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Cartoons - Linking the Past to the Present

by Joe Escobar - Friday, November 25, 2016, 1:54 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Cartoons - Linking the Past to the Present topic. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use the cartoon NUMBER and an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Cartoons - Linking the Past to the Present

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Are our voices really being heard?

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, November 26, 2016, 4:34 PM

This cartoon in my opinion reflects heavily on the historical events we have studied in class because often times as we see in the example of using legislatures, certain people are voicing their dissatisfaction with the government and the way it is run while others are in support of these acts yet still being punished by them. The police officers are shown in the picture are not the exact example that comes to mind, but one example would be that when colonies acted out against Britain they were also charged with the damages by colony and often times loyalists or people that supported the government had to pay these taxes or reparations for things they didn't support simply because someone else representing them spoke out. I agree with the overall message of this picture because simply put it seems that many times voices aren't heard to the full extent and people are often times in many senses punished for something they don't support simply because that is the way our government is run. I believe the winner take all electoral college system we are subject to is another current example of this.



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cartoon 3

by Joshua Vieira - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 4:46 PM

Finally reading the Constitution of the United States after Mr. Escobar has asked us to do, to see what powers do the government actually have, I find the 3rd cartoon to really hits the point on the strict interpretation of the constitution. Amendment 14 section 1 says "All persons born or naturalized in the United States...are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." This amendment passed in 1866 according to page A-16 in the back of our history book. The cartoon humors me because the interpretation of these words means as long as you have a baby in this country THEY are considered American citizens with all privileges given. Those

words are pretty straight forward but I can see what the cartoon is trying to say that someone shouldn't be able to have a baby in this country only to be taken back to their country and live their life with dual citizenship with extra privileges. I, for one, believe in the words of the constitution on this matter are pretty black and white but it shows how people try to interpret the constitution to twist it towards their political party as the far right guy is trying to do in the cartoon.

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Cartoon #7 - Executive Orders

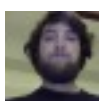
by Heather Shepherd - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 4:54 PM

This cartoon represents the three branches of the federal government (executive, judicial and legislative) as actual branches on a tree. The Executive "branch" has cut off the other two branches with a chainsaw. My interpretation of this cartoon is that the artist is a strict constructionist who does not agree with the president's authority to issue executive orders. It's true that the Constitution does not explicitly grant presidents the power to create these laws, but loose constructionists believe the authority to do so is implied within the phrase "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed" in Article II. While every president in our country's history has issued executive orders, many believe that presidents can and do take advantage of this "loophole" to pass laws that would otherwise be rejected by Congress, essentially circumventing the checks and balances on the executive branch. This is represented in the cartoon by the "cutting off" of the other two branches.

I do agree that executive orders can be a slippery slope. Many presidents from all political parties have wrongly exploited this authority, and if taken too far it can result in unchecked executive power that can rival a dictatorship. However, in the midst of national emergencies, widespread environmental degradation and a stagnant Congress, I can also understand why these orders are essential. One such notable order, the Emancipation Proclamation, is one of the greatest civil rights achievements of our nation's history. So I think the condemnation of all executive orders would be a very unpopular opinion.

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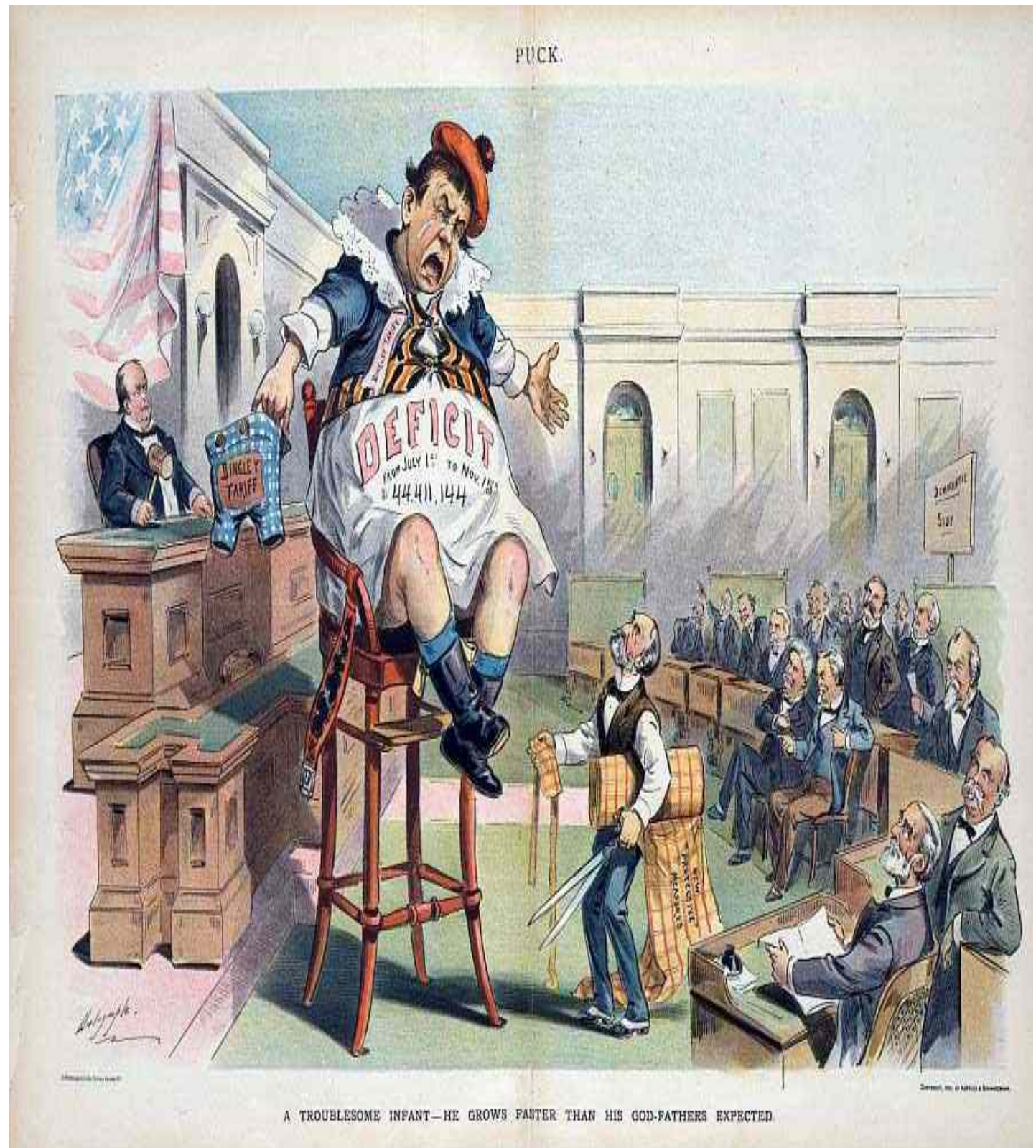


Hamilton's debt had a Deficit Baby?

by Skye Lipson - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 4:57 PM

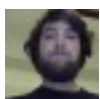
Though this image is relating to a tariff passed in 1897, the fine print says "A troublesome infant -- he grows faster than his godfather's expected". I can not be completely sure but I am guessing that the hamiltonian federalists who first advocated for a large national debt are who is meant by godfathers. It may be saying that the hamiltonians never expected the national debt to grow as out of control as it

ended up later on. Though this does not connect to our classwork with absolute certainty, and though I can not guarantee the accuracy of this comic historically because it is from a later period in our nation's history. I think that it has relevance to our class and to nowadays. Alexander Hamilton was the one who aimed to establish a large national debt during the time we have studied, and as we can see in this comic, if it is to be believed, the debt has started to grow out of proportion. Today our deficit is steadily rising as well, so this picture (at least the giant deficit baby) should have a sense of familiarity to it.



