

In the Midwest, Obama Grapples for an Economic Fix and a Political Narrative
Time.com
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By Alex Altman

Barack Obama hit the road Monday for his three-day Midwestern bus tour toting an array of political baggage: a downgraded national credit rating, a faltering economy, a stretch of wild market vicissitudes, an approval rating that [by one measure](#) has slumped to a historical low of 39%. Those problems seemed to vanish on the flight to St. Paul. At a picturesque town hall in the hamlet of Cannon Falls, Minn., the casually dressed President slipped out of the professorial tone that marked his appearances during the debt debate and into his campaign cadence. He sampled local sweets, shook hands with supporters, posed for photos amid a sea of smiling children. But the road trip is hardly a respite from a gloomy summer. It's a test of how he will handle the critical challenge facing him this fall.

With unemployment frozen above 9% and little chance of a timely rebound before the end of 2012, Obama is faced with the unenviable task of convincing frustrated voters that he can steady the economy and create jobs — at a time when the limits of his ability to do these things have never been more apparent.

That's not, Obama says, for lack of vision. "I'll be putting forward, when [Congress returns] in September, a very specific plan to boost the economy, to create jobs, to control the deficit," Obama said during a second town hall in Decorah, Iowa. In the meantime, he rattled off a PowerPoint presentation's worth of familiar proposals: patent reforms, a renewed payroll tax cut, an infrastructure bank to revitalize the flagging construction sector, credits to employers who hire veterans. On Tuesday, he will announce an initiative to boost jobs in rural communities by, among other things, providing small businesses access to new capital and job-seekers access to better training. "There is nothing small-bore about this effort," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said during a Monday conference call, after a reporter hinted otherwise. But Vilsack wouldn't say how many jobs the initiatives might create. And that is partly because Obama's Republican opponents have throttled his ability to create them.

"If everyone is willing to make some modest sacrifices, this problem we could solve. We could solve it tomorrow," the President said. His definition of the problem was instructive—not a flaw in the U.S. economy, but a flaw in the nation's politics. "The problem is we've got the kind of partisan brinkmanship that is willing to put party ahead of country." This is true, but to progressives that appraisal must seem maddeningly vague. The budget brinkmanship to which Obama is referring was largely practiced by House Republicans, who successfully gambled that they could turn a standard procedural vote to raise the debt limit into a referendum on government spending, dragging the U.S. to the cusp of a default in the process.

Obama is not by nature a knife fighter; even as the post-partisan era he once promised grows increasingly far-fetched, he often seems most comfortable hovering above the fray, positioning himself as the pragmatic adult in a capital filled with squabbling children. This may be a shrewd juxtaposition in the run-up to 2012, as the GOP primary candidates march ever rightward. But it is not going to cheer a Democratic base looking for its leader to draw starker contrasts.

Obama took glancing shots Monday at House Speaker John Boehner — "he walked away [from a proposed deal] because his belief was we can't ask anything of millionaires and billionaires and big corporations in order to close our deficit" — and at the GOP's presidential candidates for genuflecting to the Tea Party dogma that no amount of spending cuts are worth an iota of new taxes. But as during the debt debate, he also

chided Democrats. When a man with lung cancer asked about Social Security, Obama promised to preserve the program for future generations but then added, "I have to say, in fairness — because I've commented on the other side not always being flexible — there have been times where our side — when Democrats aren't always as flexible as we need to be. I mean, sometimes I do get frustrated when I hear folks say, you can't make any changes to any government programs."

His speech in Iowa was far more combative than the one he unfurled in Minnesota; it was as though he was field-testing a sharper tone. But instead of pointing to the debt skirmish as evidence that the economy has been waylaid by obstructionist Republicans, Obama's new stump speech is for the most part an updated version of his familiar call for unity. "There are some in Congress right now who would rather see their opponents lose than see America win," [he said last week](#) in Holland, Mich., another Midwestern state Obama captured in 2008 and where he hopes to parlay his auto-industry efforts into a repeat. "We're supposed to all be on the same team, especially when we're going through tough times. We can't afford to play games — not right now, not when the stakes are so high for our economy."

This is vintage Obama, who prefers to play the conciliator. But it's unlikely to repair the rifts in an increasingly fractious capital. Obama can advertise his plans to thin the ranks of the jobless all he wants, but he still has to thread his proposals through a divided Congress, where everyone is most certainly not on the same team. In fact, the other team is fighting furiously for a vastly different vision.

