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Americans Outsource Their Oil and Pollution

You hear plenty of hot air from Westerners worried about the outsourcing of bits of their industries to cheaper locations - call centres go to Bangladesh, manufacturing to China, software development to India. This is said to destroy jobs in the West, though the the evidence is that by bringing down costs in this way Western companies can become more competitive, expand their markets and end up increasing their employment, albeit in different jobs (higher tech and higher paid) from before. At the same time, we Westerners fret about the low pay, poor working conditions and, especially, inferior environmental standards practiced by the faraway outsourcees. For example, you have only to mention pollution to think of China's one-a-week new coal-fired power stations. If you've outsourced your manufacturing to China, you've also outsourced that coal-dust.

It is curious therefore that there is one area where the West, particularly America, seems singularly relaxed, even eager to outsource its business despite the very severe pain it is causing at home and the increased environmental risks abroad.

For America has not done much in the way of developing and increasing its energy production capabilities for some three decades. The last refinery was built in 1976, the last nuclear power plant in 1978. Though it's true that exploration and production have continued, oil reserves and production have nevertheless steadily declined since the early 1970s and now stand at 22 billion barrels and 5 million barrels a day respectively (from 35 and 9½). Its energy shortfall has therefore had to be met by imports, mainly of 10m b/d of oil plus natural gas meeting some 4½% of energy needs.

These imports are just another form of outsourcing - getting foreigners to do the work for you. In this case, most of the foreigners are Arabs and Africans, operating to lower technical and environmental standards than Americans, and charging outrageous global prices for the privilege - \$145/bbl at time of writing. For America is competing with the rising demands of the emerging giants of India and China for whatever oil is on the market. Moreover, much of that oil money bonanza is falling into the hands of Islamic enemies in the Middle East, the very people who want to destroy Israel and the

West. Other massive chunks are going to Russia and Venezuela, countries which also hate the freedom-loving democracies.

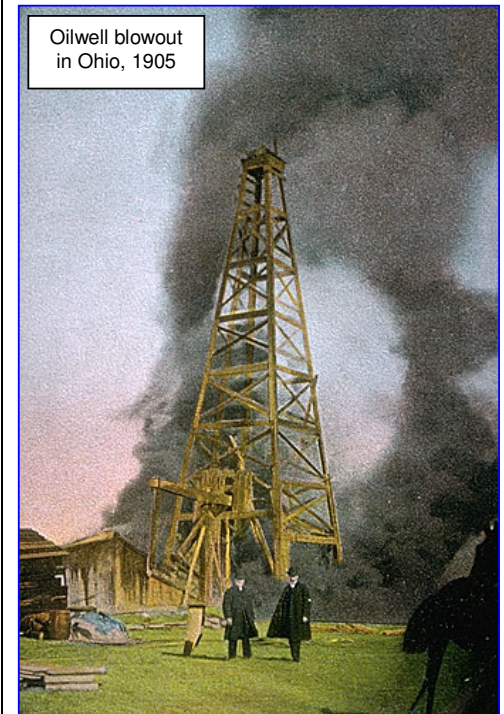
America imports such huge quantities of oil only because of its failure to develop its own energy potential.

However this is not for geological but for man-made reasons. America still has plenty of resources to explore and develop, notably across the vast expanse of Alaska, in coastal waters and off the continental shelf, with potential to produce over a million barrels a day. The US Geological Survey believes that Alaska alone contains oil measured in the billions of barrels.

The "*No Zone*" to drilling is designated as such because of a belief that the distinguishing feature myth of the modern oil exploration and production industry is oil pollution. Oil activity equals black oil all over the sea and ice, with flora, birds, fish, polar bears and seals dying miserably engulfed in black treacle.

This is so far from the truth as to be laughable. When Western companies are in charge, serious pollution occurs only through sabotage, while the rare incidents of minor pollution (a few barrels) are quickly cleaned up. The pictures you see of oil mess are either many decades old like this one taken in 1905 Ohio, or the result of someone taking a hacksaw to a pipeline, or are the responsibility of non-Western companies.

