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Defunding ObamaCare is Just One Battle in a 101-Year War for the Soul of the GOP

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By CHQ Staff | 10/16/13 <http://www.conservativehq.com/article/15156-defunding-obamacare-just-one-battle-101-year-war-soul-gop>

There is some good news in the sellout of the Senate's Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and the subsequent cave-in of Speaker of the House John Boehner that appear to have ended (at least for now) the effort to defund ObamaCare and obtain serious spending reform as part of a deal to raise the debt ceiling.

Conservatives have finally figured out that there's a war for the soul of the Republican Party going on, and they are getting seriously engaged in the battle.

When the conservative grassroots that elects Republicans to Congress rose-up to oppose the full implementation of ObamaCare – a law that will erode liberty, economic opportunity and the foundations of American exceptionalism – you would think that with millions of limited government constitutional conservatives backing them, McConnell, Boehner, Eric Cantor and the rest of the Capitol Hill Republican leadership would have hitched-up their belts and joined Senators Ted Cruz and Mike Lee in fighting ObamaCare to the finish.

Instead, they actively sought to undermine Cruz and Lee and oppose the principles held by their own Party base.

Giving-up the battle to defund ObamaCare and obtain real spending reform as part of a debt ceiling deal, just as Obama began to waiver, has caused even “Republican first” conservatives to ask, “Whose side are McConnell and Boehner on, anyway?”

The answer is that they are on the side of the progressive elite that have controlled the Republican Party for the past 101 years, and for most of that time has been at war with its own conservative supporters.

Except the big-government leaders of the Republican establishment conveniently forgot to tell average Republican voters there was a battle going on.

It's a cinch that you are going to lose a fight – let alone a war – that you don't even know you are in. McConnell and Boehner are simply the latest in a long line of Republican “leaders” who have carried this 101-year war forward without telling the grassroots limited government constitutional conservatives that vote Republican that there was a war going on – and it wasn't with the Democrats – it was between conservatives and the establishment Republican elite.

Even though it looks like we conservatives lost this battle, and ObamaCare will go forward and real spending reform will be postponed, we've seen the whites of the enemy's eyes.

"Political correctness is communist propaganda writ small. In my study of communist societies, I came to the conclusion that the purpose of communist propaganda was not to persuade or convince, nor to inform, but to humiliate; and therefore, the less it corresponded to reality the better. When people are forced to remain silent when they are being told the most obvious lies, or even worse when they are forced to repeat the lies themselves, they lose once and for all their sense of probity. To assent to obvious lies is to co-operate with evil, and in some small way to become evil oneself. One's standing to resist anything is thus eroded, and even destroyed. A society of emasculated liars is easy to control. I think if you examine political correctness, it has the same effect and is intended to."

- Theodore Dalrymple

Conservatives now know there's a war going on, and they know who the enemy is; the inside elite of the Republican Party in Washington and their own state capitals.

That is good news.

More importantly, we now have a list of targets that conservatives will actively be recruiting candidates to oppose in upcoming GOP primary elections, and from the strategic perspective of taking over the Republican Party, electing conservatives and eventually governing America according to limited government constitutional conservative principles that is a victory.



Pro-Union, Crony-Capitalist Thinking Dooms Another Employer

Mises Daily: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 by [Christopher Westley](#)

It's an old story. A manufacturing plant in a small town announces an impending closing, threatening to devastate the local economy and the many families that depend on it. Panic ensues, and politicians intervene. There's a sense of injustice in the air. Can anything be done?

Although this scenario played itself out many dozens of times in the area now known as the Rust Belt, it was set in motion last week in Northwest Alabama with the announcement that International Paper planned to shutter its largest manufacturing facility in the world — a massive, 42-year-old paper mill in Courtland with more than 1,100 employees, including maintenance workers earning wages that range between \$20 to \$32 an hour. These were good jobs — if you could get into the union and if paper demand was sufficient to keep those workers productive enough to justify the union wage.

The problem is, the demand fell as communication became more electronic, causing a business model that fit the 1970s to become unworkable in the 2010s. There is much that should be learned from this event, and as much as I feel for the people in Lawrence County whose lives will be upended by it, I'm afraid the lessons will not be heeded.

