

uarterly Update

BOB DREIZLER, CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Specializing in socially conscious investors

WHO IS THE FISCAL CONSERVATIVE: REAGAN OR CLINTON?

s many of you know, I'm fairly progressive on most social and foreign policy issues. I'm also a fiscal conservative, so I hate the myth that Republican presidents are more fiscally conservative than Democrats.

Bob's

Being a fiscal conservative means trying to balance the federal budget. The chart below compares the last five presidents, two Democrats and three Republicans. Each Republican (in conjunction with Congress) raised expenditures more than they raised revenues during their terms.

With personal finances, if you spend more and earn less, you get into debt and you must eventually deal with the consequences. An administration can go into debt, but that means that a different set of taxpayers will pay for their irresponsibility.

The Reagan administration cultivated the illusion of being fiscally conservative, yet during its eight years in office, total federal debt went up by 186%. And that was without fighting a major war!!

During Clinton's eight years in office, total federal debt went up by 32%. The national debt rose by 47%

during Bush II's first five years in office, with his Iraq War being largely to blame. Despite initial public support for his war, Bush was unwilling to ask current taxpayers to make a financial sacrifice. Instead of paying cash, George W. Bush keeps charging the enormous bills for his folly to our national credit card. Unfortunately for the next generation, this is not the only consequence of the Bush II administration's actions.

During my research, the most stunning chart I found was on the conservative Heritage Foundation website: http://www.heritage.org/research/features/budgetchartbook/charts_C/c3.cfm A couple of other great sites are: http://zfacts.com/p/318.html http://www.cedarcomm.com/~stevelm1/usdebt.htm http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20070529/ 1a_lede29.art.htm

Do ya want \$20?

I'll give you \$20 right now. It's a tax cut, see. What's the catch, you say? We'll just charge \$50 to

> your credit card. That may seem a little unfair, but how else are we going to pay for the enormous tax cuts for the very rich? Do you have to pay it back? Not for a while, maybe never. If you are old enough, you may not have to pay it back at all. We'll send the bill to your children and grandchildren. So, do you want that \$20 or not?

> > NOTE: The current federal debt as of May 17th is \$8,803,253,918,300.67.

President/ Years in office	Deficit as a % of GDP* (infla- tion-adjusted)	Average increase in total federal debt	Average Increase in Revenues	Annual increase in expenditures	Annual S&P 500 perfor- mance
Bush II (6+)	2.6%	9%	(1%)	+6%	+4%
Clinton (8)	0.1%	4%	+8%	+3%	+23%
Bush I (4)	4.3%	14%	+5%	+7%	+13%
Reagan (8)	4.3%	20%	+7%	+8%	+15%
Carter(4)	2.4%	10%	+13%	+13%	+8%

All figures are annual averages. Sources of data include The Heritage Foundation, geocities.com, finance.yahoo.com, U.S. Treasury Department, and the National Priorities Project.

* GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product, the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given year.

TWO GREAT WEBSITES TO FIND ALTERNATIVE NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Below are some excerpts from Texan Jim Hightower's monthly *The Hightower Lowdown*, May, 2007. To subscribe to his newsletter, check out www.hightowerlowdown.com

On Easter morning, George W. made another of his periodic shows of Standing With The Troops. He attended church services in the chapel at Fort Hood in Kileen, Texas, after which he offered to the assembled media this pious little announcement: "I had a chance to reflect on the great sacrifice that our military and their families are making. I prayed for their safety. I prayed for their strength and comfort. And I pray for peace."

He prayed for our troops' safety? How clueless is he? George, you have the troops stuck in another country's vicious civil war...He prayed for peace? George, YOU made this war. Don't put it on God!

Iraq is now costing us \$6 billion a month (the surge will cost extra), and the total direct costs through this year will top \$500 billion. Included in that is \$12 billion that was airlifted in 2003 to the interim Iraqi government in shrink-wrapped stacks of \$100 bills (the load weighed 363 tons) and promptly disappeared. Poof...gone.

HOW TO GET OUT OF IRAQ

By Sherman Stein, Teach Peace Founding Member

I am told there is now an Iraqi government and that Iraq is a democracy. Indeed, twelve million voters there held up their purple fingers. Given that they know how to vote, Iraqis should be encouraged to run a national referendum on the timing of our departure. For instance, the referendum may simply read, Should Coalition Forces be withdrawn as rapidly as possible, that is, within ninety days? Yes or No.

If the verdict is yes, then we will have secured the blessing of a graceful exit.