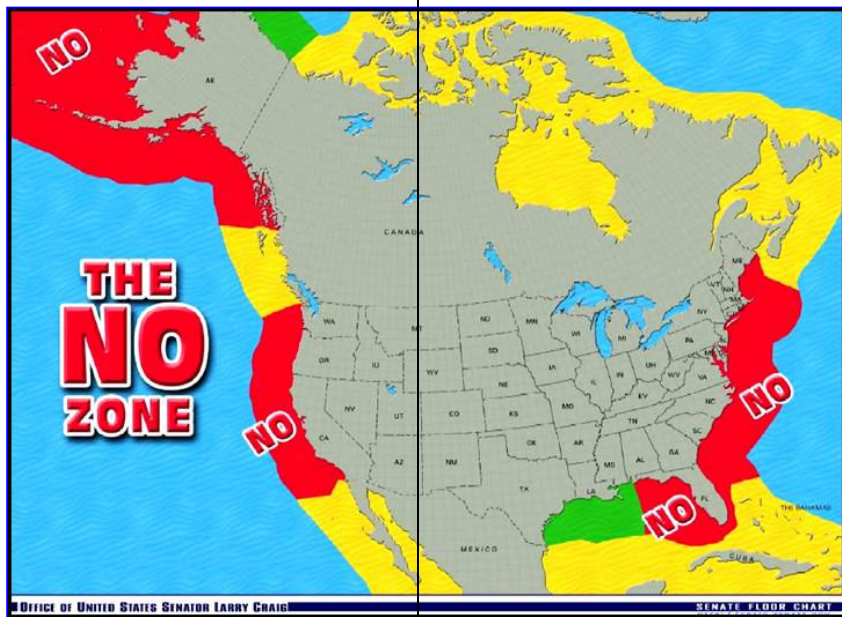
America's environmental lobby, aided and abetted by the Democratic party, are mainly responsible for putting such vast swathes of America off limits to oilmen, in the mistaken believe that they are somehow preserving the



Oilwell blowout in Ohio, 1905

world's environment. But in so doing, they are merely outsourcing and ballooning the pollution problem to other parts of the world with lower environmental standards. And at enormous cost to the American people in both money and potentially security.

The chart on the next page illustrates how great is the wasted acreage, the No Zone, and it doesn't even show all of Alaska's waters. And remember the effect is to enrich America's enemies at Americans' expense.



If Barack Obama sticks to the Democrats' party line and continues to support the No Zone, that's another reason he will lose in November. And if he flip-flops on this as he has so recently flip-flopped on several other matters, can Americans really trust him?

Hattip: John Dixon

And he's touchy too ...

Touchy Obama

Barack Obama was in the news last week (isn't he always?) when the 21st July issue of the New Yorker magazine featured this cartoon on its cover. It depicts the presumptive next president standing in the Oval Office wearing

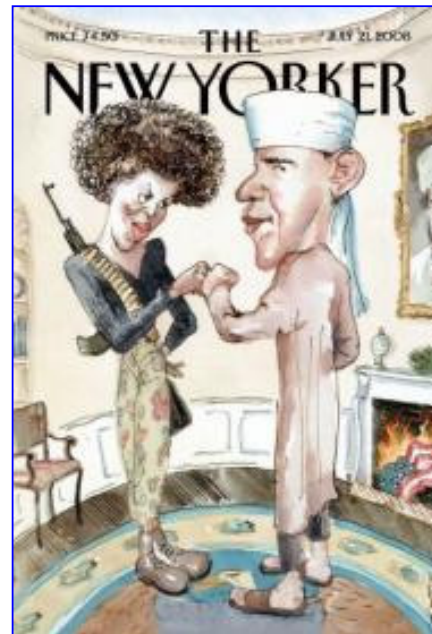
Islamic dress and turban, his combative wife with a Kalashnikov slung across her back, the stars-and-stripes burning merrily in the fireplace and Osama bin Laden gazing contentedly at the scene from above the mantelpiece. Apparently this is a satire intended to embody all the lies put about by the vast-right-wing-conspiracy of the Republican machine (closet Muslim, fiery wife, anti-patriotic, terrorist-friendly etc).

