

# Liberty

January–February 2009

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Is the  
Constitution  
Dead?

## Election 2008: Beyond the Pundits' Palaver

*by the Editors & Contributors*

## The Greatest Place Where No One Goes

*by Doug Casey*

## Confessions of a Government Planner

*by Warren Gibson*

**Also:** *Barbara Branden* exposes political hypocrisy, *Gary Jason* cracks down on unions, *Jim Walsh* explores the best and the worst of the internet, *Ross Levatter* examines the failures of government-run schools . . . plus other articles, reviews & humor.

*"Liberty always with right reason dwells twinned." — John Milton*

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8 in California, which amends the California constitution to eliminate the recent judicially-recognized right of same-sex couples to marry in that state has passed. It seems that as the economy shrinks, so does people's empathy for the other guy's problems, concerns, and desires. — Ross Levatter

**You're doing it wrong** — I occasionally get emails from a meetup list of Ron Paul supporters in the area around Olympia, Wash. The day before the election, a number of frantic emails were sent to people on the list. Among these was one that included the following:

We are on the verge of electing a man that cannot put his hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution against enemies foreign and domestic. He can't do it, he can say it, but he can't uphold the oath because he already said he doesn't believe in it as written. He even believes Jesus was black, as does his Afro-centric - non-American-centric "pastor!" . . . I hope to God the Manchurian Candidate McCain wins and the despicable Marxist, Kenyan-born, Indonesian citizen, mulatto-in-chief wannabe loses. That son-of-a-bitch will appoint judges that make Ruth Bader — the anti-christ Jew — Ginsberg look like a moderate. The Founding Fathers will be spinning like tops in their graves and it is our great-grandparents, our grandparents and our fault.

I've written before about the cranks that the libertarian movement, like any group assembled around a political philosophy, attracts. In the months ahead, as Obama takes office and we debate how the support of limited government should go forward, we have to be mindful of the small-mindedness and hatred that still exist in the world. And we have to make sure there's no place for it in the rational opposition to the new president's statism. Obama's ideas about individual rights and property — not the color of his skin or the church he frequents — are the problem. — Jim Walsh

**Rolling right along** — There are several good things I can say about the election. First, thank God the disgusting campaign we have had to endure for almost two years is now over. Second, the election signals the end of the disastrous presidency of George W. Bush. Third, and best of all, the Republican Party lost, and lost big. The bad thing, of course, is that the American people elected the most liberal and most radical member of the U.S. Senate. But what are we to expect, since the election was nothing but a choice between a socialist and a national socialist?

This has been an extraordinary campaign. The arrogant Libertarian Party candidate, who spent his entire political life as a Republican, campaigned more as a former member of Congress than he did as a libertarian. When will the Libertarian Party realize that since it has no chance of winning the presidency, it might as well run on a radical libertarian platform to get the libertarian message out? Meanwhile, the best candidate in the Republican Party primaries was the true libertarian. Even so, he was treated shamefully by some libertarians, and with utter contempt by others.

This election signifies a wholesale repudiation of the despicable Bush presidency. With his unnecessary wars, infringements of civil liberties, violations of the Constitution, establishment of an imperial presidency, and destruction of the economy, he will go down in history as the worst Republican president since Lincoln.

The Republicans deserved to lose as badly as they did, and

more. Their crony capitalism, profligate spending, massive government, mockery of the Constitution, open-ended wars, acceptance of the neoconservative agenda, and empty rhetoric of free markets and limited government earned them the wrath of voters, who, in response, finished the job they started in the last congressional election.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party's loss is the Democratic Party's gain. This is the party that Strom Thurmond left in 1964, saying, among other things, that it was "leading the evolution of our nation to a socialistic dictatorship." Barack Obama, with his radical associations, his life spent in the service of racial preference, his aberrant Christianity, and his plan to further redistribute the wealth of taxpayers to tax eaters will certainly lead us closer to the promised land of the hard-left state feared by Thurmond. We can expect a bigger, more intrusive, and more interventionist government.

As a Christian, I find Obama's position on abortion reprehensible. But because I believe that pro-life sentiments should be extended to foreigners outside of the womb, I have equal contempt for McCain's support of perpetual war. As usual, no matter who won the election, the American people who treasure more liberty and less government lost. The welfare-warfare state will continue unabated. — Laurence M. Vance

**Our Founders' failures** — Many proponents of gun control justify the obvious constitutional violation by noting that our founders could never have conceived the weaponry available in a modern world. Muskets and cannons were the most technologically advanced weapons of their day; even simple repeating rifles were still years away. This forgivable oversight on the part of our founders is the reason why the Second Amendment is often reinterpreted, even by strict originalists. Only the most ardent libertarians recognize an individual's right to bear a nuclear missile.

I believe another oversight was the founders inability to foresee mass media. In a day when news traveled at the speed of horseback and electricity was a strange force Benjamin Franklin pulled out of the sky, who could have imagined telegraphs? Today radios, televisions, and computers bring candidates into our homes and cars, and it is very easy for the audience to imagine a personal relationship with candidates.

Nor did the founders imagine that their distain they held for democracy would ever be forgotten by the American people. They assumed that the task of appointing a president would always fall to the legislature, unless by rare circumstance the nation would need to rally behind a single candidate. The founders believed that only a handful of men would ever gain the type of national popularity that George Washington held, but in today's political arena he would seem like a folk singer.

So imagine our founders' dismay had they foreseen the election we all witnessed on Nov. 4th. An election that was not based on any real knowledge of a candidate's position or accomplishments, but one based entirely on a cult of personality. The more cynical among us might actually consider Barack Obama the highest level affirmative action appointment in the entire history of equal opportunity. Meanwhile, consider all the wonderful things we have to look forward to: energy rationing, nationalized health care, and mandatory public service have all been suggested. Not to mention