If it is no, then we are in no worse position than we are now.

Excerpts from the Teach Peace Foundation newsletter. Check out their website: www.teachpeace.com

QUOTES

It requires an exquisite kind of lunacy to spend hundreds of billions destroying America's reputation in the world, exhausting the U.S. military, failing to catch Osama, enhancing Iran's power in the Middle East and sending American kids to train and arm Iraqi forces so they can work against American interests.

— Maureen Dowd

http://select.nytimes.com/2007/01/27/ opinion/27dowd.html?ex=1169960400&en=b74 571ac4318312f&ei=5121&emc=eta1

Poll of Iraqis: "Do you feel the situation in the country is better today or better before the U.S.-led invasion?"

Better today 5% Better before 90% Not sure 5%.

Source: Iraq Centre for Research and Strategic Studies / Gulf Research Center, Methodology: Face-to-face interviews with 2,000 Iraqi adults in Baghdad, Anbar and Najaf, conducted in late November 2006. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent. http://www.angus-Reid.com/polls/index.cfm/ fuseaction/viewItem/itemID/14282

Every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. Raise hell. Think of something to make the ridiculous look ridiculous. Make our troops know we're for them, and that's why we're trying to get them out of there. Hit the streets. Bang pots and pans. Demand, 'Stop it, now!'

- for additional quotes from the late Molly Ivins: http://www.commondreams.org/ views07/0201-24.htm

My website www.bobdreizler.com is regularly updated with new commentaries, art, photos and resources. Please check planned photo exhibits.

How to subscribe or unsubscribe to BQU: EMAIL: Go to "sign up" box at website www.bobdreizler.com MAIL: call my office (916) 444-2233. Your feedback is always appreciated.

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COMING EXHIBITS:

Come check out my "Mannequin Reflection Photo Show." It's **July 14th** at Deep (21st and H Street). There will be a fashion show, festivities, and DJed music by the lovely Stacey Bella.

August 11th my photos will be in the main gallery behind Michelangelo's Restaurant (1727 1/2 I Street). They are also on display there in Studio 2 every Second Saturday.



Click photo to see more photos. Check out my website to get an update on future exhibitions.

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Registered representative with Protected Investors of America, member NASD and SIPC divided the Middle East in the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The Treaty of Sèvres which was ratified by Treaty of Lausanne led to the creation of the modern Middle East and Republic of Turkey. The League of Nations granted France mandates over the Syria and the Lebanon and granted the United Kingdom mandates over the Iraq and the Palestine (which was comprised of two autonomous regions: Palestine and Transjordan). Parts of the Ottoman Empire on the Arabian Peninsula became parts of what are today Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

During World War I, the British and French

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 1) Itan; 2) Afghanistan; 5) Kuwait; 4) Saudi Atabia; 5) Sudan; 6) Egypt; 7) Istael; 8) Jotdan; 9) Syria; 10) Itaq; 11) Azerbaijan; 12) Russia; 13) Turkey; A) Persian Gulf; B) Straight of Hormuz; (C) West Bank; D) Caspian Sea, E) Baghdad, F) Tehtan.



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Bob Dreizler

Financial Con-

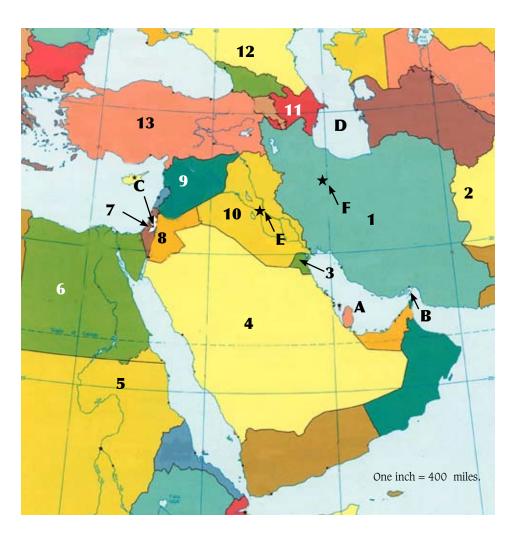
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Return service requested

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

I admit it; I'm a thwarted social studies teacher. This month's quiz tests your geography knowledge. When we discuss the Middle East, it's helpful to see which countries share borders and waterways.

1) Identify the numbered countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan (you may be hearing more about this country soon), Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan (where Dafur is), Syria and Turkey.

2) Identify the lettered geographical locations: Baghdad, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, Straight of Hormuz, Tehran, and West Bank.

Answers are on page 3

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