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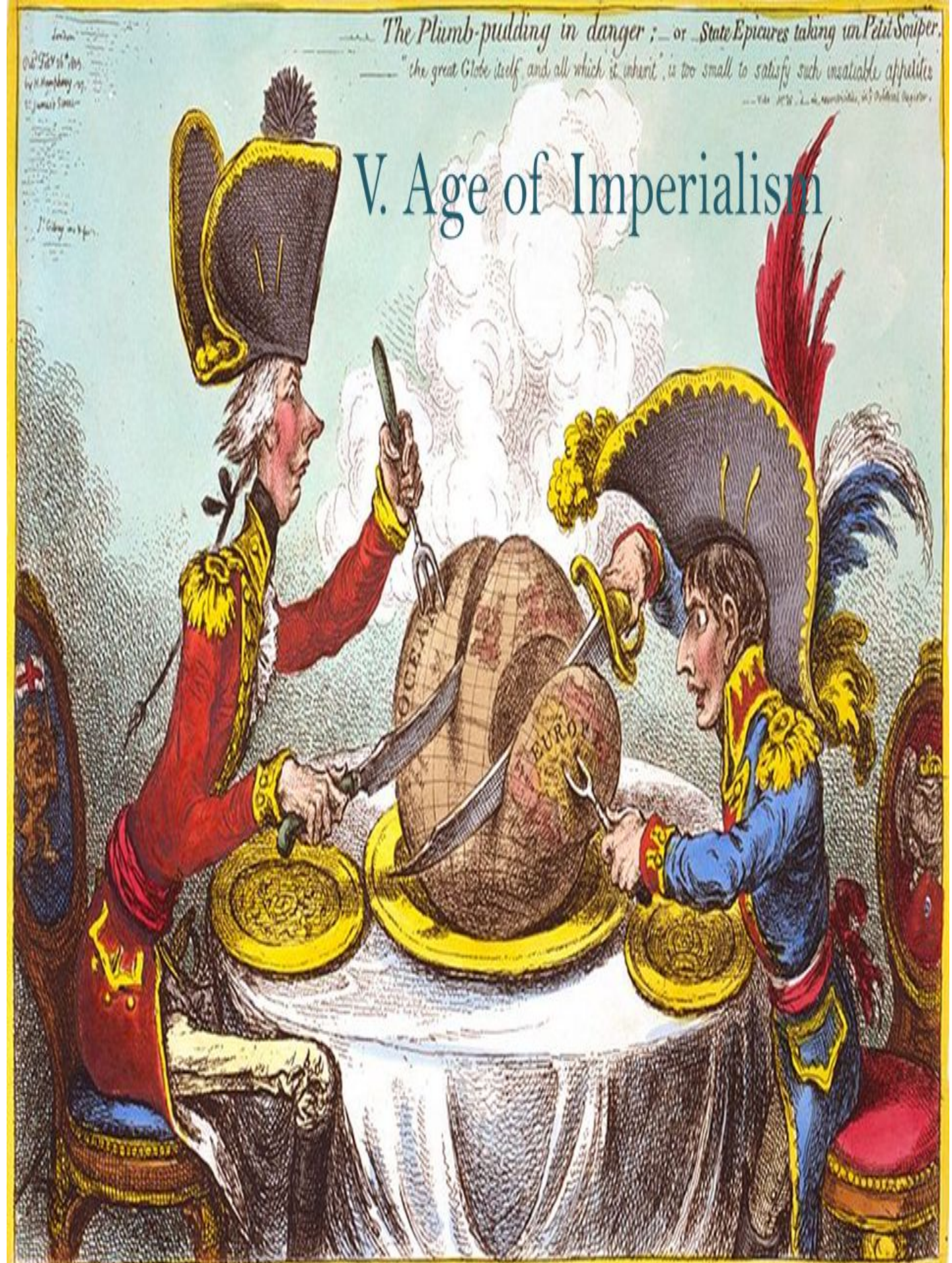


A feast for Empires

by Skye Lipson - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 5:33 PM

I think that it is the Napoleonic War between France and Britain. France in this image is clearly portrayed as being small in comparison to the red coat (which is clearly the British), which I think is trying to imitate Napoleon's rumored short-height. Napoleon is shown to be carving all of mainland Europe onto his platter while Britain settles for the ocean (which is accurate because Britain's main strength came from its Navy. "Ocean" is clearly written on the British slice and "Europe" is clearly written over Europe on the the French slice. It may also be implied by this drawing that the British is also carving America onto its plate. It was Britain's encroachments on American Sovereignty that led to the war of 1812 which we have studied as a class.

I think that this cartoonist is well versed in history (at least in this portion of it) and did a good job displaying metaphorically the specific issue that was invoked in the cartoon. I agree with the message in this cartoon because it is less making a statement about political opinion and rather displaying a known truth, that both of these nations had largely Imperial tendencies.



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Re: A feast for Empires

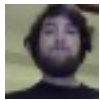
by Joshua Vieira - Monday, November 28, 2016, 10:09 PM

I agree with you on the imperial tendencies of England and France. Napoleon was a dictator who wanted to bring back the grandeur of France. Our book says “Napoleon’s armies won a decisive victory over Austria and Russia at the Battle of

Austerlitz and won effective control of Europe” (p.g. 262). The cartoon is perfectly showing how Napoleon wanted all of Europe and England still wanted to dominate the seas. British naval supremacy maintained a blockade that sent us to war even though we tried to stay neutral and Napoleon called on our treaty with them to side with France. The cartoon shows that these two countries wanted to dominate the world and cutting the slices that mattered to them the most. I like the little saying that is hard to read but perfectly sums up the imperial attitude of these two nations. “the great globe itself, and all which it inherit, is too small to satisfy such insatiable hunger”

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To Date, Half of the War

by Skye Lipson - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 6:14 PM

This cartoon was made by Benjamin Franklin concerning the Stamp Act.

My interpretation of this was that it was: A Native American Woman that represents America is found lying somberly missing several limbs, each with the name of a colony. Towers in the background perhaps represent the crown's power.

This interpretation of course makes little sense given the reality of the Stamp Act.

It turns out that the lady is England, and the stamp act had the effect of severing her limbs from her body. Or in other words, Franklin's message was that such an act by parliament was self sabotaging and would result in the loss of the colonies.

I tried to translate the latin and it roughly seems to mean: "Date (necessarily) or (1/2) a piece of war"

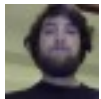
I think that this is trying to say that England has half-engaged in war with her colonies or as the picture puts it, her own limbs. This shows the strong feeling of the time that the colonists felt they were a part of England, as they are here represented by her limbs, potentially further implying that they saw themselves as being dramatically important to England (perhaps more than they actually were). I also find it curious that Franklin seemingly expected the Stamp Act to lead to a revolution or "war" as the latin banner seems to imply.

Given my knowledge of the future, I must certainly agree to a large extent with the forecast made by this comic. This was the first act that led to the Revolutionary war, and Britain did lose a part of herself. Although, I do not agree with Franklin that the colonies were as important to England as such vile amputations as are displayed might seem to suggest. After 1783 England still controlled the seas, and England still remained a world power.



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Correction Perhaps...

by Skye Lipson - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 7:12 PM

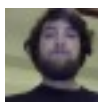
Originally Google translate gave me what I wrote above. Looking deeper into the meaning of the Latin Phrase I find that it may mean: Give a Penny for Bellisarius (Date Obolum Bellisario) which to me makes much more sense. Given that da in Spanish (a Latin language) is the command for give, and Obolum in google translate means half, which could mean half-pence, or whatever they used at the time, and Bellisario means the Byzantine general Bellisarius, who would represent might and power (simply based on his status as a general).

Given this information I am forced to interpret this comic again. After having Mutilated herself, by severing the colonies loyalties with the Stamp Act, Britain the once all powerful is forced to beg for the least valuable of coins as without the colonies she has lost her footing in the world economy and lost her grip on world trade.

I do not agree with this message if this was in fact the intended message that Franklin had intended. As I said in the main post, England remained powerful after the Revolution. Even more, the states continued trade with England in what was largely a continuation of past trade practices (save for British taxes).

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Slaughter for What?

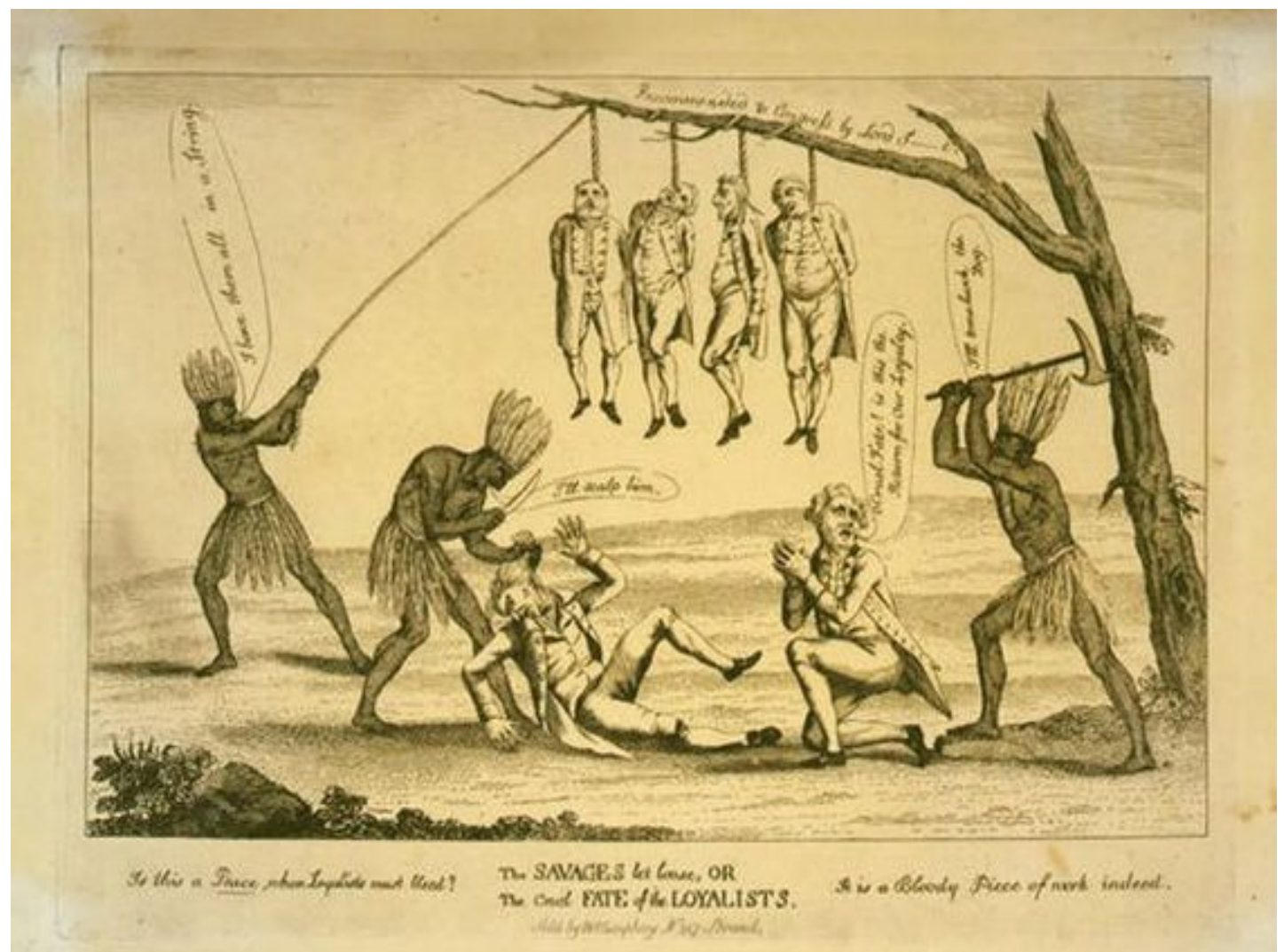
by Skye Lipson - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 6:44 PM

This comic shows a scene in which Native-Americans are lynching colonists, the comic asks at the bottom: The savages let loose *or* The end fate of the loyalists.