The President needs a villain, and "Congress," which is epically unpopular, makes an easy target. But more specifically, *House Republicans* are the reason Obama is trotting out a slate of modest proposals, instead of the large-scale investments many economists say would spur economic growth. Liberals are still waiting for him to say so emphatically.

215 comments

[Paul Dirks](#)

There are some in Congress right now who would rather see their opponents lose than see America win

That sentence carries a lot more punch than you're giving it credit for. Perhaps the problem now is that dragging the economy down and making bad problems worse has become the new 'normal' There was a time when such a sentiment wasn't even a possibility and now it's become routine.

shepherdwong

"There was a time when such a sentiment wasn't even a possibility and now it's become routine."

Treason is the new "conservatism."

freeinpa

Here is a preview of your vision of America. In about 11 years welfare spending in the UK has nearly doubled and the result is rioting because people want more deficits and debts be damned. People never tire of spending other people's money

Trinity_Tom

Let's see. Inflation rate? Unemployment rate? Have you ever met a context you could not ignore?

[Paul Dirks](#)

And here's a preview of YOUR vision:

freeinpa

Dirks everyday we get your one note whining as a response to ever growing evidence globally that socialism has failed and countries are rapidly trying to fix their mistake.

I can see them hauling you away screaming in a straight jacket whining about salaries in China. And they just won't listen to you. Hard to believe!

[Rod Burket](#)

Do you mean this President and his Democrat cronies in Congress who still have not passed or presented a budget for the past **TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS?**

Bad problems worse. Do you mean like passing government regulations that restrict businesses from flourishing and creating jobs? Do you mean like passing a Universal healthcare plan that has businesses worried about how they will fund it, and stops new hires?

Do you mean wishy-washy negotiations where they agree on something and when they are just about ready to finalize the details the President comes back with more demands?

Is that what you mean?

[Paul Dirks](#)

No, I mean choking off State governments while THIS is going on and then threatening to shut down the entire Bond market if your demands are not met. But thanks for asking.....

While the overall picture painted in the report is gloomy, the bigger story may lie in cuts on the government front. In June, local governments reported job losses of 18,000, and the federal government shed 14,000 jobs. **Nearly 100,000 local government employees have lost their jobs so far this year, and 464,000 have found themselves jobless since local government employment peaked in September 2008.** Meanwhile, private sector employers,...

freeinpa

Enough of "shut down of the bond market crap" Yields on US Treasuries fell during July-period. In the history of bond markets a credit never saw its yields fall as it was going to a default. That is just liberal horse hockey.

And yes the governments who over hired over priced workers had to suffer the same fate (2 years later) that the people who actually pay their salaries. I don;t recall you shedding a single tear when private secotr oil workers and coal workers lost jobs on attacks from the left. But that's right they didn't have the right...

benjaminbaby

the thing is I see no difference in the seivces provided to me by the government even after the cuts, when I go to get my drivers license renewed or new tags for my car the line is still long, the clerk still rude, and really nobody gives a darn, lay them all off.

La_Randy

It is apparent that benjaminbaby wants to wait longer to get his motor vehicle problems solved! By all means let's destroy any vestige of government! Works every time.

[Rod Burket](#)

Let's see, how many private sector jobs have been lost to government regulations and spending?

Trinity_Tom

One thing is for sure. As the President travels around the mid - West he is going to find out there is a real world outside the Washington which has real issues to face - not the petty grandstanding he has to confront in Washington. Contrary to the conventional wisdom held here, I doubt many Americans give a f**k about an

election over a year out. They are sick and tired of Washington and they have more pressing concerns to worry about.

[Art](#)

Well Obama made sure he is one and done as I told you all. On MSNBC their lead political analyst said it was all Obama and the Dems fault. She went on to explain that they should have passed a budget and raised the debt ceiling two years ago. She said the reason Obama and the Dems refused to do their jobs was because they wanted the Republicans to take part of the blame for the cuts that were going to unpopular with the voters. It was refreshing to see someone on the Obama station MSNBC tell the truth. The...

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fhmadvocat

Art,

Since when did you start listening to MSNBC, because I am willing to bet that most of the time you dismiss it as liberal drivel, so the one time it criticizes Obama, you take notice and listen is quite funny.

As far as S & P, I don't know if you saw the Republican debate in Iowa, but Michele Bachmann claimed that the downgrade proved her right. Then the head of S & P clarified that the reason for the downgrade was because of people like her, though he never mentioned her by name. These are people who refuse...

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Trinity,

You made some good points.

