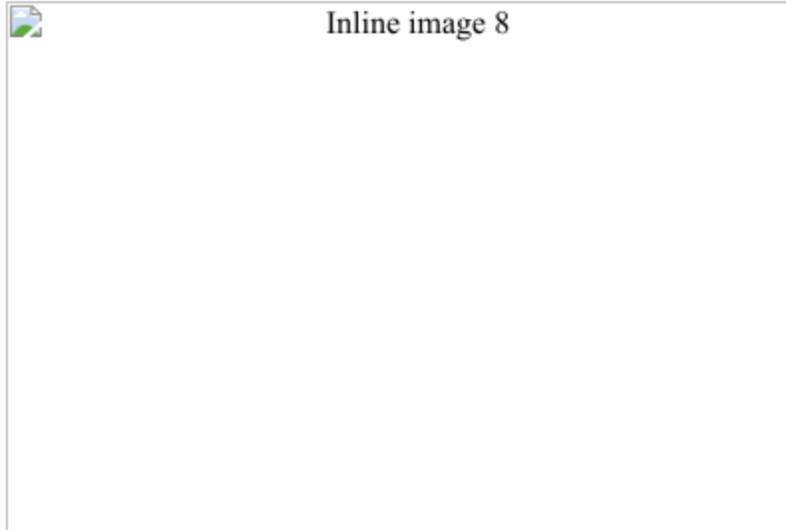
A SECOND VIDEO

New Rule: *Income Inequality In America* (Real Time with Bill Maher)

Web Link: <http://youtu.be/pcKMd49wDRk>

THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

Gerald Albright



Gerald Albright (*born August 30, 1957*) is an American jazz saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist. Albright has sold over 1,000,000 albums in the U.S. alone. His self-produced music features him on bass guitar, keyboards, flutes, drum programming, and background vocals. Born in Los Angeles, Albright grew up in its South Central neighborhood. He began piano lessons at an early age, even though he professed no great interest in the instrument. His love of music picked up considerably when he was given a saxophone that belonged to his piano teacher. It was further reinforced when he attended Locke High School, a breeding ground for many young West Coast musicians. After high school, he attended the University of Redlands where he received a B.S. degree in business management, minoring in music. Already a polished saxophonist by the time he enrolled in college, Albright suddenly switched to bass guitar after he saw Louis Johnson in concert.

Immediately after college, Albright began to master his talent by working extensively in the studio with such artists as Patrice Rushen, Anita Baker, Ray Parker, Jr., Lola Folana, Atlantic Starr, The Winans, Olivia Newton-John, The Temptations, and Maurice White. A few months after graduating from college, Gerald joined Patrice Rushen, who was in the process of forming her own band, in which he played the saxophone. Later, when the bass player left in the middle of a tour, Albright replaced him and finished the tour on bass guitar. Consequently, he often performed on both instruments. Around the same time, he also began to tour Europe with drummer Alphonse Mouzon. He also toured with Les McCann, Rodney Franklin, Jeff Lorber, Teena Marie, Marlene Shaw, Debra and Eloise Laws, Quincy Jones, Whitney Houston, Phil Collins, and many others. In addition to numerous appearances at clubs and jazz festivals, Albright had also been a part of the popular Jazz Explosion tours, which saw him teaming up with contemporary jazz stars like Will Downing, Jonathan Butler, Hugh Masekela, Chaka Khan, and Rachelle Ferrell, to name a few.

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jazz festivals, Albright had also been a part of the popular Jazz Explosion tours, which saw him teaming up with contemporary jazz stars like Will Downing, Jonathan Butler, Hugh Masekela, Chaka Khan and Rachelle Ferrell, among others. Albright has also made several television appearances on shows such as *A Different World*, *Melrose Place* and *BET jazz segments*, as well as piloting a show in Las Vegas with *Designing Women* star Meshach Taylor. Albright was one of the ten featured saxophonists who performed at *Bill Clinton's inauguration*. He was also featured at the *Presidential Summit*, as well as several private functions for the President. Albright is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Albright now lives with his family near Denver, Colorado. With 15 CDs under his belt and one collaboration CD, Albright has definitely gained his place in the music world as a player, songwriter and producer. Whether he is playing contemporary or straight-ahead jazz, Albright stands in a class all by himself. He is known for his swiftness on stage, his unique round sound which is percussive yet soulful. He has the ability to surprise the audience with something out of the ordinary. Albright gives his audience what they come for - a great show! With this said, please enjoy the music of Mr. Gerald Albright....

Gerald Albright performs at NAMM 2013 -- <http://youtu.be/-sffHuk6io8>

Gerald Albright – ***Georgia On My Mind*** -- <http://youtu.be/R4L0Z3mJxN0>

Gerald Albright – ***Maputo*** -- http://youtu.be/CIP12NfdX_A

Gerald Albright – ***Winelight*** -- http://youtu.be/pKaC_XCd0o4

Gerald Albright – ***Bermuda Nights*** -- http://youtu.be/_iAfiVUq3P0

Gerald Albright & Lalah Hathaway – ***I Surrender*** -- <http://youtu.be/YK2t-x-SPDM>

Gerald Albright – ***Ain't No Stoppin'*** -- <http://youtu.be/XrtSN6kEHY0>

Gerald Albright – ***If This World Were Mine*** -- http://youtu.be/oNT8y_pH5BQ

Gerald Albright – ***So Amazing and My My My Medley Live*** -- <http://youtu.be/L60bcF4U63M>

Gerald Albright and Norman Brown – ***I Found The Klugh Live*** -- <http://youtu.be/qEznka1ejNQ>

Gerald Albright and Norman Brown – ***What's Goin On*** -- <http://youtu.be/0zFigHiyUiY>

Gerald Albright performs a Medley live on the Dave Koz Cruise -- http://youtu.be/qMEaUmnpy_8

I hope that you have enjoyed this week's offerings and wish you a wonderful week.....

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

Gregory Brown
Chairman & CEO
GlobalCast Partners, LLC

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