To me it seems more like a jab at Mr Obama than at Republicans, which is what he thinks too. His spokesman Bill Burton proclaims that *"most readers will see it as tasteless and offensive; and we agree"*. [So do I, but that's why I like it.]

But Mr Obama protests too much. His self-love makes him look ridiculous.

It never much troubled him when his beloved pastor of 20 years the Rev Jeremiah Wright kept preaching about God damning America, America inviting 9/11, America inventing AIDS to kill black people and so forth

But he nearly went ballistic when Rev Wright said, in response to Mr Obama's public repudiation of Rev Wright's racist rants, *"he goes out as a politician and says what he has to say as a politician"*. In other words, Mr Obama - the candidate of hope, change etc - is just as opportunistic as any other sleazy politician. To Mr Obama this self-evident truth was *"a show of disrespect to me ... [insufficient] concern for me ..."*



When his wife Michelle was called to account for broadcasting her apparent lack of pride in her country, he said *"if they (Republicans) think that they're going to try to make Michelle an issue in this campaign, they should be careful. Because that I find unacceptable"*, though notably he never - unlike many Americans - found his wife's public utterances unacceptable.

His supporters have set up a special site, Fight the Smears, to counter the negative stories about him, even the ones that are true (eg as the son of a Muslim he was automatically born a Muslim).

Contrast this self-absorption and ultra-sensitivity with the moron George W Bushitlerhalliburton. He has been relentlessly, mercilessly ridiculed, lampooned, belittled, cartoonised, insulted, libelled for the past seven years. Michael Moore's anti-Bush movie Fahrenheit 9/11, riddled as it is with personal invective and nastiness, is but one of the more egregious examples of the public Bush-hatred that has become the staple of liberal American commentary. Another is the movie *"Death of a President"* that has him assassinated, seemingly by an Arab, to widespread approbation among many audiences.

Yet how often has W issued a complaint? Not once in all his presidency. He just stands up and takes the punches and keeps smiling.

Smiling. Now that's another thing the touchy, narcissistic Sen Obama doesn't indulge in much outside set-piece rallies. It might puncture his self-importance.

Why Is Egypt Imprisoning 1½ Million Gazans?

Arabs frequently proclaim their brotherhood and solidarity, and it has sometimes led to improvements in the lot of the ordinary Arab. Even then, however, its is often expressed in stirring words rather than concrete action. For instance, the Arab League pledged \$717 million to help its Palestinian brothers as part of the current so-called Middle East peace process, but has so far disbursed only 21%, compared with the West which has already delivered 60% of its promised \$835m.

Solidarity is much more robust when it is about driving Jews into the sea, whether through the Arab brotherhood of 1948 which attacked Israel (and lost) the moment the UN gave birth to it, or when in 1967 Egypt's Gamel Abdul Nasser briefly reunited almost the whole Arab world to wage war on and be defeated by (in just six manic days) the hated Zionists.

Indeed, throughout Israel's sixty years of existence it has faced pretty much constant harassment and low-level attack from its Arab neighbours, interspersed

with hot wars which they never win and which

The general rule seems to be that Arab unity in the cause of Arab betterment results in Arab betterment at least to some extent.

But the far more popular Arab unity in the cause of Jew annihilation merely result in further loss of land, opportunity and privileges.

- The disputed territories (which are neither Israeli nor Palestinian because Palestinian leaders have repeatedly refused them as a Palestinian state) are now dotted with Israeli settlements;



- a sturdy barrier (of course declared illegal in 2004 by the International Court of Justice) keeps not just suicide bombers out of Israel but hampers many ordinary Palestinians from going about their lawful business;



- The Gaza Strip, occupied first by the Egyptians till 1967, then the Israelis till 2005 and now under the ruthless thumb of Hamas, has become a prison state much like Cuba or North Korea.

