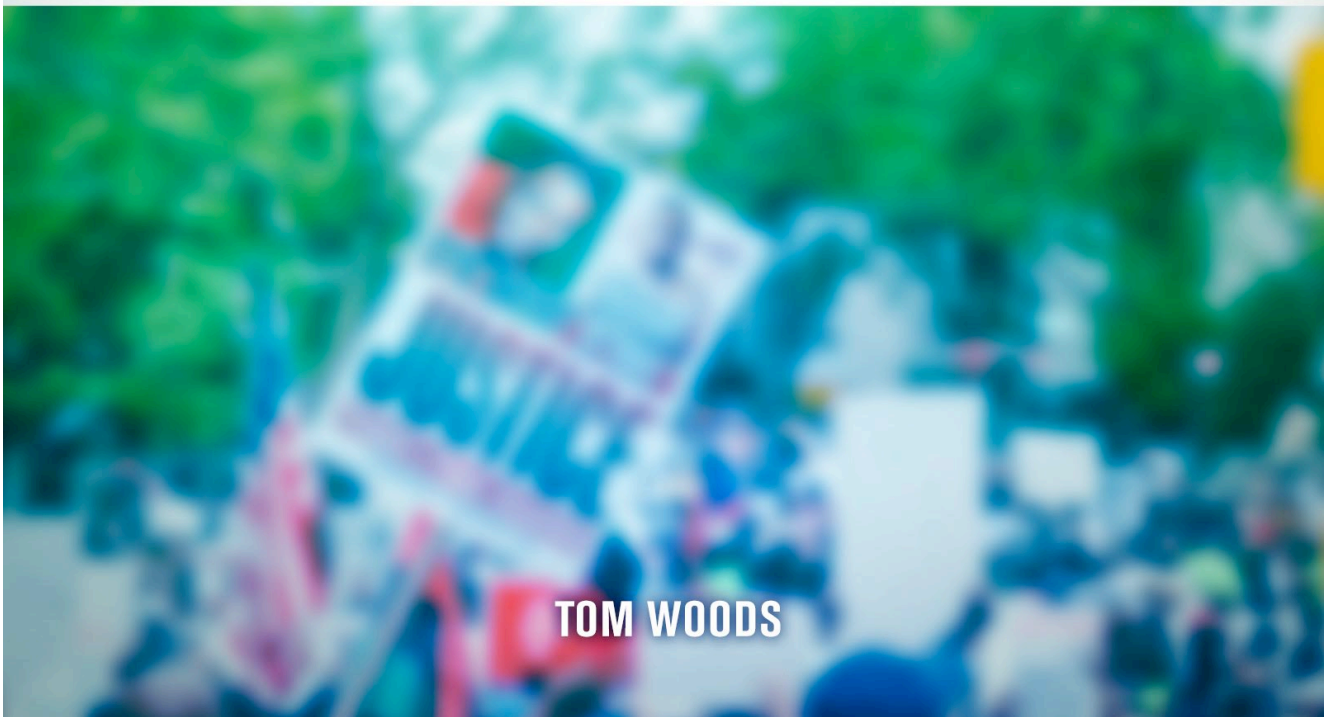




| SANE SPACE |

LIBERTARIAN DISPATCHES
FROM BIZARRO AMERICA



TOM WOODS

INTRODUCTION

(read this or the book won't make sense)

I send out a daily email called The Tom Woods Letter. This book is a collection of the juiciest issues.

Daily is too often, according to the gurus, but I've more or less based my whole career on ignoring them.

People write to tell me: I love and look forward to your daily emails. They're funny, they're informative, they're just the right length, they help me keep my sanity, whatever.

I'm a libertarian, of course, and for a long time I directed the bulk of my criticism at neoconservatives. Sure, I well understood the problems of the left, but I thought they were almost too obvious to dwell on. The neocons were more insidious, and in my view weren't subject to nearly enough scrutiny.

Over the past year or so, though, with the growth in SJW (Social Justice Warrior) activity, I've been vividly reminded of the evils of the left. Nearly all of what you read in this book, therefore, is directed at leftism.

The left's moral priorities completely baffle me. They're far angrier at someone who holds politically incorrect views than they are at someone who launches an unnecessary war. And for all their pretensions to being antiwar, they seem more committed to making sure transgender folks can become fighter pilots. It's weird.

One more thing to prepare you for what follows: my emails often end with a pitch for one of my products, so be aware of that as you read what follows.

Here's why I do that.

(1) To make money.

(2) Because my products are good, and help people.

(3) To tick off any commies who might somehow have made their way onto my list.

With all that out of the way, let the fun begin.

Labor Unions Didn't Bring You This or Any Other Weekend

September 5, 2016

I grew up in a working-class household. My father was a Teamster for 15 years.

And I don't believe labor propaganda for a second.

"The Weekend: Brought to You by Labor Unions," reads the bumper sticker.

I see. So all that those Third World countries need to escape poverty and enjoy additional leisure is...some labor unions?

(What's the point of foreign aid, then, if all a country needs for prosperity is labor unions?)

Until society grows wealthy enough, all the labor unions in the world can't make it possible to take two days a week off from work.

Can you imagine, in the primitive economies of 300 years ago, agitating for a shorter work week? People would have thought you insane.

With little capital, and with most goods produced by hand, *it takes all the labor power all the hours it can spare just to make life barely livable*. No "labor union" could have changed that brute fact, and it would have been foolish even to try.

That's why people worked long hours in terrible conditions in the past (and why they do in the Third World today). Not because short men with white mustaches and a monocle took delight in oppressing them. Because without the expenditure of all that labor power, not enough goods per capita could be produced to provide everyone an adequate standard of living.

What emancipated people from these dehumanizing conditions was *capital goods*. With workers vastly more productive than before, thanks to the assistance of machines, physical output was multiplied in quantity and quality many, many times over. This greater abundance put downward pressure on prices relative to wage rates, and people's standard of living rose.

At *that* time they opted for more leisure and more pleasant working conditions rather than more cash.

In other words, *capitalism* gave us the weekend.

Employers have a fixed amount of money to pay for labor services. They don't care if that compensation comes in the form of cash, better working conditions, fringe benefits, or whatever.

What that means is that insisting prematurely on more comfortable working conditions doesn't make people richer. It simply redistributes the fixed amount of compensation employers are willing to pay, away from take-home pay and toward improved working conditions.

Some people may prefer that compensation bundle, but who says everyone does?

As a matter of fact, if you ask people who work in sweatshops today if they'd rather have more pleasant conditions (or fewer working hours) with less take-home pay, they overwhelmingly say no.

Ben Powell of Texas Tech University actually bothered to ask. And 90+% of them said they wanted the money.

Meanwhile, American workers had the eight-hour-day well before their much more heavily unionized counterparts in Europe did, and they earned much higher wages. Unionism can't be the explanation for that, since unions even at their height never accounted for more than a third of the American labor force.

So whatever your kids' teachers are crediting unions for, just roll your eyes.

Oh, and correct them with this 10-megaton bomb:

<http://www.LibertyClassroom.com>

They Don't Dare Tell You the Real Point of July 4

July 1, 2016

Independence Day is coming up, and I wonder how many people really get why it matters.

In school, we were told this: "No taxation without representation."
Zzzzzzzzz.

The real principles were more like the following.

(1) No *legislation* without representation.

The colonists insisted that they could be governed only by their colonial legislatures. This is the principle of self-government.

This is why a Supreme Court ordering localities around is anti-American in the truest sense. It operates according to the opposite principle from the one the American colonists stood for.

(2) Contrary to the modern Western view of the state – that it must be considered one and indivisible – the colonists believed that a smaller unit may withdraw from a larger one.

(3) The colonists' view of the (unwritten) British constitution was that Parliament could legislate only in those areas that had traditionally been within the purview of the British government. Customary practice was the test of constitutionality. The Parliament's view, on the other hand, was in effect that the will and act of Parliament sufficed to make its measures constitutional.

So the colonists insisted on strict construction, if you will, while the British held to more of a "living, breathing" view of the Constitution. Sound familiar?

So let's recap: local self-government, secession, and strict construction. Are these the themes you learned in school?