Jilli

And throwing irrational, knee-jerk temper tantrums around ridiculous policy like the BBA is the "real world". I don't think so, I still believe - as I believe our president does - in civility and adult discussion and compromise. Unfortunately, the tea baggers/republicans prefer hostage taking, deliberate economic sabotage and tactics of a spoiled 7 year old that didn't get a pony. There's a lot that Americans are sick and tired of - and this type of action should be included.

Trinity_Tom

Worse than that, by refusing to negotiate over the issue of tax increases, the Tea Party effectively disenfranchised all those who did not vote for them. It is a manifestation of the "real Americans" theme. Only real Americans' votes should count.

[Matt Parker](#)

The president has lost support from the American people in his quixotic search for some sort of "compromise" with Republican extremists. The Tea Party is essentially an anti-American terrorist organization bent on destroying America as we know it and bringing about an entire new order in this country. The president needs to get real and stop coddling the GOP. Americans need to know the truth, they need to understand the danger posed by the GOP's anti-growth agenda.
www.sunstateactivist.org

freeinpa

Obama lost the support of the American people because he used the first 2 1/2 years trying to stuff through liberal special interest nonsense that killed jobs, companies and the economy. He is now losing support of the extreme left because he did not go far enough in destroying the economy to further their interests

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outsider2011

there is no liberal policies. Even AHC is designed to try and save money by having everyone insured, thus being taxed less (insofar as the rest of the community has to pay the medical bills for everyone who isn't insured and shows up at the ER).

You're very stuck on talking points today Freep. It's gonna be one of those days, eh?

freeinpa

"there is no liberal policies. Even AHC is designed to try and save money by having everyone insured"

That's funny. Requiring everyone to be insured is not a liberal policy. I love how liberals all say the same things on the same way on the same days. You DNC fax today must have been attack conservatives as having talking points. Most people would call these "talking points" reality but that is a state liberals never visit

Ohiolib

If it's not a conservative idea, why was Gingrich pushing it for years? Why, in 1994, was a slightly simpler version of Obamacare the R plan? Reality, meet freewelcher.

Hippoath, I know what dude I am. I'm the dude playin' the dude, disguised as another dude!

Freeinpa,

Requiring everyone to be insured was the GOP plan before Obama talked about it.

freeinpa

"Requiring everyone to be insured was the GOP plan before Obama talked about it."

No it was the policy of some Republicans. Usually older ones at the end of their lackluster political career trying to make a lasting name and favor. What better way than to give away money

outsider2011

Nice dancing there sunshine. Requiring everyone to have insurance so that everyone else doesn't have to pay for the uninsured isn't a liberal policy. A liberal policy is Medicare in Canada.

And you jumped right to the victim hood of being attacked instead of addressing the question.

Would you like to try again? Explain how trying to prevent a community from paying for uninsured is NOT a conservative idea.

Hippoath, I know what dude I am. I'm the dude playin' the dude, disguised as another dude!

No it was the policy of some Republicans.

McCain ran on it and it was even the counter plan to Clintons healthcare initiative.

Jilli

I thought republicans/libertarians/tea baggers are the party of personal responsibility? Every dog for themselves. Why shouldn't we all carry health insurance? Why should some choose not to have insurance and get treatment on my dime? Your arguments fall flat

when it's stretched beyond surface talking points. Or is it that the claims of personal responsibility are just more hooey from the right?

Jmac

Freep - if he'd followed progressive economist we might have had a better recovery. He followed conservative economists. That's a fact. One solid fact. Those who read Krugman the last 11 years were much more informed on the economy than those who read the WSJ editorials the last 11 years. That's a fact.

benjaminbaby

ya we all see what kind of growth follows a liberal takeover, look at the fantastic economy Greece has become

La_Randy

We are not Greece, Idiot! There has been no "liberal takeover"! Only a continuation of Reaganomics, which was as flawed then as it is now.

Trinity_Tom

Greece was so much better off when it was a military dictatorship.

69domer

Why don't you go live in Iran or Cuba, where the governments are totally in control, as opposed to substantially in control like in the US. If Harry Truman was alive today he would be a member of the Tea Party.

Bukowski (D), barstool

"The problem is we've got the kind of partisan brinkmanship that is willing to put party ahead of country." This is true, but too progressives that appraisal must seem maddeningly vague. "

The word you're tortuously trying to avoid here is "liberals," and as a liberal I don't find him to be "maddeningly vague" at all. "Vague" would imply that he has failed to communicate in some way about his real thoughts on the subject. This is not the case.