This comic seems to be loyalist or frontier propaganda that is accusing the patriots of collusion with the Native-American tribes. Though really, the British actually had a larger Native-American backing.

I think that this is an accurate historical depiction because there have both been times when Native-Americans have fought whites for their own causes (Metacom's War, Tecumseh, The Red Sticks, and many others), and also many times including the Revolution in which Native-Americans were urged to fight for European causes.

On a less literal level the native Americans in this image could actually represent the patriots, and in that case the hanging men would most likely be colonial governors. In such an interpretation this comic would most definitely represent the end of the loyalists.



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Re: Slaughter for What?

by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 6:07 PM

To me this comic represents the idea that if the patriots went against the British crown they were consider no better than to be savages. I'm with you that this is loyalist propaganda on the state of the colonies of the time. Depending on the time of this cartoon, the artist wanted to use the image of blood-thirsty savages destroying all that was good and decent of the British colonies and that would of certainly be the patriots. The artist might of used the images if Indians because of the Boston Tea Party and how the patriots dressed up like Indian to destroy the tea shipment.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #9

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Sunday, November 27, 2016, 11:51 PM

I believe that this cartoon relates to what we have been studying about in class. In this cartoon it shows how white people feel their freedom is being threatened by the government very much how the colonists felt that their freedom was being threatened by the British. Then off to the side in this cartoon you see an African American being held down by police and saying to the man reading the newspaper, "Speak for yourself." While the man reading the newspaper is saying, "Big gov't is a threat to our freedom." I feel that this hits in American history in a way with how the slaves were treated by their masters. The masters didn't see them as people they only saw them as objects that could be bought and sold as it pleased them. You don't see the white man showing any concern for the African American individual being held down by the police, he's just continuing on his way reading the newspaper. I agree with the point of view in this cartoon because it shows how even in the year 2016 African Americans are still being mistreated by white people, though not as bad as during the years of slavery.

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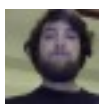
Re: Cartoon #9

by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 5:31 PM

That's a great analysis of the cartoon and how it can be applied to past events. I didn't really think of it in the terms you wrote but I can see it now. The colonist started this country on the freedom to do want they wanted without government interfering with them and their pursuit of happiness. Even though James Madison penned "all men are created equal", this was only to mean white men and not American Indians or African Americans and the cartoon shows how it still can be applied today.

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Relative Stake

by Skye Lipson - Friday, December 2, 2016, 6:16 PM

I think your interpretation of this current event political cartoon is well-thought. There was a sort of irony in the revolutionary period in that everyone wanted liberty and saw freedom as an inherent human right, yet they hypocritically denied that same inherent human right to slaves under the guise that slaves were only sub-human. Though in Massachusetts the courts did mandate the freeing of slaves based on the ideals of freedom written in their state constitution.

I personally think that that cartoon can be taken more in context of relative slavery, or relative freedom. Clearly the man reading the paper complaining about big government does not have the same level of stake in the issue as the man being tackled by a group of police. So when similarly the American whites complain about their freedom being limited by British Imperialism, the slaves of the time are clearly more oppressed and less free. It would seem that the colonists are talking about the greater problems that affect the black population rather than their own, as the whites were for the most part free while the blacks were slaves. The comic makes this same point differently, by illustrating the white complaining about big government while that same issue is clearly affecting the black to a higher degree of relevance.

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Re: Cartoon #9

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 3:25 AM

I agree entirely with what you said, I interpreted the image in a similar way with a different approach in the sense that both of us believed it was showing that certain people's voices aren't being heard but I didn't really think of it as a racial issue. Now that I read yours I realize that that is probably more accurate than my initial interpretation and I think it is unfortunately very accurate. A lot of times in this country you see people pushing for change but there are much larger issues at hand like that fact that not all ethnicities are treated equally.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon #5

by Morganne Roy - Monday, November 28, 2016, 1:25 PM

In cartoon #5, we see a picture of James Madison writing the 2nd Amendment, when a man bursts through his door holding a rifle (probably automatic) saying, "James, check out this baby!". To which Madison's response is simply, "Woah!" In the background, the text says, "A well regulated militia".

The implication, as I see it, is that if Madison had known the extent to which weaponry would advance, he would have been more cautious in his language; that he wouldn't have considered automatics to be appropriate tools for the general populace to own. In that sense, I would say that this cartoon is "pro gun-control", and advocates for the restriction of guns like the one pictured.

In one sense, you could consider the argument as strict constructionist, because it says we should adhere to the original intent of the Founding Fathers-- the "muskets only" side of the dispute. In another sense, it's extremely loose constructionist, because it argues against the way the Amendment has been traditionally interpreted, and as well allocates greater power to the government by restricting the right to bear arms.

In the back of our textbook A-10 Appendix B, the Amendments to the constitution are listed. The 2nd Amendment says, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

Personally, I don't see anything in this short sentence that would indicate the government has the right to restrict automatic weapons. I also think that it's an illogical argument that gun control would decrease violent crimes, given that most firearm related crimes are committed with handguns, not rifles. I think the real strict constructionist view is opposed to gun control, not in favor.

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Mariah Doyle - Friday, December 2, 2016, 9:23 PM

I agree with what you said that the creator of the cartoon's implication of the meaning was- that if Madison knew what weaponry looked like in the present day he would have reconsidered the wording of his amendment. I (sounds like you do as well) disagree with this. James Madison was not an ignorant man, he obviously didn't think that the guns they had in 1790 were never going to advance. Our textbook states that "the Second and Third Amendments, prompted by old fears of a standing army, guaranteed the continuation of a militia of armed citizens" (P. 240). Madison's goal was to allow citizens to be armed, and for their right to not be infringed upon. He would not have been scared by the modern day weapon, in fact he would most likely be amazed by it instead.

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Morganne Roy - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 3:06 PM

I find it harder to believe the argument that Madison wouldn't have been okay with today's weapons than the argument that he would have been alright with them. Mainly because technological advances have been present throughout all history and there's no reason to believe that when he was writing the 2nd Amendment thought to himself, "Gee, I suppose these here muskets are the best weapons the world will ever make. Nobody would be stupid enough to make something more dangerous than this. If that ever happens, I hope future citizens will be smart enough to interpret my words correctly so that only the benign government can hold them."

Obviously that's hyperbole I'm using just to make my point. However, it seems to me Madison would have expected technology to advance, and would have wanted people to have a sufficient means to protect themselves from a tyrannical government-- which in my view is the ultimate goal of having a populace be well armed. When governments restrict guns, the guns don't stop existing. It just means the government is the only one with access to them. Technology will always advance. The Founders believed the hearts of men are constant. I can't remember where this comes from but I've heard it said, "The only radical political idea anyone has ever had is not Communism-- it's freedom. Because our natural inclination is towards slavery." I think the 2nd Amendment was written so that we could have the ability, should the need arise, to conserve that radical freedom.

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Cartoon 5

by Judith Pohl - Monday, November 28, 2016, 4:31 PM

There have been and always will be endless debates over the right to bear arms. This cartoon portrays a look at history with James Madison writing the second amendment and some major issues we face today. Madison's reaction to the AK 47 "WHOA," is perhaps representation of regretting what he just written.

The second amendment, as stated in appendix B of the textbook, simply states "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." A "well regulated militia" to me could mean two things either those of the age of serving in the military, which in the 18th century could mean as young as 16 or it could mean ONLY those who are actively serving in the military. Also, who is "regulating" this? This is such a vague description for a very large issue.

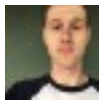
The second part of the amendment addresses "we shall not be infringed," which many who support gun rights will use in their arguments. What happens when those right to bear Arms NEED to be infringed upon because it has lead our nation to a sense of vulnerability and constant fear. Why on earth are we allowing those who are exhibiting a violent behavior given the rights to bear arms? Why do I have to talk to

my kids about what to do if a shooter enters their classroom? This is a fear that I would say is much more common than when I was growing up because, sad to say, this fear has become almost the norm. Although on the other end of the spectrum if we take away those rights to bear arms to everyone we take away the right for us to protect ourselves and our children. It's a double-edged sword.

This cartoon, although simple, does a great job of showing that there are many different issues that we face now with guns and safety than those in the 18th century. I'm not by any means saying that there wasn't a need bear arms in the 18th century or that those rights need to be taken away now. It's a very big argument that might not have a conclusion anytime soon.

