

# **“The High Cost Of Cheap Labor” and “Talking Turkey About Turkey”**

The only reason that Ronald Reagan signed the first amnesty bill back in 1986 wasn't really because the Democratic Congress promised to build a fence at the border. After all, he'd been around when the Democrats reneged on the promise made to Nixon that if he agreed to pull the troops out of Vietnam, they would continue to arm and fund the South Vietnamese. He did, and naturally they didn't.

The real reason Reagan signed the amnesty bill is because American business always wants the cheapest labor it can get its hands on. In the short term, it probably looks like a good deal all around. After all, the price of labor is always passed along to the consumer. However, in the long run it's a bad deal because most of those people are low wage earners, and the American citizen is eventually going to be stuck with the tab for their housing, health care, food stamps, schooling and, far too often, incarceration. In the end, we're all a lot better off paying an extra few cents for a head of lettuce or a few extra bucks for a meal.

But as bad as low-cost labor has been for America, I dare say it's even worse in Europe, where the interlopers tend to be Muslims, a group of people notorious for their refusal to acclimate, to accept the laws, let alone the culture and traditions of the nations they contaminate. They are the reason that virtually every capital city on the Continent has been turned into a pig sty. In London, rarely a week goes by when the Muslims aren't demonstrating in the streets, displaying their contempt for their host nation and everything she has come to represent, including freedom, the arts and religious tolerance.

America, which used to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, has morphed into a place where political correctness has turned most people into whimpering cowards. In spite of the First Amendment, most TV pundits were afraid to even mention that Trayvon Martin was a drug-dealing six-footer or that 300-pound Michael Brown was a thief and a bully who just happened to be high on marijuana when he confronted Officer Darren Wilson.

These days, we aren't even supposed to hold the mothers and occasional fathers of criminals even partially responsible for the end result. On the contrary, we're expected to treat the parents of teenage thugs with the same respect and deference that we bestow on the parents of military warriors who forfeit their lives for their country.

But, then, for the past 13 years, we have had two presidents, Dumb and Dumber, insisting that Islam is a religion of peace. As hard as it was to swallow that swill from George W. Bush, it has gotten far worse under his successor. It was Obama, after all, who not only announced with a straight face that Muslims played a major role in the creation of the United States, but that they were an essential part of our space exploration program. I suppose that last point has some merit. After all, if I were a NASA scientist, I'd have a real incentive to break the bounds of gravity, knowing that I and millions of others hoped and prayed that other planets could support human life. The reason being that it would provide an opportunity to leave the one that's home to 1.2 billion Muslims.

In the meantime, Barack Obama tries in vain to defuse public anger over his despotic decision to legislate from the Oval Office. His latest attempt took place in Chicago, where he announced yet again that our immigration policy has to be overhauled. The difference was that this time he said it wasn't merely to accommodate multi-millions of illegal Hispanics, but because there are plenty of people from Poland

and Ireland who are in this country illegally.

I used to gag every time Obama opened his mouth. Lately, though, I've been doing a lot more head scratching. Poland and Ireland are the basis of the problem? Was it possible that the sly puss was trying to woo members of those two major ethnic groups? Instead of demanding that the President abide by his constitutional limitations, were Irish and Polish Americans supposed to say to themselves, "Hey, if the son of a gun can prevent five million Latinos from being deported, maybe he'll keep my uncle from being sent back to (Warsaw) (Dublin) after he gets out of jail"?

Finally, I don't know what you call it when Barack Obama pardons a Thanksgiving turkey, but I call it professional courtesy.

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### **Talking Turkey About Turkey**

By what right is Turkey allowed to be a member of NATO? Under its current leader, Recep Erdogan, it has become more and more of a despotic Islamic nation. In recent months, it has not only denied the U.S. the use of its air force bases, but welcomed ISIS inside its borders so the terrorists could surround the Kurds and attack them from all sides. And does anyone seriously believe that Turkey would ever rush to defend any of its alleged NATO allies?

Speaking of turkeys, according to a PEW Poll, over 70% of blacks insist they are treated less fairly than whites by the police. My reaction was to wonder how the hell they know how whites are treated. I suspect that when it comes to criminals, you'd be hard pressed to find, to use Obama's favorite word, a smidgen of difference in the way those in either group are approached and arrested.

When it comes to law-abiding people, I suspect the behavior of

most cops is determined by the way people relate to them, which, I dare say, is a fairly typical human response. Like any white driver in America, I have been stopped on many occasions. Once in a while, I believed that I was entirely in the right and had not committed any vehicular sins, but I never insulted the officer, displayed contempt and, so far as I recall, never once tried to take his gun away.