Almost certainly not, but they are the themes of our own course on the American Revolution. That's on top of 16 other courses taught by pro-liberty professors, and that you can listen to in your car.

Don't let them get away with this. Arm yourself with knowledge:

<http://www.LibertyClassroom.com>

My Exchange With a Leftist Who Casually Favors the Deaths of Billions

June 22, 2016

This morning I came across the kind of person I had previously thought was the stuff of right-wing folklore.

No, they're real.

Evidently among my Facebook friends I have someone who converted from anarcho-capitalism to "green anarchism."

Today I learned that "civilization" is to blame for pretty much everything (I am not caricaturing her position), and that only "primitive cultures" are "sustainable." Industrial civilization must be destroyed, she said.

At least she's honest, unlike some of her peers.

(I'd love to reproduce our exchange word for word, but I learned a lesson this morning: after switching over to Google Authenticator on my phone to get into my Mailchimp account, I couldn't get back to our exchange because - surprise - she'd deleted it.)

I told her the destruction of industrial civilization meant the deaths of billions. She responded with a passage from a book, passed off as her own, about the evils of civilization and its offenses against human dignity.

Oh, right, I said. Human dignity. You mean like watching your kids die from curable diseases, not having anesthesia, spending your whole life within a ten-mile area, never even learning of the existence of the rest of the world - that sounds awesome.

After a few obscenities, she wished me luck following the collapse of

industrial civilization.

I wished her luck in her mud hut.

At which point she called me a racist and colonialist. (I hope you were sitting down for that shocking surprise.)

Yes, this really happened, and no, I am not being unfair to her.

Incidentally, she earlier scolded people calling themselves anarcho-capitalists, because anarchism, she said, means no rulers. But anarcho-capitalists' private police, etc., are rulers, so anarcho-capitalists can't be anarchists.

So I asked: an anarchist can't favor a president of the chess club, even if everyone in the club prefers to arrange it that way? Instead, every single member has to be involved in every single decision? Who would want that?

Of course, that comment was deleted, too.

Why do I interact with people like this? Well, for fun. All work and no play, you know.

The fact that all I got was some copied and pasted leftist gobbledygook about the evils of civilization, followed by obscenities, accusations of racism, and finally deletion of my comments, is my reward. I'd made her anti-human positions look ridiculous, and she evidently knew it.

If I'd just been an idiot, she would have kept my comments in full view as evidence of the stupidity of her opponents.

Now as an unabashed supporter of civilization, I intend to make this email as offensive to the enemies of civilization, who despise commerce, as I can. So I'll include a pitch:

In the Tom Woods Show Elite Facebook group, we don't delete your comments or call for the destruction of industrial civilization.

Instead, we have a high-quality group of smart and engaging people

you'll love getting to know.

I get plenty of show ideas from the group. I also enjoy learning from the good folks who join me there.

Want to be part of the cream of the crop? Entry is this way:

<http://www.SupportingListeners.com>

P.S. By the way, want to go on vacation with me? Warning: it will involve fossil fuels and a cruise ship, products of civilization. Details here: <http://www.ContraCruise.com>

Media Guy for Major Pro-War Group Becomes Tom Woods Listener

July 4, 2016

Yes, I know: Hillary Clinton regrets her support for the war in Iraq.

Big freaking deal.

Has she rethought the knee-jerk interventionism behind her decision? Of course not.

Will she support the next seven wars, pushed on us with even flimsier rationales? The question answers itself.

So I understand people's skepticism, or even outright lack of interest, when a war supporter claims to have changed his mind.

But there are exceptions: people who have *really* changed their minds. Not only on this particular war, but on the whole mentality that culminates in support for wars like Iraq.

Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina is a good example of this. He's the guy who urged us to call French fries "freedom fries" in protest of inadequate support from France over Iraq.

Today, Congressman Jones misses no opportunity to denounce the warmongers, and sits on the Board of the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity.

But I've got another one for you.

Jim Hale was media relations director for the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq. Bill Kristol, John McCain, and similar characters were involved in it. It was big.

Not only has Jim repudiated his support for the Iraq war, but he's also come out in favor of strict nonintervention, in the tradition of Ron Paul.

How do I know? Because he wrote to tell me he'd been listening to the show for a couple months and learning a great deal from it. I invited him on, and the result is the astonishing episode 691.

As we recorded the interview, I asked him if he'd gone public yet with his change of heart.

He hadn't. I was the first one he told. That was a thrill.

Here's what else he said, on the air:

I've been a big fan of yours now for the last couple of months, when I first discovered you. I never miss a podcast....

*I started listening to your podcast, going back and reading the rationale for Ron Paul's foreign policy. I read his book *The Revolution*, I've got a big stack of books that I took right off your website right in front of me here....*

I owe you a big debt, everything I hear on your podcast, and in what you write -- I'm almost through right now with [The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History](#), which is outstanding.... God has blessed you with extraordinary communication abilities, and I thank you, sir, for everything you're doing.

That blew me away.

This is one you'd be nuts to miss:

<http://www.TomWoods.com/691>

I Sat Through Total Crap in Disney's Hall of Presidents

June 9, 2016

The best thing I can say about Disney's Hall of Presidents is that it's air conditioned.

On a hot day a couple weeks ago when I was in town to speak at the Libertarian Party's national convention, we spent a day at Disney. (No kids this time.)

I knew the Hall of Presidents would be horrifying, but the show was starting just as we walked by, and it was a hot day, so I figured what the heck.

I didn't plan to write about it, so I didn't take notes. But here's what I remember.

The presidents, we were told, were our "leaders of liberty."

It never got much better than that.

The American Revolution was described as a struggle to "choose our own leaders." As if the problem with George III was that his office was hereditary.

In fact, the American revolutionaries were already choosing their own leaders. What they wanted was self-government - to be governed by their own colonial legislatures.

But when you favor centralized government in the 21st century, you'll naturally want to obscure the true meaning of the American Revolution, since its emphasis on local self-government represents a wholesale rebuke of your entire position.

We got a bit about Andrew Jackson as a war hero, and then, with the

word "nullification" on the screen, we were told that the issue of slavery began haunting the Union. The nullification crisis of 1832-33 had precisely zero to do with slavery, but again, if decentralization is to be properly demonized, any expression of it must be suppressed or associated with odious causes.

Then we skip ahead to Lincoln, who dominates the entire presentation. Anyone watching would leave with the impression that Lincoln launched his invasion of the South in order to free the slaves. No reputable historian believes that, but the American public sure does, thanks to cartoonish nonsense like this.

As my listeners know, Lincoln repeatedly insisted he could not and would not interfere with slavery in the states where it existed, and that in effect if the southern states returned to the Union and paid their taxes, they could keep their slaves.

Lincoln supported an amendment to the Constitution that would have forever prevented the abolition of slavery.

And thanks to the research of Phil Magness, we now know that Lincoln was searching - throughout his presidency, to the very end - for a place to resettle the freed blacks, instead of integrating them into American society.

That didn't make it into the Disney version.

Then we learned about Theodore Roosevelt: why, he fought against monopolies and helped the middle class.

Actually, the "monopolies" he fought against were lowering prices for consumers, and his assistance to the middle class was basically nonexistent, as far as I can see.

TR took delight in exercising executive power in ways undreamed of by the Framers, but we learn nothing about that, either.

Then we get to Franklin Roosevelt, who during the Great Depression - which had no cause, apparently - used his powers to make everyone better off.

No one in that audience would have had the slightest inkling that unemployment remained in double digits throughout the 1930s.

After the obligatory JFK idolatry, we got the apotheosis of Lyndon Johnson - who evidently had nothing to do with the Vietnam War, which is glided over, but who helped poor people with his Great Society programs.

The pathetic results of those programs were likewise nowhere to be found.

There was more, but you get the idea: cartoonish propaganda we would laugh at if we saw it in any other country.

This kind of propaganda is everywhere: in the media, in the universities, in popular culture, in politics, everywhere.

Don't sit back and take it.

Inoculate yourselves and your children - or that student you know - against it with the real truth, which you can hear while driving your car:

<http://www.LibertyClassroom.com>

When There Were 25 Libertarians in the Entire World

July 29, 2016

In the late 1960s, when Murray Rothbard – Mr. Libertarian – was asked how many libertarians there were in the world, he answered...

