



GRIDLOCK

DEMOCRACY

Reviews

**by
Joel Snell**

Surprise!

Life is full of surprises and according to some politicians, the 2012 election will have its share. First, Michael Medved conservative political writer suggests that Obama is going to garner thousands to millions of votes over Romney and Mitt will win the electoral college. Thus, we are back to 2000 and Bush vs. Gore. The Supreme Court then votes 5-4 for Romney and he becomes our next president. Medved suggests that a divided country becomes even more so.

The Chris Matthews show on MSNBC suggests that the new Super PACs from Corporations has almost limitless money. The Wisconsin showdown to recall the Governor may become the new template for elections. The winner has incredible amounts of money to frame issues (especially on cable television, AM radio, and the internet) and to pay "volunteers." The corporate candidate is almost always the winner.

Third, again thousands to millions can no longer vote. The disenfranchised go to the polls anyway to protest their loss of the ability to vote. Chaos ensues. Waldman of The American Prospect suggests that elections in the future of our country will become evermore tumultuous.

Questions explode about voting limits, financial support, and Super PACs. Nearly all the spots opened for advertisement of candidates and issues of the November election are purchased. Further, this author has not found any saying that Super PACs can't constantly campaign all year and at all times of the day. Watch Oil company ads that are on many times each day. They are not selling a good or a service. Rather, they are selling themselves and their agenda.

Will most of this happen? Don't know. The Behavioral methodologies use of math models can confuse us because it is hard to put surprises, black swans, outliers, unintended bifurcations or any other term in the model. So information explodes into dust.

These scenarios are just that. Further since it is in print and has been published, does not make it true or valid? Chaos theory and life itself is humbling. You become smarter when you understand that you are not so smart. Some folks call that wisdom.

EVANGELICALS LOSS OF POWER IN THE GOP

Chit, J. (2005) The Crash Test, NEW REPUBLIC, 10-24/ 10-12.

Social conservatives and Evangelicals constitute two thirds of the GOP. However, numerous issues on gays, abortion, school prayer and related never quite get the attention of the party. GOP's now have control of the White house, the senate and house, and the Supreme Court. So why don't social conservative issues get addressed?

This also applies to President George H.W. Bush, President Ronald Reagan. With various majorities compiled and yet not a lot happens. The crash test is the latest. Should Bush push for privatization of social security or a push to make gay marriage illegal with an amendment to the constitution? Bush went with the losing cause of privatization of social security.

The elite of the party is business and workers are the social conservative and Evangelicals. The workers do not appear to be paid for their efforts.

SCOPES TRIAL #3

MOONEY, C. (2005) TRIAL AND ERROR, NEW REPUBLIC, 10/17, 18-20.

In Harrisburg, another trial about evolution is making its way to a conclusion. The civil suit will be decided by a judge. 25 years ago, another trial also came to the conclusion that creationism was not a science. This time the issue is intelligent design. The case so far seems to be proceeding along the lines of the 1980 case (Scopes trial #2). If the trajectory is completed, it would appear that ID will be deemed not a science. However, even the remotest change can have the effect of changing the outcome.

Further, Scopes trial # 1, revisited in INHERIT THE WIND, has roughly the same outcome, creationism is not a science. By now, one knows that evolution means that species that are the most adaptable survive. They are not necessarily the strongest or even the smartest; the species survives because it is the best fit for its environment. ID indicates that the earth is thousands of years old, not millions, and humans came to be by a special if not divine incursion about 6 or 7 thousands years ago. Homo sapiens (humans) were created in less than a week. Every environmental characteristic had to be just right for this to occur. This is so incredible that only act by a designer of some sort that is larger than all of us could have created this.

Stay tuned for the outcome.

THEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

As a youngster and into adulthood, I recall that many scholars came to roughly this stance. There is a God (imminent/ eminent) that not only created the big bang but did so millions of years ago. The Jewish Scriptures, Bible, and Koran are really describing a day to mean an epoch of time involving millions of years. The day in the life of God is not the same as the day of a human. For the religions of the east in Analects, Tao-Te-Ching and the Buddhist scriptures, God is both instigator and process of creation. In either interpretation, creatures evolve and from this become humans who are interconnected with other creatures. Each individual has a role to play and a reason to be. Further, they carry the genetics of thousands of ancestors. They also inherit the culture that is an admixture of all of the sciences and the social methodologies as well as the humanities. God appears to intervene in everyday life and in historic settings. However, what ever God does is subject to debate and /or is completely immeasurable. There may be a God as reported in various scriptures and those that return from the dead. The most apparent intervention and yet again not measurable is serendipity where ideas appear to come from surprise.

THE SOCIOPATH NEXT DOOR

Stout, Martha (2005) *The sociopath next door*, New York: Doubleday

(Reviewed by Prof. Joel C. Snell, Kirkwood College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Harvard clinical psychologist, Dr. Martha Stout tackles the question of who is a psychopath and how do they become one? Her brilliant book is for academic, professional, and general audience. She writes at many levels. In common parlance, she describes complex phenomena and illustrates it with mythical characters, how sociopaths can easily live next door. Using this device, she not only informs but entertains the reader to want more. She uses interchangeably sociopath, psychopath, and antisocial personality. She differentiates this group from those with attachment disorders, narcissistic personalities, and criminal repeat offenders.

Sociopaths are charming, cold, loveless, and egocentric. They learn to mimic but not internalize empathy, sympathy, remorse, interconnectedness, and spirituality. They lie, cheat, and if they have to, will kill. If they can stand the authority, they make excellent warriors and persons in high authority such as sports stars, CEO's, movie stars, "personalities" professionals and related.

They are continually under stimulated so they are constantly in search of drugs, impersonal sex, thrill rides, high risk ventures, volatile venues / environments, and short term gains. They are charming enough to get through school and to make it big. At the loss of loved ones, they look around at others to see what they do so they can fake grief.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, sociopaths account for 4% of the population or 1 in 25 Americans.

They are manipulative and look at others for possible immediate gain. Other's suffering is rewarding behavior to them. In common terms, they are evil.

Sociopathy is from 35% to 50% genetic. Using the twin's studies, they find that sociopaths come generally not from criminogenic or dysfunctional backgrounds. The genetic portion or "bad seed" is so strong that immediate family and neighbor variables appear to not be salient. Inadvertently, the family may enable the young psychopath by finally giving up or looking the other way, when the child inflicts suffering on others. They enjoy torturing animals.

Stout suggests that culture may play a strong role. Societies that have a tight integrated family and a religion that connects humans to their larger environment like in East Asia have about 10% of the antisocial personalities as in western societies. If the culture has an over emphasis on hyper individuality and success at any costs, sociopathy prospers.

Stout discusses numerous types of sociopaths and strategies to avoid them to save one's self from harm. Most psychopaths are not serial killers. However, they can do so much damage to others without remorse.

By now you may more clearly recognize an individual like this in your life. They are charming. They want your pity. They fail you repeatedly and they lie and lie.

Living well without them is one's best revenge. You may want to forgive them, but don't let them back in your life.

The book is a valuable contribution to the fields of the social sciences.

HOW TO SPOT A LIAR

Salem, Marc (2004) "How to spot a lying politician"
MSN.COM, 10/12

Look for the following non-verbal cues. Remember that communication is 70% body language.

Look for:

1. Sharp pauses. Liars generally need time to get their stories together even if they told the same lie over and over.
2. Excessive gesturing or its reverse, the lack of gesturing. If there is lots of gesturing, this is unrehearsed lies. The reverse means that the liar has been working on the presentation.
3. Tight lips. Individuals may also lick their lips. Their mouth is dry.
4. Blinking of the eyes. It is not a sign of lying, but of tension. The nervousness compliments the lie.
5. Creation of barriers. The individual places objects between you and them. They can fold their arms or hold tightly to an object that blocks the two of you.
6. Emotions don't connect with subject. They discuss a tragedy without passionate discussion.
7. Using half smiles and gesturing "no" to a yes statement. Or it happens in reverse fashion a yes gesture to a no statement.

GOP AND DEMS DIFFER IN LIFE STYLE

_____ (2004) "The Great whiskey gap and other mysteries" TIME, 12/20, p.27

Republicans and Democrats differ dramatically in social activities. Overwhelmingly Republicans do much more of all kinds of activities from boating to partying. Why?

Dems live in urban areas and have much less money. Further, more women are Dems than men and they do double shifts of working at home and at the office.

Dems are more likely to go to museums and that is about it.

TIPPING POINT AUTHOR TURNS TO INTUITION

Grossman, Lev (2005) "Jumping to Conclusions" TIME, 1/30, p. 57

Malcolm Gladwell, author of the best selling TIPPING POINT, has uncovered a new subject. Although he calls it "thin slicing" it really is intuition or the immediate jump of assessment one makes after first seeing a problem. It could also be a person or anything else in reality. What first comes to mind? What conclusion do you jump to? How often are you right or correct?

Gladwell then gives example after example and anecdotal data to suggest that jumping to conclusions should be brought back into the field of science. The quick insight is not always right. However, the author suggests that intuition NOT be excluded from the process of the search for relationships as well as causes and effects.

Here are some examples:

1. A tennis coach can tell when a player will 'double fault.'
2. A marriage expert can tell from a 15 minute tape if a couples' marriage will last.
3. An ornithologist can identify at 200 yards an exotic bird that he has never seen before except in print.
4. A psychologist that can identify 10,000 expressions in one's face.
5. A speed dater that can quickly recognize a bad choice.

Numerous other examples are given that can mesmerize the reader. This includes following super salesman and emergency room cardiologists. The book is called BLINK. It is a narrative of how are unconscious makes quick assessments of numerous phenomena around it.

Jumping to conclusions still has flaws, but it should not be thrown out of the scientific method. It may be very helpful at the stage of forming hypotheses it's like a butterfly in the whirl wind of chaos theory.

21ST CENTURY LIBERALISM

Judis, John B. (2005) Structural Flaws, NEW REPUBLIC, 2/28, 20-23.

It takes a cataclysmic shock (catastrophic chaos) to change political alliances. Liberalism came to prominence under one of the most difficult times in the 20th century when we had the great depression of the 30's. At that time, business leader's lost confidence and labor grew in power. Business preferred Liberalism over populism or socialism.

From FDR to Carter, Liberalism grew, blossomed, and sputtered to an end. Reagan was there at the right time and place. IT'S MORNING IN AMERICA! He was able to create a new paradigm that slightly varied from the 20's. It was persona. The blue collar lost ground financially, but felt better emotionally under Reagan. Inflation was whipped and the ideology of Communism died. He is popular now but controversial at the time. His ratings were quite low, but today he is the most popular of all presidents to the public. He left behind a 3 trillion dollar debt that was dramatically reduced by Bush 1 and Clinton (the third most popular president.)

Today, Richard Nixon would be on the Left end of the Democratic Party. It has moved to the right and will probably continue to do so. The Democratic Party will have to moderate on guns, god, and gays.

Although Kerry lost by a few million votes, the party lost overwhelmingly in the house and senate. A change will come when the body politic hits a snag or a tipping point. The economy collapses or some other significant upheaval and the new alliance will head leftward. Not until then, will the Left of center party in most countries are able to beat the global condition that capital can move almost anywhere and labor can not do so.

Under the political climate at the moment, Democratic presidents may be able to get elected, but have a hard time governing.

WOMEN, MEN AND MATH

Ripley, Amanda (2005) Who says a woman can't be Einstein? TIME, 3/7 51-59.

Women and men have different brains and biological determinist indicate that thus women can not compete in math and the hard sciences. Environmental determinists indicate that women face subtle and hostile pressures to get out of the hard sciences. Even male professors if given that latitude will tell women to drop the course and change majors.