Instead of devoting so much time and attention to a single incident in Ferguson, MO, wouldn't you think that Barack Obama and Eric Holder would concentrate on black thugs who commit, on a per capita basis, eight times as many murders as whites, especially when the majority of their victims also happen to be black?

Also, why is it front page news when a white cop shoots a black person, but when it's blacks killing, torturing and raping whites or, for that matter, other blacks, there is a news – you should excuse the expression – blackout?

Getting back to Ferguson, when you realize that there was every expectation that, one, the Grand Jury would not indict Darren Wilson; that, two, the local cops were told to back off and that the National Guard was not deployed on the streets; and that, three, everyone expected a riot to occur; why did County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch decide to release the Grand Jury's decision after nightfall? If the governor, the local police chief and Mr. McCulloch had sat down and choreographed the arson and vandalism, they couldn't have done more to ensure that the TV cameras would have every opportunity to record a race riot.

For years now, the Muslim world has been at war with America and the European democracies, but nobody in the civilized world will even acknowledge it. Instead, we try to cherry-pick the bad guys. We refer to Al Qaeda, the Taliban, ISIS, Hamas or Hezbollah, as if there is a speck of difference between them, other than what they call themselves. Partly it's

because George Bush insisted that Islam is a religion of peace, partly because Obama won't even refer to the violence consuming the globe as having its source in the evil cult, and because the major media is dedicated to the childish belief that the only truly evil people in the world are American conservatives.

As a result, there is a religious war taking place in the world, but, with the exception of Israel, only one side is waging it or will even acknowledge it's taking place.

In similar fashion, a race war is currently underway in America, but it is only being conducted by blacks. Only blacks are encouraged to ignore the facts about what took place in Ferguson and to pretend that a 300-pound thug was a cherubic altar boy. Only they get to insist that forensic evidence is a white plot. Only they get to pass off a scumbag like Al Sharpton as a civil rights leader with moral authority. Why is he given the key to the White House, but not, say, his white counterpart, the Grand Kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan?

It's not enough to blame the black thugs, including Eric Holder, who descended on Ferguson with no other purpose but to inflame a bad situation and to make it worse. One must also hold the feet of the media to the flames. I'm not referring to the TV cameras that at times out-numbered the barbarians in the streets, but to a media that patronizes blacks, at least so long as they're not Ben Carson, Condoleezza Rice, Allen West, Thomas Sowell, Jason Riley or Tim Scott, in which case they're dismissed as Uncle Toms, Aunt Jemimas and traitors to their race.

The media likes to label conservatives as racists, but that's clearly a case of the pot smokers calling the kettle black. What else but racist would you call it when journalists not only find endless excuses for soaring rates of black crime and illegitimate births, but blame white society for the millions of black men who refuse to marry the mothers of their children

or to help raise and provide for their sons and daughters?

How is it not racist to ignore the fact that in spite of billions of tax dollars having been spent in the hope of providing a ladder through education by which slum dwellers can climb out of poverty, half of young blacks fail to even bother graduating from high school?

There is no denying that racism exists in America, but nearly all of it resides in two groups: black bigots and white liberals.

On top of everything else, we are cursed with a president who any time there's a news item about a black person who has behaved inappropriately, automatically springs to their defense, always assuming the worst about white people in general and white police officers in particular.

When I saw the tawdry assemblage that Obama invited to the White House to discuss racial issues, a gathering that included notorious race hustler Al Sharpton and Obama's own version of Rasputin, Valerie Jarrett, it occurred to me that as groups go, even Amos 'n' Andy's Mystic Knights of the Sea and Ralph Kramden's Friendly Sons of the Raccoons had higher standards for inclusion.

Finally, just in case you don't think I've mentioned enough birdbrains to achieve my daily quota, let me hasten to add Robert Redford, who believes that our great outdoors should forever remain in the pristine state in which God created it, unless of course he decides to host a film festival for his Hollywood cronies in the midst of the Rockies. Last year, 46,000 of his nearest and dearest descended on Sundance, Utah, mainly in their fossil fuel-burning private jets, to watch movies.

In one of his typically self-serving, hypocritical, pronouncements, Redford recently declared, "I think the environment should be put in the category of our national

security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise, what is there to defend?"

A few things that occurred to me, but apparently not to Mr. Redford, include our borders, freedom, liberty, loved ones and the Constitution.

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## The Presumption of Racism Has Stunted America's Growth



When Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, I was not a happy camper. The thought of a liberal ideologue with no leadership experience (but grand dreams of “fundamentally transforming” the country) sitting in the Oval Office wasn't at all appealing to a *right-leaning* fellow like me. Still, I did see a silver lining in his victory. I thought the

election of our first black president would go a long way in helping to heal the country's racial divide that still existed – despite having made significant strides over the decades.