Mr. Obama is not a liberal, and he sees liberal attempts to gain more for liberals' support as an affront. His..

freeinpa

"Mr. Obama is not a liberal, and he sees liberal attempts"

This is a tired and false assumption from the left. Obama is a liberal and a politician. What he found out quickly is that America is not liberal. For him to have any chance at a second term to foist more liberal mischief on America he could not afford to be as strident as he was early in his first term. The left ran in 2008 as moderates with "family values". As soon as they began with the typical liberal nonsense America bucked and liberals suffered in th...

Stuart_Zechman

Obama is not a liberal. I am one, and I'm telling you, he's not.

bobell

Since you asked, Freep, my view (hardly unique to me) is that Obama is a pragmatist who would happily be a liberal if he had any chance of doing so. I think he'd have given us the public option, and an infrastructure bank, and a quicker withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, and punishment for the Bush Administration torturers, and a much better stimulus, and all sorts of other things liberals want -- but he knew he couldn't accomplish that, so he didn't try.

Meanwhile the Republicans keep demanding things even more extreme at their own end of the spectrum and not...

outsider2011

Listen, I wish the guy was more liberal. I wish all the stuff that Freep says is true. But it isn't. He's trying to play both sides, and that is pragmatic.

It's horrible for the country, because the further right the Repubs lurch, the more off-center things become, but he's (BO) trying to play it down the middle.

I don't condone it. As stated, I wish he was more left-leaning. But I understand what he's doing. I don't agree with it, but I understand him, he's just trying to not get caught up in the hype of...

outsider2011

I agree. There isn't any liberal nonsense. Just central nonsense. Which is pragmatic - but disappointing to those who voted him in to counter all the right-wing nonsense from the Bush years.

outsider2011

You've mentioned the extreme left wingers. Who are they?
And how do you define them as extreme?

Extreme right wingers want to turn the US into a theocracy and put make everyone who earns less than a quarter million a year pay for the people who make over a quarter million. But how do you define an extreme left winger? Someone who's actually trying to help his/her fellow citizens?

I don't understand your boogey man extreme left winger. Please explain.

□ freeinpa

"but he knew he couldn't accomplish that"

Exactly and its because that is the feeling of extreme left wingers and not America in general. You are a loud ignorant minority at odds with American values

Beholdthejabberwock

Using the word extreme to describe liberals or conservatives is always suspect. In my mind, the extreme left is anarchy and the extreme right is fascism. Interestingly enough, whenever I hear a liberal or conservative speak, neither anarchy nor fascism come to mind.

Labeling a certain viewpoint as extreme doesn't make it so, no matter how many times you say it.

freeinpa

"Just central nonsense."

American fell for hat in 2008. You can shovel that crap _(Now there is a shovel ready job the left always employs) but Americans has seen the reality of liberal lies including that they are centrists.

Bukowski (D), barstool

outsider2011- Is it pragmatic? Is it by default a good idea to split the baby in two because the two sides don't agree? If one side wants a bridge, and the other wants to save the money, is it a good idea to build half a bridge? So in that scenario, the conservatives lose their fiscal savings goals, the liberals lose their economy boosting bridge, and the only winner is the corporation paid to build a useless hunk of concrete. Does that sound pragmatic to you? Why so?

outsider2011

Again, qualify the liberal lies.

superlogi

Obama isn't educated or experienced enough to be a pragmatist. He's, simply, a liberal buffoon who's strategy is creating mass government dependency to ensure everlasting progressive leadership. His problem is, that it has never worked and never will. It's the old axiom that two heads are better than one and 300 million are better than Barry Obama.

Bukowski (D), barstool

When was he "strident" about his liberalism in his early term? Was it when he backed down on Guantanamo Bay? Or when he ordered lawyers to defend DOMA? Or maybe it was when he didn't even try to get the single-payer healthcare system he ran on?

Perhaps it was when he began to expand our military footprint? or maybe it was when he worked hard to assuage and bail out Wall Street, but did diddly-squat for homeowners? Oh, I know, was it when he did nothing for DADT until the threat of court rulings persuaded him?

Please, just because he's...

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Dan5404

Conservatives have tried to make the word "liberal" a dirty word and "conservative" a common sense God-given trait. Neither is correct. Obama is right, and what I had rather call "right-wing obstructionists" have temporarily changed politics into a gridlock because, as he says, they had rather see their opponents lose than see the country succeed. As always, the same people who are willing to compromise are the ones who will win. That's how America works.