Evolutionary psychologists suggest that both nature and nurture play a part. The brain is not a blank slate and a vagina is not destiny. Males to survive needed spatial abilities and females acquired verbal superiority. However, nature-nurture is not a debate. If you think of a wire composed of two sub wires that are not only intertwined but become intermixed, women will increasingly become more efficient in math and related subjects. It means survival.

In an island off Iceland, the females are superior to males in sciences and math. Women work hard to get skills that will get them off the island to a better job and mate pool in Iceland. Males have less interest because they will become fisherman. Math and science is taken lightly.

The ability for the brain to adapt is phenomenal. Women are no longer needed as breeders. Thus, new skills will emerge. However, biology is still important. Thus, in a gender neutral environment, there will probably a closer ratio between women and men. It is now for every one female there is 12 males in the hard science profession. However, if the changes come about the ratios will probably be more equal, but there will still be a few more men. Why? Because for thousands if not millions of years various male hominids needed the spatial ability to hunt for food, this makes their brains differ from females. Therefore the brain has a special configuration. Changes in brains still take time.

CULT STRATEGIES

Hukill, Traci (2005) Friends, METROACTIVE.COM, 3/13.

Some strategies include the following:

1. THE PROMISE OF INNER PEACE AND WORLD PEACE
2. MIXED MESSAGE- HEARING THE GOOD WORD (SECULAR OR SACRED) WITH SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND HARD TO SIT IN CHAIRS.
3. LITTLE TIME IS GIVEN FOR REFLECTION.
4. THE MIND IS BOMBARDED AND OVERLOADED.
5. THERE IS TIME TO VENT AND BE REPUDIATED IN COMFORTABLE WAYS.
6. SESSIONS ARE AFFORDABLE BUT NOT CHEAP SO THERE IS A FEELING OF COMMITMENT.
7. STATEMENTS ARE MADE SO THAT STAYING QUIET IS PASSIVE CONSENT.
8. A NEW VOCABULARY IS QUICKLY INTRODUCED THAT FAVOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONVERTING ORGANIZATION.
9. THE STREET SMART ARE WEEDED OUT BY THE HIGH FEE THAT IS AFFORDABLE TO IDEALISTIC UPPER MIDDLE CLASS.
10. SOCIAL ISOLATES ARE ATTRACTED AND HAVE ATTENDED OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF LIKE MANNER.
11. ADVANCE SESSIONS COST MORE MONEY.
12. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROSELYTIZE.
13. THERE IS A LOTTERY CHANCE THAT ONE CAN MOVE UP IN THE ORGANIZATION.
14. THE ORGANIZATION IS ESSENTIALLY A PYRAMID WHERE FEW PROFIT FROM THE MANY.
15. THE ORGANIZATION GENTLY STRIPS THE INDIVIDUALS DEFENSE MECHANISMS.

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE: NAZI AMERICA

Grossman, Lev (2004) "The reign of Roth" TIME, 9/27, P.67-68.

In 1940, the Republican Party was considering drafting Charles Lindberg or Lucky Lindy, the fellow who was the first to cross the Atlantic Ocean by plane.

Lindberg was a Nazi or Nazi sympathizer. From this premise, noted author Phillip Roth has constructed amazing fiction called THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA.

After Lindberg is elected, he makes executive decisions to stay out of World War II. Hitler succeeds in conquering Europe, but not Russia, and reigns supreme over what are called Western democracies today.

Young Jewish kids are given an "opportunity" to move with their parents to small towns. Jewish communities disappear and find themselves isolated in little towns all over the United States. From there, Roth shows how Jewish families with out their property and with professional degrees that may or may not handy in their new locations deal with everyday life. All of this is done by the OFFICE OF AMERICAN ABSORPTION.

This is not exactly new. Sinclair Lewis introduced IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE. His scenario had a mythical character that had a Huey Long persona who became president and a Midwestern family who found them trying

to sneak over the border into Canada to the facism of the USA.

The TIME review suggests that Roth's THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA is an excellent read.

CONSERVATIVE AMERICA 2

Engardio, Pete (2004) "Nice Dream If You Can Live It" BUSINESS WEEK, 7-13, p. 22

More surveys that come from Jeremy Rifkin's new book THE EUROPEAN DREAM indicate how other countries in Europe differ from the United States. It also suggests how much more conservative is the United States than their counter parts. On balance, Americans believe:

1. All Americans have incredible opportunities for success.
2. Government's main purpose is to protect property rights.
3. Americans favor international autonomy (unilateral attacks) and a strong military.
4. Immigrants should immediately merge with the national culture.
5. People should live to work, not work to live.
6. 55% of those under 30 believe that they will be very rich in the future.
7. By 6 to 1 Americans believe that poverty is caused by personal flaws as opposed to any other consideration.
8. Americans see their culture as superior to all others.

TIME MAGAZINES ARTICLE ON "HAPPINESS"

See TIME, 1/17 (A1-A68)

Americans profess to be happy, but beneath this proclamation are lots of exceptions.

1. The richer you are the more likely you express happiness
2. We like being with out kids the most and sex the least. Does that make sense?
On a less global level, measuring the moods of 900 women, their choices in descending order were sex, socializing, relaxing, praying/meditating, and eating. Way down the list was taking care of the kids.
3. There appears to be biology of joy and some have more than others.
4. Laughter and meditation seem to help.
5. People that have a religious faith seem to be happier.
6. Per capita we are richer, but the middle class has only improved by 15% since 1984.
. The majority of money has gone to the top 20% who have those nice new big homes.
7. Marriage is better than being single, but it does not improve our overall happiness. 8.
Companionship seems to be a very important answer.
9. Pets are great.
10. Cheering for a team seems to be related to happiness.
11. We are also happy if we believe that God wants us to be happy.
12. Resilience appears to an important part of happiness.
13. If we believe that we have some control over our lives that seems to help.
14. If we slow down, that helps.
15. If you force yourself to be happy, you won't be.

WHAT AMERICANS BELIEVE ABOUT RELIGION

_____ (2004) "The Christmas Miracle" MSNBC/NEWSWEEK, 12/5.

Americans believe the following:

1. 79% Jesus was born to a virgin.
2. 67% believe the entire Christmas story.
3. 55% every word in the Bible is literally true.
4. 93% Jesus is historical figure and actually lived and died.
5. 82% Jesus is son of God.
6. 52% Jesus is involved in an end time.
7. 15% believe that end time is soon.
8. 61% Jesus has caused more kindness.
9. 63% Jesus caused more charity.
10. 58% Jesus caused more personal happiness/ tolerance.
11. 38% Jesus caused less religious divisions.
12. 86% Religion is now very important in America.
12. 43% believe that creationism should be taught and not evolution.

TRIUMPH OF THE MASSES

James Surowiecki (2004) *THE WISDOM OF CROWDS: WHY THE MANY ARE SMARTER THAN THE FEW AND HOW COLLECTIVE WISDOM SHAPES BUSINESS, ECONOMIES, SOCIETIES, AND NATIONS* (New York: Doubleday) 296 pages. The book was originally reviewed by Lance Morrow, (2004) "Triumph of the Masses" *TIME*, May 24, p. 78.

Most information at this point in history is that the few guide the many. In "Pareto's ratios" 20% account for 80% of most everything. According to "Michel's Iron Law of Oligarchy" the few run the public. The most rewarded of a movement are those that win and run the new regime or government. In other words, the few benefit from the action of the many. For LeBon, crowds demonstrate our collective ignorance. Crowds can bring the worst out in us. When Marx describe the masses, they are enlightened when they realize how little power they have not owning the means of production (false consciousness.) Pareto also warned that the masses become lionized only when the talented are shunted and remain at the bottom. If they are able to move up, they can be pacified and no longer will represent the masses (the circulation of the elite.) All suggest that the few run the many. If they do not succeed, they will be replaced by another group of elite, claiming to represent the people.

Surowiecki, an economics and financial writer for the *NEW YORKER* essentially throws out the above paradigm and suggests that the masses are generally but imperfectly correct. Sociologist may quibble in a salient fashion about the interchange of the terms of collectivities, crowds, masses, mobs, movements and related. All have different meanings. However, the author appears to use these as synonyms for the "many."

He suggests the following to support his thesis.

1. Galton asked a crowd to estimate the weight of a dressed carcass of beef. The valid answer was 1,198 pounds. The crowd privately wrote their answer on stubs of paper and guessed 1,197.
2. He borrows Hayek's "spontaneous order of the masses."
3. He suggests the power of starlings and their collective wisdom of survival by flying in certain formations.
4. He cites the intelligence of a big city pedestrian flow or humans reacting in a traffic jam.
5. He reviews a 1958 experiment where New York City students were asked to meet another student and where they would be when the stranger arrived in town and did not know directly how to find their big city friend. All said that they would go to the information booth of the Grand Central station.

6. Scientists all over the world within a short period and without overall supervision were able to contain the SARS virus in a matter of weeks.

This thesis is quite controversial and if it survives the usual Hegelian dialect of reviewers and critics will moderate the place of intellectual legends of both the right and the left. If this new paradigm succeeds the few guiding the many may be retranslated into the few may guide the many in only certain circumstances.

The book appears to be a valuable contribution to the literature on institutional change. This may also be a contribution to chaos theory.

THE ROOTS OF WAR

A review of Thomas Hayden (2004) "Roots of war" U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
April 12, p.46-49.

War seems to be as old as time, but it may not be. Anthropologists have suggested that large scale warfare came from complexity that emerged after hunting and gathering societies. Once there was material storage of domesticated crops, raiding from other villages appeared. Thus, war became more common. About 3600 years ago, division of labor and related gave some villagers time to build fortresses, gated communities or other hideaways to fight off warring neighbors.

About 2000 years ago, professional standing armies began to appear. Permanent settlements also required armies to protect them. Homicide is no longer a personal offense, but a sin against the group and war is the outcome.

However archeologists suggest that warfare goes back to prehistory (perhaps 20,000 years or earlier.) They suggest that unlike anthropologist's belief that we can unlearn war, war is us. We are like other creatures. Spears show up at least 500,000 years ago.

Among other hominids such as chimps, environmental stress (shortage of food and space) can encourage warfare against other chimps. Humans appear to deplete resources (food, land, oil or related) and the outcome is war. Two or more groups fight over existing resources.

Archeologists note that peace can prevail for hundreds of years until there is environmental depletion. The loss of resources results in war. Much of the Middle East is of course about conflicting cultures, but it is also about oil and water.

However, archeologists and anthropologist agree that standing armies and military culture give rise to wars. Elite can stroke the fires of ethnic division, border disputes, and related to spur the masses to give their lives to increase the riches of the elite. In other words, war is spin.

There is now some optimism among all parties about the future of war. Democracies are less patient with war than autocratic societies. The 20th century was filled with war and civil war. Millions died. However, the deaths relative to the population was much smaller than earlier centuries. We have more wars, but less die.

Peace unexpectedly appears as wild cards. Danes, Swedes, Norwegians were the raiding parties of the 9th century because of a population boom. When more resources appeared, the Scandinavians became more peaceful. New Guinea highlanders were continuously at war until a larger country with the resources to kill banned war.

Additionally, among baboons, a disease killed the aggressive alpha males and peace emerged. This continued on into the next generation.

War will not go away. However, the severity (save a large nuclear war) appears to be diminishing. Thus war appears to be a fixture of human existence, but the number of deaths appear to be lessening.

JIM CROW SEGREGATION IS BACK IN GEORGIA

BECKER (2005) THE GAZETTE 8/24/4A

It is hard to get a photo ID driver's license in Georgia. There are 56 places to get the photo ID drivers license. Although there are 159 counties, the six with the most Blacks do not have a place to get the ID. Atlanta has numerous Blacks but do not have a driver's license bureau.

Thus, it is very hard for Blacks to get a driver's license and that is what is necessary to vote. Further, absentee ballots from out of state or country are accepted. These ballots have traditionally been White voters.