...25.

Twenty-five libertarians in the whole world.

Undeterred, Rothbard carried on, writing dozens of books and thousands of articles, editing several academic and popular periodicals, and teaching students.

Today, millions of people call themselves libertarians.

No, we're not winning right now. But anyone who doesn't think that's impressive growth is a fool.

I didn't know Rothbard had said this until I heard Professor Walter Block say so in a series of Rothbard recollections at the Mises Institute today.

As I write this to you, I'm listening to the brilliant Robert Murphy speak to an audience of students hanging on his every word. An audience many times larger than the entire world population of libertarians half a century ago, I might add.

Are libertarians bound to become the majority someday? Not necessarily. Maybe it's true what a lot of libertarian cynics say: the masses aren't interested in freedom.

But I've interacted with tons of people who became libertarians simply because someone introduced them to the ideas. If only they have a chance to hear the ideas, plenty of other people, I suspect, will

likewise find them attractive.

We're up against the entire educational establishment, which exists to fill students' heads with the opposite of what you and I believe.

I once had a professor make the books for his course available at Revolution Books - a Maoist bookstore.

So I consider programs like Mises University to be sweet revenge. No, I can't change the faculty of Harvard, but yes, I can support alternatives like the Institute's great summer program for college students.

When I attended this program as a student in 1993, it was my favorite week of the year. It still is, even as a faculty member.

In my opinion, the schools are our worst enemy, since they serve to keep young people safely confined to the 3x5 card of allowable opinion.

Four years ago I lit a candle in the darkness and started my own online educational institution, offering courses people can listen to anytime they want, and staffed by the best faculty the liberty movement has to offer.

We're outnumbered right now, it's true. So libertarians have to know their stuff - history, economics, and more - and know it cold, so we can keep on fighting the power.

It's never been easier to do your part:

<http://www.LibertyClassroom.com>

I Never Heard From This Critic Again

October 29, 2016

This morning I was searching for something in my email inbox, and I stumbled upon an email I evidently never deleted from one of the critics I attracted after I released *Meltdown*, my *New York Times* bestseller on the financial crisis that took direct aim at the Federal Reserve.

Almost never did I receive any kind of answer to my arguments from critics of that book. The best they could do was: BUT YOU'RE NOT A PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST!

And that's true. My bachelor's degree from Harvard is in history, as are my master's, M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

So “Denise” submitted the following via my website:

Do you have any educational background in economics? Have you published any papers that have been peer reviewed by real economists? If so, where could I find the reviews?

When I read that this morning, I wondered: did I ever answer her? It would have been in a different thread, given how my website sends me email. So I searched.

Yes. Yes, I did.

Now kids, I don't recommend doing this at home. If you obsess over critics you'll never get anything done. But once in a while you need to get it off your chest.

And if you have an email list, you should certainly make an email out of it, as I'm belatedly doing now.

My reply:

Dear Denise:

I am self-taught. I did win a \$50,000 book prize for a book on economics. I wonder why you would write with such hostility to a complete stranger. Not a hello, not an "I read your article," nothing. Is that normally how you interact with people?

What exactly is it that you disagree with? Is it that you think fiscal and monetary stimulus are good ideas? Why do you think so? Why are my arguments against them unpersuasive? I find these policies utterly juvenile.

More importantly, the points I raise are not derived from any theories of my own. So the question of my own background is perfectly irrelevant. I am merely applying F.A. Hayek's Nobel Prize-winning work to the current situation. Anyone of reasonable intelligence can do this.

Do you have reason to believe Hayek's business cycle theory is incorrect?

One more thing: when you demand evidence that my work has been vetted by "real economists," are you speaking of the vast majority of mainstream economists who failed to see the crisis coming, and told us things were just fine? Are those the people I should be interested in currying favor with, you think?

If I were you I'd be embarrassed to use these geniuses as my bellwether of respectability.

*Cordially,
Tom Woods*

I never heard from her again.

When Grandma Lit Grandpa on Fire With Lighter Fluid (True Story)

August 2, 2016

Some people say a lack of jobs or insufficient government assistance accounts for why success eludes some people.

What's usually overlooked are the deeply dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors among so many of America's poor.

I'm "blaming the victim," some will say. But when people are consistently surly, late for work, or stealing employer property to sell on eBay, is it really so wrong to observe that this might not be the kind of work ethic that will get them ahead?

J.D. Vance, author of the unlikely bestseller *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, speaks from his own personal experience growing up in a family whose roots were in the Appalachia region of Kentucky.

A key lesson: the problems such people and communities contend with aren't likely to be solved by government programs. Far more than economics is at work in the pathologies Vance describes.

I stayed up pretty late last night reading *Hillbilly Elegy*. Vance, now 31, grew up in a household notable for addiction, physical and emotional abuse, material deprivation, and a revolving door of father figures.

At one point, Vance literally had to run away from his mother, who he thought was going to kill him. He finally managed to reach a complete stranger who protected him.

Even his grandmother, who encouraged him to focus on school and ignore people who would hold him back, at times reflected the worst

of her culture.

She told Vance's grandfather that if he ever came home drunk again, she'd kill him.

He did, so while he was asleep on the couch, she poured lighter fluid on him and set him on fire.

(Someone else put out the fire and he lived, but that's still a bad idea.)

The whole story, not just of Vance and his family but also of their neighbors and their community at large, is something Americans ought to come to terms with, especially if they think helping such people is a matter of a few voucher programs.

It's going to be a lot tougher than the typical sociology textbook implies.

You'll kick yourself for missing this, so click here:

<http://www.TomWoods.com/706>

Bashed on Amazon by People Who Haven't Read Your Book

August 5, 2016

This week my friend Brion McClanahan, a faculty member at my [Liberty Classroom](#), shared an experience I can relate to: a bunch of people suddenly left one-star reviews of his book on Amazon.

We've discussed that book on my show: *9 Presidents Who Screwed Up America - and Four Who Tried to Save Her*.

And based on their comments, it was obvious they hadn't even read it.

I wouldn't do that to my worst enemy. Writing a book is extremely hard work. You owe it to an author to read a book before commenting on it, period.

The rush of reviews stemmed from a promotion of the book that appeared on AOL.

Most of these angry reviews consisted of people demanding to know why the Bushes weren't among the presidents who screwed up America. That proves it's a terrible book!

Of course, had they read it, they would have found both Bushes appropriately denounced - the first on pp. 161-168, and the second on pp. 173-179 - and duly ranked among Brion's presidents who screwed up America.

These alleged reviewers were judging the book, quite literally, by its cover. The Bushes aren't on the cover, so the jerks who reviewed a book they hadn't read announced to the world that these presidents weren't in the book at all.

A "professor" then urged everyone not to buy the book - again, not

because he'd read it (no U.S. history professor reads anything outside the predictable academic echo chamber), but because of course no reputable historian lists Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, and LBJ among the worst presidents.

But why should we care how the bulk of historians rank the presidents? Dissenting historians like Brion and me know as well as they do what these men did. Where we differ is whether we approve of those things. Academic historians evidently don't think we're allowed to dissent from their ethical judgments.

Well, we do dissent.

Brion and I also understand economics. So we know it isn't enough to say, "President X passed the Make Everyone Rich Act, and that's great, because making everyone rich sounds like an awesome thing to do." We understand cause and effect, and we bring a theoretical apparatus to our work that helps us understand the real truth behind complex phenomena.

That means we know what really happens when a supposedly well-meaning piece of legislation is passed.

Moral of the story: if you like an author's work, we appreciate it more than you know when you take the time to write a nice review on Amazon. At the very least, you're neutralizing the review of someone else who didn't bother to read our work.

**Definitively Confirmed:
Khizr Khan a Bad Guy Not to Be Cheered**

August 16, 2016

Today's email is going to thin out my mailing list. Some conservatives will be confused by it. A few will think I'm a leftist.

So people will misunderstand. But you know, I gotta be me.

Tonight I was taking a glance at my Facebook feed, and I saw that Thaddeus Russell had posted something I'd missed.

