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201026 OBITER DICTA: AUTUMN MID-TERM 2010

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201026 OBITER DICTA: AUTUMN MID-TERM 2010
Steven Alan Samson

Thursday, October 21, 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703794104575546611651621270.html>

The decimation of Eastern Europe under Stalin, Hitler, *et al.*

<http://www.mediaite.com/online/rachel-maddow-gets-in-epic-battle-with-gop-congressional-candidate-art-robinson/>

Here is Rachel Maddow versus my future Oregon congressman, Art Robinson, who has astronauts endorsing him. Art founded a research institute in Cave Junction and had been a research associate of Linus Pauling a long time ago. He developed a home school curriculum (available for \$10 on DVD) for his large family after his wife, who was also a research scientist, suddenly died in the late 1980s. Art coauthored a book with Gary North a few years earlier and, in the 1990s, took over editing Petr Beckmann's *Access to Energy*. He has a great website.

<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/president-bill-clinton-lost-nuclear-codes-office-book/story?id=11930878>

Fun facts: Clinton and Carter both may have lost the nuclear codes.

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/woods/woods156.html>

Interposition

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_authority_logan.html

Reventlow

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101021/ap_on_e1_ho/us_pelosi_s_challenger

I have news for the California Democratic chairman: The moon is out during the daytime on most days of any given week. Does he really think this improves the odds that Pelosi's opponent will prevail?

Friday 22

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/obama-again-omits-endowed-their-creator>

Obama, our editor-in-chief, ungrammatically rewords the Declaration for at least the third time.

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?pageId=216589>

David Kupelian, who wrote *The Marketing of Evil*, is plugging Art Robinson to fill Oregon's fourth congressional seat, where we own a farm. I have a DVD of

Robinson's home school curriculum as well as one of his books. Robinson is a well-established research scientist – a former colleague of Linus Pauling – with endorsements by leading astronauts. I am hoping my neighbors have the good sense to send a citizen-legislator to Congress.

<http://www.azure.org.il/article.php?id=546>

To a Friend:

I read through your table of contents this morning. Here is a review of Eric Nelson's *The Hebrew Republic* by Yoram Hazony. I have just started to read the book. Its principal thesis is that the argument in political theory between liberalism and classical republicanism misses the Bible-centeredness of the seventeenth-century in English political thought. The author attempts to summarize a biblical republicanism that has been largely ignored. A colleague, Gai Ferdon, has done a lot of work in the field. The Shalem Center in Jerusalem is playing a role somewhat similar to that of the Center for the Study of Federalism did in the heyday of the late Daniel Elazar. Donald Lutz was also a part of that effort and has published important works on the American constitutional tradition.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/battle10/250684/hickenlooper-bombshell-colorados-backwards-thinking-rural-western-areas-wyomings-led>

Hizzoner the mayor of Denver is endearing himself to the Rocky Mountain electorate in a now familiar way. As the president himself once remarked about Pennsylvanians: "They get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/senator-maam-gets-zuckered/>

Here is a Hollywood director who really lays his remorse on the line. He is ashamed for having donated money to Barbara Boxer. Read the comments that are linked to the article.

Sunday 24

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Daniel-Dreisbach-1301549-105550743.html>

Daniel Dreisbach explains the misrepresentation of the First Amendment implicit in the "separation of church and State" phrase.

Monday 25

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-super-la-nina-and-the-coming-winter/?singlepage=true>

This article suggests that we are in for another very cold winter.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101025/ap_on_re_us/us_cyberwarfare_manual

Cyberwar manual.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/24/bees-route-finding-problems>

Having a B-brain (as opposed to a P-brain) may be a very good thing.

Tuesday 26

Note to a Student:

That was very well done. Your speaker, Serge Trifkovic, capsulized so much of my Political Theory course by illustrating the ideological character of what J. Budziszewski calls the "softheadedness" and Roger Scruton calls the culture of repudiation of our political elites: themes that are amplified by Angelo Codevilla in "America's Ruling Elite." The ideology of victimization is the seed that is enabling the Left to erase the West's Christian heritage in the name of humanity, but then finding its own universalism challenged by a far more potent ideology that will seek to establish its own worldwide Ummah as the weaker empire of the Left recedes. Once again, we see the old trick of capturing an institution or clearing its ruins and building a new one in its place. The Ottoman Empire maintained the hollowed-out structures of the Byzantine Empire and replaced its Christian substance with an Islamic sultanate. But I am not convinced that Communism left the Christianity of Eastern Europe unfazed. Roger Scruton suggests otherwise in a recent article.