If this law passes the Supreme Court, Blacks and other minorities can be disenfranchised not only in Georgia, but similar legislation in Florida, Texas, South Carolina, and South Dakota.

That is called de facto discrimination. It is not overt law based segregation from the vote, but subtle in direct strategies to stop voting in certain areas.

THE “N” WORD

BUSINESS WEEK (2009) 3/9

22-24

THE “N” WORD IS NATIONALIZATION

22-24

BUSINESS WEEK has come to the conclusion with a great deal of reluctance that large primary lending banks like AIG will probably have to be nationalized. Why? If a big bank continues to require money from the government, and the feds keep propping it up, speculators make big gains. They invest in the bank because they know that they can't lose.

Further, there are other bank shareholders like pension funds and foreign governments that want the bank to remain private or they could or would lose money. If the bank is not nationalized (taken over by the government) the money drain from the feds which is really from tax payers, the spillage takes over. This is what Japan did, and it took 10 years or what was called the” lost decade” to rebound. They kept rolling over the bad banks. So, when you nationalize, the government then goes in and gets rid of the bad debt and usually the bank is re-privatized. Many banks in what Americans call SOCIALISM have private banks, but are heavily monitored for the security of the shareholders and the depositors. Europe did not lose money because of their bank procedures, but because of investments in the USA and post Soviet breakaway countries.

So BUSINESS WEEK suggests and a number of other prominent conservatives that temporary nationalization is the quickest most efficient way to go.

16

Contractors are now making tiny houses. This was done after World War II up to the late 70's. After that, most rented and the new class of the “comfortable” bought MC MANSIONS. At any rate, small houses are back. The article showed a two story, 1 and ½ bath, and 2 bedroom houses with garage for \$64,000. A two bedroom can be made into a 3 bedroom by putting a hide-a-bed in the living room.

36

How is Europe doing? They are social democratic or what is now called neo-socialism. That means even the Tory or conservatives accept some form of mix between private and public sector. Regardless, Europe is losing because they have invested heavily in the USA. Further, they also put money in emerging countries that had broken away from the old Soviet Union. They are going under as is Russia invested heavily in Lehman brothers a big private bank in the USA and they also lost money on their oil production.

UNDER BUSH, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SPIED ON ALL AMERICANS

Two agencies that one can look up on the computer are the FBI's CARNIVORE and the NSA'S ECHELON. On MSNBC'S COUNTDOWN, Keith Oberman interviewed RUSSELL TICE former NSA analyst. Bush denied twice that the NSA was spying on Americans. However, Tice who was part of the operation until a year or so ago, said that those comments by Bush were not accurate. NSA spied potentially on everyone. They were located at California University in Rm 614 A.

There were 2 levels of operations. The low level was a meta data search looking at average Americans and whom they social networked and if their calls intersected with known or suspected terrorists. If there was an intersect between an Americans of ordinary stature, it was then bumped up to the second level.

At that level, the NSA analysts would target the average citizens phone calls and what was said to the suspected terrorist. Conversations were recorded and catalogued digitally. This was done on a 24 hour, 365 day basis. Those who worked there at the agency 614A were told that citizens would be put in the discard pile which was not the case. The discard pile was in fact the active file and citizens were then recorded all the time.

Further, special research indicated that terrorist used all kinds of telephone time schemes. Thus if an insurgent talked on the phone mainly for 2 minutes or less than phone calls were culled from the others for coded messages. Average Americans might have a conversation with a terrorist and it may indeed be harmless, but if viewed from that of the possibility of a coded message, further research into that ordinary folk was deemed necessary. At this point, the recorded called may necessary to keep the country safe, but a warrant is needed to do so. Thus, even security agencies might act within the law.

Tice said all of his communications systems are now tapped by the FBI (CARNIVORE) so he carried a personal letter to an Obama aide that told him about the operation. Obama the knew what was happening, but refused to say anything in the campaign.

COUNTDOWN / MSNBC/ JAN. 21/ 8PM CST.

WISDOM OF CROWDS

Surowiecki, James (2004) *The wisdom of crowds* New York: Doubleday

The author explores how crowds (people who do not share much of their information with others, but share the same interest) generally make fairly accurate predictions. Surowiecki spends time differentiating what he means by crowds and what sociologists, political scientists and social psychologists define that word. Thus his term is generic and he shows how large groups of diverse people come to a common knowledge about an issue.

He gives many examples of the crowd's accuracy. Galton found that a crowd could estimate the weight of an animal within a pound or two. He also supports "experts" as long as they do not intellectually feed on each other, but have the experience of continually talking to diverse people who may have new information yet to be known in the literature. Reality keeps rapidly changing, thus the information of a diverse crowd is helpful.

However, this is not a book on the *power* of crowds. Numerous sages of the past including Marx, Pareto, Michels and others, generally thought that a powerful few guide the many. It is the elite who continually outsmart the dispersed. Masses do best when aroused, but quickly lose power. On the other hand, the many have a group wisdom that seems to be quite accurate.

Although there are numerous random sample polls, small non-random quasi-futures markets, where individuals can buy shares in terms of who will win the next presidential election, appear to be quite accurate. That has been the experience of the University of Iowa's I.E.M. presidential poll.

The author suggests that if companies are to succeed like Toyota, power needs to be flattened and market futures polls should be continually taken on time specific issues. What will happen 20 years from now is too much. However, a question about the need for more cars that get more miles per gallon is helpful. These findings should help guide but not determine the elite who run a company. Reality is chaotic and yet crowds when diverse can sense an order that lies beneath. If a company has a winning formula, it can still make many changes within that formula to succeed.

Surowiecki applies his theme to so many different types of groups from nations, to stock markets, to... beauty contests that the book is both pragmatic and wide reaching in its application.

This book should enlighten both applied practitioners and academics. The illustrations are so interesting that numerous other readers will also enjoy it.

TYPES OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Sunstein (2005) NEW REPUBLIC, 17-19

There are roughly 4 types of Supreme Court justices. They are:

Perfectionist- the spirit of the constitution is to maximize democratic ideals. Support the LIVING CONSTITUTION movement.

FUNDAMENTALISTS- the import of the constitution is to return law to the specifics of the constitution when it was created. They are also called strict constructionists. They support the EXILE OF THE CONSTITUTION movement.

MINIMALIST- Settle law is now the law of the land. Only small changes can be made to the constitution.

MAJORITARIANISM- the constitution is based on what the majority of the population of voters wants at any given time.

IF WATERGATE HAPPENED TODAY

Alter, Jonathan (2005) If Watergate happened now
NEWSWEEK, June 13, 33.

Nixon would be fine. After the first break in, Woodward and Bernstein would be in jail for not revealing their source(s.) The conservative media would be just as united in the opposition to this news as it is in other areas.

It could somehow end up in the Supreme Court where a 5-4 decision would support Nixon as in Bush v. Gore.

A 527 could be arranged as the WATERGATE BURGLARS FOR TRUTH. A book would be rushed out and a new “documentary” could be created indicating that Nixon did not have anything to with anything.

A photo would be distributed of Nixon and Kissinger on their knees praying. This did happen without cameras according to Kissinger, but a photographer was not there.

Nixon's numbers would jump up.

TOP TEN MOMENTS IN TELEVISION HISTORY

AARP/ OCTOBER/2010/43

1. NIXON-KENNEDY DEBATE. 1960
2. JFK ASSASINATION. 1963
3. BEATLES ON ED SULLIVAN. 1964
4. DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION. 1968
5. SUPER BOWL/111/ 1969
6. MOON LANDING/ 1969
7. CHARLES & DIANNA'S WEDDING 1981
8. MTV DEBUTS/ 1981
9. PERSIAN GULF WAR/ 1991
10. 9/11/ 2001

CHAOS THEORY: A BOOK REVIEW

Gladwell, Malcom (2005) *Blink : the power of thinking without thinking* (New York: Little Brown and Company, first edition.

This best seller is the 2nd major book by Gladwell, his first was *Tipping Point*. Further, some of the same material is found Caldini's *The psychology of the influence of persuasion*. Last, this author draws on latest findings and skips over worthy contributions by Freud and Pareto.

Blink comes from the blink of an eye. How is it that we make snap judgments to survive? That many of these decisions are correct even when we get more information? We live with a vast reservoir of the unconscious that comes into play all the time and flavors are perception and consequent action.

One can get an adequate review from many sources, but socialvibes.net provides a good review. The New Republic's overview is perhaps that most exhaustive. Gladwell also spends a chapter on when snap decisions are wrong. However, much of his time is showing the reader how much research errs because there is too much information or that information is not salient because it was done in the wrong setting or has the wrong research protocols.

For the purpose of this book, he spends nearly 45 pages (chapter 4) reviewing the theme of chaos theory. He introduces us to chaos theory by way of a Pentagon war game simulation. It would appear that chaos compliments the equilibrium model. He compares the two on equal footing. For him, chaos is a social manifestation of the psychological blinking. The 2 compliment each other and are both post modern in the sense that they are not neatly ordered and non-linear. Serendipity and surprise as well as the natural mess that we call life have an order that is not necessarily seen. As an example, military battle plans stop at the point of battle.

The Pentagon had arranged a new high tech, math oriented equilibrium model or systems theory to be constructed to represent the blue team. Systems theory is also called functionalism, structure-functionalism or cell sociology. Historically, it has also been called organicism and another revision, positive organicism. In this theory component parts have various arithmetic values and each part triggers another part so that the whole is larger than the sum of the parts. Simply $1+1=3$. 3 represents the large and elusive whole that keeps the system so that is on going, the parts "know" what the other parts are doing, morale is encouraged, as is communication, and boundaries maintained. Most of us see that $1+1=2$. However, the three is created by the parts doing their job.

The opposing red team was basically arranged around chaos theory assumptions. They include that certain goals (such destroying the enemy) occurs because the warriors and their leadership are constantly reminded of the micro-triggers that continually change the plan. That up to a point "less is more" and that even more information fogs the war. It is

non-linear in that when you start at A, because circumstances require it, you go to T then back to B followed by S and Q.

Blinking means that one is geared directly to the realities of the war and less to numerated information that may or may not be helpful even though it may have been very helpful if every thing had gone as planned. Chaos notes that most of the chaotic world, things don't go as planned, but that if you assume an order, you let reality tell you.

So what happened? The Blue team with reams of data and communication system had an elaborate battle plan. The scenario was to occur in the Middle East. Blue team attacked. High fives and jubilation emerged as the Blue team started eating up new territory. Red team appeared to shamefacedly retreat.

In their retreat, they moved to the vulnerable side of Blue used primitive strategies like bicycle riders acting as carriers for messages and specific lighting signals to tell planes to fly and fight. Blue was oblivious to the non-high tech actions. Further, red team sent phony messages that could be intercepted by the blue team. As blue turned one way and was assured by frequent conversations and data analysis, red team went around the other way and destroyed most of blue team's ships and their planes (fighters.)

The war was over before it truly began. Red team acted as insurgents and quickly learned that a straightforward meshing with Blue meant a loss. So they innovated with small but necessary information to win.

In other words, blinking, chaos theory, and other non-linear strategies were pragmatic enough to outwit the data weighting and analysis of the Blue team. Further, the computers gave the Blue team false confidence to believe they could win the war with knowledge and reason.

To use another metaphor, the Titanic was sinkable.

The Pentagon was dumbfounded. Millions if not billions were infested in their new system. So what did they do? They started the war game all over, but it was scripted. Blue team beat the red team in a walk. The Pentagon declared victory.

Later as the author notes, American troops attacked Iraq using the same system that failed before. Baghdad easily fell, but soon America found itself in a deadly guerilla war. In those wars, insurgents (red team) have numerous advantages with much less resources.

As this is being written, we do not know what will happen in Iraq but we do support the troops and we also support systems theory and data analysis. With this account, we are suggesting that ALL the strategies be used in research. We favor triangulation when it comes to research protocols. That means that both qualitative and quantitative measures be used and reported in research.