The first lesson applies to the nefarious influences of the economic development offices that exist in every state and compete with each other for large manufacturing employers. This state's plucky EDO, the Alabama Development Office, is considered by many to be the gold standard in this area, leaving states like New York and California in the dust while enabling firms like Airbus, ThyssenKrupp, Mercedes, and Hyundai to establish major operations in the state's politically favored regions.

The trade-off is that the millions of dollars and incentives that go to these firms come from conscripted funds that would otherwise be directed privately in the form of investment or consumption. These *unseen* effects include investment projects foregone — perhaps in Lawrence County itself— in order to fund the EDO's redistributive policies. Forcing taxpayers to finance economic development, as opposed to allowing savers to direct their resources to projects they believe will reflect their highest valued use, highlights the contrast between violent means of the government and the peaceful means of the market. Crony operations such as economic development offices exist at the expense of the latter.



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Adding insult to injury, EDOs also create a sense of entitlement, even on the part of those entities not favored by the political players who run them. We're seeing this in Alabama, where workers and politicians have called for the state to intervene to stop International Paper from shutting down, arguing that if conscripted capital partly financed the Honda plant in Lincoln, why can't it also save paper jobs in Northwest Alabama? They forget, however, that International Paper does not exist to maximize employment or wages but to satisfy consumer demand, and that corporate graveyards are filled with firms that lost their focus on the latter.

The second lesson applies to the union labor force that enables their employees to earn more in wages than their individual productivity contributes in the form of revenues to the firm. When this happens, firms lose money by employing such labor, and since labor laws overwhelmingly support the worker over management, companies often have no recourse other than to shut down operations when economic forces turn against them.

Would the Courtland plant remain open if workers were allowed to accept reduced hours or wages more in line with the demand for its output? We'll never know.

The last lesson is that any economy, and especially small local economies, should never become dependent on one or a few employers. The problem is that large, unionized operations such as International Paper's often have the effect of scaring away capital investment over time.

As a result, economies become less diversified and provide poor work opportunities for future generations of workers. This phenomenon explains not only why International Paper's arrival in Courtland in 1971 may have proved to be its death knell in 2013, but also why Rust Belts happen in the first place.

How different life might be for International Paper employees today if they had other work options in and around the Tennessee Valley. (The message for possible long-term effects of unionizing labor in Tuscaloosa County is obvious.)

Painful lessons like this one are avoidable when business plans and policies do not violate economic laws, when governments refrain from favoring certain forms of capital or labor over others and when firms remain free to adjust their operations in response to changes in the overall economy. When this is the case, old stories like the one coming out of Courtland will be told far less frequently.

Note: The views expressed in Daily Articles on Mises.org are not necessarily those of the Mises Institute.

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Some of the local economic development offices:

Fairbanks North Star Borough Region 99707

Fairbanks Economic Development Corp. - FTZ 195 City 99701

Fairbanks Alaska Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism 99701

www.co.fairbanks.ak.us

www.investfairbanks.com

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Lesson from the Shutdown: Ignore the Feds and Nullify

By [Brian Roberts](#) on October 17, 2013 in [Featured](#), [Tenther 101 5 17](#)

Well, the shutdown is over!

- Veterans, visit the memorials. You're free of barricades!
- Hikers, walk in the woods again. It's legal.
- Rangers, put the handles back on water fountains. These people are thirsty.
- Troopers, open up those scenic off-ramps. Mount Rushmore's gonna dance.
- Michelle Obama, get back to tweeting. We need centrally planned lunches.
- Everyone, your favorite .gov website is back online. Except healthcare.gov, that one is special.

But wait, what was accomplished by the shutdown? If your thinking "nothing", you win. Of course the shutdown didn't stop Obamacare, it never had a chance.

From beginning to end, the People aggressively petitioned DC, campaigned for federal politicians, wrote stern letters to existing US Representatives, installed new ones, marched on Washington, put their hope in the United States Supreme Court and finally relied on Congress to use their power of the purse to defund the ACA. There was a whole list of federal cult of personality leaders too. Brown will save us. Judge Roberts will save us. Cruz will surely save us. But they couldn't, and they didn't.

With regards to Obamacare, there is nothing to show for all this effort. The dream that Obamacare might be stopped at the federal level is over. Federal politicians will never limit the accrual of power to Washington DC; and on issue after issue they prove that they never will. It's time to get serious, time to involve our state governments and simply say "no".

The problem is Centralization

What we are faced with is a problem of centralized power. This is not a problem that can be solved by asking the central power to limit itself. It's easy to consider that between 2010 and 2013 the People made every effort possible to sway federal direction.