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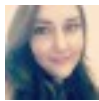
Re: Cartoon 5

by Jacob Parris - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 3:30 PM

I like what you said about this part of the constitution and who is regulating the militia as being vague, I think that it creates an opening for loose constructionism, and looking at it in our 21st century glasses, you would think that with such a big issue that this is, that they would have taken more into consideration. I also understand why it was not very specific, because at the time, the technology did not support such automatic weapons that we see today.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Heather Shepherd - Friday, December 2, 2016, 7:45 PM

I think in the context of early America, militias were completely separate from the military. A standing national army takes its orders from the government, and at the time militias were citizen "armies" that protected their communities FROM the government. Colonists felt militias were necessary to fight back against British oppression (and taxes), and so this right was built into the constitution, essentially allowing citizens to take up arms against their government if it ever became corrupt.

You raise some great points. Since we don't have formal militias in today's America, how should we be interpreting this amendment? And the phrase "well-regulated," as Prof. Escobar mentioned in class, basically means "well-trained." But your question is still valid - if militias were around today, who would train them?

On a side note, I always thought it was interesting how even the most strict constructionists can interpret this amendment pretty loosely!

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 3:33 AM

I love the detail you put into this, and I agree that this is a major issue or concern that we are faced with in our nation today, and that owning machine guns wasn't intended when this right was written. I personally believe that this particular right needs to be re-evaluated because the nature of guns and what is required to protect someone has changed a lot since this write was written. I also believe that the requirements for owning a gun should be down to more than just a license so that the issue you addressed of shootings not being an unlikely occurrence will change. I also think it is worth not that especially today there are many ways just as effective but not as legal to protect yourself as using a gun. Again though as you mentioned this is a major issue with a lot of avenues that I certainly am unlikely to have answers for. Nice review!

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Cartoon #11

by Garrett Richards - Monday, November 28, 2016, 5:19 PM

When I take a look at all these cartoons I laugh at only the ones I truly understand. Cartoon #11 caught my eye because it is the most relatable to today. The media is a very huge organization that influences, shares, degrades, sets standards, etc of what is going on around the world and of course politics. Over the past couple months throughout the presidential debate, the media has not stopped bashing Trump and praising Hillary. This cartoon is very easy to relate/understand. The media is all for Hillary due to the sticker on the characters shirt and the sign in the box. This relates to what we have been reviewing over the past couple of weeks because when it comes to picking our next president, it is a big decision for our country. Overall I do agree with this cartoon because whenever I am on social media, I see nothing but Hillary>Trump. "As a #NeverTrumper, I had hoped that the election would prompt a moment of reckoning and introspection, not merely about conservative values but also the role of the conservative media," (Politicomagazine). Another sign of media bashing Trump is not only all the hashtags that were created during the past couple of months, but because most media are all conservative.

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Re: Cartoon #11

by Reed Hueter - Friday, December 2, 2016, 9:38 AM

I also found cartoon #11 funny because of how much influence the media has in today's world. My whole childhood I grew up learning about how the media can shape how everyone thinks, telling them what the norms are, good or bad. The entire presidential election was for the most part broadcasted in favor of Hillary Clinton, and continually highlighted Trump slips and anything that they could do to make Trump look like an alien. All of the pre-election polls stated that Clinton would win and this cartoon shows the shock when the outcome yielded a different result. This shows that the people of America really wanted a change and the media can portray false information all the time. In our founding father's days, elections were so similar. Just like Escobar showed us in class involving Jefferson and Madison, degrading the other presidential nominee has been around forever, and so has media. However, maybe the media isn't as influential as we think anymore.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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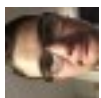
Re: Cartoon #11

by Garrett Richards - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 1:34 PM

I like how you added the founding fathers because it is true. The same thing that happened this election with Trump vs Hilary, the media made it seem like everyone liked Hilary and not Trump. When I first saw this cartoon I didn't think of the disappointment on the characters face when Trump one, so that was a good point that you pointed out. I believe not only media these days, but also these cartoons can persuade the younger generation to believe certain political views because of how much they interact with these kind of things on a day to day basis due to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc...

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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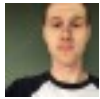


Re: Cartoon #11

by Jabon Hagel - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8:02 PM

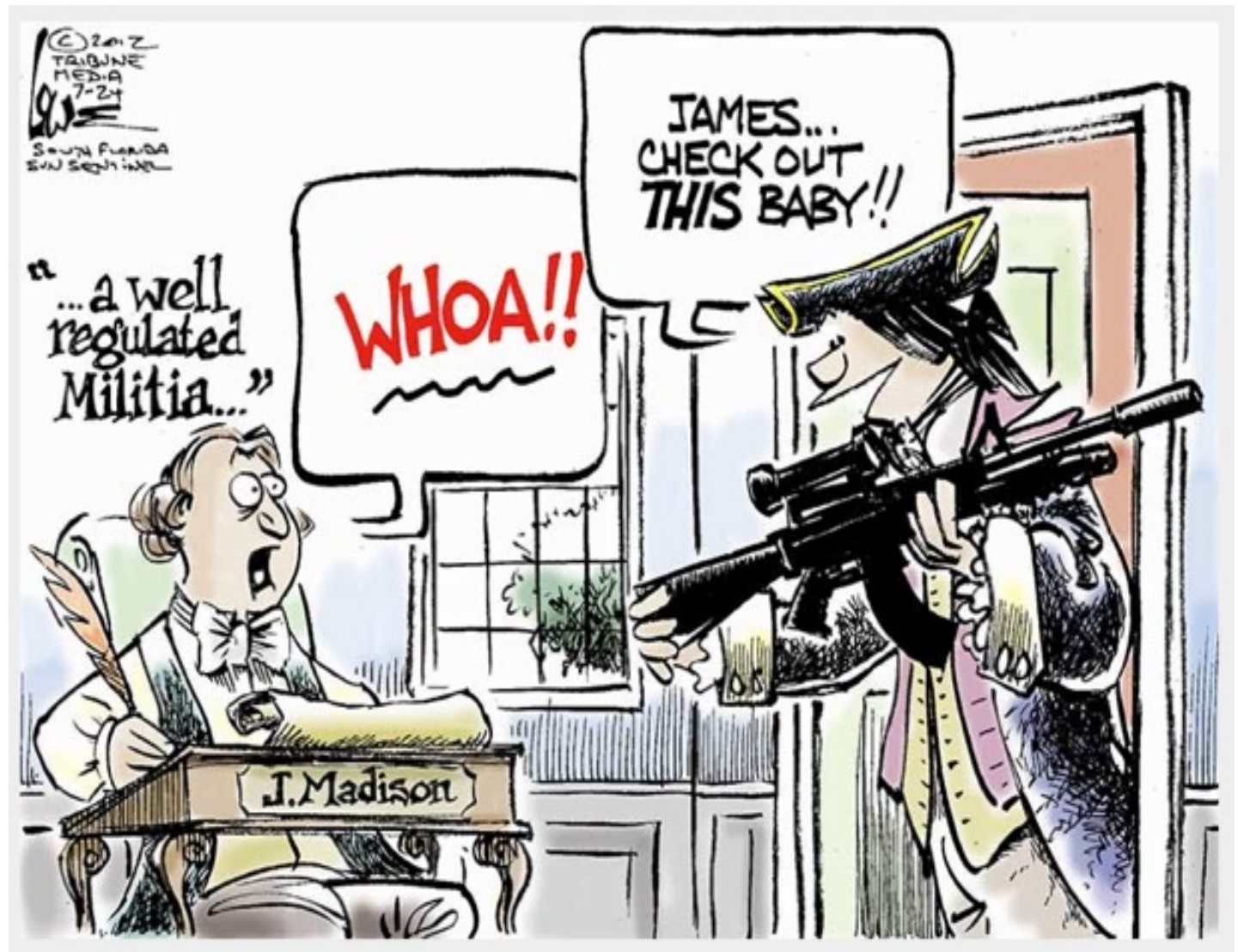
If the media doesn't agree with you then in turn no one will. I find it to be so true. The media has the power to blow everything out of proportion whether it's true or not.

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Cartoon #5

by Jacob Parris - Monday, November 28, 2016, 6:46 PM



In this cartoon, we have James Madison writing in the constitution the part about having the right to a well regulated Militia and the right to bear arms, when a soldier enters his room holding a 21st century automatic weapon. James' Madison exclaims as he is shown this weapon. I believe this cartoon shows that when the founding fathers were writing the constitution and added this to the list of rights, I don't think they could even comprehend the idea of automatic weapons. So now that we have them and there are so many shootings and tragedies today, there is a camp of people that want to ban automatic weapon purchases to the public, and there is also a camp of people that feel that those actions of banning automatic weapons infringes on their constitutional rights. There are also people in the middle of this issue of gun control and is worth having a healthy discussion.