Remember Khizr Khan, the Muslim man who spoke at the Democratic Convention and whose son died in the Iraq war?

At the time, I remember finding him utterly odious. For the life of me I could not understand people who defended this man.

He exploits the memory of his fallen son on behalf of the Democratic Party, and on behalf of a woman who helped send his son into that ludicrous war?

He urges his son to fight an idiotic - not to mention grotesquely unjust - war against a Muslim population, and all the pro-Muslim people flock to him?

Insanity.

If I were ever to exploit the memory of one of my own children on behalf of the Democratic Party, I sure hope everyone reading this would punch me in the face.

If I'd had a chance to speak before the Democratic Party, I would have strayed from my prepared script and appealed to the Bernie supporters in the room by denouncing Hillary and her war.

At any rate, Thaddeus posted a news item I'd missed: Khan's hero is – wait for it – John McCain.

I knew my instincts were right about this guy.

"Senator McCain – he's my hero," Khan told CNN in an interview. "The last book my son read that I sent him was Senator McCain's book about courage: *Why Courage Matters*. So for me to hear Donald Trump malign my hero – my son's hero – it is just mind-boggling."

Senator McCain, who never saw a war he didn't like, and whose foreign policy has spread radical Islam all over the place and caused untold human suffering, is Khan's hero.

Not a good guy.

And no, you are not morally beyond reproach because your son died in war. If anything, Khan is all the more to be condemned for cheering on such a morally depraved course of action.

On this, I can't and won't budge.

SJWs Say They're Saving Kids, and Accidentally Starve Them

September 7, 2016

Why do I let myself get sucked into Twitter wars?

I'd like to say it's to entertain all you good folks. And to some degree, it is. (Follow me [@ThomasEWoods](#) if you like.)

But I think it's because I let people get under my skin. That's not a good quality.

In response to something I'd written about labor unions, a critic started badgering me about child labor.

What a terrible feature of capitalism, he said.

No, it was a terrible feature of *all of world history*, I replied.

Thank goodness for people who passed laws against it, he said.

No, I said, thank goodness for capitalism, which created enough wealth that families didn't have to send their kids to work anymore just to avoid starvation.

Then I was asked: do I really believe my kids would be better off in a factory (than in school, presumably)?

As if the choice we're talking about is between factory work and school! The actual choice faced by these families is between factory work and starvation.

The British charity Oxfam found that in Bangladesh, where the government caved in to Western demands to suppress child labor, the children - you'll never guess - didn't wind up in school! How about

that.

Where *did* they wind up? In prostitution, or dead.

Nice going, geniuses.

Yes, there were laws passed against child labor, but those came when child labor was already practically a thing of the past.

No law is going to keep families from avoiding starvation - and even the left-wing International Labor Organization admits that this is the real reason for child labor. Only capital accumulation makes it possible to end child labor humanely.

My opponent probably isn't a bad guy. He's just absorbed the conventional wisdom on pretty much everything.

It's very easy to blame "capitalism" for child labor. Where is the average person going to hear any other explanation?

This, incidentally, is one of the great merits of the Ron Paul Curriculum - kids won't have to go through life in this state of ignorance about pretty much everything. They'll get both sides of the story. How's that for a radical idea?

Check out the government course I created for it. Suitable for adults, by the way. Can you imagine learning all this in high school?

And yes, there's even a lecture on child labor.

It's 20 years of learning on my part, stuffed into a one-semester course.

Save yourself - or your kids - 19 1/2 years of effort.

You ain't never seen a course like this:

<http://www.TomWoodsHomeschool.com/government-1b/>

The Best Advice - by Far - I Got as a Harvard Freshman

September 9, 2016

It was one of the first days of my freshman year. There was some kind of freshman social, where we would have a chance to get to know some of our fellow classmates. So I went.

There I met a guy who probably wouldn't want to be identified by name (he's now a centrist academic) who told me I should read *Modern Times* by Paul Johnson.

In the American history chapters, he said, I'd learn that all the presidents I'd been told were good were actually bad, and (sometimes) vice versa.

That was all I needed to hear. *Modern Times* is a big book, but I devoured it.

(N.b.: I do not recommend Johnson's *History of the American People*.)

It so happens, too, that Johnson accepts Murray Rothbard's view of the Great Depression: that it was caused by Federal Reserve credit expansion in the 1920s.

I definitely recommend *Modern Times* to you. But I have an even easier way to give you the real scoop about the presidents: Liberty Classroom's free course on the ten worst (and ten best-ish) presidents.

Doesn't cost you a cent. It's taught by Prof. Brion McClanahan, who in the old days of MSNBC was denounced by Keith Olbermann in the latter's Worst Person in the World segment.

So you know he's good.

Free course awaits you here:

<http://www.FreeHistoryCourse.com>

Cure Yourself of Racism for a Mere \$297

October 3, 2016

The crazies are everywhere, my friends.

The other day I came across an online course called "Healing from Toxic Whiteness."

On the sales page, I learned:

The desire to not be racist is, alone, not enough.

First and foremost, you need to become conscious of how white supremacy is expressed through you....

For white people to truly engage in anti-racism work, they must first engage with their unconscious conditioning to be racist.

This is often the first obstacle in approaching this work - and because it is so normalized and insidious, it can feel insurmountable.

Nothing creepy or hysterical about *that!*

The pitch for the course goes on to lay out the kinds of questions you're no doubt "wrestling with" as you "think about what you personally can do to address racism":

- **How can I make sure I don't accidentally say something that's racist and hurts people I care about?**
- **I know I need to speak up against racism more, but when does speaking up cross the line into speaking over people of color?**
- **What do I when I discover I've been subconsciously stereotyping and judging people of color?**
- **I feel so guilty about having white privilege, but am I**

really willing to give up that privilege? Do I even know what that means?

- **How can I figure out what I should be doing to fight racism without burdening people of color by constantly asking them what I should do?**
- **How do I deal with the fact that I'm scared to talk to other white people about racism when they often get really angry at me and call me a racist when I bring it up?**

If I were nonwhite, I'd find this pretty amusing: just how pathetic and delicate do these guilt-ridden white fools think I am?

The sales page for this course goes on for 4,279 words.

Imagine reading 4,279 words - of *that*.

Then the punchline: we can remove your ingrained racism for \$297.

That \$297 gets you:

- two three-hour training sessions
- six 90-minute practice sessions;
- three coaching sessions;
- and a private forum.

If you're an emotional hypochondriac, that might appeal to you.

But I'll bet you don't lose sleep wondering if you're secretly a racist, or wishing you could cure yourself for \$297.

You do believe in liberty, though, and you may be frustrated at coming out second best in discussions online or with friends or co-workers.

I can fix that.

I can't control what the SJWs teach in our crazy universities. So I created something of my own, and it's glorious:

<http://www.LibertyClassroom.com>

“You Live Here, So You've Consented to the System”

September 1, 2016

The 19th-century lawyer and abolitionist Lysander Spooner made heads explode when he said the Constitution bound no one, since nobody alive in his day had signed it.

Whenever we undertake any significant endeavor – buying a house, for example – we fill out countless forms spelling out exactly what we are agreeing to and indicating our express consent.

No one buys or sells a car, or offers or accepts employment, on the basis of "tacit" agreement. Everything is explicit and clearly spelled out.

And yet government, which can seize arbitrary portions of our income and even send us to our deaths in its wars, simply declares our consent to its rule, using the idea of "tacit consent" – another way of saying we haven't actually consented at all.

Where did this odd approach – one we would be horrified by in any other aspect of life – come from?

My suspicion is this.

At least in theory, Enlightenment thinkers had trouble coming to terms with externally imposed authority, with one person's will subject to the command of another.

So they had to make it look as if, when someone is doing what he's told to do by political authority, he's really following *his own* will. These thinkers could not bring themselves to acknowledge publicly the brute fact that even in so-called free societies, some people rule and others are ruled.

They couldn't just say: look, it's impractical to get everyone's consent to be ruled, so we have to make some approximations and assumptions, use context clues, whatever, to establish the existence of at least an attenuated form of consent. (John Locke, it's true, essentially did concede this.)

So instead, they twisted themselves into pretzels to argue that we "really" do consent, and that a complete lack of explicit consent is pretty much the same thing as explicit consent.