Ah yes, Gaza. The world blames Israel, the security barrier and its few checkpoints for effectively imprisoning a million and a half Gazans, half of them children. The knot tightens, in what the world labels disproportionate action, whenever Hamas's rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel become intolerable.

Just last week there was a news story about the Israelis preventing Gazan students from entering Israel in order to take up scholarships in America and Europe. "*Collective punishment*" some called it.

But as quiz show hostess Anne Robinson would be quick to point out, a chain (or fence) is only as strong as its weakest link.

This is where Arab brotherhood should kick in, because the south-west of Gaza borders not on Israel but on the former occupier Egypt with its 74 million fellow-Sunnis. But this border, with only one check point (Rafah) is sealed even tighter than the Israeli side. Except that is for the numerous tunnels that permit weapons to be "*smuggled*" in to Gaza whilst the Egyptians turn a blind eye. Rather, the Egyptians ensure that neither people nor normal trade may easily cross the border; nor may scholarship students. Arab solidarity is limited strictly to weapons to be deployed against Israel (with which Egypt nevertheless has a peace treaty).

There was real consternation in Egypt last January when Hamas blew a hole in the wall

and Gazans in their hundreds of thousands poured through the breach, mainly to spend some \$250m on food and provisions, an unexpected bonanza for Egyptian traders. The Gazans' brothers in the Egyptian security forces eventually rounded them up and sent them home. With tear gas, clubs, water cannons and live ammunition, they manage to injure ninety Palestinians, mostly women, in the process or sealing up the border once again, as it remains to this day.

Rafah is no longer Anne Robinson's Weakest Link. The unanswered question is why? Why is Egypt imprisoning 1½m Gazans? Do the Egyptians fear and hate their Palestinian fellow-Arabs that much? For make no mistake, it is Egypt which holds the key to the Gazan's incarceration or freedom. The Israelis at least have the excuse of fighting existential hostility and terrorism.

Yuk to Racism

Earlier this month Britain's £12 million a year National Children's Bureau issued 366 pages of guidelines to kindergartens to clamp down on three-year-olds when they choose to reveal what nasty little racists they are by, for example, saying "yuk" to foreign food. Neither do racist babies with their "name-calling, casual thoughtless comments and peer group relationships" escape the NCB's righteous ire. Nurseries are, quite

rightly, instructed to report the horrid little tykes to the local council who will presumably administer appropriate punishments and maintain lifelong records for the protection of victim minority groups far into the future. After all who wants to hire someone who has been documented as a proven racist ever since he was a toddler?

For some reason, however, Beijing is now moving in the opposite direction by kowtowing to grown-up sports fans of similar racist tendencies. These Olympic-watchers would be the kind of despicable racists who don't hesitate to say "yuk" to a bowl of Jack Russell ragout or a Doberman steak, thereby expressing their contempt of Orientals, particularly Chinese and Koreans, for whom such dog meat delicacies are part of their rich cultural heritage. But rather than condemn these odious foreign racists, the Beijing tourism politburo is going to pander to them and has issued an edict ordering all restaurants to remove dog meat from their menus for the duration of the games. They are thereby emulating the grovelling behaviour of the Seoul city council during the Olympics in that city back in 1988, when dog meat was likewise removed from the city's menus for the same fawning reason.

The one part of China where, Olympic games notwithstanding, dog meat is already banned and has been for over a century is Hong Kong, thanks to the British colonialists. Many would see this as a further example of racist suppression of native customs in the name of white

imperialism, but actually it's not. The reason the British rulers banned dog meat was because of the manner of killing the dog. In order to ensure the meat is tender, succulent and sweet, the unfortunate creature must be beaten slowly to death with sticks, his heart to the last valiantly pumping blood around his rapidly bruising body. For some reason, the Brits found this practice sickening, and by now so do the native Hong Kong Chinese.

So if you are at the Olympics (which as I argued earlier I hope you aren't), know that any dislike of dog meat is due to your moral superiority rather than your racist tendencies.

Unlike those racist little kids saying "yuk" to a plate of curry back there in Blighty.