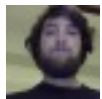
Re: Cartoon #5

by Joshua Vieira - Monday, November 28, 2016, 9:53 PM

The right to bear arms and to have a well regulated militia was given to us to protect ourselves from a foreign invader or our own government. When Madison wrote the right to bear arms it was to protect us from England, France, and Spain. We were a small country just getting our feet on the ground and we were easy prey to the well established countries around the world. The founding fathers knew that we could be thrown into another war and wanted to make sure we were prepared. Amendment 2 states "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state". In my opinion they wanted us to have protection from invaders that wanted to dismantle all they fought for in making a new country. The founding fathers didn't intend for us to have 50 plus guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition at our private disposal. They intended that we have the right to have a gun to protect our homes, properties, persons, and our country. If they knew the kind of firepower that we are able to invent I sure they would have worded the amendment better.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The What If No-No

by Skye Lipson - Friday, December 2, 2016, 6:25 PM

It is possible that the amendment may have been worded differently if that were the case, BUT this comic takes part in a big no-no which is better left to fantasy/sci fi media to cover, and that is "the what if situation". **What if** they had known about automatic rifles? They didn't. For a history class that is how that question should be answered. It is better to theorize about why the events that did take place happened. Not what may have taken place in a magical reality where some totally different set of historical events might have taken place.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Garrett Richards - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 1:52 PM

I sometimes think to myself if James Madison ever thought about technology, military and firearms advancing in the future. If the founding fathers were alive today and could see what kind of weapons we have today, I wonder what would go through their minds. We are very good at building things to kill other good human beings. This cartoon shows James Madison very surprised about what he is being shown by a soldier, meaning that Madison did not think about the advancements the US would have on firearms. This cartoon could be biased as well because no one knows if that is how Madison would reacted. Yes I believe that he would be very shocked, but would that change his mind on The Bill of

Rights? Due to possible bias, this cartoon could have been drawn by someone who is not for firearms to persuade people to believe that guns these days are to advanced.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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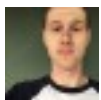
The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Kevin Smolek - Monday, November 28, 2016, 7:31 PM

I'm choosing cartoon 5 for my analysis. To me this cartoon is showing how a modern firearm, which looks to be a cartoonised AR-15 or perhaps an AK47, would be interpreted by the framers of the constitution. While I agree that it's true that back then these types of firearms didn't exist, the idea of guns that could fire several time without reloading wasn't new. The cartoon makes it seem like this type of firearm was never intended to be covered by the 2nd amendment. It seems to me that they intended for the militia (basically all males) to be able to own the modern military arms of the times. At the time, there were many cannons and artillery pieces owned by private individuals, and these were the preeminent weapons of the time. To say that modern arms should not be covered because they didn't exist back then is silly, since they were using the current military arms of the time, and if todays arms had been the armies choice, then that's what they would have been using too.They wanted a "well regulated militia" which today would mean a militia that was constrained by laws and oversight. However back then "well regulated" simply meant in proper working order. They never intended for actual regulations as we understand them today. These were very smart men, and I'm sure they saw where technology was headed, and yet they still used the phrase "shall not be infringed".

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Jacob Parris - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 3:25 PM

Although, I don't think the framers could foresee the impact that automatic weapons have had in a 21st century society with the many acts of terror that happen on US soil and take many lives. These atrocities are contributing factors as to why people want to change the right to bear arms because of the continuing gun violence.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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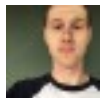
Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Kevin Smolek - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 4:59 PM

Changing the right to bear arms would require an amendment to the constitution, since the 2nd states that it's a right and it can not be infringed upon. As for the impact of automatic weapons in the 21st century, it's zero. I assume you are talking about semi-automatic firearms, since basically nobody owns fully automatic firearms. Certainly terrorists attacking our country is a tragedy, but the death toll from terror attacks is pretty low, and as we saw just the other day, cars and knives can be used against us as well. Given the 150 Million+ firearms lawfully owned in the United States, the death toll from firearms is staggeringly low, and terror attacks using these weapons is not a good reason to infringe upon the millions of lawful Americans that choose to own them. The founders of our country thought that the right to keep and bear arms was so important to the safety and security of our country that it was the 2nd thing that made it into our bill of rights, directly after freedom of religion and speech. These were smart men, and the idea of repeating arms was not a new one. They saw where weapon development was heading, and they didn't feel the need to quantify the types of arms that citizens were allowed to bear. Lexington and Concord was the result of the British marching to take arms from the colonists, and without bearing arms this country never would have been. The right to own arms is the right to self govern, and without it we'd be subjects, not citizens.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Jacob Parris - Friday, December 2, 2016, 12:11 AM

I agree with you that the right to bear arms was necessary in order to protect ourselves, but to say that the impact of assault rifles is zero is simply not true. From January 2009- July 2015, there were 133 mass shootings in the US, and among those shootings, 11% were from large magazine assault rifles. (<https://everytownresearch.org/reports/mass-shootings-analysis/>). Yes, it may not be a staggering percent, but peoples' lives were still taken.

The framers were smart men, I agree with you there, and yes they may have known where technology was headed, but I don't think they were able to gauge the culture of gun violence in the US and how the media affects what we see and hear. It is pretty scary when you hear that community colleges in Oregon are being affected by mass shootings. I don't think we should take away the right to bear arms, but if we are putting these types of weapons in the hands of citizens, there needs to be very concise rules and regulations in order so these types of weapons aren't put into the wrong hands.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Kevin Smolek - Friday, December 2, 2016, 11:09 AM

You said automatic weapons, and that's what I responded about. I think you're mixing up terms and don't understand the differences between military weapons and what's sold in stores. What the media calls "assault rifles" are semi-automatic versions of what our countries military carries. In no way are they automatic weapons. 99.9% of firearms deaths are caused by handguns, the majority are suicides (why are those lumped in with firearm violence stats? To push an agenda of course). Most of the remaining deaths are gang violence, and that's not something laws will change, as we've seen in places like Chicago, where the gun laws are the strictest in the nation and they still lead in homicides. The culture of gun violence is really the gang culture thats taken hold in our major cities. Between 30%-50% of households own firearms, if the gun violence problem was really as bad as the media makes it out to be, trust me you'd know it. The issue is that these isolated incidents, terror attacks, and mental health cases are blown so far out of proportion by the media that people actually believe that gun owners are unstable ticking time bombs that need to be regulated more heavily. These mass shootings are a tragedy, and I'm not trying to belittle the loss of life or the lives that they have affected. The truth of the matter is that more laws won't help, and what's needed is a stronger framework of mental health support and reporting. I still believe that the founding fathers intended for the 2nd to provide a limit on government power, and that when they wrote shall not be infringed, they were writing what they intended.

"What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms."

- Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, December 20, 1787

To disarm the people...[i]s the most effectual way to enslave them."

- George Mason, referencing advice given to the British Parliament by Pennsylvania governor Sir William Keith, *The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution*, June 14, 1788

"I ask who are the militia? They consist now of the whole people, except a few public officers."

- George Mason, Address to the Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 4, 1788

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every country in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the

people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops."

- Noah Webster, *An Examination of the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution*, October 10, 1787

(<https://www.buckeyefirearms.org/gun-quotations-founding-fathers>)

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Jacob Parris - Friday, December 2, 2016, 1:32 PM

You assumed I was talking about semi-automatic assault rifles, and you were right, I was talking about assault rifles. I do agree that more mental health support is necessary because of the mental state of individuals involved in isolated mass shootings. How then do we tackle the extreme amount of gang violence in a city like Chicago, even though the restrictions are very tight? And you're right, gang culture has been a huge thing in the US, its still a culture of gun violence though. Unfortunately, the media does tend to blow things out of proportion, thats another issue in itself, but how else are we going to hear about the violence? The media is something that has definitely changed over time and has affected how we view the different issues around the country.

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This Has Gone Far Enough

by Skye Lipson - Friday, December 2, 2016, 6:59 PM

Though this conversation is relevant to today's political situation. This is actually an inappropriate conversation to be having on a forum that is supposed to be about analyzing the connections to history we have learned that are made in political cartoons. Maybe things would be different if the government of the past knew of the future, they didn't and so that is not a relevant topic to engage in. This argument that you have engaged in is completely irrelevant to the history we have learned so far in class.

Perhaps the comic is better taken in contrast to today. Historically in the time we have studied a much different view of guns than that which you have presented was common place. Guns were an everyman right to survival on the frontier, wether that be for hunting or shooting natives. Beyond that the revolution likely would not have been possible if not for private gun ownership, as the military led by Washington was poorly equipped, and depended on individual gun

ownership to an extent. This was detailed in a documentary we watched in class. Nowadays contrary to the past, we have a well-armed military so as far as national protection the need for guns among the citizenry is less. Also the frontier today is non-existent unless we are planning to start settling the ocean, so there is little need for the same level of protection for that reason. Today's issues with guns are much different than the issues were in the past. That does not change the fact that there is an amendment that was written in the past that still now defines the most fundamental rules of our nation. But, I digress, the point here is simply that there are large differences between now and the past. Current events I admit are very gripping, but this just isn't the place for that conversation, or debate as this specific string has become.

The framers intent in how we must deal with new events in areas that have majorly changed since their time will always be a mystery as we are unable to divine their opinions on current events. Funny enough, even if we could figure out their opinions on current events I'm sure that if they were opinions opposed to ones that an individual held then that individual would likely not take the opinion to be relevant. People tend only to appreciate ideas that are in agreement to their own. Though that is just my own cynical perception of it.

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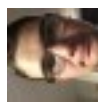


Re: This Has Gone Far Enough

by Kevin Smolek - Friday, December 2, 2016, 8:35 PM

The whole point to cartoon 5 is the time travel, modern guns to the past idea. I would say that the issues surrounding modern firearm ownership is relevant to the discussion. The whole point is bringing the two times together, and while we may not have taken the discussion in the direction that you would have, I don't see why we shouldn't talk about the laws surrounding guns in this country. The link is the shall not be infringed clause, and the loose construction that we've taken toward the amendment. Government of the past knowing the future is the exact cartoon we're talking about, so I'm not sure why you say that it's irrelevant... Anyway I think that the quotes I linked above say what I want to, that the 2nd was intended to be about limiting government, just like the rest of the constitution.

