



# Chronicles of Diversity

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## Birds & Snakes

**“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.  
Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”**

Matthew 10:16

In the United States of America, the last two Presidents have not received a broad spectrum of political support. President Clinton was seen by most Republicans as someone lacking their moral values and therefore could not be trusted to be a wise leader of the country and by extension the world. No one however, ever questioned his political savvy. Politically speaking, Slick Willie could discern the movement of an ant on the face of the moon, while looking at Venus.

Unparalleled in recent history, George W. Bush however, has received a heinous distain from liberals especially on the far left. Much of that can be attributed to mutually exclusive world views, but part of that can also, especially recently, be attributed to his almost complete lack of discernment of the full consequences of current events.

To some, he sees the freight train just as the engine knocks him down and the three hundred car train passes over him. However, once the train as passed he hops up to his feet and states, “We never saw that coming, but we are working real hard to turn the railroad tracks into a superhighway.”

It seems that President Bush shares with many of his evangelical sheep brethren, the wisdom of the dove and the guile of the snake. His wolf distractors love this, because guile is something they understand all too well.

Another comparison between the two presidents. As a toddler you can almost picture Bill Clinton clothed only in a loosely hanging diaper dragging around his dirty panda bear buddy. A picture of George W. Bush would feature him with a genuine Steiff



Teddy Bear, neatly sitting on the lap of his navy blue suit.

The point we want to look at this week however, is the split between red states and counties and blue states and counties in the recent Presidential elections, in somewhat the context of the Nature Deficit Divide. The continuing drop in President Bush's poll numbers are in large part caused by increasing disillusionment with his leadership abilities by his conservative base and in the red areas of the country. It seems that for reasons not all that clear, that he has forsaken his adopted Texas chili heritage for a tepid bowl of Campbell's tomato soup. We will now look briefly at some of the events of President Bush's administration in the light of the Nature Deficit of his sun setting legacy.

## September 11, 2001

Thus far September 11th, is Bush's finest hour. Not making light of the lives lost during the attack on United States soil, this was a relatively easy disaster to handle, especially with the leadership of fellow Republican and Mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani. You clean up the area, help those affected by the tragedy, morally and financially to some degree, and let the citizens of the Big Apple determine the future use for the site. There is little complexity of Nature Deficit that can apply here.

## The War on Terror

Out of the aftermath of 9 11 President Bush declared "War on Terror," essentially a war on militant Islamic terrorists wherever they may be in the world. The first and greatest success in the war was eliminating the Taliban government in Afghanistan which provided a safe base of operations for Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network. This region of the world is of little wealth and over time can be pacified by counter insurgency warfare, by special forces troops sent from a number of countries around the world. In other regions of the world, results show that the War on Terror will be a protracted war, if war is really the proper term.

## Iraq

In Iraq is where the freight train from above seems to enter the picture. Worldwide intelligence reports indicated that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction WMDs . Just because WMDs were not found subsequent to the war does not mean that they did not exist, but rather they were just not found. They could have been buried somewhere in the desert, shipped to Syria or a number of other things. The link between Saddam and Islamic terrorists using these weapons on the west was the main reason for justifying the invasion. But here we see things begin to get a little more complex and the nature deficit of the invasion plans become our still lingering problem.

Iraq in the terms of warfare is ideal ground for fighting an armored conflict. Blast, bypass, and re gas, works exceedingly well in the flat and open terrain of Iraq. Also there has not been a real war where tanks and similar weapons have played a significant role since WWII. Sure there was Desert Storm but that conflict really had no definable objective. Freeing Kuwait really was just a military exercise not a real war. After all, there were only 265 total casualties from all sources including MIA's. Redoing it right and getting rid of Saddam was a mission worth doing well. A few unintentional intentioned remarks linking this with the crusades, was sheer genius. In that way the focus of the war on terror would shift to Iraq as radical elements from all over the world would be recruited to fight the infidels on mother Babylon.

The armored war went better than expected, but that is where the track came off the tank and the train derailed. As we know Iraq is really lines drawn on a map by the west after WWI, which contains three large and distinctive people groups. These people have never known the concept of western democracy. This is where nature deficit deficient planning ran amuck in the political swamp in the desert.

The Bible does not recognize the concept of races, however it does understand and promote the concepts of natural tribes and nations. Drawing lines on a map, does not make a nation, people make up a nation. A nation is made up of a number of tribes that share somewhat of a consistent world view and personal, cultural, language, and other similarities. If you look at people groups throughout history and

around the world, you find that the smallest self sustaining size is about 25 30 people. Larger groups, which become tribes and nations are held together by energy usage, both natural and political. Herein we see the natural state of human communities and ecosystems everywhere.

Saddam held the nation of Iraq together by the comprehensive use of the energy of personal repression. Once the energy of the repressive nature of his regime was exterminated by war, nature is going to take over. In order for the nation of Iraq to exist as free state, political energy greater than that exercised by Saddam will be required. That energy must come from the Iraqi people, or the nation will fall apart into at least three distinct natural nations. Since war is hell and hell is repression and war, chances of averting a civil war over an extended time period is at best remote. This follows just as naturally as Yugoslavia disintegrated in the Balkans and the Soviet Union fell apart.

These concerns were voiced before the war and since, not just by liberal whiners, who would like in this country to form their own liberal nation, but also many gifted and thoughtful moderate and conservative leaders. This civil war possibility also seems apparent to anyone, with just a moderate blessing of natural common sense. That common sense also tells us that oil and energy markets might be just a very very minor player in this game of world monopoly.