So to this day, we have to endure Internet philosophers treating us to such profound insights as, "Hey, man, you still live here, so that means you've consented to the system. Pay up."

But if someone started throwing garbage onto my lawn and I didn't move away (maybe moving is too onerous for me and I don't really have options other than staying put), would we say I had consented to the dumping of the garbage?

If the mafia took over my town and I didn't move, would I be consenting to mafia rule?

Another version of the argument goes like this: you're enjoying the benefits of living in country X, so you've consented to the burdens and responsibilities of living in country X.

But this proves too much: presumably people got *some* benefits from the states of Stalinist Russia and Nazi Germany; were they therefore morally obligated to support those states?

I thought of all this because yesterday someone posted in an old comment thread on my site, to the effect that my arguments against the so-called social contract were illogical.

So I was interested to hear his own thoughts.

Honest to goodness, this is what he said: "The poor debating skills and lack of logic in the video indicate that Mr. Woods has no training in logic and its related field of rhetoric. He creates straw men and ignores the underlying reality - we grant our Congress the power to tax us."

So in response to a video about the question of individual consent to government, he thinks it's an answer to say "we" authorized Congress to tax us.

Um, that's exactly the point at issue. *No one living today ever authorized anyone to do that.*

That's actually rather an important point, which is why no classroom in America discusses it.

Public School Supporter Dislikes My Education Book

October 4, 2016

Not everyone liked my eBook *Education Without the State*, which I gave you for free the other day.

Well, that's not entirely true: my main critic, on Twitter, never actually read it. (I hope you were sitting down for that.)

Why, not everyone can afford private schooling or homeschooling, he said.

Gee, might that be in part because their money is being seized from them via property taxes?

How are millions of people *in the developing world* able to afford private school? My book tells that story. If they can manage it, we should be able to, if we had a sensible system.

Then the old chestnut: parents can't teach physics!

How many of my critic's beloved public schools in, say, Detroit are teaching physics?

The double standard is unbelievable. If the private sector produced such laughably bad schools, we would never hear the end of the evils of capitalism.

When the state produces such miserable schools, you're a heretic for pointing it out.

Of course, one would have to know nothing at all about homeschooling in 2016 to think parents have to teach physics. This is covered in the book.

And of course, the self-taught [Ron Paul Curriculum](#) shows students how to teach themselves, with occasional help from their peers.

My exchange with this fellow - who has given me email fodder in the past - reminded me that one of the worst casualties of statism is the human imagination. If a government monopoly weren't educating kids (with all the effectiveness and efficiency monopolies are known for), we'd all be uneducated!

Ah, well. You can lead a horse to a free eBook....

Again, here it is:

<http://www.NoStateEducation.com>

How to Help the Poor Without Paying for the Aid Agency's Chauffeur

October 4, 2016

So you want to give to a worthy cause, but you're not so interested in paying for the plush offices of an aid agency.

And you certainly don't think sending your tax dollars abroad is going to do anyone much good.

Solution: a new app called DonorSee, whose creator I featured on my show today.

DonorSee allows the user to scroll through worthy, verified projects, and choose one to donate to. You can fund the entire project, or just a fraction of it.

When the project is funded, you get notified immediately - and you see, with your own eyes, the completed project.

For instance, one such project involved getting a wheelchair for a boy who needed it. Once it was funded, anyone who contributed received a picture of the boy in the wheelchair.

Gret Glycer, the app's creator, says his goal is to fund at least one project in every country in the world before the end of the calendar year. That's a tall order, given that he launched the app just last week.

I'd love it if you listened to our conversation and sent around his video, laying out how DonorSee works. What a great idea! Let's give it the ol' Tom Woods Show bump. Listen here:

<http://www.TomWoods.com/751>

There's White Privilege in Your Pumpkin Spice Latte

October 18, 2016

The crazies always seem to out-crazy themselves. They out-crazy themselves faster than you can think up ways they could get any crazier.

Not long ago, a scholarly journal called *GeoHumanities* published an article by two academics called "The Perilous Whiteness of Pumpkins."

One of those academics describes her academic interests as including "Southern cultures, gender, food studies in the humanities, feminist theories, Appalachian studies, public humanities, oral history practices, and the intersections of race, class, and gender in American literature and society."

You get the idea.

Here's my challenge to you: imagine what the abstract for this paper would look like if it were designed to be a parody of the actual paper.

Now here's the actual abstract, and I'll bet it's even nuttier than the parody you imagined in your head:

This article examines the symbolic whiteness associated with pumpkins in the contemporary United States. Starbucks' pumpkin spice latte, a widely circulated essay in *McSweeney's* on "Decorative Gourd Season," pumpkins in aspirational lifestyle magazines, and the reality television show *Punkin Chunkin* provide entry points into whiteness-pumpkin connections. Such analysis illuminates how class, gender, place, and especially race are employed in popular media and marketing of food and flavor; it suggests complicated interplay among food, leisure, labor, nostalgia, and race. Pumpkins in

popular culture also reveal contemporary racial and class coding of rural versus urban places. Accumulation of critical, relational, and contextual analyses, including things seemingly as innocuous as pumpkins, points the way to a food studies of humanities and geography. When considered vis-à-vis violence and activism that incorporated pumpkins, these analyses point toward the perils of equating pumpkins and whiteness.

Whenever you hear someone calling for more money for higher education, understand that they're calling for more of this. This does not survive in the absence of subsidies.

There are professors whose entire record of publication consists of inanities like this.

Where does four years of *that* get you?

Serving pumpkin spice latte at Starbucks, of course.

The Media Is Hysterical (Even for Them)

October 19, 2016

I can't find the remote, so I'm stuck listening to ABC News commentators who are fainting on air over Donald Trump's refusal to commit to accepting the results of the election.

Since elections are the sacraments of the American religion, it is blasphemy of the highest order to call them into question. Why, everyone accepts the results and moves on, and that's what makes our system so awesome!

Now it's virtually certain that Nixon in fact defeated Kennedy in 1960. Eisenhower himself urged Nixon to challenge the results. We're supposed to honor Nixon for accepting the results and moving on.

I don't. He was a chump. If unscrupulous people stole the election, how was the country helped by hushing it up?

Is the system rigged in the crude sense of counting the votes inaccurately? Probably not. In 2008 I stood outside a polling place in Alabama, where Ron Paul went on to receive five percent of the vote. And I'll tell you: no more than five percent of the people I saw were Ron Paul voters. So those numbers were all too real, I'm sorry to report.

But of course at a deeper level the system obviously *is* rigged. Our government-subsidized university system teaches complete b.s. to millions of kids – juvenile economics, bogus history, and postmodernist lunacy.

The media is a complete joke, as more and more revelations make clear, and totally in the tank for Hillary and the establishment.

The result of all this is supposed to be an informed citizenry? Who

can say that with a straight face?

As Pat Buchanan points out, the rot goes a lot deeper. We have a Supreme Court exercising power no state ratifying convention told the people it would have, and pushes forward the progressive agenda (I hate that stupid word), and we're supposed to sit back and accept it. Why, anything else would be treason against our sacred traditions!

A huge quota industry permeates all American institutions even though the Civil Rights Act of 1964 expressly insisted that no such thing was envisioned by that law. We are supposed to accept this, too.

Parties other than the Democrats and Republicans can't even get a hearing. So our rigged system makes sure kids never learn of alternatives to the status quo while they're in school, and then makes sure they never learn about them as adults.

You're darn right it's rigged.

The idea that millions of people might look upon a President Hillary Clinton as somehow illegitimate fills our media and intellectual classes with horror. Well, good. Couldn't happen to a more deserving group.

As a Rothbardian libertarian, I think all these sociopaths are illegitimate. The problem isn't that too many people might come to think so, but that too few will.

We don't need a paternal custodian to create jobs, fund science, educate our kids, or kill foreigners for no good reason. Civil society does a vastly better job at the first three of those things - and it leaves foreigners alone.

What the Elite Know, and You May Not

June 15, 2016

Yesterday someone in my private Facebook group asked about the Korean War: wasn't it this that gave us the free and thriving South Korea we see today?

That's a good question.