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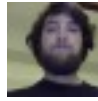


Re: This Has Gone Far Enough

by Jabon Hagel - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8:00 PM

I agree with what you are saying but also you have to take into account that comparing today's technology to the technology of that time period is kind of extreme.

Sum of ratings: (1) Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: This Has Gone Far Enough

by Skye Lipson - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:31 PM

You write that "the issues surrounding modern firearm ownership is relevant to the discussion" and then try to say that the discussion is about "bringing the two times together". This is, I believe a diversion from what the forum is supposed to be about, which is the time period in history that we have studied in our class. Yes, the amendments were written in that time period, No, that does not make a discussion about What-ifs and current events relevant to our better understanding history. Which is, by the way, what history class is about. Better understanding today's politics is subject matter better suited for a political science class. Unless this discussion is somehow helping people better understand the events and politics of the time we studied I think that I can say in all fairness that the discussion has deviated from the one we were meant to have.

You write that "[g]overnment of the past knowing the future is the exact cartoon we're talking about", I agree completely. That is the cartoon that has drawn the most attention. Though the fact that we are talking about it does not mean that is is particularly relevant to be talked about. This is perhaps one of the least suited comics for this forum as to talk about it requires deviating from historical to contemporary times in a large way. This comic can be discussed historically, and no, my example of contrasting our time with the past is not the only way this can be done. I was not suggesting that when I used that as an example. Rather I believe whatever conversation we do have must be strictly relevant to our studies in our history class. Taking a single clause from the constitution and debating it in terms of loose constructionism v. strict constructionism and framers intent v. changing to meet the times is the subject matter of a political science course. Not one of history. Though history must be drawn upon to have such political science conversations, which *is* an arguable point to make.

I agree with you however that discussing the framers intent as can be accurately derived from our knowledge of history is relevant to our understanding of the times. As you write " the 2nd [amendment] was intended to be about limiting government, just like the rest of the constitution." I find this to be true in a sense, that is if by government you mean to say federal government. The bill of rights was almost certainly an attempt to limit the power of the young federal government so that it could not be the central power that it has become today. People at the time feared that the federal government would become the equivalent of the British parliament, but just located somewhere different. And like Escobar said in class many times there was a general anti-government sentiment lack of faith in humanity Massachusetts flavor to our constitution that was meant to limit the power of government officials who people suspected were going to try and abuse their power. So Yes, there definitely was definitely the intention in our constitution to limit the power of government. Though, I have no idea whether there was an obvious intent to make the federal bill of rights a general declaration of the peoples rights from all governments, or whether, as it was later interpreted to mean, it was only a guarantee against federal power. Perhaps state constitutions were meant to be the only documents with relevant power over the can and can't dos of states. States definitely had a lot more power in the first years of the federal government than they do today.

Do not take my slight criticism of the course of the discussion in a history forum to mean that I find political discussion unfavorable. Political conversations can be some of the most fruitful, but unless they are strictly referring to historical political situations relating to our course of study in our history class, then I personally do not think such conversations belong in a history forum.

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

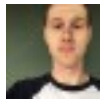
by Judith Pohl - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 12:55 PM

You said that they were smart men and knew where technology was headed...I think this cartoon represents that they actually had no clue of where technology would be headed. And if they had known, there may have been more content included in the second amendment. But I do agree it's interesting they included "shall not be infringed" maybe that's something that could've been left out to save

a lot of heartaches and headaches down the road. I also find it interesting that it's such a short amendment for a very large issue but again how could they have known then.

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Re: The 2nd Amendment: Framers intent? (Cartoon 5)

by Jacob Parris - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 5:07 PM

I tend to agree with you, even though there were large artillery weapons in the making.

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Cartoon 5

by Reed Hueter - Monday, November 28, 2016, 10:13 PM

Cartoon 5 represents an image based off of the second amendment; "The right to bear arms". When the founding fathers sat down and wrote the Bill of Rights in 1789 a "well regulated militia" looked a lot different than it would today. For example, we now have fully automatic weapons that can fire up to six hundred times a minute, where as in our founding fathers day's, it took an average of twenty to thirty seconds to load one shot into a musket. Many people who look at the second amendment argue that if the fathers were around today they would of cleared up exactly what it means to "bear arms". If you have a strict interpretation of this amendment you will key in on the understanding that you have to be in a militia to bear arms. However there are no longer militia's so its considered an out of date statement. I think the cartoonist did a good job of showing how far we have technologically come, and how scary some of the weapons floating around the United States really are. With how many recent mass killings have been occurring, this has been a major topic of controversy. My stand point on the issue is that we need to regulate fully and semi automatic guns making them harder to get, because it is way to easy to buy automatic guns. Along with any drug, if you need an automatic weapon you can find ways to get a hold of one illegally. It is a shame that America has had so much violence, and it is even more of a disappointment to think that it does not look as if peace is in the near future. As Americans we need to come together, no matter who is running the country, and continue to fight for issues we believe in as it is our liberties to do so.

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Kevin Smolek - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 4:34 PM



Automatic weapons are some of the most regulated and controlled things that a law abiding citizen can buy. They are not "way to (sic) easy to buy". I assume you mean semi-automatic? As to the militia phrasing in the 2nd, back then all males were part of the militia, so "a well regulated militia" was simply all males being a well oiled effective fighting force. It was never intended to limit it to a regulated group. strictly construed, the 2nd says that everyone of fighting age has a right to bear arms, and that this right can not be infringed upon. Since any limit is an infringement, the 2nd actually says that the government has no right to limit arms in any way. We can debate what was intended with bearing arms, but I would think that the framers intended for the militia to have the same access to arms as the military forces, since the intent of the militia was to place a inherent limit on the government, through force of arms, as well as a backup force in the event of war.

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 5:59 PM

I can agree with you on the understanding why the founding fathers wanted people to have guns. They knew that, a people with firearms, was a people not easily controlled by a government or another nation. They also knew that it would be hard for a foreign country to invade us if everyone owned a firearm. The country was easy prey to the British, Spain, and France if they really wanted to go to war with us and we could be easily defeated if our only defense was a military. George Washington and the founding fathers knew our military, at the time, was in horrid conditions and without the help from France we could still be under British rule. Even though Baron von Steuben helped to bring our military from a bunch of one year drunk farmers to a real military with the latest drills, it was the common man that helped with the war effort. The founding fathers knew that to hinder any attempt of being invaded we would need to be able to stand off a real military. This also goes in the event if the government took a dictatorship role that it would be hard to suppress the people if we would be able to go to war with our own country like the south did with the north. Yes the south was able to get armaments from England because we had the cotton they so desperately needed but on the battle field it was common man with their family musket that went to war. I agree they knew exactly what they were meaning when they wrote the second amendment.

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Re: Cartoon 5



by Reed Hueter - Friday, December 2, 2016, 12:52 PM

Coming from a household with my dad being an outfitter(hunting guide), we own fifty plus guns, many being automatic. It is very easy to obtain these guns. All gun smiths can make these guns, many illegally and give these out untraced. Not too mention, all the guns being smuggled in from other countries, will most likely be in the hands of someone who should not have it. Yes, there are rules that prevent criminals from buying guns, but criminals don't follow the laws. People in our founding fathers time needed guns for survival against other counties, where as now a large majority is using to murder or kill others, and the vast majority uses them for hobbies.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 5

by Kevin Smolek - Friday, December 2, 2016, 5:43 PM

Automatic, or semi-automatic? This keeps cropping up, and I think people are mixing up terms. Automatic weapons fire multiple times per trigger pull, are very regulated, and super expensive. Semi-automatics fire once per trigger pull, and are what you can buy off the shelf in gun stores. Yes gunsmiths can make automatic weapons, but it's not worth the 20 years to life that illegal possession or manufacturing of these weapons earns you if caught. Now people do own them, and it's not illegal with the proper paperwork (ATF form 4), but they are not what can be purchased in a store. You said it yourself, criminals don't follow the laws, so what use is making more of them if the only people they will affect is law abiding citizens that wouldn't commit crimes anyway?

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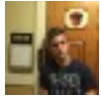
Cartoon #2

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Monday, November 28, 2016, 11:40 PM

In this cartoon we see three of the founding fathers holding a map while being surrounded by signs that have sayings on them ranging from, "Equality is racist." to, "Borders? What borders!? Amnesty for all." They think to themselves, "Maybe we have the wrong map!?" I think that these important individuals may have dealt in some shape or form some of these many different problems and then again maybe not for some of them. It also shows what the people of the present are dealing with that during the War for Independence the people would not have. Yes I agree with the message that this cartoon delivers.

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 3:43 AM

I agree with parts of your message and I could be wrong but I think it might be possible that the concept of this political cartoon is simply that the founding fathers created a nation with more problems than they had anticipated when writing the constitution and essentially mapping out the future of our nation. Issues like abortion and welfare were the least of their concerns and in some of the instances shown on the signs in this cartoon, not concerns at all. I think the cartoon is simply saying that this isn't really the future America they had anticipated, or hoped to be creating.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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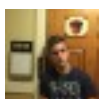
Re: Cartoons - Linking Cartoon #4 Power corrupts Did we get rid of British imperialism just to repeat it?the Past to the Present

by Jeff Johnson - Monday, November 28, 2016, 11:49 PM

I completely agree with this cartoon while we fight over the differences of our two parties they both keep on spending money like it grow on trees. The only thing I think this cartoon needs is a picture of his grandkids also being robbed. Not only are we going broke paying for this exorbitant government we are also going into massive debt robbing future generations. I think if people who fought in the revolution over British control would look at what's going on today and wonder if we just traded on imperial government for another. When they wrote the Constitution and saw that democratic republic's had never lasted long I wonder if they saw the country now if they would still do it. In Washington's farewell address he warns us of letting political parties divide us over issues while ignoring the big picture. Until a president comes along and fixes this massive spending does it really matter who is president?