Issue 179's Comments to Cyberspace

Just a handful of contributions over the past month.

- No Regret or Sympathy for Ahmad Batebi To The Economist
Sir, - It was moving to learn of the tribulations, torture and eventual escape to America of the courageous young Iranian student Ahmad Batebi after his photo appeared on the cover of your issue of July 17th 1999 protesting against the regime ("Silent no more", July 12th).

But you were ungracious to express not a word of either regret or sympathy to reflect the part you played, however honourably, in his suffering. - Yours etc,



- Poverty in Ethiopia To the Irish Independent
Sir, - Kevin Myers' observations about Ethiopia and the ineffectiveness, if not reverse effectiveness, of the decades of aid that has poured in there (and elsewhere in Africa) are perspicacious if unpopular ("Africa is giving nothing to anyone -- apart from AIDS", July 10, 2008).

Michael Buerk, the BBC reporter who first reported the Ethiopian famine of 1983-5 and inspired Bob Geldof and Live Aid, returned 20 years later for a TV follow-up. Though average annual income per head had by then dropped from \$190 to \$108 (it's now \$100) and the number of heads had doubled to 68 million (now 78m), he described the (still current after 17 years) Meles Zenawi regime as "saints compared"

with” the preceding 17-year brutal reign of Mengistu Haile Mariam. This was because it was “ideologically, even romantically, focused on the peasants ... It genuinely wants them to have a better life”, regardless of the untold death and misery that its policies were actually fostering.

And what were those policies? Essentially Marxist, which is no doubt why Mr Buerk, living up to his name, felt unable to criticise them.

The one approach that the “making poverty history” adherents who profess compassion for the poor never advocate is “making the poor rich and thus self-reliant”. Because this would mean applying the same policies that made the rich rich, namely Western liberal democratic free-trade capitalism, whilst tearing down the West's own protectionist barriers.

Many in the poverty industry are so mired in left-wing ideology, as exemplified by Mr Buerk, that the thought of fostering capitalism is abhorrent to them. But much aid money will remain counter-productive until such attitudes change.

As you could conclude from Kevin Myers' article, aid usually prolongs the misery of those unfortunate to

live under the thumb of vile regimes for which poverty is their lifeblood. - Yours etc,

- Still singing the same sad old [climate-change denying] song
Comment in a climate-change site called Think or Swim
I would question your disparagement of the two writers.

Bjorn Lomborg is a scientist of considerable weight. The way you write of him, I have to conclude you haven't read his books, certainly not the Skeptical Environmentalist. It is built on the most solid of scientific foundations, with every statement backed up with references to the research on which it is based. There are wonderful illustrations, and deductions which are hard to argue against. That's why Denmark's Global Warm-mongers tried to get him silenced for his apostasy. But when he challenged them to find anything scientifically incorrect in his book they were rendered silent.

You are suffering from the same ailment. You slag off Prof Lomborg but provide not a single piece of evidence to show he is an author of, in your words, “science fiction”.

And you do something similar with Kevin Myers, who is not a scientist, just a lowly newspaper columnist - like you (and me, for that matter). He provides easily verifiable facts that

challenge the orthodoxies of global warm-mongering. But you make no effort to either disprove them or draw different conclusions from them. You also lie about what he actually wrote: he never said “a cold April ‘proves’ that global warming can't be happening”, just pointed out the inconsistency. Your idea of refutation is to tell Mr Myers to keep taking the pills. Is that the best you can do?

Your opening paragraph starts with “wave after wave of science fact gradually washes away the last stubborn traces of our excuses for inaction”. Unless you and those who agree with you are prepared to deal scientifically with the “wave after wave of science fact” that denies man-made climate change, you're going to continue to lose the argument. Ad hominen attacks just don't cut the mustard.

Good luck!

Quotes for Issue 179

----- V A T I C A N -----

Quote: “I am deeply sorry for the pain and suffering the victims have endured and I assure them that, as their pastor, I too share in their suffering. I would like to ... acknowledge the shame which we have all felt as a result of the sexual abuse of minors by some clergy and religious [order members] in this country [Australia].”