Additionally, systems theory or a variation of it lost to a variation of quick decisions and chaos theory. That does not mean that in the future quantitative measures can not be run so quickly that systems theory conquers chaos theory. It could also be stated that we had two systems theories fighting each other in which the faster more pragmatic one won.

Blinking compliments both chaos theory and systems theory. In this setting, blinking and chaos hopefully will compliment systems theory. However, that discussion must be left to the future.

TEA PARTY

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (2010) SUMMER

KUCERA/40-41

The Tea Party movement is at present very powerful and is named after the Tea Party of the early Yankees who resisted English imports.

However, the movement has all the seeds of discontent, but is ambiguous. Scott Brown the new senator of Massachusetts won with the tea party and then distanced himself from them.

We do know that they appear to be for patriotism, and they are opposed to Obama. They want less taxes, but many have Social Security and Medicare. The last known group like this one emerged on the Right after President Kennedy was elected..

The Tea Party may help during the primaries where ideological purity is demanded, but hurt in the fall when

Ravitch, D. (2003) *THE LANGUAGE POLICE* New York: Alfred Knopf, 255 pages.

Nearly every textbook has been scrubbed off any offensive terms and concepts that could possibly sully anyone. The turgid prose is off set by splashy pictures and colorful graphs.

Textbook wars are intense and in the great demise of common culture, red-blue struggles continue in schools. You either write a book for Evangelicals or Postmodern. If you try to bridge the gap, the best way is to keeping screening every word that is said and how it is said. Key facts may have to be rescinded or reordered to please all groups. In the end, you get splashy mush.

Authors are attacked on the right by Evangelicals generally located on school boards and in book selection committees. The pressure on the left comes from the culture among writers and think tanks. Thus, the middle ground is hard to come by. So, book companies know that a book will only sell when the language is so completely devoid of meaning except to convey an exact “fact” followed by euphemisms.

Ravitch indicates that books can become more interesting and colorful as well as meaningful when the teacher chooses the book. Both history and English literature books are essentially flat in content followed by study guides and numerous study assists on the print pages.

Textbook companies do not want to go out of business and thus new books are flavorless and boring. The cautious writing is also helpful because the teachers are not likely to have a background in those fields. A teacher’s guide is also sent so that deskilling is involved. Therefore, nearly anyone with a bachelor’s degree can teach the courses and not know a lot about the subject.

If a teacher chooses a book, then they pay the consequences or reap the benefits of an exciting text. They can always change. This is the procedure in college.

K-12 textbooks are many times chosen at the state level. Thus if you can sell your book in Texas and California, you have a best seller.

THE END OF GAY CULTURE

Sullivan, A. (2005) The End of Gay Culture THE NEW REPUBLIC, 19/14, 16-21.

Gays are beginning to assimilate. A number of large cities as well as university towns have accepted and assimilated gay people. How did this come about?

AIDS started the discussion. Many gay men from 50 and upward no longer are alive. AIDS not only affected gays but other individuals who were related to a gay family member changed. When tragedy strikes at home, that makes the gay issue a family issue and parents/progeny came to the defense of their relative who was suffering or dying of AIDS.

Numerous prominent movie stars and other famous people came out of the closet. Close behind them were other famous straight people to show their support for the newly arrived gays.

Prominent Conservative politicians' children also were outed or came out and this raised issues about the relationship between the GOP and the gay community.

The issue is not settled. Evangelicals and others maintain that homosexuality is a choice and can be changed by therapy and religious conversion. However, the overall effect has been that the therapeutic community appears to support that homosexuality is predominantly natural rather than a cultural phenomena.

As gays become accepted, they must also face a much different experience in small towns and certain parts of the country.

The challenge of the gay culture is when to assimilate and when to lay low. However, the culture of secrecy is slowly changing and thus the gay community is also changing. In many areas, the threat of prison and beatings has been reduced.

CHRISTIANITY ON THE DECLINE

NEWSWEEK (2009) 4/13/09

MEACHEM/ 34-38

It is the lowest since polling began in 1948. It is now 76%. What has happened is that America has become a post-Christian nation. What that means is the Jesus is still very much alive, but other influences are now just as important.

Both Jews and Muslims together constitute about 3% of the country.

Many now find themselves saying “spiritual” rather than “religious.” Some 20% or so see the world as a place where one individually finds God, but not through a Christian institution. If the trend continues, this means that the religious clout of Evangelicals may diminish.

For a number of Christians, being in the minority is contradictorily a good feeling. Why? It makes Christianity and its many variations more challenging. You can not assume that everyone thinks alike. Further, it makes Christians into the way they originally were when founded. That is a minority.

The narrative which could change is that Christianity was the largest force in the past is now smaller and may yet get smaller in the future. However, it appears that history is cyclic and the Christianity in the years to come may be different.

As an example hybrids are emerging. That means that an individual belongs to more than one church or identifies with more than one church. Further, it may mean that actual physical plants or buildings share “their” church with another denomination.

As an example, I have read about a church which at 10AM it is time for Roman Catholicism and at 11 AM Unitarians-Universalists meet. The kneelers and stations of the crosses do not bother the very tolerant Unitarians. They also do some events together.

Evangelicals can still share in projects together. They will still be a political force of considerable strength. However, many Christians or Jewish Revisionists have found that political power can be misleading. You can't always trust politicians.

The Mega Churches will continue to prosper and dominate many areas of the country.

At the White House this week, President Obama had Seder for Jews.

BELIEFS BY THE NUMBERS

_____ (2005) NEWSWEEK, 8/29/9/5/ 54

The majority of states in the West, Midwest, Great Lakes, Middle Atlantic, and New England have a plurality of Roman Catholics. The south is predominantly Baptist.

The biggest growth has been in Evangelical Christians and No Religion and the biggest loss has been in Protestants. The smallest churches are Unitarians and other world religions such as Muslim and Jew. Nearly 30 million do not practice religion. 8 million practice non-Christian religions.

When all forms of Born Again Christians are totaled, they have the largest growth.

Pinsky, D. and M. Young(2009) The Mirror Effect, New York: Harper Collins

Pinsky is a well known internist and addiction specialist. His vita is thick with his own popular media work and television and popular publications. However, his academic journal work is more limited. Regardless, he can simplify for a mass audience some very profound problems and does so in this book, The Mirror Effect.

The premise comes from one of his academic publications that has been rearranged for popular consumption. His co-author is a social scientist with an emphasis in business and entertainment. Both make a good fit for this topic, and both hold positions at USC.

Pinsky appears overwhelmed with commitments in too many areas, but does them well. At home, he lives with his in-home wife and triplets. However, she plans to return to her profession in just a couple of years.

What Pinsky treats amongst others is folks who are narcissistic personalities who have come to the end of their entitlement. They move from somewhere to Hollywood to gain fame and fortune of which neither is satisfied. They will do almost anything to gain attention.

Narcissism is rampant in Hollywood and it emerges in the many places where individuals want to be loved from a distance. The businessman who is a celebrity and politicians who chase after popular political policy are in the same arena. The same applies in sports and other spectator areas where one can be adored.

Unfortunately, Narcissism is misunderstood like schizophrenia. The second means seeing or hearing things that do not exist and does not mean multiple personalities. Narcissism does not start with an overabundance of self love, but self hate. The DSM and later editions make the following clear. Narcissism

components include self importance, fantasies of unlimited success, specialness, self admiration, entitlement, manipulation, lack of empathy, envy, and arrogance. Beneath all that is an empty individual with unusual good looks or a special talent that needs constant feeding.

These human creatures have been with us for a long, long time, but technology has increased this pathology with a whole subculture by a celebrity-industrial complex. Further, the reach into pushing boundaries of heavy drug use, numerous impersonal sex partners, genital flashing, making sex tapes places heavy burdens on youngsters in general and females in particular.

Soon marketers are going to figure out how to make young males appear to have bigger penises, larger shoulders, thinner waists, and more perfect buttocks. In the mean time, young females fall into sexualized pits of impersonal oral sex and heavy drug use. Apparel is made to emphasize erogenous zones.

narrative of the pretense of living on the edge.

The book also provides parenting strategies, individual therapies, group therapy, and self tests for the reader to take. The authors are quick to note caveats when necessary.

The sociology of a growing movement, the psychology of internalizing destructive behavior could have been more complimented by a more thorough discussion of the biochemical.

However, on balance, this is one incredible book that is wrapped in popular mass consumptive language and visuals and introduces the reader to a burgeoning area that seems to worsen.

He needs to write an academic article on how to moderate the downward cycle.

Prof. Joel Snell

Recently CNBC has presented a number of times, THE BOOMERS narrated and written by former anchor of NBC Tom Brokaw. By now most of everyone knows that the GREATEST GENERATION gave birth to the BOOMERS. That Greatest Generation was another book and television presentation by Mr. Brokaw. There is no doubt that the Greatest Generation survived the Depression fought in a war with a great deal of moral clarity called World War II. We were attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor and soon thereafter Adolph Hitler declared war on us. How all of this came about is a subject for conspiracy theorists, but all grant that those awful times happened and were met with a great deal of awesome courage by The Greatest Generation (born 1901-1924.)

Now, history overlooks or does not play up my generation. We were the kids of a subset called The Lost Generation (born 1914-1929.) We were called The Silent Generation(born 1925-1945) and we begat Generation X (born1961- 1981) Okay, by now you want to move on to another story. Please, please wait. We really do exist. Most of us are retired. Not one president came for our generation. The Great ones look down upon us with pity. We didn't have any great moral or social cause and our kids are very controversial. We probably read about Holden Caulfield in "Catcher in the Rye." Our hero may have been James Dean in "Rebel Without A Cause." Did you catch that? James Dean did not have a "cause." Holden did not save the kids from growing up or the cliff that existed at the end of the rye grass.

We were described as a pathetic bunch. One noted that we were grave, fatalistic, confused morals, conventional, and we expected disappointment. The Great ones who were " great" kept telling us of their triumphs and if the whole world became like the United States what a wonderful world it would be. We muttered under our breath, things were phony. What was phony? Well, things in general were sort of or kind of artificial.

We were going to spend our lives in one job in a cubicle pushing a pencil and typing on a typewriter. We would have 2.1 kids. (That's not easy to do!) Would live in a red house or a blue house, or something and it would be tacky-tacky and they would all be the same. We were all the same. We were the last generation of primetime radio.

We sort of rented our values in the unhappy middle. I still remember my 7th grade teacher yelling over the construction workers just outside and the windows had to be open because it was so hot and dirty and dust covered the room. She was saying that there was a thundering herd of kids coming in a year or so and therefore the school had to add more rooms.

By now you know the end of the story, the Boomers so overshadowed us that we got lost in the pages of history. My first class that I taught are the same age as Bill and Hillary Clinton. And with all the talk about the Boomers, you might as well forget about us now. There is a reason for why we were called The Silent Generation. We kept our mouths shut, but would have preferred to have something to say if there was something to talk about. Go figure. (Kids today, would love to have a lifetime job...or any job. Oh well, whatever, never mind.)

A FACE OF POLITICS

Your Political Party: Written on Your FaceGOOD Blog > Andrew Price on February 12, 2010 at 10:43 am PST

Your face says a lot about you. It says some obvious stuff (your age, gender, and race, for example, are usually apparent by the way your face looks), but people can also glean other information from your mug—like your political party.

A recent study at Tufts took a bunch of undergraduates, showed them pictures of Democrat and Republican candidates from the 2004 and 2006 Senate elections, and asked them to guess each politician's political party. To eliminate any racial bias (people might think a black politician had to be a Democrat) they eliminated racial minority politicians.

The result? They found that the students' guesses were much better than chance. They also found that the students were good at guessing the political party affiliation of other students based on pictures of their faces.