Derek

In his vain attempt to satisfy everyone, he satisfies no one. He lives in a fantasy world, where everyone loves one another, and acts rationally. As a result he is rendered weak and ineffective. He probably doesn't want to take on Congress because the radical right is about his only hope for being reelected. He had an opportunity to improve the economy and he blew it. The first mistake was surrounding himself with centrists, people who only believe in half solutions to whole problems. He will never get that opportunity again, unless the American people turn the entire government over to the...

[show more](#)

Bukowski (D), barstool

I don't know, the insurance companies were pretty satisfied by the Healthcare bill. And I'm pretty sure Wall Street is tickled pink about how the bailouts worked out, and the banks of course, who got rescued but didn't have to sacrifice a dime because zip was done to help their mortgage borrowers.

I think a lot of people were satisfied by the results, people who contribute millions to campaigns, for example. I don't differ with your post, just that I'm not convinced these were "accidental" results of poorly-done compromises, so much as intended outcomes.

It's not a bug, it's a...

[show more](#)

Derek

You are probably right. The only group that Obama ever shows any anger toward is the Left. Look how long he spent sucking up to those Tea Baggers who interrupted him last night. He has no time for the Left, and just can't stand being disliked by the right, including the fanatical right. However, surely they understand that unemployment is not a good situation, when trying to get elected. He must have thought that bailing out zombie banks would somehow trickle down to the little people.

[snowleopard \(cat folk gallery\)](#)

Mr President, you and Mr Reid have been using nothing but more and more obstructionist tactics, you walked away first, and constantly changed the gameplan and the goalposts locations when the Republicans did submit three separate plans -- summarily tabled by Reid without any consideration to them.

So get off the false and farsical high horse of yours.

Do the last thing that may hold a bit of courage and restoration for the damage you have done -- Resign.

Sue_N

Um, you do know that if, for some strange reason, Obama were to resign, then Biden would become president?

Do yourself a favor. Quit smoking he catnip.

RK2011

Not my fault - It is Bush, tornadoes, earthquake, wait, wait it's congress (oops) , I mean republicans

Was he not the one who said, send me a bill I don't like and I will veto it? Did the dems in senate not describe the house bill as "Dead on Arrival" while sitting on their collective bottoms and play the blame game? Did he not blame the republicans on TV and then ask them to compromise? He and the dems did not even share the Obamacare bill with the republicans since they did not need their votes. Remember the Pelosi...

[show more](#)

Hippoath, I know what dude I am. I'm the dude playin' the dude, disguised as another dude!

I guess that's the latest dittohead meme since both you and snowcatwoman echo almost the same sentiment.

freeinpa

And what is the left's latest emptyhead meme "Terrorists. hostage, Tea Party downgrade-- all the same meme that spread faster than a forest fire-- but you are all independent thinkers

Hippoath, I know what dude I am. I'm the dude playin' the dude, disguised as another dude!

Freeinpa,

the hostage taking is my own reflection and that is shared by a majority of people. Tea party downgrade? I think that's kind of silly but it is true that only tea party wanted default and we got a small taste of how that would go if we did.

But I get it; you blame Obama and the liberals for what the tea party was outspoken about what they wanted.

outsider2011

And how many times did the repubs raise the debt ceiling without all this nonsense coming from the dems?

Trinity_Tom

If you bothered to read the thread you would notice several criticisms of the President from people who sit on the left of the political spectrum. I cannot recall you ever criticising any right wing politician, but then I cannot recall you ever supporting a right wing politician either, such is the tsunami of Obama =bad comments that you produce.

outsider2011

You're right Freep. The repubs didn't take the entire economy hostage in order to raise the debt ceiling. Nor was it the height of hypocrisy, given that repubs have never asked for the debt ceiling to be raised; If they had, the dems would have just held the economy hostage to meet their own needs, correct?

fhmadvocat

freeinpa,

Since the downgrade is not really that important, I expect you will condemn all the Republicans who point to the "Obama downgrade" during the upcoming election, especially Michele Bachmann.

Conservatives, especially Tea Partiers are funny. An economist worth his or her salt knows you don't raise taxes or cut spending during a recession. And Tea Partiers have argued on about half of that argument. Yet they have encouraged a cut in spending, especially during the debt ceiling debate. They are going to watch the slow growth and blame it on Obama, when it has really been the policies they...

[show more](#)

Hippoath, I know what dude I am. I'm the dude playin' the dude, disguised as another dude!