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Re: Cartoons - Linking Cartoon #4 Power corrupts Did we get rid of British imperialism just to repeat it?the Past to the Present

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 4:07 AM

For the most part I agree with the message you are sending in relation to this political cartoon. Regardless of who has been president or what party they represent, for the last several terms our presidents have been putting us further

and further into debt. I also like that you mention that it isn't only having an immediate effect and that social security structures are screwing over future generations and so are many other government supported programs. Debt can only accumulate for so long until major repercussions occur. Although this is a huge issue I do think it matters tremendously who our president is and what they support. Equally important as our national debt is the inequality of income, and many other national issues in similar vain that can be fixed or at least bettered without national debt being reversed. Would you argue that national debt is our nations number one concern?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by Moe Uetake - Monday, November 28, 2016, 11:54 PM

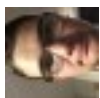
This cartoon accurately indicates there were an unequal situation between governors and other people and movements for freedom. According to the phrase "Take From The Rich! They Have ENOUGH Money", there was a financial difference between people. Moreover, the phrase "EQUALITY IS RACIST" means that there was discrimination among people, for example, slaves were black people.

I think the cartoonist correctly interpreted history because the phrases in this cartoon are based on history.

I agree with the overall point of view of the cartoon because I believe the author express historical situation accurately.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Political Cartoons Nine and Seven

by Jabon Hagel - Tuesday, November 29, 2016, 7:09 PM

After looking over the eleven cartoons, I noticed a bunch of similarities between some of them.

Cartoon seven shows a tree with the executive branch cutting off the other two branches. This is significant because the three branches were suppose to check and balance each other out but all you ever really hear about is issues with the Executive Branch, like police brutality. This cartoon goes in hand in my opinion with cartoon nine. Cartoon nine depicts an American ranting about how the government is a threat to our freedom. But right behind him there is a African American who is being beat. This sends a very mixed message. For one It's true that the government does strip us from some freedoms but are they really?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #5

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Tuesday, November 29, 2016, 10:52 PM

In this cartoon it shows James Madison sitting down and possibly writing the second Amendment when a colonist busts in holding the newest form of firearm in his hands and says,"James, check out this baby!!" Looking at the firearm the president is only able to say one word and it is "Whoa!!" Off to the side you see the phrase, "A well regulated Militia.." The governing party during this time period could very well have tried to take away the Militia's rights to bear arms but the second Amendment states,"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This ruling allows the Militia and the citizens the rights to bear arms and the government cannot infringe upon it. Yes I agree with the message that this cartoon projects.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Political cartoon

by Garrett Richards - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 2:07 PM

This cartoon made me laugh because it is up to date on what is going on in today. With what has happened in the last week, this cartoon shows what is going to happen in the future of US history. Due to the death of Fidel Castro this cartoon shows Obama smoking a Cuban cigar and Raul Castro drinking coco cola. With every Cuban person celebrating his death, I believe this cartoon is trying to explain that Cuba and the US are going to have good relations now that Fidel Castro is not in charge.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Political cartoon

by Joshua Vieira - Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 6:12 PM

I always thought it was ridiculous that President Kennedy signed an embargo on Cuban till Castro's' death and that it lasted till now. I can't believe it has lasted this long in our modern day and age. My mom was a kid when it was signed and we have gone through so many Presidents since then and yet it still remains. I hope that the Cubans will now be able to come to the 21st century and enjoy open trade and the freedom to travel to see family members.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Political cartoon

by Mariah Doyle - Friday, December 2, 2016, 9:48 PM

I was trying to think of how to connect this cartoon with material from our class and had a bit of a hard time. The only thing I could think of was connecting the US-Cuba relations with the relations between the colonies and France at the time of the Revolution. The embargo placed on Cuba is mostly seen as very unfair to the Cubans. Near the end of the Revolutionary War, the US (Franklin, Adams John Jay, etc.) were thinking about accepting a treaty with French allies who were hurt financially at the time from helping the US. Instead the US signed the Treaty of Paris with Britain which actually cut France off from mainland North America and were essentially screwed over similarly to Cuba.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #4

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 8:31 AM

In this cartoon we see both members of the political parties the Democrats and the Republicans. In between them we see a citizen standing between them and each of the parties has a hand in each pocket and on his shirt it reads taxpayers. Showing that each party will take money from him in the form of taxes. During the time in history both before and after the War for Independence there were the parties of the Jeffersonians and the Hamiltons who would both later become the Democratic and the Republican parties but I am sure that during this time period both parties would take money from the colonists in the form of tariffs or taxes. Yes I agree with the message that this cartoon puts out.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon #2: Past and Present

by Mariah Doyle - Thursday, December 1, 2016, 2:25 PM

This cartoon depicts Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin looking at a "map" of modern day America. The road signs on the side of the picture represent current controversial topics and changes in our government and laws that all go against these founding fathers' beliefs and original ideals for our country. The one that stood out the most to me was the sign that says "The government gives you your rights." Thomas Jefferson was a strong believer in a very limited government and would disagree with this the most out of all of the signs. Thomas Jefferson's political campaign focused almost solely on the idea of maintaining a limited government. "Jefferson's first order of business was to reduce the size and expense of government" (Textbook p. 256). One of the signs that I wasn't sure should have been included was the "Borders? What borders? Amnesty for all" sign which is most likely referring to president Barack Obama's views and actions toward immigration. The majority of our founding fathers were accepting of the idea of immigration and actually liked the idea of a more diverse America. For example, "George Washington, in a letter to John Adams, similarly emphasized that immigrants should be absorbed into American life so that, "by an intermixture with our people, they, or their descendants, get assimilated to our customs, measures, laws: in a word soon become one people" (National Review article).

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2: Past and Present

by Judith Pohl - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 5:45 PM

I agree with you on this one. The border sign sticks out the most in reference to history and present time. One example that really sticks out is the all the lines on the maps Escobar has had us fill out in class. There are very clear lines of where the Louisiana purchase was, the trans app west that was gained after the war, Northwest, Mid-atlantic, New England, etc. I feel like we can't even define our own borders and what belongs to who now. I'm guessing the "amnesty for all" is referring to Obama and issues with border control...or lack there of.

This cartoon as a whole strikes me as our since of entitlement in present time as opposed to what we've been learning in class with colonists having to really earn and fight for their freedom and everything they owned. The ""Welfare Free phone free food stamps free housing." What next? Free drugs being passed out? I am all for food stamps and WIC for those who are truly trying to provide for their family and just can't. I completely get it, but when I go grocery shopping and am approached by someone offering me \$200 on their food stamps card in exchange for \$100 cash (yes, this has happened). I begin to think our system is a bit broken and needs to be looked at more closely and yet another thing to blame for our multi-trillion dollar debt as a country.

Also babies were something essentially that was fought for, as most didn't even make it past childbirth. It wasn't until the 1630s that "Infant mortality fell, and few mothers died in childbirth." (Page 62) Meanwhile...present time we are dealing with infant (or fetus depending on the view) mortality in abortions....some of these even third-trimester abortions being legal. This is what I took from the "Abortions Here!" followed by a few other words I would rather not type out.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Executive Powers: Taken to the limits? (cartoon 7)

by Kevin Smolek - Friday, December 2, 2016, 11:48 AM

Cartoon 7 is showing the tree of government with it's three branches, executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive is holding a chainsaw and has chopped off the other two branches, leaving it the only one attached. To me this looks to be in reference to the use of executive orders in the past 8 years, and the fact that the executive branch has been using them to bypass the other two branches leaving them powerless and not attached to the lawmaking process. The founders never intended for the executive branch to wield all of the power, hence the other two branches. The executive has been hampered by the legislative for the past few years, since the legislative has been held by republicans and the executive has been a democrat. The use of executive orders has been used to get around this roadblock, basically giving the executive branch the powers of the other two. It seems to me that this shouldn't be constitutional, as the people elected

the legislative, just as the did the executive. If this leads to a weak executive branch that cannot accomplish anything, then so be it, it was the will of the people that elected these representatives.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Executive Powers: Taken to the limits? (cartoon 7)

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8:59 PM

I definitely agree with you that the executive branch has been hampered the last few years due to differentiating parties. It will be interesting to see how a completely republican house, senate, and executive branch work coinciding with one another. It may do exactly what the founding fathers didn't want, and you said it, giving all the power to the executive branch. I definitely do not agree fully with how this comic is portraying this topic, because of how involved the other two houses are, however I understand how many people think the executive controls the whole government.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Cartoon #5

by Vanessa Chenoweth - Friday, December 2, 2016, 2:46 PM

In this cartoon it shows the Constitution and it reads, "U.S. Constitution to be stri tly interpreted word for sacred word." Then you see a citizen kneeling in front of it saying, "But maybe we could tweak that part about Mexicans coming here and dropping babies that become automatic citizens." I believe this hits home with what's been going on in the present than in the past because more and more people are being racist to people of color or different country of origin and telling them to go back home to their country and that this is their country not theirs even though some of these citizens were born in the United States to parents who had moved here legally, and I know not all of them do it legally but these people are coming here for a better chance at life and live the American Dream. Yes I agree with the message that this cartoon puts out.