<http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerlsimon/2010/10/26/foundation-requests-holder-investigate-boxer/>

I enjoyed this little piece that could be entitled "No Ma'am." If you check the letter Senator Boxer signed in which she exonerated Senator Dodd (while rebuking him in the process), you will see that she signed herself as Chairman. I was surprised it was not Chairperson. I hope Californians make her ex-Senator and ex cathedra at the same time.

Wednesday 27

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/obama-says-creator-citing-declaration-in>

The president has just gotten "religion" on the phrasing of the Declaration.

Thursday 28

Concerning a memorial plaque:

Thank you for your note. I was Dr. Rozek's student from the time I was a sophomore in 1967 until I finished my master's thesis in 1974. My father, Elmer Samson, who was with the FBI, urged me to study under him. It took

time to develop an ear for hearing him but I have never regretted my father's advice. I kept in touch with Dr. Rozek over the years and often visited his office or attended the summer institute. I last saw him in person on my last visit to Boulder about four years ago.

Here is the dedication I placed in my political theory reader/workbook.

DEDICATION

To
Edward J. Rozek—

Embattled fighter for free men, free society,
And the free university against fascism,
Communism, and totalitarian liberalism

-- From the dedication page in Sidney Hook, *Academic Freedom and Academic Anarchy*. New York: Delta, 1971.

And to many other friends and teachers, samples of whose work appear in the pages

I would not contribute a penny to the school, but I am happy to honor my teacher this way, as I have sought to do in some of my articles. I assume that the bust will be firmly and permanently embedded into the wall at Hellems Hall. I can only recall how, when the Civil War broke out, the bust of Francis Lieber at what is now the University of South Carolina was defenestrated by some of the students. Given the reign of the exclusivistic inclusivism of today's PC (a variety of Rousseau's general will and Scruton's culture of repudiation), I would want that bust to be as well-anchored and granite-solid as the man himself and as difficult to pry loose from the wall as Dr. Rozek was inseparable from his principles.

Addendum:

I did not know he had an office in Hellems. We had classes there. I like the idea of Edward haunting the hallowed halls of Sleepy Hellems. Russell Kirk, with whom the Samson clan stayed frequently, told very good ghost stories. His bestselling book was actually *The Old House of Fear*, not *The Conservative Mind*. I am sure he would be happy to see a bit of that spirit bequeathed to a corner of the Boulder campus.

I believe it may have been Jesse Helms himself who told me that he once had his entire staff read one of Edward's articles that had criticized Henry Kissinger.

Friday 29

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/265573>

This is the last straw as far as air travel is concerned. It is time for the public to take action. Start profiling terrorists, just like the Israelis. Patting down granny just doesn't cut it.

Saturday 30

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Send-Biden-back-to-history-class-1366991-106146918.html>

Our history textbooks do a poor job of conveying the truth about American free enterprise. Instead, the intellectual diet of our students today consists of carbohydrate-rich doses of political correctness from the late Howard Zinn & Co. As a young adjunct political science instructor at one Oregon community college in the late 1970s, I cut my teeth on the socialist revolutionary fare required by the only full-time faculty member, someone who deviated not a whit from the standard New Left orthodoxy. It is time to recapture the robes of authority in academe and once again tell the unrevised standard version of the story that inspired past generations of Americans.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/rally-to-resore-sanity-pledges-to-strictly-prohibit-filming-at-national-mall-106355893.html>

Comedy Central believes in freedom of the press on the National Mall but only for itself. Perhaps a douse of cold water from the Tidal Basin is in order.

Monday, November 1

http://works.bepress.com/steven_samson/4/

Five of Rushdoony's inescapable concepts, including liability, are discussed in the appendix. Roger Schultz had me publish what were originally two lectures as a single article.