Pope Benedict XVI in a speech to Catholic bishops, seminarians and novices in Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral.

It is the first time a pope has apologised for the egregious sexual crimes of some Catholic clerics against children over recent decades.

----- C H I N A -----

Quote: “China's greatest Communist icon, chairman Mao Zedong, will be dropped from six million new 10 yuan [93 Eurocent] banknotes to mark the Olympic games.”

The People's Bank of China, its central bank.

Oh joy! Chinese Communist authorities finally sense some embarrassment over their founder, humanity's most vile mega-murderer.

But there humanitarianism doesn't stretch to Tibet ...

Quote: “We must clean out the monasteries and strengthen the administrative committees. After that we will absolutely control them [the Buddhist monks].”

Lie Que, China's head of propaganda in Tibet, continues the process of “liberating” Tibet from Tibetans, especially Tibetan monks.

----- E U -----

Quote: “Ireland will have to vote again on Lisbon.”

Quote: “Ireland must hold a second referendum on whether to approve [the Lisbon] treaty designed to reform the European Union.”

It hasn't taken long for French president Nicolas Sarkozy, currently also de-facto EU president, to put his foot in his mouth,

with this remark which will enrage the Irish who have convincingly voted the treaty down.

We will watch with amusement as his foot continues to disappear down his throat during the coming six months while France holds the EU presidency.

Quote: “*I am convinced that [Ireland's rejection of the Lisbon Treaty] was not simply because they wanted to keep the Nice Treaty!*”

Mr Sarkozy, based on no evidence whatsoever.

Hello-o-o-o! Bonjour-ou-ou-our! That's precisely why the Irish voted no. They want Lisbon buried – which means keeping Nice.

Quote: “*I see idiots all day long. You can't imagine the amount of idiots I have to see.*”

Mr Sarkozy shows his irritable side after France takes over the rotating presidency of the EU.

You can be sure that the Irish are part of his list.

Quote: “*A Member of the European Parliament earns on an average more [at €14,727 a month] than the German Chancellor Frau Merkel and one wants to hide this from the electorate. Therefore, one obviously must get rid of reporters investigating this.*”

One-man crusader Hans-Peter Martin, MEP from Austria,

who bravely campaigns against the corruption of his colleagues.

His remark was in response to this [video clip](#) showing MEPs collecting a daily allowance of €284 early on Friday morning 23rd May 2008, before promptly disappearing for the weekend, a long-standing practice.

One of them, Ireland's Kathy Sinnott, threatens the reporter, “*be very careful about using this and what you report about me. I have worked seven hours already up to seven o'clock.*”

The expenses are not for hours worked but for the costs of attending the parliament, which she didn't attend that day

Later, consumed by embarrassment, she [explains](#) with touching sincerity, “*I really welcome putting the focus on the expense regimes of the Parliament, of MEPs.*”

Yeah, right.

----- U S A -----

Quote: “*Children without fathers in their lives are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of school, and twenty times more likely to end up in prison. They also are more likely to have behavioral problems, to run away from home, and to become teenage parents themselves.*”

A welcome defence of fatherhood by Barack Obama
[Hattip Iona Insitute](#)

Quote: “*I want to cut his nuts off.*”

Unrelated to the preceding quote, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, man of God and presidential candidate in 1984, lets escape on live TV what he really feels about that upstart Barack Obama with not an ounce of slave blood coursing through his half-white veins.

He “*apologised*” when/because he realised he had been filmed.

Right-wing radio chat-show host Rush Limbaugh has an amusing [take](#).

----- S L A V E R Y -----

Quote: “*I think in football there's too much modern slavery in transferring players or buying players here and there, and putting them somewhere.*”

Sepp Blatter, president of FIFA, laments the unreasonable expectation that Cristiano Ronaldo should honour the £120,000 per week contract he freely signed to play soccer for Manchester United.

“*I completely agree with the FIFA president*” [responds](#) the oppressed slave himself.