## Katrina

Hurricane Katrina codified much of this President's drift from the red side of the nation to the blue side, pronounced in the now too familiar sentence. "We didn't see this coming, but we are now working real hard to overcome the ensuing situation." The President used essentially this simplified statement in his speech Monday concerning the state of the nation building in Iraq.

Let's see if we can understand, we have New Orleans built below sea level, surrounded by waters and protected by levees designed to withstand a Category 2 hurricane, that haven't had any significant preventive maintenance in decades. Then in the Gulf of Mexico a Category 5 hurricane is heading right for town.

The governor and the mayor are not cut from the cloth of your brother or Rudy, but the Mardi Gras tapestry of twiddle dumb and twiddle dumber. The jury is still out which carnival suit best fits whom? What is so hard to understand what is coming? Unless you or your still serving staff are more interested in a good steak down at the ranch.

Katrina was, and is the greatest disaster to affect the United States in her history. One might put the civil war on such a stupendous scale, but still the war devastation parallel is quite appropriate. Stupendous change, we spent a great deal of time discussing last year. Whether Katrina is a once in a life time occurrence, or just a foretaste of a few months in the future will be answered over the course of time. But we must come back to the same situation we see in Iraq. It takes energy to restore New Orleans to its former glory, and Congress doesn't seem to share the President's enthusiasm to commit the funds to buy the energy to do the job. Furthermore, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that much of the Big Easy should be returned to wetlands and similar natural ecosystems, but that would not provide significant Liaise Faire opportunities at the United States tax payers expense.

## Addicted to Oil

During the State of the Union Address, the oil man President introduced this line, in an effort to reemphasize the road that the United States decided not to travel during the Reagan administration in the 1980's. Of course the continued prosperity of the other Bush and Clinton administrations didn't even mention that road either, but finally it looks again that we may run out of gas at a price we are willing to pay, either economically and or politically.

Having been somewhat involved in aspects of this opportunity in that bygone era, the science said that at about 60. per barrel all sorts of energy opportunities would open up to provide technological opportunities to fuel our personal and enterprise addiction to energy. Oil closed Tuesday at 62.90 down twenty cents from Monday. Lest I forget, free global trade requires huge quantities of cheap energy to function. Shoes, clothes, exercise bikes, and all our consumer goods, now come to us, not from domestic factories, and not even from exploited labor, but via energy to transport these goods per ton mile.

We have lost, or never have had the concept that the world really runs not on capital, but energy. Capital exists because of surplus energy. I find it quite interesting that people bitch and moan about paying two bucks per gallon for the useful work of gasoline, but don't find anything strange about paying four bucks per gallon for the water bottle they carry everywhere, or the twenty plus bucks per gallon they pay for their morning latte.

I disagree with the President, I am not addicted to oil, I am addicted to my personal convenience, and there is no alternative to my vehicles for providing that opportunity. I take the bus when I go to downtown Seattle. If I were to figure both the time and the money for bus travel versus driving and finding one of my secret free places to park, it comes out about a push. To go any of my other places, the time deficit shifts quickly to on average about 1 minute to 10 in favor of my personal transit rather than public transportation. If I want to go out into nature, or carry any amount of stuff, public transportation does not serve me at all. My dependence upon the infernal combustion engine could be solved a number of other ways, but as of now there is no alternative, and oil remains one of the best deals on the planet.

## The last straw

The above generalities tend to show the nature deficit, if apparent, is not even considered by our leadership as the way the world works. Even though as much as we may hate the consequences, we are stuck on this blue ball rotating in space, with the God given mandate to try and get along with one another, and to learn that we are all people and incredibly similar in our desires and hopes. Our differences are really quite minor if you look at what we all consider important in life.

This brings us to one of President Bush's proposals that will bring harmony in this country that we have not seen in at least my lifetime. I doubt that this proposal will ever come into being. It might go away like his proposal to monkey with Social Security.

Unlike Social Security and other entitlement programs, which have not yet been looked at

seriously by government, this program can change the course of the nation in a short period of time. It will unite people across the political and economic spectrum. Urban green liberals will walk side by side gun toting hunters and over grazing ranchers. Furthermore, much of the country will not only be amazed at this unity in diversity, they won't even grasp that such a foolish issue could bring together so many.

That issue for those who are unaware, is the President's plan to sell over 300,000 acres of federal land to special interests to fund rural schools. This concept is the Administration's proposal to refund the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. This "county payments" law is set to expire September 30th, and was passed in 2000 to help rural communities affected by logging and other economic hardships fund schools and other needed county services.

It seems with the economic stress created by 9 11, The War on Terror, Iraq, Katrina, our addiction to oil, and a host of other problems, such as mounting free trade deficits, a mediocre stock market, and a whole host of other problems, the only way to fund our rural schools is to sell some of America's greatest heritage for short term expediency.

Sounds to me like a wonderful proposal to unite, sheep and wolves, serpents and doves against the government. But hey I don't have access to all the President's gifted advisors that methodically guided his Presidency into an unprecedented dump of despair. As Honest Abe Lincoln so wisely said, America can never be conquered from without, only from within. Therefore, adopting this proposal would surely bring us closer to the Iraq front than I would like to experience.

So just think of this stupendous verse from the Bible as the future continues to seem not forecastable, at least to our common sense, nature deficit leadership: **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** Romans. 8:28

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