So I asked our old friend Michael Malice - he is, after all, the author of the revealing book [*Dear Reader: The Unauthorized Autobiography of Kim Jong Il*](#). He gave me permission to share his reply with the group, and now with you good email readers.

How much of this did we learn in school?

Here's Michael, in bold:

[South Korea] actually was a hellhole until the '80s. They even had their own Tienanmen Square, complete with either US complicity or involvement, which of course no American knows about.

Let's go over some points.

During the Korean War, at first the north Koreans managed to get 95% of the peninsula, then they were fought back and then we had a draw. You had China and Russia vs the US and UN and the Korean people paid the price. The peninsula was leveled. The Americans boasted about how they would, say, blow up dams to flood villages and deny them electricity and starve them. MacArthur wanted to nuke the Korea/China border so no one would be able to cross for decades due to the radiation.

After WWII the Americans installed Syngman Rhee, who was sort of a Saddam figure, and then there were a series of autocrats. The KCIA (trained by our own CIA) were notoriously brutal. You had things like the first lady being assassinated and then the head of the KCIA declaring himself president. Is this better than north Korea? Well, by standard of living and per capita the answer was actually no until the 1980s.

For example, in 1984 the south had major floods and north Korea sent them food - and here is the *New York Times* article about that.

So it wasn't a totalitarian hellhole but an autocratic one. Sure, that is better in some senses, but it was hardly Singapore.

Oh and by the way: the daughter of one of those south Korean dictators is now president, because the masses love their masters.

So as it turns out, the answer isn't quite as neat and tidy as the textbooks would have it.

That's the kind of stuff we learn and discuss in the private group.

There's nothing else like it out there.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. The way to the group:

<http://www.SupportingListeners.com>

The Typo on My Harvard Application

May 9, 2016

One day during my senior year of high school I was reading George Orwell's *1984* and my eyes came to a full - and horrified - stop.

Is *that* how you spell coercion?

That can't be right, I thought. No English words end in -cion! Plenty of Spanish words do, but not English words. This had to be wrong.

But it was right. And on my application I had spelled it *coersion*.

It was all over for me.

The next day I went in to see the head of my high school's guidance department. I told him I'd misspelled a word on my Harvard application. Did this mean I was surely out of the running?

He paused. He then said - and I will never forget this - "You applied to other schools, right?"

Just the question I wanted to hear.

As it turns out, I was admitted anyway. But even the director of guidance had suspected I was probably doomed.

Here's why that story comes to mind.

Over the weekend my almost-13-year-old, Regina, was asking me about my book [*The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*](#) (which she has been reading), and the various attacks on it. She wondered how I responded.

I told her that there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach, but that when

you're dealing with the kind of people who attacked that book, you're dealing with people who exercise a tyranny over public opinion. For your own sake and for everyone else's, you have to hit back hard.

Now at the time, it was downright frightening to be attacked by so many high-profile outlets. I'd love to be able to tell you that I was excited to be attacked on the *New York Times* editorial page because it meant I must have struck a nerve. But instead I wondered: is my career over? More on that in a minute.

Cathy Young of *Reason* magazine (don't get me started) attacked the book in the *Boston Globe*. This was a signal that the forces of Libertarian Lite – pot and hookers yes, freedom of association and criticism of World War II *no way* – weren't going to support me.

Max Boot, the neocon who defies caricature, attacked me in the *Weekly Standard*. The neocons disliked it for the same reason the Libertarian Lites did: it defended nullification and took a hardline antiwar position.

I look back on the ordeal now and I'm glad it turned out as it did. It got me plenty of attention, and it gave me repeated opportunities to smack down my opponents, hard.

Joe Lockard and David Greenberg, two professors who attacked me, got flattened. I'm not going to be modest about this. I mopped the floor with them.

Same with Adam Cohen of the *New York Times*.

I sold more books the week after Cohen's attack in the *Times* than any week before or since. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History* wound up spending 12 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Don't read this book, said the various outlets of thought control. So people read it. Ha!

As I say, though, I was terrified at the time. I called my publisher and asked flat out: "Do you think my career is over?"

I don't remember his exact words, but they were something on the order of, "You applied to other schools, right?"

And yet, just as with college, everything turned out all right in the end. I just kept on cranking out the books and the YouTube videos, and building a following - and you good folks found and supported me.

I just out-and-out refused to let them bury me. I spoke everywhere, I wrote articles for popular and scholarly journals, I worked alongside Ron Paul, I created [Liberty Classroom](#), I made 400 videos on history and government for the [Ron Paul homeschool curriculum](#), and I started the [Tom Woods Show](#), which I absolutely love doing.

As I began to have more successes, things eventually got to the point that even people who had abandoned me during those terrible months suddenly wanted to be my friend again. Even a guy who scrubbed his think-tank's website of all traces of me acts to this day as if nothing ever happened, and has been friendly ever since.

My view: let bygones be bygones.

But I'll never forget the people who stood by me, against the neocons and Libertarian Lite.

In particular: Lew Rockwell and everyone at the Mises Institute. Now those are true friends.

Don't Waste Your Breath Trying to Reason With the Left

November 12, 2016

I see people telling the left, in the wake of the Trump victory, "See, this is why you should support limited government!"

Friends, I appreciate your zeal. But it is misplaced.

Ever since the French Revolution, the birth of the left as we know it, the left - yes, yes, with exceptions - has been about one thing: social reconstruction at the point of a gun.

And all the while they somehow pose as victims, even as they work to destroy the lives of anyone who stands in their path.

A reasonable person would indeed stop and say, "Huh. Maybe I shouldn't have hypocritically looked the other way while Barack Obama acquiesced in and even expanded horrifying executive powers no president should have."

Glenn Greenwald, one of my exceptions, is trying to tell the left this:

Obama not only continued many of the most extreme executive-power policies he once condemned, but in many cases strengthened and extended them. His administration detained terrorism suspects without due process, proposed new frameworks to keep them locked up without trial, targeted thousands of individuals (including a U.S. citizen) for execution by drone, invoked secrecy doctrines to shield torture and eavesdropping programs from judicial review, and covertly expanded the nation's mass electronic surveillance.

Blinded by the belief that Obama was too benevolent and benign to abuse his office, and drowning in partisan loyalties at the expense of political principles, Democrats consecrated this

framework with their acquiescence and, often, their explicit approval. This is the unrestrained set of powers Trump will inherit. The president-elect frightens them, so they are now alarmed. But if they want to know whom to blame, they should look in the mirror.

They won't. Because the state is their god.

The state created everything out of nothing, and saw that it was good.

The state is the source of all progress in the world.

The state is where we should look for inspiration, for encouragement; each of us ought to listen with rapt attention to "my president." (How that "not my president" meme makes me shudder, by the way - not so much for the "not" as for the exceptionally creepy "my president.")

They are not giving up on their religion.

A sudden conversion to limited government, moreover, would mean an abandonment of the left's very *raison d'être*: permanent revolution, carried out via coercion.

But Woods, you say, some people on the West Coast are talking secession.

That's all to the good, though it again shows that these people have no principles except whatever makes them happy.

Anyone else talking secession has been dismissed as a racist "neo-Confederate" (whatever that's supposed to mean).

But of course these people are precious snowflakes with pure intentions, so they may hold unconventional opinions without fear of repercussion.

They see no problem with demanding that their opponents accept election results with dignity and grace, while protesting and rioting when they themselves face an unhappy election result.

No principles. Just whatever benefits them.

They have made up stories of a wave of hate crimes sweeping the nation. Even *Reason* magazine, which despises Donald Trump, published a piece this week exposing this as fake.

Again, no principles. Lies are acceptable if they advance the revolution.

Or: let's demand that everyone accept the existence of 70 "gender identities" - for which precisely zero scientific evidence exists - and (as is happening in New York City) punish them if they do not go along.

Do these seem like nice people who simply have mistaken views of government? Are we dealing with debatable matters of "public policy" here?

No, it isn't metaphysically impossible for a committed leftist to have a change of heart, and I'm delighted when it happens. But in my experience it's vastly less common for leftists than it is for conservatives to become libertarians. I think there is a reason for that.