<http://shine.yahoo.com/channel/food/whatsfordinner/>

Recipes.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/the-feed/251805/we-were-lucky-continued-bombs-big-enough-down-planes>

There was enough PETN aboard one plane to bring down 50.

Tuesday 2

<http://www.debka.com/article/9118/>

Lebanon may be facing an imminent coup threat.

http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/they-hate-our-guts_511739.html

Here is P. J. O'Rourke's version of Yankee Doodle or Harald Saeverud's Ballad of Revolt. It is time for the villagers to pick up their pitchforks.

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/11/the_five_stages_of_democratic.html

The Five Stages of Democratic Grief.

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/11/one_ring_to_rule_them_all.html

The American people as Frodo Baggins on a quest to destroy the Ring of Power.

Thursday 4

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101104/ap_on_re_eu/mail_bombs

Character of the mail bombs.

To a former student:

I'm sure you have your hands full with Brussels, which is only slightly further from London than DC is from Lynchburg. Hopefully all the suds from the postelection celebrations will scrub up the DC Tidal Basin and make it slightly less toxic for a while. If we get the formula right, I'll have to send along a bottle for the common good.

The candidate I supported in my home district in Oregon, Dr. Art Robinson, didn't make it, but he plans to run again. One of our former students has now gone to work for Ron Paul. Eric Cantor is seeking to become House majority leader.

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/11/04/lifestyles-of-the-rich-and-famous-obamas-billion-dollar-trip-raises-the-bar-of-government-excess/>

Let them eat cake. It's cheaper.

<http://www.debka.com/article/9124/>

This one is worth reading in full to fully appreciate some of the ironies. The Israelis seem to know their enemy quite well.

Friday 5

<http://visiontoamerica.org/story/cair-sues-oklahoma-for-banning-islamic-law.html>

CAIR draws a line in the sand over the ballot measure that bans Shania in Oklahoma. In the future we may end up adding green states to the present division between red and blue ones. Somehow I expect that the new trend will start with some of the blue ones that are turning yellow.

Saturday 6

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/why-angle-lost/?singlepage=true>

Postmortem campaign advice for Sharron Angle.

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/if-al-gores-chicago-climate-exchange-suffers-total-failure-does-the-msm-make-a-sound/?singlepage=true>

The Chicago Climate Exchange for trading carbon credits has closed. Coupled with last December's failure of the Copenhagen climate summit, let us hope that cap and trade withers away along with its chief object: global governance.

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/11/ripping_the_usa_revising_histo.html

Here is a description of NEH grant-funded WWII revisionism run amok. It is an example of the "culture of repudiation" in action. Such historical defamations are rewriting the history taught in our schools and tipping the scales against "truth, justice, and the American way," as the earlier, politically incorrect Superman used to put it. Right-thinking people should never let such screeds go unanswered or unpunished. To appreciate the harm they can do, we should keep in mind the line from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*: "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend." For the last few decades I have worked to rescue a lot of historical information that has been dumped down the memory hole or discredited by invidious associations.

<http://www.lil-abner.com/cappbio.html>

To a family member:

This piece on Al Capp (see the waiter cartoon near the bottom of the article) reminded me of your use of the Yiddish "schnozzle" last night. With a few exceptions, notably *The Far Side* and *Calvin and Hobbes*, syndicated newspaper cartoons seem to have been going downhill since his day - certainly that is true of most of the ones I see in the *Washington Post*.

Sunday 7

<http://pajamasmedia.com/eddriscoll/2010/11/06/follow-the-truthiness/?singlepage=true>

To an adjunct colleague:

Ed Driscoll provides a series of illustrations of Hollywood's and the press's penchant for following the counsel of the editor in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*: "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

I will have to order a copy of Sarah Palin's new book. It is remarkable how many interesting books have been coming out lately, including political books like the new one by Rep. Devin Nunes of California's Central Valley. I am reading Angelo Codevilla's *A Student's Guide to International Relations*, which I plan to use in International Relations starting next term. I already use his piece on America's ruling elite. Then there is *10 Books Every Conservative Must Read*, which is likewise a collateral reading this term and which may be required next year in

Political Theory. John Bolton's broadside on national sovereignty is very popular with the students. I have also started reading Charles Hill's *Grand Strategies* and Roger Scruton's *The Uses of Pessimism*, which, like J. Budziszewski's *The Revenge of Conscience*, pokes holes in a number of philosophical/political fallacies.