The subtle clue the students used to make their guesses? Republicans' faces tended to score higher on a measure of "power," based on how dominant and mature they looked. Democrats' faces scored higher for "warmth," as based on their perceived likeability and trustworthiness.

I don't want to further unhelpful stereotypes about our political parties, but this is undeniably interesting stuff. What wasn't clear from the study is how the causation goes, though. Do Democrats try to look "warmer" (and Republicans more "powerful") or do the underlying traits cause the political beliefs? 3 responses | add yours ↓ Share: Digg it! Share on Facebook Tweet it! Stumble Upon Reddit Delicious Email article < Previous post Slumburbia, Coming to a City Near You Series home: GOOD Blog Next post >

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THE AMERICAN WOMAN

TIME (2009) 10/26
GIBBS 24-33

TIME magazine and the NBC stations (NBC, CNBC, MSNBC) report through numerous researchers and the lead reporter Maria Schriver that Women are happier today and yet more stressed out than reported in the past. The causes are numerous, but the one most indicated is the theory of the SECOND SHIFT. This means that when going to work that when they return home there is more to do around the house. It is not fairly shared with their husband or partner.

One of the key questions, dealt with a female being happy and single. Overwhelmingly this was supported by women but not men.

It is hard to determine all the underlying causes, but females no longer see that marriage unto itself will provide happiness. Men are ruttish, but more helpful in the past, but the labor is still not divided equally. For women, it may mean in the future, that they want a child but not a husband. That is not, given other variables, the best choice for the children.

In another way, women want a male that is a good father to her children. Men want a sexual friend. Neither gets their ideal.

Nearly 4 in 10 women enter parenting as a single parent. Again, there are correlations that this is not good for the child or children.

Overall the statistics appear that women and men are coming together in a lot of areas in both the family and at work.

All the details are accessible to the reader on the TIME website. It appears to this editor that the questions are more superficial but necessary.

I think that what is a head is the women will find men as another child to take care of. Further, if men do not help, it is easier to get the males money than have a male around the house. That may be good for the mother, but bad for the kids.

If that is the case, what may happen is that mom has a child, lives with a cluster of other mothers and dates a male. The male is good for money and he is good for discipline if it is necessary. The Mother cluster than helps each other so that together they do what live-in fathers did in the past.

I am not advocating this, but it appears that families will emerge along this path. Another is what we have now. That is serial monogamy. Mom and Dad marry and divorce, they both marry someone else. The genealogy gets complex.

Further, if a mother has only one child. She and the biological father can weather the storms of life. The family then looks like Mom, child, and dog. Fathers come and go. Or, fathers live some where else, return home for chores, and payments to mother, and then leaves again. He stores his stuff in a certain area of the apartment or house. He must constantly be checked for diseases. If it is one child, the father and child maintain some kind of relationship that is on going. Second child may be from some one else and that disturbs the family stability if the child is from another father.

That is why I think that other forms of families will emerge along with the traditional family. What is the hardest is the constant contact between mother and father.

THE WEEK (2009) 10/23/24
HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Children born around 2000 could live to be 100. Or, 100 year olds become normal.

Even if calories are listed on a box or can. It doesn't work.

Tamiflu, the medication to lessen the pain of H1N1, is then secreted into rivers and can give birth to even stronger Flu strains.

Candy causes crime. There is a correlation between sweets and crime. However, the relationship may be between impulsivity and crime.

. Sharlet, J. (2008) *The family*, New York: Harper Collins

In 1935, Abraham Vereide and 6 others sympathetic to European fascism, met and arranged a new organization to create political movements to terminate the programs of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal. They also wanted to garner from Christian fundamentalism an elite in every branch of society. Using small prayer cells fashioned after both communism and fascism, their mission has been accomplished. THE FAMILY has such members of every Republican administration since Richard Nixon. They have meta-sized throughout the federal and state governments. Every President of the USA has attended a National Prayer Breakfast organized and supported by THE FAMILY.

Sharlet was introduced to this group by a friend of his brother. He was able to get an internship to work at the "C" street house, a three story apartment house in the DC region. In greater Washington DC, there are 6 other meeting houses and living quarters along with the Cedar Point farm. According to the author, all are palatial.

The author introduces us to THE FAMILY and ends the books on its political action and infiltration of the government. In the middle is the history of American fundamentalism since the inception of the country and early European roots. There are descriptions of the hellish terror that early evangelist Jonathan Edwards could inflict on a crowd and gain membership. Without terrifying descriptions of death, fundamentalism is left without its strongest message.

Importantly, what THE FAMILY wants and desires is Biblical capitalism. Although they begin with discussion of free markets, with fascism, you don't have that. You need a strong authoritarian government with one party or two with little differences, nearly all civil freedoms are removed. Therefore free markets mean

private markets. The reason is that an Authoritarian Christian theocratic state corrects and soothes all of the problems of the human condition.

The other wings of the Right, like Libertarian capitalism are incorrect. To follow the reasoning of this ideology are hundreds of books known to circulate in Bible colleges as well as Campus Crusade organizations on major university school grounds. Many are distributed at fundamentalist churches. Some of the biggest sellers, that means in the millions, are unknown to the New York Times best seller list.

At the root of this movement is the shadowy figure of Jesus Christ or his real name of Yasuah ben Yospeh. Jesus was probably slender, dark, black hair, and likely by European standards, short. His teachings written down decades after his death are rather egalitarian. So? The family selects the more Social Darwin statements and portrays him as a muscular general leading an ever growing number of believers. This image making was popularized by public relations man, Bruce Barton in the 20's in the USA.

So Jesus is really not for the weak or poor. He gives the elite of the material USA the noble blessing of leading. So that the strong shall inherit the earth. Jesus will welcome the strong with questions dealing with their triumph over others when they die. Biblical capitalism is necessary for creating and maintaining our country as an empire.

Today, fundamentalism is the largest sector of the Christian population in the United States. However, many everyday Evangelicals may scratch their head when they read about THE FAMILY. Further, others including Christian moderates as well as the rest of the population may find themselves feeling anxious in an economy that is fragile and know that bad times breed dictators with simple answers. This is followed by war or civil unrest. This book is a necessary primer for those who would like to get a glimpse of a worst case scenario run by folks who believe in a strong military Jesus who want the fundamental elite to rule for more

than a thousand years. They want forever.

You must read this book.

Prof. Joel Snell

Kirkwood College

Robinson, E. Disintegration (2010) New York: Double Day

Black people is a convenient term except that it is no longer true. Years ago, when Blacks were "one" nearly all faced slavery then Jim Crow and then de jure segregation. In the meantime, the question is after 40 years, how come nothing has happened? There are a few Black standouts and that is about it.

The latest killings and related are done by Black people. At least, that is what shows up in the press. However, behind the scenes, people of color have roughly divided into 4 groups. They are:

Mainstream Blacks. They are the folks who move out to the suburbs (especially those in transition) and live a double life. They are sort of white at work and have good jobs. They are Black at home when relating to family. They go to desegregated schools. From IQ's to crime rates, they are within the mainstream. You just don't hear about them.

Abandon Minority. For whatever reason, individuals and families are the ones left behind in the thousands upon thousands acres of ghettos across the USA. Crime, drugs, and related are noted in the news. Nearly all people fear the night in this area. Law abiding Blacks hide behind protective iron bars to their homes as well as gates. Gangs rule the streets and kill each other. Young men die early and young women get pregnant and live out their lives supporting one man or another.

Transcendent Elite. Think Obama. Also include unusual and high flying business, sports, politicians, and related. It is an honor to be in their presence.

Emergent's. The larger group are beige from a bi-racial background and the bias of color favors their advancement. How Black are you.? Unfortunately, he misses one group They are white appearing individuals who have Black heritage. According to Scientific American, whites with considerable black heritage "pass into the night." About 10,000 Blacks disappear each year. They don't look Black and they can claim they are all white. 21% of whites have Black heritage. Some of it is one-drop and others it is much more. One prominent US. Senator of the pre-reconstruction days had a celebration for his anniversary in the senate. No one showed up. All of his relatives had married light or white and could now pass. They did not want to forgo their racial identity. Robinson talks nothing about this group. He ends with light beige.

The other group come from merchant families in African countries. They have the talent and within a generation or two they will be middle class.

So what has civil rights legislation done in the last 4 decades? For some it appears very little . However, if one looks closely, please see 3 of the 4 groups listed above. They see the Abandon listed above most often in the news, they cringe or cry, because It just ain't necessarily so.

Parenthetically, Robinson who has heavy credentials" up north" (co-editor of the OP-ED page for the New York Times, Analyst for MSNBC, and a Pulitzer winner) recalls fondly his days in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He attended the desegregated Orangeburg High School and South Carolina State University. The post secondary university is the home of Psychology and Education: An Interdisciplinary Journal of which this school houses this journal.

Robinson is divided here about working on the Abandoned or supporting this new middle class in the Great Recession of 2008. He comes down reluctantly with the middle classes that will continue to build bridges to the wider community.

That is what has happened with so many other groups, both ethnic and race. African-Americans (other than the Abandoned) should have a slightly better future. At least, that is Robinson's guess.

This a thoughtful book and should improve in the future relative to the pace of change in cultural diversity.

Prof. Joel Snell

Kirkwood College

Brizendine, L. (2010) THE MALE BRIAN New York: Three Rivers Press

Breizidine is the one that told us in THE FEMALE BRAIN (2006) that females are a variation of bi-polar people. Within their moods, they live in a fantasy world where they are told a male will make them live happily ever after. They much prefer children than sex and each new child puts the father further away from the mother. Her message sold tons of books.

If she was a tad bit heavy handed on women, the males are just fine. Boys will be boys. She reminds one of the traditional mother who works the daughter to exhaustion and enables the son. He can do no wrong.

Her presentation in and among the pages fits the meta-narrative of the greater society. Boys masturbate and rough house. They need both moms and dads. They are goal setters and moody when testosterone strikes. They belong to a peer group with a rigid stratification. Females have one too, but it is less pronounced. Males like sex often with lots of variation and oral sex. Females don't but fake it until the wedding cake is cut.

She takes a generic person and runs him through the stages. At the end, he becomes a lot more like his wife and these can be the best time in the marriage. The words she uses with marriage include "responsibilities" and "caged." One begins to see a possible pattern. Little boy grows up in a family in which through serial monogamy he has two or three dads. He likes girls, but can see what happens when you marry one. Little girls see the same thing and thinks that she will get a good job, raise one child, and live out her life without a marriage license.

The main importance of this book is the behavior and the bio-chemicals. She over looks when a male really needs a lot of kids to help run the farm. Further, how mom felt about sex was not important. She did her wifely duty and had kids for the farm. She may curse her husband as she delivers the babies.

Further, she over looks that males are overwhelmingly over represented in most of the human pathologies. Crime is a guy thing. Not only is crime not mentioned, but rape and a laundry list of other evils are over looked. Although females and males are becoming more alike and can discuss numerous once taboo subjects, a life time marriage is becoming an oddity. The often quoted 50% divorce rate is just an annual rate. If one takes vows at 20 something, they make take them again and again. The proportion of those who divorce at least once before death is something around 60%. Prostitution and divorce are not mentioned.

She does talk about bullies, but the everyday terror that goes along within a life of a beta male is so very difficult especially during junior high and high school and is not discussed. She appears to not quite understand that. Further, some enjoyable(to watch) contact sports can mean life time disabilities later in life including

brain and back problems. Not marrying to the male means that they get to sleep in later on the weekends, and they can do so many more social activities with other adults.

She does not discuss pornography. Within a minute or so, males can get online and bond with a porn star. They can see sex that most humans never saw throughout their entire lives. Females are urinated on, their faces are smeared with feces, they copulate with animals. How about watching two disabled persons without limbs fornicating?

One can see real killings, animal and human torture, as well as a number of other sins. She doesn't say much about recreational drugs or the date rape drug. What planet does she live on?