The longer these leftist antics go on, whether on the streets or the campuses, the more the public will be educated on the precise nature of the totalitarian impulse behind leftism.

So do your worst, snowflakes.

Watch Me Translate This Leftist School "Lesson Plan" into English

November 16, 2016

With the effectiveness of their thought-control mission breaking down all around them, leftists are going hysterical.

Last week the San Francisco teachers' union, the United Educators of San Francisco, released a "lesson plan" for students in the wake of Donald Trump's election.

It is exactly what you would expect.

Nobody other than leftists has a point of view worth respecting.

Everyone is a "racist" and "sexist."

Here's how it begins:

Tomorrow, I hope that you will take the time to put all lessons aside and talk to our students about what has happened and how they feel. Please, let them speak and be heard. Let them say what is on their minds, this is crucial for our school and our community. Let us please not sidestep the fact that a racist and sexist man has become the president of our country by pandering to a huge racist and sexist base.

And now, the "objectives," which I give in bold, followed by my translation:

"Students express their concerns and voice their thoughts/feelings."

Of course, they'd better be the correct thoughts, or they'll be reeducated by the San Francisco teachers' union until they turn 18 or

die of lunacy, whichever comes first.

"Students gain empowerment/hope."

Students are taught that bullhorns, marches, and political activism are the best way to improve their lives, and are not juvenile, demeaning, or dehumanizing in any way.

"Students feel safe and respected."

What this will mean for any student who, in this atmosphere of intimidation, dares utter a thought that diverges from the herd, is unclear, but given the tone of this document, this provision is chilling.

"Anti-Racist/Anti-Sexist/Anti-Islamophobic/Anti-Homophobic (etc.) teaching lenses are magnified and put into full use tomorrow and students should come away with an understanding of this through discussions held in class/norms established."

No one will be allowed to mention racial crime statistics. No one will be able to mention differences between men and women - we have declared, a priori, that there can be no such differences. All income differences among races and sexes are attributable exclusively to "discrimination" and "white supremacy."

Although criticism of Christianity is of course welcome, no one may wonder about any aspect of Islam, which is an unalloyed good not to be questioned. And anyone who thinks commercial transactions - cake baking, to choose an example at random - should occur peacefully and without threats of violence, is "homophobic."

"Students gain a working knowledge of context of American racial violence, sexism etc."

Can't imagine any bias coming through here. I'm sure the Ron Unz article on racial killings will be assigned, for balance. On the off chance that it isn't, [I link to it here](#).

The instructions continue:

"Let the students speak one at a time. PLEASE VALIDATE STUDENTS FEELINGS. Example: 'What you are saying is valid,' or 'hear you,' 'I support you, I understand you,' 'you are right and this is unjust.' Let them speak, guide the discussion, use a talking piece if necessary."

Huh. Well, suppose someone said, "I personally think the likelihood of war with Russia is now diminished, and this is more important to me than whether the president says sweet things to me before sending me off to die."

Would that student's feelings be validated?

In my view, the more the left pulls stunts like this, the better. Americans are getting a valuable education in the true nature of the left. Any fool watching television, even with a biased media, can see where all the hate is coming from.

Then this warning not to instruct students to avoid bad language:

"(I know that they might curse and swear, but you would too if you have suffered under the constructs of white supremacy or experienced sexism, or any isms or lack of privilege. You would especially do so if you have not yet developed all of the tools necessary to fight this oppression. It is our job to help them develop these tools, ie the language etc., Let's not penalize and punish our youth for how they express themselves at this stage.)"

Of course: white privilege. Let's test that theory. What race would anyone in his right mind want to belong to when applying to college? Has any black student ever lied and claimed to be white on a college application? If not, why not?

Then we read, in their bold: **"DO NOT: Tell them that we have LOST and that we have to accept this. We do not have to accept ANYTHING except that we must and will fight for justice against an unjust system and against unjust people."**

What exactly would minority folks in America's inner cities have "lost," exactly, by the election of Donald Trump? All those world-class

schools black and Democratic mayors and city governments have built for them? Those enviable, crime-free neighborhoods they've had over the past 50 years of Democratic rule? What, exactly, are they losing?

Finally, the Resources section of the lesson plan is drawn from Michael Moore and other leftists, and is replete with horrified outrage that convicted felons can't vote.

The point of education, in other words, is to make students think a certain way. An inane, fact-free way, to boot. Trump Derangement Syndrome is bringing it out of them more brazenly than ever.

Everyone has a tipping point. For some of you, maybe it's this. Maybe it's the next thing. But whenever that tipping point comes and you decide your kids can't stay in this system one moment longer, your liberation is one click away:

<http://www.RonPaulHomeschool.com>

Someone Just Told Me to Move to Somalia. Here's My Reply

December 8, 2016

We've all heard it: if you hate government so much, why don't you libertarians move to Somalia?

Yes, they're still saying this.

Someone said it to me on Twitter last night. (I know, I know, I spend too much time on Twitter. We all have our foibles.)

Here's how I responded:

(1) Wait, so you think there's no government in Somalia? Then who is Hassan Sheikh Mohamud?

(2) Somalia has had a government since 2012.

(3) According to key metrics, Somalia was better off stateless than it had been with a state.

No, it wasn't richer or more pleasant than the United States, but that's obviously not the relevant benchmark. If we want to compare stateless Somalia to something meaningful, compare it to neighboring African countries, or to Somalia with a state. Either way, stateless Somalia looked pretty good.

I then referred the person to Pete Leeson's research on the question in *Anarchy Unbound* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

And that was that.

How did I know about all that? For the same reason King Arthur knew the differences between African and European swallows - "You have to know these things when you're king, you know."

Well, the real truth, in my case as in Arthur's, is that I had help: I interview an interesting person every single weekday on the Tom Woods Show, and I learn as much as my listeners do.

Tomorrow is episode 800!

If you've never listened, check out my list of episodes and I think you'll be amazed at the array of topics we've covered.

An explosive combination of commute-enriching knowledge and fun awaits:

<http://www.TomWoods.com/podcasts>

America Is Breaking Up, and It's About Time

January 28, 2017

I'm trying to tune out politics so I can spend the weekend with my kids undisturbed. Yet I feel compelled to type this out: America is breaking up.

The election of Donald Trump has fast forwarded the dissolution of the United States by 50 years, maybe even a hundred.

Ideological and cultural differences have reached a point at which huge pluralities simply loathe each other. What one group considers holy and praiseworthy the other considers abominable and deplorable.

This was not always the case. Check out an episode of the old show What's My Line? on YouTube. Panelist Bennett Cerf was one of the founders of Random House publishing. He was a left-liberal by the standards of his day. But he was gentlemanly, well dressed, charming, affable, courteous, well mannered - the very opposite of his counterparts today.

And he still believed in that now discarded idea: the honorable disagreement. He could call Ayn Rand a "brilliant woman" while still disagreeing with her "cockamamie philosophy."

Whatever political disagreements there were, Americans shared quite a bit in common culturally, morally, and in the most basic standards of civilized behavior.

That's all gone now.

The left is in my view getting pretty much what it deserves, after having brought nearly all of life under the purview of the state. Not one tear should be shed for them.

And the double standards are ridiculous. Left-liberals who had precisely zero to say about Barack Obama's connivance at the starvation of an entire country - Yemen - are hysterical about temporary immigration restrictions. I don't know precisely where on the scale of state enormities those rank, but I'm fairly certain it's somewhere below starvation.

So discombobulated are leftists that they're suddenly willing to consider forbidden thoughts.

About a third of Californians, for instance, now favor secession from the Union. There's also talk of trying to keep state money from flowing to the federal government.

Now when you and I advocated things like that, these very people called us racists, "neo-Confederates" - my favorite dumb-guy smear term - and reactionaries.

It's different when the self-righteous ninnies want to do these things, of course.

I have to admit: even though I knew the status quo - the low-intensity civil war brewing beneath the surface in America - could not go on forever, I am surprised at how quickly opinion is changing.

Everyone once took for granted that the goal was to seize the federal apparatus and impose their vision on the country.

How about just abandoning this crazy, inhumane task?

Why not admit the differences are irreconcilable, and simply go our separate ways?