Tuesday 9

To a colleague:

Mussorgsky is always a delight. I wish he had produced more. Like Borodin, his friends (particularly Rimsky-Korsakov) had to complete much of his work. I have a recording of Boris Godunov. There is one other recording of the coronation scene with the bells that I would love to find someday. Alexander Glazunov carried that tradition forward by bringing Tchaikovsky into the mix. But the pieces that often swirl through my mind's ear lately are my new recording of William Walton's first symphony and Joachim Raff's fourth. Raff is unjustly neglected.

Friday 12

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2009/09/people-politics-and-fatal-promises.html>

I listened to the Diane Rehm Show on NPR this week that featured an interview with Deborah Cadbury on her new book *The Chocolate Wars*, which highlights her Quaker family's role in the industry. She is also a filmmaker who has done work on child trafficking, something she also addresses in her new book. I will plan to get it for Sally, who also listened to the interview as she was running errands.

Saturday 13

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/11/a_ray_of_hope_for_the_grand_ex.html

This short piece is to the point. We have come close to losing America and the danger remains grave. Now the heavy lifting begins. We consented to having a ring put into our collective nose and for too long have been led around by our masters. Let us remember November 2 as the first in a series of shots. May they be heard around the world.

Yesterday I listened to a series of talks by Dean Gotcher (pronounced with a long o) about the nature of our ethical and ideological confusions. In fact, he hit the Marxist dialectic on the head: covenant (thesis), confusion (antithesis), consensus (synthesis). We see it in Bloom's *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, which I had to learn in teacher's college almost 35 years ago and which has turned the American educational system systematically into a "change agent." As a consequence, we have been captivated by the Transformational Marxism of the Fabians, the Frankfurt School, and Antonio Gramsci.

It is time to reverse course from a consensus that has bankrupted the state. I showed Gotcher Ralph de Toledano's *Cry Havoc!* I also introduced him to Rene Girard's concept of mimetic desire, which like Gotcher's model acknowledges that we are guided by what brings us pleasure. Indeed, it has been detached from the authority structures that enable us to become self-disciplined and attached to what Freud called "polymorphous perversity," which has promoted the infantilization of our culture. As David Kupelian makes clear in *The Marketing of Evil*, such psychological manipulations are what has made enablers and accomplices of all of us, converting us from a free people into sheeple. It is time to break Circe's spell.

Tuesday 16

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/253319>

The Tale of Two Congresses may have a happier ending on the second telling but the new Republican majority must resist the "pork and incumbency" that ended its sway in 2006. The Fed's quantitative easing (printing new money) promises little relief and will probably result in a wild ride once the house of cards starts to cascade. Will the dollar survive the whiplash? The chief political question is whether the next downturn will hit before or after 2012. But whether or not a Republican wins the presidency, a halfway decent Republican showing in the next election may result in a Republican majority in the Senate, too, given that all of these first term Democrats will have to justify their tenures without an unpopular president to blame. It will be even harder for them if the unpopular president is one of their own.

Thursday 18

To a former student:

During the past week we have had several speakers at the Helms School and the law school. One of them, from the Intrepid Group, gave a distillation of Salafism and its spread in the United States since the 1960s.

I am considering Daniel Hannan's *The New Road to Serfdom* for Politics of Europe in the Spring. I may give the students a choice between Hannan and Walter Laqueur's *The Last Days of Europe*, which I have used for the last couple of years. I will be adding Angelo Codevilla's tough-minded *Student's Guide to International Relations* for GOVT 340 and have been reading Charles Hill's *Grand Strategies*.

One of my colleagues did her doctoral research at Cambridge on the Biblical republican tradition during the English Civil War and interregnum. I now have it sitting on my desk, along with several books on that tradition. So many books, so little time.

BTW, a friend, who is president of Whitefield Seminary, is considering taking a doctorate at St. Andrews, something I have considered doing for many years. That is where Russell Kirk earned his D. Litt. Now that Sarah is

married and we are down to one son at home, it is time to put the passport to good use again.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101118/ap_on_go_ot/us_declining_marriage

Pew survey on attitudes about marriage.