Well, it is an academic one in which she constructs a life and then attaches the bio-chemicals to them. She indicates that homosexuality is generally genetic, but leaves room for the environment. What makes the book worthwhile is that bio-chemical descriptions and discussions help particularly those without a biological background.

Dr. Brizendine stated that most of her colleagues told her that what she could find about males would fill a pamphlet not a book. Because males are simple, brutish, and aggressive. On the other hand, females are complicated, coy, and devious. If you look through the book, nearly half is filled with footnotes and commentary, as well as an index.

Males can best be described as "trouble." They are better suited for more action oriented societies. The non-aggressive find solace in twelve step movements and supportive environments. They are worth marrying in a society today. However, they can see that like the females that a family means difficulties and complexities that they saw themselves. This book should sell because of the topic and the author is a good writer.

Prof. Joel Snell

Kirkwood College

Hunt, E. (2010) HUMAN INTELLIGENCE Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

This amazing book was written in such a way to diffuse so much of the tension surrounding the controversial subject of intelligence. Most of the division comes from the Racial Right with yet another study of how Caucasians are the brightest people in the world. This is notwithstanding the very high IQs of Asians and Jews. Hunt is so forthcoming that he tells you his bias and he gives equal or more than equal time to his political opposition.

In a number of chapters, he uses plain English and writes in the first person. However, some of the statistics cannot be free of the necessary technical jargon in the field. Thus, this phenomenal book is for upper undergraduates, graduates, academia and professionals.

Cascading chapters build from the early history to the statistical present that covers the last one hundred years. Within and among this presentation is theory, methods, tests, and test components.

His major point is that like many areas, intelligence testing is still a fundamental work in progress. You must accept for the moment, Gaussian statistics, Meta-analysis, and hard number theory. However, these are the tools of the field at this moment in time.

After this, he provides an excellent summary of the book. Most will be interested in the demographical studies that tears us apart. Age when controlled for outright dementia, is that elderly generally can compete given tricks they have learned about learning and the use of wisdom. Sex has narrowed with females gaining the most. Women tend to score higher on verbal and males on spatial. However the overall IQ's have narrowed. Race, low income Blacks and many third world Blacks score much lower than other groups. Hispanics are in the middle and Asians are toward the top.

However, there is a case for classifications as a social construction. Among "whites" 21% have Black heritage. For Blacks in America, 70% have "white" heritage. This is also true of all the groups. Further, census now asks for self descriptions' for each individual. So the underpinnings of bi-racialism is a strong component.

At any rate, over all, it appears that IQ is roughly 50% genetic. The rest is environmental which includes the impact of the mothers bio-chemicals on the unborn or fetus right up to the lifestyle and death of an individual.

To simply matters, Blacks who have been left behind in the ghettos have little reward to take the test and a good score means that one is acting "white." For those who have made it up the ladder, success and high IQ's are strongly encouraged. The gap between the races here is small when the suburbanites are compared with white populations.

For those who would like to know a secret behind the IQ scores and were told what score that they had without context of the IQ may want to see this. It is somewhat hidden in a paragraph. On some of the early and cheap to administer tests, the median is 100. Two-thirds of all scores are between 85 and 115. Five percent (1/20) is 125 and above. The top 1% is 135 and upwards. Similarly, 5% are below 75 and one percent below 65. Most CEO's have an IQ of about 110-115. David Letterman is 103. This wealthy comedian is the exception, but a good rejoinder of "IQ only" explanations.

High IQ sure helps but it must be accompanied, by good mental and physical health, social skills, demeanor and decision making.

In the history of many top persons in a transparent meritocracy, intelligence is one important component. The very top score is 200 points. There are a handful of geniuses who may make a contribution to the wider world and be rewarded for it. However, IQ alone is not enough.

Relative to race, the reviewer was looking for discussion the 10 point split between Blacks in the north and south (north is higher.) Further, in World War II, black soldiers were 10 points higher than white southern soldiers. The much quicker adaptations of humans is the crux of the newly revised Lamarckian evolution over Darwin discovered recently. This means that Blacks can adapt quickly when the environment is rich with life style complexity. This reviewer would also expect a larger expansion of the recent work of Jared Diamond on this same issue. Multiple skills as measured in the real world could be discussed in more detail.

This is one of those books that you want to purchase for classroom and for one's library. It has the information of both or multiple perceptions on intelligence controversies and leaves the reader that their beliefs and expectations have been reviewed. Not many books like this come along in one's intellectual life. Bring it into to your arena of knowledge.

Prof. Joel C. Snell

Kirkwood College

Beran, Michael K. (2010) *The pathology of the elites: How the arrogant classes plan to run your life*, Chicago: Ivan R. Dee Publishers, 293 pages.

Beran's book is an examination of the downfall of the United States created by powerful interests that stem from intellectualism.

The Elites are not all bad, it is mainly the Liberals elites that have done the harm. This comes from a footnote. He begins with essays of prominent Progressives from 1940's and onward. However, he makes numerous digressions to others in antiquity or far back in history.

His writing is unnecessarily complex thus inadvertently leaving many readers with questions, but thinking that this contribution is valid and intellectual and will give it high marks.

The ideal America is one with Laissez-faire capitalism and Evangelical Christianity. What he has written in the past has been published by conservative publishing houses, such as the National Review and related.

In some ways, he is refighting post World War II Liberalism. The alleged victimizers include Lionel Trilling, Isaiah Berlin, and Hannah Arendt. All have made contributions to the social altruism of the Welfare State.

As an aside from this book, for the last 30 years or so, Liberals have come to realize that humans have the capacity to be good, but not necessarily inherently social. They need to be nudged. Further, humans are non-rational rather than rational. That a hominid is both a genetic and environmental creature. They have also come to be appreciative of the market place.

However, Beran goes much further. Americans are tyrannized by having Social Security and Medicare. We are duped by a government that has too many support systems that appear to help but really hurt citizens. We should really re-emphasize "self reliance." It is here that he falls from grace. Ralph Waldo Emerson did not mean the Self as most believe that term means, rather the self at its center is the Atman a spark of the Pantheist God, Brahma.

Although he acknowledges the Hindu origin without directly saying it, rather in a footnote acknowledges it, is that we are self reliant when we believe in a God that is in us, the Over soul God will energize us. Conservatives have miss-represented that concept for years. Therefore, Beran is following the ranks of others on the Conservative side.

He is saying that the Welfare State, or further to the Left (social democratic capitalism) is really Social Darwinism. However, most concede that Social Darwinism is more likely to be on the Right. The author of this book notes that the beauty of Free market capitalism is that you have the freedom to succeed and or fail. If you do fail, you must compete to gain a place in a charity that will help you live or die. Only a few will succeed and therefore a dog eat dog form of capitalism will allow the best to climb to the

top. The rest must do their best in a world that has a very limited government, but a strong military and industrial complex. Organized conservative religion is the base of all good things. His heroes include Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom and George W. Bush (2000-2008) and Ronald Reagan.

His presentation of the end of a society is the hope that America will continue to move to the Right and undo all that Franklin Delano Roosevelt created in 1932 and onward. This material is not the work of substance like George Will or the late William Buckley. Rather, it is stating a number of ideas and criticisms often written before that is concealed in a multi-syllable mirage of names and statements that are at times lost upon the reader. Good social science, cultural criticism and the like are now much clearer.

If you look at the reviews of others of this book, most come from the Right. They are ecstatic. This should be, as this author skillfully presents conservatism that is wrapped in compassionate rhetoric. The twists and turns, the long footnotes, the asides, and other tricks of the intelligentsia are all here. If you are a Conservative capitalist or want to know more about it, this is the book for you.

Taylor, Steven (2011) 30-Second politics, East Sussex, UK: Ivy Press, 160 pages.

This book on political science is one of a series of 30-Second books on various subjects. The format is similar to others. The discipline is divided into sections, post modern art and graphics decorate the pages. Special definitions are arranged alphabetically and placed on a special page(s.) The first section discusses how some get to the top and what followers do or are expected to do.

Sections 2-5 discuss the many ideologies that the masses of humanity have come to love or hate. Section 6 discusses the economic system that is the foundation to many political structures. The last section deals with international relations.

In nearly every society today, a market system or bartering is a major form of material distribution. Fascism is a military type of capitalism. Democratic Socialism and Social Democracies are really economic mixes of public and private ownership of capitalism. This

also applies to theocracies and democratic capitalism.
When one

mixes in political culture, the United States places a profound importance on the individual over the group. Since there is so little room at the top for others, each individual has to come to terms with their place in society. France is more of a collectivist culture. Placing one above others and ostentatious behavior is frowned upon. Most societies lean somewhere along the continuum.

After world war II, many first world societies, democracy was the chosen structure and the mix was larger toward public enterprises. From the 80's onward, there has been a trend toward privatization. Since October of 2008 with the great crash of the 21st century, many countries have moved more toward a slight increase in the public sector.

Complete privatization and limited government has meant that large industries and financial system can violate the law and bring down a country. Most first world societies have again increased regulators and laws applicable to dealing with consumers and workers.

In the United States at the time of this writing is moving in two directions. One is a federal society with some public sector enterprises and worker protections. This form of society is a socialistic form of capitalism. This mild form of capitalism can be stopped by the ballot.

Another trend that is in opposition to social democracies, is a new capitalism that draws on features known by Americans before Franklin Delano Roosevelt. States have increased power over regional and federal government and any or all enterprises are private. Religious fundamentalism or in this society Evangelical Christianity is the major form of religion.

Societies like humans appear to constantly make multi-linear chaotic changes that seem disorderly at ground level before very orderly from far above. If anything, it appears that most societies are moving toward a market economy and a mix of public and private ownership of the means of production.

What is favored by one group is not acceptable to another group. If market struggles turn violent there is war. This was not enclosed in this excellent read.

Brooks, D.(2011) **The social animal** New York: Random House, 424 pages.

David Brooks is a well known essayist, author, journalist with numerous appearances on various cable and commercial television. This new book has become a best seller. Fortunately, it is one of those books that cover the social, psychological, and biochemical components of human behavior. This reviewer also happens to write in this area* so it took on even additional importance. Brooks is a conservative writer and yet he appears to have moderated over the years. He is one who all sides want to have on their talk and analysis shows.

The major contemporary precursors to bring the social and physical science together is Steven Pinker, with his **the blank slate** and E.O. Wilson, in **consilience**. Brooks takes a big step into this arena and hopefully other social methodological writers will do the same. His **social animal** brings numerous disciplines together through fictional characters.

He uses these various disciplines to describe the unconscious. This is not necessarily the unconscious as described by Freud. Rather, for Brooks there are 2 levels, conscious and unconscious. Freud is more elaborate. Brooks needs that Level 2 unconscious as his working definition. He begins after the Crash of 08' This has been the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression. He focuses on the upper middle class who have business backgrounds. They all have in common that they were smart but not superior and that they were talented, but not the most talented. Rather they had the non-cognitive skills to persuade and manipulate others into the positions that they now hold. They are workers of calm composure who live and consume with what appears to be an effortless and political correct lives.

Julia and Rob are introduced. Again, they were an attractive couple but not the fairest of all couples. They attended good schools and had non-doctorate degrees in business and commerce. They partied and traveled in just the right way. Their house was a neat but not an ostentatious McMansion. After many years of competing and climbing, Harold is created. Harold life from early stages of pre-birth to death is described in a multi-discipline way. As Harold grows, he becomes the high school star and by college he is the backup man to a very big man on campus. Harold meets Erica, the perfect minority of Latino-Asian.

Together they step into many corporate settings. Erica creates her own consulting firm and Harold spends most of his life in a historical society and museum. Their climb to the top is described as well as a downward spiral. This is the 21st century life of a child free couple. Erica is just in the other room when Harold dies. She sees his death from this world and he sees a path to the light.