As recently as six months ago, you were a terrible extremist for entertaining such thoughts. Why, governing 320 million diverse people from a single city is the best conceivable political arrangement, citizen!

Not so anymore. The left is not used to being trounced so decisively, and in its disorientation it is willing to consider ideas beyond the 3-

by-5 card of allowable opinion.

And the right is observing more acutely than ever the depths of the hatred that the academic, political, entertainment, and media establishments feel toward them.

The Union is coming apart.

I don't and can't know the timing. But this thing is coming undone.

And when it happens, we'll all be happier.

* * * * *

Incidentally, while the American empire is fraying, the Tom Woods blog empire is expanding.

So many of my listeners have started their own blogs and websites that Bluehost (a web hosting company) now has a page with my face on it.

For a hoot, check it out: <http://www.tomwoods.com/blue>

They're so pleased with you good folks that they're now giving my listeners a discount the general public doesn't get. See how I can throw my weight around now?

I promise to use my powers only for good.

I also give away 24 video tutorials, a mention on my show, a link on my site, and membership in my private bloggers group as bonuses

when you use that link.

Details: <http://www.tomwoods.com/publicity>

America Is Based on White Supremacy, Yet Millions of Nonwhites Flock to It...?

January 26, 2017

A flyer circulating at the University of Kansas warns people about "neo-Nazis," adding that such people often like to conceal their true identity by using other terms and phrases to describe themselves.

Therefore, the flyer went on, be on the watch for people calling themselves "anarcho-capitalists" or using the phrase "Make America Great Again."

So if you're an anarcho-capitalist - which means you absolutely oppose the initiation of violence - you are actually a neo-Nazi.

(Because we all know how philosophically opposed to violence the Nazis were.)

This particular inanity is brought to you by the folks who are convinced they are living in a white supremacist society. (The term "white supremacy" sure underwent a massive redefinition in 2016, didn't it?)

But if this is really a "white supremacist" society, why would white supremacists have to conceal their identities by calling themselves something else?

Duh.

Why would being a genuine white supremacist be career suicide?

Why would so many millions of nonwhites be clamoring to enter a society allegedly based on racial apartheid?

The other day, Tucker Carlson interviewed a professor from the University of Connecticut who pushes the America-is-a-white-

supremacist-society theme. He asked how that can be reconciled with the massive demographic change since 1965: with only 12% of 60 million new immigrants being from Europe, are we really witnessing a white supremacist system in action?

Yes, we are, the professor replied, nonsensically.

By that reasoning, reversing this nonwhite immigration would *harm* the cause of white supremacy, and that would make Donald Trump a major *foe* of white supremacy.

The professor didn't follow his reasoning down that road.

Unfortunately, these people are so irrational and bizarre that I can't parody them. So they're taking the one fun, redeeming quality the left once had - susceptibility to satire - and ruining it for me.

The whole thing reminds me of one of the great characters in all of literature: Wonko the Sane, from Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. Wonko feared for the world's sanity, so he referred to the entire world (except his residence) as Inside the Asylum and his own residence as Outside the Asylum.

If you'd like to step Outside the Asylum for a bit, join me as a supporting listener of the Tom Woods Show and among all the other goodies, we'll welcome you into the Tom Woods Show Elite - my private group that's as far Outside the Asylum as you can get.

The way forward:

<http://www.SupportingListeners.com>

Sticks and Stones Yada Yada, But Call Me a Name and I'll Put You in the Gulag

January 3, 2017

I just read this headline: "Gospel Singer's 'Ellen' Appearance Canceled After Anti-Gay Sermon."

Oddly, I never read this headline: "Hillary Clinton's 'Ellen' Appearance Canceled After She Destroyed Two Countries."

No, Ellen DeGeneres is not required to interview a particular gospel singer, and yes, she may feature a war hawk if she likes. I'm just thinking it's another case of bizarre moral priorities on the left.

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but if they're Libyan or Iraqi bones, I sure won't lose any sleep over it. Let's get together and tell some jokes, Hillary!

As for that whole "names will never hurt me" stuff, well, these days we've decided that calling people names is worse than mass murder. Blech.

The same celebrity leftists who pride themselves on being on the morally superior side of every issue, who stand up for the despised and rejected, really couldn't care less when the despised and rejected are non-Americans.

These are the same people who are going to warn us that nationalism leads to fascism.

Yes, we'd better be careful about nationalism and chauvinism!

Meanwhile, we'll continue to act as if the deaths of non-Americans matter less than some name somebody calls you. Nothing chauvinistic about that!

Snooty Academic to World: Only Losers and Lazy Bums Self-Publish

January 18, 2016

Whenever I'm inclined to be pessimistic, that weasel Michael Malice cheers me up.

We live at a time, he reminds me, where millions of books are available to anyone in the world at the push of a button.

With almost no expense to speak of, virtually anyone can start a podcast and say whatever he wants. (Speaking of which, [here's my step-by-step guide to podcasting](#), for anyone who's interested.)

Musicians don't need major labels behind them to be heard.

People can open an eCommerce store with minimal investment and no overhead.

Books can get published without the rigmarole of traditional publishers.

And on and on. All kinds of barriers have been broken down.

Evidently not everyone feels that way. Someone we might call a left-libertarian has evidently said the following:

It's simple really. If you self-publish, that signals one of three things:

- 1. You are too lazy*
- 2. You are too arrogant*
- 3. You know your work sucks so much that you refused to subject it to the normal process of blind peer-review.*

Or:

4. *You submitted it to that process, it got strongly rejected and you threw a temper tantrum and published it yourself.*

In all cases, that's a strong signal about the quality of the work. In a world where my time is scarce, that signal is so strong that it's a perfectly rational reason for me to not bother with said book.

Now this is from someone who has published several books the traditional, respectable, academic way. His most recent book retails at \$120.00, and its Amazon sales rank is 1,746,128.

This is a person who wants to lecture other people about book publishing?

Who is still publishing \$120 books with traditional publishers?
Could it be someone who is...dare I say...lazy?

Or just unoriginal?

Or not bold enough to rely on the strength of his own name and reputation?

If you want to write \$120 books no one ever reads, then by all means go the conventional route and disparage self-publishing.

But as someone who's done both (I've self-published and also had my books published with Basic Books, Random House, and Columbia University Press), I say there's no shame in self-publishing.

Yes, it *can* mean your book is crummy, though plenty of traditional publishers release crummy books, too.

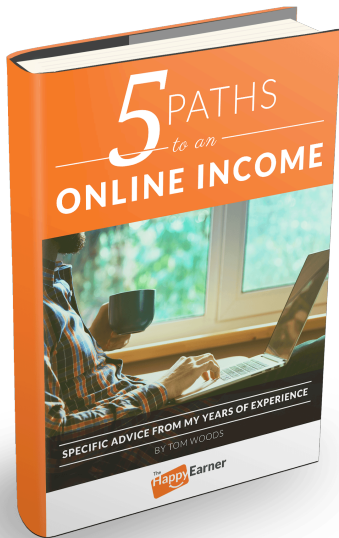
But it can also mean the author wants (1) higher royalties and (2) a retail price people might actually pay, and has enough marketing savvy not to get snookered into having his book's retail price set at \$120.00 by some creepazoid publisher.

No shame in that.

(And by the way, if you're interested in self-publishing, here's my [free guide on the subject.](#))

APPENDIX

I hope you enjoyed this eBook featuring some of my favorite emails. I have other free libertarian eBooks at TomsFreeBooks.com.



Although people know me for my libertarian books, articles, courses, and videos, I've also learned over the years how to run a successful online business. As a result, I enjoy a flexible and comfortable lifestyle that I wouldn't give up for the world.

By popular demand I wrote a free eBook called *5 Paths to an Online Income* that shows step by step how I do what I do. This how-to book shows you how to podcast, self-publish a book, freelance, blog, and get started in affiliate marketing – all things I've been doing for years.

It's both a how-to and a how-to-monetize book.

It could also have been called: *How Not to Be a Povertarian*.

Libertarians of all people ought to recognize the immense potential for personal and financial liberation that the Internet has made possible. At the very least, it can be a source of a few extra income streams to keep you afloat during the next Fed-fueled recession.

Grab your free copy at PathsToIncome.com.