Since the problem is centralization, it is only solved by decentralization of power. Decentralization begins when states stand in defense of the People and say "no".

In 1800, Jefferson attempted to dissuade us from the path that would lead to the situation we find ourselves in today when he wrote

"Our country is too large to have all its affairs directed by a single government. Public servants at such a distance, & from under the eye of their constituents, must, from the circumstance of distance, be unable to administer & overlook all the details necessary for the good government of the citizens, and the same circumstance, by rendering detection impossible to their constituents, will invite the public agents to corruption, plunder & waste. And I do verily believe, that if the principle were to prevail, of a common law being in force in the U S, which principle possesses the general government at once of all the powers of the state governments, and reduces us to a single consolidated government, it would become the most corrupt government on the earth."

Obama Rated 5th Best President

Yes, of the 44 US Presidents: Obama rated 5th best president ever! The Democratic Party publicity release said, "...after a little more than four years, Americans have rated President Obama the 5th best president ever."

*The details, according to White House Publicists, read like this...

- * Reagan, Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson and 6 others tied for first.
- * 15 presidents tied for second.
- * 17 other presidents tied for third.
- * Jimmy Carter came in 4th.
- * Obama came in fifth

The Prescription from 2010, Still good today!

The day after the "Affordable Care Act" was signed by Obama, the Tenth Amendment Center provided the keys to battling the unconstitutional legislation. Below you will find the cliff notes version. If you would like to read the entire article, you can find it here: <http://tenthamendmentcenter.com/2010/03/21/kill-the-bill-invoke-the-10th/>

Ignore Washington D.C. – They are ignoring you, return the favor. How can you really expect them to feel any pressure to represent you? Yes, morally your expectations are valid because they should do the will of the people. Unfortunately, the reality is without the power to exert an opposing force, you will continue to be disregarded as a mere annoyance.

Own your State – The best way to enter a market (in this case a political market) is to dominate a small market, own it and then expand from there. The reason this works is that limited resources can be used to exert a dominant influence on an identified target and you can expand from there. In our case, the small market that we can dominate quickly is our state government. From here we can team with other like-minded states and form a block of resistance that has real legal possibilities, much more powerful than rallies, letters and phone calls.

Ignore the Feds, Empower the States – Regardless of what today's media would have you believe, state representatives are not elected state paper-shufflers of federal mandates. State governments share power with the federal government as equal partners in a system designed to decentralize power and protect the People from foreign and domestic threats. Ignoring D.C. actually means that we must use state governments to defy unconstitutional federal laws. The federal government itself must be identified as the threat and we must use the legal power of our state governments under the 10th amendment to eliminate the threat, and formally ignore unconstitutional mandates.

Expect a Federal Response – For the most part, the federal government has ignored any resistance to the health care bill. Once we begin to focus our attention on the state governments, everything changes. The media will be unable to ignore a block of defiant states. Personally, you will be ridiculed, but once states exhibit defiance the federal government shifts it's focus to the states not the individuals. That's when you will know that you are not being ignored anymore.

Win – We must again in no uncertain terms confirm the revolutionary message that the People are the source of power. The federal government must fear the people, and the state governments are the legal method in which to achieve this goal. Jefferson clarified the goal: "When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty."

Fortunately, this is still the "rightful remedy." The bad news is we have wasted three and a half years. The good news is that with all the "begging the feds to limit themselves" nonsense behind us we can get down to business without distractions. Our focus, like a laser, should shift permanently to working with state representatives to draft, promote and pass state-level nullification of all unconstitutional laws.

Ignore the Feds, Empower the States.

About Brian Roberts

Brian Roberts is a long-time volunteer with the [Texas TAC](#) and a regular contributor to the Tenth Amendment Center website.



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The Diner 244 Illinois St.
Big I 122 N Turner St
Elegant Memories Antiques 514 2nd Ave
Bulgogi Grill 400 College Rd
Alaska Rare Coins 551 2nd Ave. Suite B
Soapy Smith's Restaurant 543 2nd Ave.
Custom Leather & Gifts 535 2nd Ave
River City Cafe 523 2nd Ave
Larson's Locksmith & Security 1249 Noble St.
Dick Randolph Insurance Agency 12th and Cushman
Jim Bradbury State Farm Insurance 1401 Turner
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