From this story, he makes many points including the following:

- 1) Rationalism from the British Enlightenment assumes that humans have the capability to be rational as well as irrational. Overall, humans are non-rational or semi-rational which means that many activities may be given a rational explanation but it really covers a need to be acknowledged, loved and numerous other non-cognitive desires.

2. Especially the social sciences, cling to science when they are really methodologies that describe current, past and in some instances future behavior. This last is called prediction. Without predictions, universal laws, hard number theory, and related, they fear that they will be doomed irrelevant. However, their contributions as a semi-science are still found to be very useful. They should not worry. "Facts" should be considered "indicators" a more moderate term for the information gathered.

3. Unconscious inputs are extremely hard to measure, but still must be included in the research process.

4. Information should be presented humbly without falling into haughty scientism, that separates academic information gathering from information gathered from trial and error of those who are working in the field.

5. Except for the hardliners in each discipline, there appears to be a gathering or consilience among the soft sciences or methodologies that they can complement each other and find, gather, and analyze new information in a cooperative manner. Their findings will be useful even if there is a loss of a perfect theory systemized by testable and related propositions which are statements of reality. The public has accepted that and Academia should do so. Classical Economics is probably the worst offender in it's formulation as a science and we have been driven by this theory in the last 30 years. Yet economics is still the queen of the methodologies.

Brooks goes well beyond his first book on **Bobos in Paradise**. His **Social Animal** must be included as one of the best reads in the early twenty-first century. It should have appeal to both civilian readers and academia.

Prof. Joel Snell

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*see Google Scholar

Pinker, S. (2011) *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*, New York: Viking

Although I have read most of Pinker's books, such as *Blank Slate*, *Better Angels of Our Nature*, and others, I was most surprised by the first book. *Blank Slate* is a combination of criticism of the social sciences. After reading it, I was more sober about humans and less trusting of the people who described them. Pinker indicated that they were utopians and nearly tore and tossed all premises to the trash. As usual, he was encyclopedic and comprehensive. Published in 2002, the Political Right was in full bloom. Capitalist enterprises had few regulators, the rich had grown much richer over the masses, prisons were full, and guns were easily available. Liberals changed their names to Progressives. The President at the time fought two wars, enacted a health program, and cut taxes as if he was on a credit card. By the end of his administration, the Right had crashed on its face.

In looking back, the Left had gone too far. It was too trusting of offenders, the indigent, drug users, and a number of other sins. As this is being written the Right has gone full stretch and may pay for its actions. However, one surmises that in a conservative country like the USA, the Left are really moderates. Something else is also happening. Two colleagues Steven Pinker and E.O. Wilson (in his new book *The Social Conquest of Earth*, Liveright) have in their own way turned to the Moderate Left or something like that.

In his own way, Pinker described on p. 294 of *Blank Slate*, the Tragic Vision of the Right and suggests that this is humanity and society. In his new book, he is moving toward a Moderate Vision for the Left. After reading his *Better Angels*, I sure don't want the Left to go as far to the excesses of the 60's and 70's. What has happened to the Left is that they have lost so much it has driven them to pragmatism. Thus, Social Democrats, Fabians, Trotskyites, and Liberal/Progressives want policies that work and celebrate the expansion of the middle class and help the poor through the political back door. If it is nationalization, income distribution, legalization or regulation, does it work and does it keep voters in a parliamentary democracy coming back to vote for them?

If some entity is privatized and it works better than the public entity, why not change.? Further, on May 1st, country after country (except the USA) can celebrate Socialism (now a form of social democratic capitalism or left wing capitalism) is cheered. Speaker after speaker can shout into the microphone a little Marxist jargon, Fabianism, and a lot of Social Democratic capitalism for political solutions.

Importantly, they need to bury and in fact have dumped Mao, Stalin, Lenin and Timothy Leary. Many of Pinker's criticism of sociology come creeping back in what he calls the Humanitarian Movement. He spends numerous chapters describing how vulgar and horrible were humans in the past. As he comes to the present, he underlines how nearly 30 or more changes keep pushing even the USA to moderation.

This is Pinker:

1. In relative terms, we are less violent than before. 2. What may have been acceptable violence in the past is no longer correct. 3. Liberal democracies are the leaders in this new lowering of violence. 4. Human nature changes slowly, but social actions and the culture that people live in can "nudge" people to the better part of their self. 5. What we may find in the future (although this is said with caveats and caution) might be described as a Less Tragic or Moderate society. Much of the change comes in bits and pieces and under the radar. We may not even know it is coming about because it is so sub-rosa.

This is his critics:

1. We are less violent if you discuss death in relative terms, because of the age-specific population explosion in the denominator and the stabilization of war and crime in the numerator of a relative ratio. 2. We no longer go to see a hangings, killings, fights to the death, but other countries do and there is plenty "staged" in the media including rape in hard core pornography. 3. Liberal democracies may lower violence in other places, but has Pinker forgotten the Church Committee's findings in 1977? The USA had a number of instances where we de-stabilized a government in another country to lower the prices of goods and increase profits

here. We chose to go to war in Iraq. 4. We have psychopaths running banks and meta-sizing throughout society. Yes we have had downward crime that no one can completely answer, but the Humanitarian movement may not have helped it. Social Darwinism is still alive and well.

5. We may get revitalized, but we can also move toward a Chinese State of capitalism that provides order and minor civil liberties. We do have a hint that nearly everywhere we go, we may be taped visually or recorded digitally.

What I believed that I read from Pinker in his latest book is that he saw how raw capitalism can be to the middle. He also witnessed that capitalism must have some moderation. Whatever the moderation is, happens beneath and beyond everyday visibility. His work is adversarial history and his critics have taken him to task. However, portions of the book could lead in this country to a Left that moves Right and a Right that moves a little Left. We probably will be poorer, but much more sober. Progressives by now must find a new word. The Left, and Liberal, must come under the banner of " Moderates "and act accordingly. Especially the Left, must build a meta-narrative of moving backward to a history that never was true. That is the neighborhood community, with little crime, and a strong military alliance that can be retooled to fight for safety on the streets of the USA. We need nation building here, we should back walk into a future of Left of center safety nets and jobs for most everyone. If you want to call it socialism, that's fine. As long as on the campaign trail, the dialogue with the voters conjures imagery of World War Two to the day JFK died. That time period is then wrapped into programs of helping the middle and the poor help themselves and that every citizen that is capable does some work. Keep talking middle class and inadvertently help the poor without recognition. Both middle and poor work. The rich need to be celebrated when they openly and fairly pay their taxes and mute their ownership of power and possessions.

By many measures, Pinker regardless of his intellectual strategy, has given those Center and Progressives some hope. On the other hand, the Right in America still

has most of the cards where capital can move almost anywhere and Labor cannot.

So Pinker has moderated and perhaps some of his observations may be helpful in bringing out the better angels of our nature. So regardless of your view of the cosmos, it is time to buy the book.

Prof. Joel C. Snell

Kirkwood College

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Poiani, A (Editor) (2012) **Pragmatic evolution: Application of evolutionary theory**, New York: Cambridge University Press. 335 pages.

This reviewer has successfully completed numerous book reviews and this is one of the hardest emotionally and politically to complete. At times, this review will lean heavily toward euphemism to try to calm the waters. As a generalist, this reviewer is aware of some of the controversy in this publication, and much is still alive and well.

It is more like an encyclopedia. There are so many topics that the reviewer read, but will only review that part which would interest sociologist, social psychologist, psychologists, anthropologists, political sciences, and perhaps macro-economists. This is an advance encyclopedia in which even the most talented may not understand some chapters as an example for social scientist 11 out of 17 may be extremely challenging.

Further, one of the most divisive issues is that comparing races and intelligence. Most time will be spent on that. The reason is that it is understandable to nearly all readers and is so deeply divided in terms of its reception.

The IQ controversy in and among the races is still incendiary. Jonathan Marks writes for the section on Evolutionary ideologies. Basically he is saying. Most of the writers for this encyclopedic text are from Australia. However, a number of American science researchers, social science reviewers, and social science writers are surrounded by large corporate interests that encourage scholarships that somehow appears to favor those sponsoring their large economics interest. Thus, American science research is sullied. What is wrong with Yanks?

At any rate, a strong proportion of American research that is race oriented appears to favor Caucasians. A racial oriented Fund or foundation including some well known figures in the field somehow favor a natural order dominated by Caucasians. Further, they all do research and quote each other in opposition to other research that shows that Blacks over the last 30 years have cut the difference between Black-White by a third. Further, they overlook that between a 20% and 25% of Caucasians have Black heritage and in reverse fashion Blacks have 70% white heritage. They use the criteria of "self identified." So even though you have white great grandparents, you are Black. Obama is Black even though, he is 50% white.

The editor or the writer coming from Australia who wrote this chapter does not want to engage in biology that they call "social evils." That includes support laissez faire market capitalism treatment of the "other." Even as late as 2009, one of the major Caucasian oriented authors received accolades from **Science**. Did the University of Minnesota know about the funding and its source? Was **Time** and **Newsweek** out there digging for sources. Well yes and no. Please see their archives. For the most part, it was accepted or tolerated. As the reviewer, the effort here is to give this side. In summary, some American science is suspect because of the impact of the corporations and the issue of race, Caucasian

oriented researchers have meta-sized into the American literature. Studying objectively Black-White differences is harder to do in the USA.

The other side is this. Race still matters. Hunt (**Human Intelligence**, 2011) suggests that race has so much baggage to it, that it is not a casual variable unto itself. Further, this writer reviewed the book and found that one prominent racist was thanked in the Human Intelligence Forward, but Hunt appeared to show in two chapters, that race is both an environmental and genetic component. He used most of the individuals listed above, but came to the conclusion that race still needed refining. All discussed the twins studies. Many different strategies produced varying results. However, the twin studies were first funded by a racial oriented fund. All around the world however, numerous scholars found differences. Thus, even among hundreds of respondents, identical (MZ) or even fraternal twins (DZ) are not easy to find. Importantly, a few set of identical twins from middle class homes are compared with twins who grew up in the slums. The few that have been done show a significant environmental impact.

In tracing this issue even more closely, the reviewer chose Steven Pinker as a source who appears to be the epicenter of the soft sciences or social methodologies. In his **Language Instinct** (1994) he does not mention the twins studies as it may not be germane to this book. **How the mind works**(1997), twin studies surface, but are generally not relevant to our discussion.

However, **The blank slate** (2002:69) sees race as more cultural than genetic, but acknowledges differences. In his **Better angels of our nature** (2011:652) he sees general highly heritability unaffected by family, but surmises that environment has a strong presence. The footnote is on page 736, footnote 239, There, one of the Caucasian racist is mentioned again along with others.

So there at least two sides. There may be many sides, but at least two are discussed here. Again, some American research is suspect and American research shows differences. The other side is that a portion American research early and often supports difference and does not see changes in the making. On the other hand some prominent American researchers such as Pinker and Hunt (another Cambridge University Press author) see differences, but also see that the research is vague and could change in the direction of a narrowing of the racial divide. Further, very prominent individuals have done quite well with average or above average IQ's.

This reviewer believes that numerous other studies discussed including climate change, homosexuality, and evolution itself are included but space is limited. Further, the issue of race is important to this person as DNA and family photographs strongly suggest that he is Black. He is bi-racial and learned about his heritage only after both biological parents died. Thus his father may have looked upon his wife and children with sadness or anger. Or, perhaps when his flesh and blood had crossed the racial divide he may have changed his mind.

The reviewer looks upon folks like Hitler and prominent racial oriented figures with wonder. If a Jew or a racial minority can "pass," there is an incredible world out there in which outward friendliness is questioned relative to inward motive.

You need this book. Cambridge University has done it again. The reader must be knowledgeable and see this as a source book.