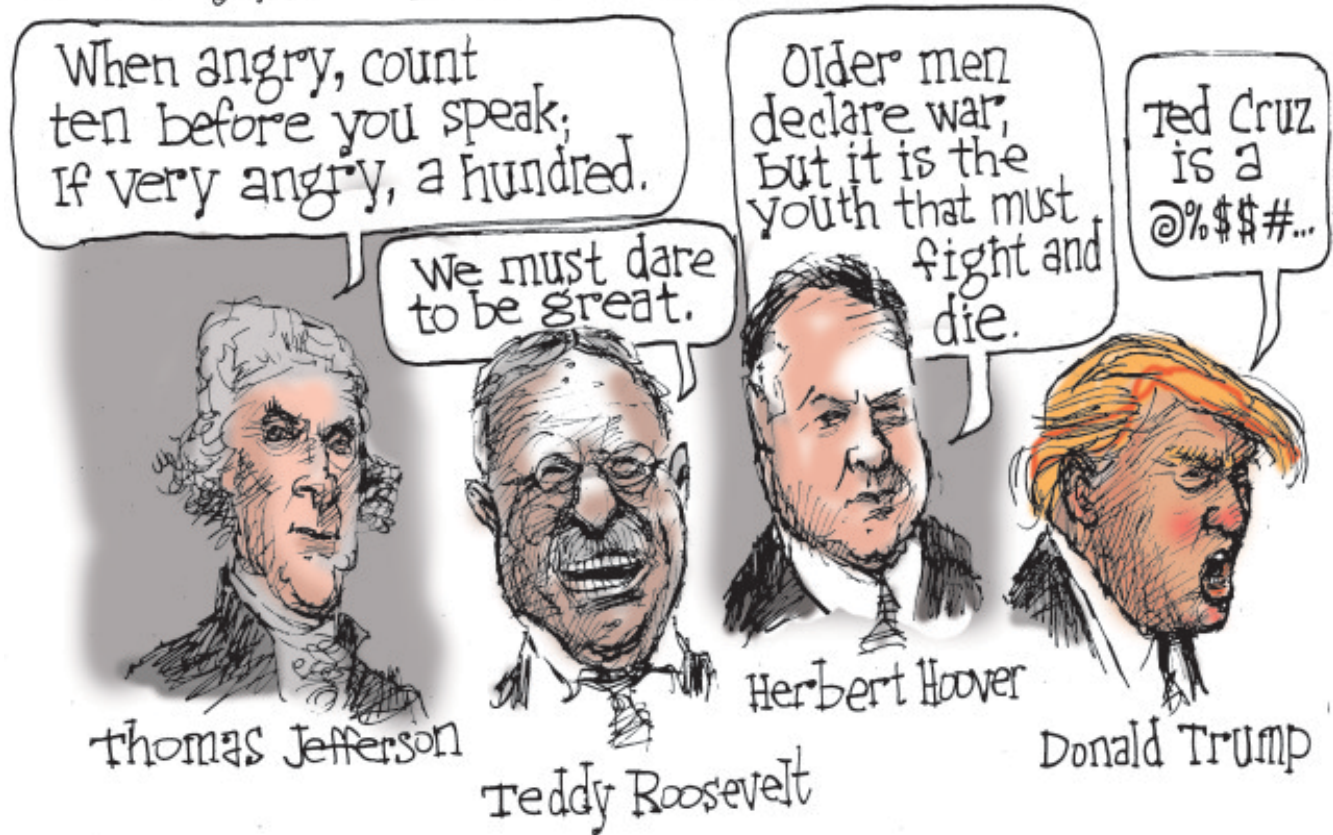
Sum of ratings: (1)

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Presidential Morals: Past to Present

by Mariah Doyle - Friday, December 2, 2016, 9:02 PM



In this cartoon, the values of past presidents are contrasted to our current presidential elect. Thomas Jefferson's quote is about remaining calm and collected when angered. This is quite the opposite of Trump who yelled at a mother at a rally this year for having a crying child. Hoover's quote is about having respect and sympathy for the men who are fighting on the frontlines of war for the "old men" (presidents) who declare war. This quote was likely used to contrast Trump's disrespect to the Gold Star family or to John McCain for being a prisoner of war. This says a lot about the founding fathers which we learned about in this unit, and in our class as a whole. The candidates kept mostly levelheaded and would not dare to use the kind of language Donald Trump uses in the public eye because it was very taboo up until very recently.

To further link the cartoon to our class material, it definitely reminded me of one of the laws passed in the Alien Sedition Acts from chapter 7 of our textbook. "The Sedition Act—set jail terms and fines for persons who advocated disobedience to federal law or who wrote, printed, or spoke "false, scandalous, and malicious" statements against "the government of the United States, or the President of the United States" (P. 252). Donald Trump's "quote" here violated the Sedition Act and would have had him jailed during the time that the Act was passed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Presidential Morals: Past to Present

by Morganne Roy - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 2:48 PM

This is a fascinating cartoon! I think the main point to be taken from it is different from your interpretation however. The way I see it, this cartoon is speaking less about the values espoused by these men; rather how American public discourse has devolved from expert rhetoricians to reactionist demagoguery.

You say, "The candidates kept mostly levelheaded and would not dare to use the kind of language Donald Trump uses in the public eye because it was very taboo up until very recently"

I don't know if you were in class when Joe showed this video about the election of 1800: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_zTN4BXvYI

As this video makes clear, public discourse in this country has not changed from being an high class cerebral endeavor for truth to 100% ad hominem attacks. I think this picture says more about the cartoonist's interpretation of history being idyllic than it does of how Trump is loutish.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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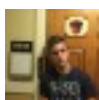
Cartoon #4

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 1:34 PM

This cartoon depicts both the republican and democratic parties reaching into the taxpayers pockets. Either party that is in office will be taxing you. Our money as taxpayers will be going to lots of different things that we will not approve of, no matter what party is in office. You truly can not satisfy both parties which is exactly what the taxpayer in this cartoon is showing on his face. All of our founding fathers ideals were based around the fact that they understood that a massive debt would endanger their country, yet once again they still have to tax everybody. I find it funny how the revolutionary war essentially started because of "unfair" taxes from the British. These taxes were the Navigation Acts, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, and lastly the Tea act which lead to war. We then became a free country only to imply more taxes. No matter which party we believe in, there will always be taxes in which we as taxpayers do not agree with.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #4

by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:04 PM

I really like and agree with this post and I like that you mention that regardless of what party you support it is most likely the case that you will be taxed for something you don't support or at the very least aren't in favor of. I also think the face on the cartoon represents that maybe the taxpayer is surprised by what his/her money is being spent on. Often times you see people looking to pass measures stating that it will increase a certain fund; say education. But in reality

what you are supporting gives money to a general fund which is going to be put partially into education but majorly into other things like paving roads and city upkeep. I think a lot of what gets taxed is wrong but on top of it I feel that there is a certain level of intentional misinterpretation behind taxing. Nice Post!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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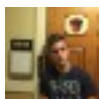
Cartoon #3

by Reed Hueter - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 6:36 PM

This cartoon shows the United States Constitution with a far right wing republican praying and trying to tweak a set amendment of the constitution. His speech bubble states "but just maybe we could tweak that part about mexican's coming here and dropping babies that become automatic U.S. citizens. ". With our recent election of Donald Trump, and his plan to build a wall and deport all foreign aliens, many people have been frightened that they will repeal the 14th amendment. This amendment states "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside" and no matter what cannot be changed. Trump's immigration plans will almost certainly not be passed and you can guarantee that the constitution and the 14th amendment will not be altered. The only way it could possibly pass "would be to somehow persuade the Supreme Court to overturn the 1898 ruling, *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*" (<https://www.washingtonpost.com>). This cartoon shows some humor, by making fun of the far right's by making it crystal clear that above the document states "To be strictly interpreted word for sacred word". Our founding fathers had many different viewpoints on how the country should be run, but when coming to terms with the constitution, they left it at a point where the central government can amend and add amendments. However amending the constitution has only been done twenty seven times in our nations history and would be next impossible, so this cartoon portrays this topic well in my opinion.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3

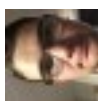
by Grant Garcia - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:10 PM

Really good post, with a lot of awesome detail that I agree on. I also think one interesting thing about this political cartoon is the fact that the character is kneeling to the constitution implying that it is sort of its master and in a sense an untouchable all knowing source of information/ruling but at the same time he is asking for a small change. I think that is an interesting thing to note because the right winged people are considered the more conservative side that want to dissuade change in most circumstances and to me this cartoon is portraying that all people in this country want change of some sort, even those that typically push

for consolidation. That is one interesting thing about a true democracy, it almost impossible to keep everyone happy even when the majority vote a certain way or support a certain act.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Comparing Cartoon 11 to an outside source

by Jabon Hagel - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 7:58 PM

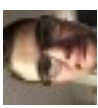
When I first say cartoon 11 it immediately reminded me of one that I saw somewhere else. They were both so similar and different at the same time.

Both of these political cartoons focus on the subject that Hillary Clinton had some issues regarding her media, and emails. Cartoon eleven said that basically because of this she threw out her election where as the one I found is making it look like she is too different people. The person who is wanting change and was running for President and the person she is trying to keep hid.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #8

by Jabon Hagel - Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8:18 PM

This cartoon took a little bit for me to understand. But once I got it I was chuckling to myself about how much truth it holds. As far as spending money the US seems to have no issues but this just keeps affecting our balance. The US's national debt increases by the second. (<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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