US Treasury yields fell during the entire process which says the market was never concerned about default

You know this is a baloney claim; this is because investors poured money into t-bills when the stock market fell. You think investors would go cash in dollar if we were in default?

Come on, be honest for once; that's not a political issue you have to impale yourself on - that's just common sense.

freeinpa

"the hostage taking is my own reflection"

That's funny because its the exact same words repeated daily by the MSM , Dumos in Congress, Team Donkey Strategists and left wing nut job web sites.

There was no taste of a default just liberal whining

freeinpa

The repubs didn't take the entire economy hostage in order to raise the debt ceiling. Nor was it the height of hypocrisy, given that repubs have never asked for the debt ceiling to be raised"

You nicely couple your hypocrisy with out right stupidity. Did we not have a Senator from IL who stated it would be highly irresponsible to raise the debt ceiling? Or another Senator form NV, IL among other Democratic states?

Did the Dems not control the House, Senate and WH to pass a budget and debt ceiling measure?

And this tiresome meme of hostage TP downgrade...

[show more](#)

ObamaCampaignGoesSouth

Obama wants to give nothing to middle-class Midwesterners. Up until this week, his mind has been totally fixated on having Attorney General Eric Holder rewrite non-discrimination laws so that illegal immigrants can vote in large numbers in the Southwest states. If they get the popular vote initiative pushed through, the Midwest or South may not matter to them.

While Obama may think he is clever by sending different messages to different groups of people, the Internet allows for people everywhere in America to read Obama's message tailored to Latino immigrants in the Southwest, giving them more and more, while taking more and...

[show more](#)

jcapan

A narrative!? Here's something laying around that he could use, if he's got the stones:

We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. "Necessitous men are not free men." People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all regardless of station, race,...

[show more](#)

superlogi

He's been do his best to create a Marxist Utopia. What more could you ask for?

Stuart_Zechman

No, Obama is not a Marxist. He's bent on creating Tom Friedman's Utopia.

jcapan

Will we all have to sport porn-staches?

PS--Shep and I were wondering about your comment on the Obama-care thread. Weigh in if you get a chance.

jcapan

Thanks SZ and though we don't agree (I responded), as you said, it was great having this exchange.

Stuart_Zechman

OK, JC.

I responded here [hyperlink](#).

Hope that was reasonably worth reading and considering, given its brevity and incompleteness.

Stuart_Zechman

OK, JC.

Let me go read it and see if I have more time to write anything else tonight. Thanks.

Stuart_Zechman

Did...did you just...did you just declare that Tom Friedman is a Marxist?

LOL

superlogi

I think you're confusing Tom and Milton. Tom is a Marxist.

jcapan

Get back to me when you learn how to use the present perfect continuous.

superlogi

Why would I get back to a buffoon due to a typo-o?

[Rod Burket](#)

And yes Ladies and Gentlemen, thus was born unto us "*Social Justice*". The liberal solution to all of mankind's problems. But, the problem is that all of these so-called "rights" cost money. Other people's money.

So jcapan, who exactly bestows these "rights" upon the people? Who is it exactly that gives these "rights" to those who presently do not enjoy them? Who works hard to give up their money in tax dollars so you can achieve this liberal Utopia?

The Founders of this country envisioned "rights" which promoted the individual who is willing, able and wants to succeed based...

[show more](#)

Derek

First he questions whether there is such a "thing" as a right, then he decides rights do exist. Not only that, they are bestowed upon the nation by a being, who lives outside the confines of space and time.

Can you explain what a "right" is and the dynamics through which God imposes it within temporal existence? Finally, explain why you have the right to keep all your money?

superlogi

Perhaps because "I" earned it? But more to the point. Why is it you think "you" have the right to keep money you haven't earned? In any case, I know of no such Christian/Judeo belief that suggests one has either the right to covet thy neighbors goods any more than thy neighbors wife. It's has also been suggested that thou shalt not steal is probably in keeping with that belief.

Dan5404

Said like a true man who is managing just fine, not unemployed, has health insurance, isn't ill, or homeless. Your compassion is typical calloused right-wing rhetoric that is what has recently cost the US hundreds of billions in the aftermath of a falsely-created debt ceiling crisis. it's "as long as I'm OK, to Hell with everyone else." Of course, it's expensive to have compassion and try to help those who need it, and to write off anyone getting federal assistance as a lazy good-for-nothing liberal. That's the simplistic wrong-headed politics of the right. It's that way until it happens to you.

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