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THE PROBLEM WITH POLLS

Frank, Mitch (2004) "The top line on polls" TIME, 11/1, p. 20.

You have a good poll if EVERY VOTER has an equal chance of being chosen. Most polls stop at around 600 which mean that 95% of the time, the results will be accurate with a sampling error of 4%. As an example, lets say that final-real results is Smith gets 70% of the vote and Jones gets 30%. With 4% error, Smith could get as high as 74% of the vote or down to 66%. Jones could get as high as 34% or go down to 26% of the vote. Since the race is not close, we don't need any larger numbers. However, if the race is real close, 600 voters is not enough and 4% error is too risky to predict the election.

Usually, pollsters will use small numbers of voters throughout most of the election because the costs are so high to contact lots of people by phone. However, the LAST POLL taken right before the election when it is close will go as high as 5,000 in the sample with an error of less than 1%. At this time, ZOGBY appears to be the most accurate.

Pollsters continue to have problems. Here are some of them. They are:

1. Newly registered voters may not be counted.
2. Defining "likely" voters is troublesome.

3. Some groups do not have phones or use cell phones exclusively.
4. In the age of telemarketing, there is a high refusal rate.
5. Some groups are over-represented those that are underreported are then weighted so that the sample is more represented. Different pollster use different strategies. Zogby weights for political party. Most pollsters predicted that Bush would win the 2000 election. Zogby predicted Gore and was right, although the then vice president lost in the Electoral College.

At one time pollsters came to your door. That doesn't work anymore, so we won't go there.

Ventura, J. with Russell, D. 63 Documents the government doesn't want you to read New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 302 pages.

Former Governor Jesse Ventura is at it again. This time he along with his editorial assistant have gathered together 63 or more documents that suggest the federal government is up to unlawful or rather immoral acts against other countries or our fellow citizens. Historians will be the first to discuss context and timing. In other words, if a document is analyzed when was it written was it carried out? Further, you may write a memo one day and change your mind. Or, more likely, events will happen that makes the document null and void. I have no idea if this collection is of value. However, this reviewer admits to a weakness for conspiracy books, but this does not mean what is said in this book is valid or invalid.

Many are hard to read and therefore an explanation in clear print is provided. The ones that are chosen are included in this review for their interest. It does not mean that the selection is based on validity. With these caveats, we begin.

1. The damage of 9/11 included not only the two prominent buildings that one may have seen on cable or internet, but also many other smaller buildings. Building #7 was blown up by a controlled demolition hours after the first two were destroyed. The fall rate was 40% faster than if it fell by laws of gravity.
2. Phase out of troops in Vietnam would start in 1964. The planning was made in 63' when President Kennedy was still alive.
3. An affidavit is presented that suggests that a Karl Rove information technology person manipulated the voting machines in 2004 election to give the election to Bush rather than Kerry. This person later died in an airplane accident.
4. The Bush administration knew that Bin Laden was planning to attack the USA and yet the Air Force was given a stand down order by Rumsfeld.
5. The 2000 election was stolen by Bush operatives in key counties and votes were given over from Gore to Bush.

There are many more but this reviewer does not know if the above is correct. However, the book is interesting and the last part of it which would make the book very useful is the websites listed. They provide sites that have analyzed millions of documents and they are categorized so that you can choose topics that may be of interest to you. This may be enough for the price of the book.

Mr. Ventura is a very engaging person and his program is very interesting. There are a couple of others that were on his program and not in the book. The curator of the floor that Oswald shot President Kennedy still wonders what happened to the BADGE MAN. This was an individual who appear to be a policeman that said no shooters were in the grassy knoll behind the fence. Where did he go? The other was a close up picture of 3 bums that were somewhere behind the fence. Of the 3 bums, in a close up

picture, E. Howard Hunt is one of the bums. So? What does all that mean? There are other Kennedy conspiracy documents in this new book and you may want to read those. For conspiracy buffs, this make an excellent contribution.

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THE MADNESS INDUSTRY

Ronson, J. *The psychopath test: journey through the madness industry*. New York: Riverhead books. 273 pages.

One day the author received a posted vanilla envelope that suggested it was very important and inside was a neat display of mystery. It was sent by Joe K. and inferred that he was from an important think tank, library or institute. All the mailing material was very costly. The majority of the message was a reprint of "Being and Nothingness" by Sartre, an overview of a crop circle that suggested The Julia, a special diamond, and a drawing of the Praying Hands. Sent from Sweden to many members of the neurological department at a University in London, a new mystery was born.

Word got out about the mailing, many of the department filled in labels in terms of who he was and a psychobiological, sociological, and psychiatric labels are applied to him. Even a place and time where more information could be found near the university was included. Some went ahead to the spot and found additional material, but no one person or persons. The mystery endured as nothing was heard since.

For Ronson, he surmised that this is how psychiatric labels emerged. From quirky people to those who are very deranged are labeled and mislabeled, but that labeling is necessary. He does not go back to the very beginning of psychiatry and related, but he starts with the folks who started the first labeling book or DSM I. It was a strong back ring binder pamphlet that emerged in the 70's with just over 130 pages. The new DSM V is nearly a thousand pages. He tries to deal with labels that are used too much, not enough, or mislabels applied to the wrong people.

His most interesting aspect is how the psychopath term was formed. It was how some charmingly wicked people are labeled and treated. There appears a strong genetic component, that differentiates sociopaths from other criminality. There seems to be an amygdala biochemical imbalance. At the time of this writing, an environmental or biochemical resolution for this is not there for the taking.

During the mid 60's when all things seemed possible, two young psychiatrist placed numerous psychopaths in a big bubble. There they screamed and cried and intermingled with each other without any clothing. Numerous other strategies were used and later longitudinal data suggested this strategy made the psychopaths even worse than a control group.

Labels. When the madness industry gets you and gives you a label it can be months where you are kept institutionalized. Two examples are given. However, one of the most enduring instrument to place a label on a person is the Hare Psychopathic Checklist. A check list is not an index or scale. In other words, in number theory if you score a 15 and another person weighs in at 30 they are not TWICE as psychopathic as you are. However, they are more likely to be a psychopath than you. What is so valuable about this index is the it identifies all or nearly the components of psychopathy. It is a checklist

and around 30 points score compared with a group that do score low or not at all, a goodness of fit test is used to differentiate those folks you want to be with and who in return may want to kill you. This is the Hare Psychopathic Checklist and it is very helpful.

His trip into the circles of power leaders of Wall Street really makes compelling reading. Psychopathic? To these folks, it just doing business.

In the end, the author takes you to some really creepy places to meet some really scary people who were some of the founders in the field today. However, many psychiatrists come from everyday circumstances and are relatively supportive people. They also fill a constellation of other medical doctors, psychiatric nurse physicians, and pharmaceutical companies. The last group are suspect in the way they do research.

At the moment, it appears that some humans must be continually monitored and incarcerated for the rest of their lives. Do you recall the vanilla envelope at the beginning of this essay review? At the end of his research he got another pricey envelope and card. In it is a message, probably from the same person who started Ronson on his journey in the first place. You will be surprised and also happy by the card to get the Hare Checklist and a page turning good read. The card is the place where mystery and madness come together.

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CONSERVATIVE AMERICA 2

Engardio, Pete (2004) "Nice Dream If You Can Live It" BUSINESS WEEK, 7-13, p. 22

More surveys that come from Jeremy Rifkin's new book THE EUROPEAN DREAM indicate how other countries in Europe differ from the United States. It also suggests how much more conservative is the United States than their counter parts. On balance, Americans believe:

1. All Americans have incredible opportunities for success.
2. Government's main purpose is to protect property rights.
3. Americans favor international autonomy (unilateral attacks) and a strong military.
4. Immigrants should immediately merge with the national culture.
5. People should live to work, not work to live.
6. 55% of those under 30 believe that they will be very rich in the future.
7. By 6 to 1 Americans believe that poverty is caused by personal flaws as opposed to any other consideration.
8. Americans see their culture as superior to all others.

Hvistendahl, M. (2011) Unnatural Selection: Choosing boys over girls and the consequences of a world full of men, New York: Public Affairs, 314 pages

One goes into an Asian village and there are males everywhere. They are in strollers, bistros, shops, and on the streets. Where have all the girls gone, long time passing? They are with the ages. Little female fetuses have been aborted. Some who were born were choked to death. Others disappear. Some are sold into prostitution. What is going on here?

Males are more prestigious. They will carry on the family name and hopefully support their parents. Females are nobodies. They reproduce and they go on errands. So what is society like? Boys like prostitutes, but they would like a wife if they could afford one. One would think that where girls become more scarce, they become more powerful. No the males are up to the same tricks used over the generations and so the women come to believe that somebody will make their life for them. That of course is if they are not sold off or killed.

The unbalance of males is like creating hell on earth. Crime, violence, deviance goes up. More alcoholism and pornography emerges. However, if the population gets to be between 30 and 40 percent female, things calm down. However, in societies that want more production, males fill the bill. You have a ton of them and then you put the lid on. Through the pathology increases, profits go up.

The author a female also indicates that the west was also involved in the abortions and killings. Blame Paul Ehrlich who wrote THE POPULATION BOMB. She also trashes Alan Guttmacher as well as others.

They also favored sex selection abortion. Oh? At the time of the discussion about population, I carried baggage into my Social Demography classes of the following. My mother discovered that she had an unintended third child. She cried for at least 6 weeks. That child was me. Further, my wife's mom, headed to the bedroom after the second child. My wife raised 5 kids that were her brothers and sisters. The lady down the street who had 8 would get the family off in the morning, and then spend much of the day crying.

I did not want children or one or two. The issue was birth control. Abortion issue of Roe v. Wade would come years later. Alan Guttmacher was in a class in which I was a teaching assistant. He gave in my judgment a great speech. There was nothing about killing little girls. I used Paul Ehrlich's book in class. I also showed a tape between a Jesuit demographer and Ehrlich in the same class.

I watched the JOHNNY CARSON show in which Ehrlich debated hapless Ben Wattenberg, a Democrat turned Republican. So, she reaches too far. However, the message about a natural balance of having both sexes in equal proportion completely makes sense. All male institutions have to have a hard line on behavior. Testosterone is the enemy of civilization.

Her stand on abortion is typically American though she is troubled by it, she does not want it to be illegal. She just wants it to be rare. One thing that she avoids or does not discuss, is that a society without many women who have been taken over by rich men is situational homosexuality. More

research appears to indicate that being gay has more to do with genetics than with the environment. If that finding continues, straight males become situational gay when in prison or where there are few women. In other words, this is the case for environment. Situational gays are bi-sexual and prefer women. If they are gone then they move to men. Thus, for many males, in this case, environment and accompanying testosterone trump theology and ideology.

When I first started teaching Social Demography, the message had nothing to do with abortion and sex selection. It appeared that birth control could bring down the population in the third world so that more babies would not starve. Further, in the theory of demographic transition, when it costs more and more to have children, people have less. They also have better medical facilities to save more babies so that a population bubble emerges. Owners of plantations like it, because reproduction drives down wages, increases consumption, and creates more prosperity for the owners.

My second or third year, 1970 there was 200 million Americans. Recently through immigration and births, we have reached 300 million. Americans are big consumers of energy and food. We also have yet to develop retrofitting houses and factories to save heat.

This is where the book ends. China and India still have big loads of humans and the reproductive age is becoming a problem as the population ages. In the mean time, in the 70's Lester Brown developed the biological miracle of growing and harvesting more food which will delay the issue of population. Again, when first teaching, the world was at 3 billion , now it is 6 billion.

By the way, Roman Catholics now have 2 and a fraction kids. The big gains are with Hispanics and Asians in the USA. Blacks and Whites have stabled out at around two. Other than my defense of western demographers, this reviewer could not be more appreciative of this book. She is an excellent science journalist and has a long list of articles in prestigious periodicals. Buy the book.

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