Boy, was I wrong.

It didn't take long for some on the left to begin using the president's skin color as a political weapon against those who had the gall to disagree with his agenda. Loud opposition to President Obama was not portrayed by the media as *patriotic*, like it was during the Bush era, but as an ugly display of racial bias put forth by people who just couldn't accept that a black man was now the leader of the free world.

The Tea Party, who had a very clear policy message, was depicted and marginalized as a bunch of *angry, old white guys*, and during the 2012 presidential campaign, liberal media outlets obsessed over dissecting the political rhetoric of Republican candidates and deciding that it contained a slew of racist "dog whistles." That sentiment trickled its way down to the public and became conventional wisdom for some.

The incessant race-baiting has harmed American culture. It has diminished the capacity of people to view accusations of racism responsibly and objectively. A reasonable level of scrutiny no longer has to be met in order for a divisive racial narrative to be put forth and bolstered by the media. In far too many cases, a *presumption of racism* has been applied to people and events that have provided no basis for that judgement. We've seen it done recently with the high-profile, unfortunate deaths of black men like Michael Brown in Ferguson.

The so-called civil rights leaders like Al Sharpton, who've latched onto the tragedies, seem to be pushing the theme that *any* scenario, that results in a black person being killed by a white person, is *murder* attributable to racism. The circumstances surrounding the event don't really seem to matter. Neither do the eye-witness accounts or the physical evidence. The narrative being wielded is that it's "open season" for killing black men in this country, and the facts and statistics just aren't going to stand in the way of the oratory.



Many people are reasoned enough to see past the vitriol and recognize these deaths as the tragedies they are without jumping to the conclusion that institutional racism is to blame. They realize that while racism still exists, it's not a contributing factor to the number of untimely, black deaths in this country.

Many others, however, aren't so reasoned – especially young people. They've been taught through academia and media-driven, politically correct sensibilities that America is still a fundamentally bigoted country, despite a black man being elected to the highest office in the land – twice. They've been taught that the societal sins of several decades ago are still being practiced with impunity by the *white establishment*.

The dishonesty of this narrative, and society's inability to have a mature, open discussion about race is absolutely devastating to our culture. We've seen it in the way the country's economic and social discrepancies are portrayed as a products of racial oppression. We've seen it in the stores that were looted and set ablaze in Ferguson. In my home state of Colorado on Wednesday, we saw it in the way high school students, who were protesting against the Ferguson grand jury decision, reportedly cheered when four police officers managing traffic for their march were struck by an out of control vehicle.

Let's examine that last example for a minute. In Denver, police officers were working on traffic control duty for the benefit of students from East High School who walked out of class to protest the decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson. When four of those officers were struck by a runaway car – resulting in critical injuries to one of them – some of the protesters were heard cheering and chanting "hit him again." That is beyond deplorable.

The Denver Police Protective Association released the

following statement in regard to the protesters: “These actions are not only reprehensible but quite possibly the most disturbing thing this Association has ever heard.”

I don’t doubt the sincerity in that statement. I’m sure it was indeed one of the most disturbing things the DPPA has ever encountered, and its no coincidence that it happened now, in 2014, when reckless, racial rhetoric is drowning out reasoned discussion.

When people let ethnic solidarity or collective guilt blind them to the cold, hard facts surrounding a situation, we have truly lost as a society. Never did I think in 2009 that race relations would actually worsen in this country over the next six years, but that appears to be what has happened. Presumptive racism has been a major cause of it.

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## **“They Protesteth Too Much” and “Walker & Martinez, 2016”**

As I have written on other similar occasions, it’s a protest when you toss the tea into the harbor; when you grab the tea or, rather, the TV sets, liquor and sports equipment and take it home, it’s a riot and those who take part are not patriots, they’re thugs.

As I watched what was taking place in Ferguson after the Grand Jury returned its rational verdict, the thing that surprised me was that after Gov. Nixon had announced he was calling in the Missouri National Guard as a backup to the St. Louis and Ferguson police departments, the only people I saw on the streets were black punks smashing windows, burning down businesses and carting off stolen loot.

In the bad old days, cops down South would turn dogs and fire hoses on black people who were protesting peacefully and it spoke to the consciences of white Americans. But over the past 40 years or so, it seems the order of the day is that every time black hooligans take to the streets, the cops are told to stand around and watch, only stopping short of passing out matches, gasoline and baseball bats.

So far as I can tell, St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch and the nine members of the Grand Jury took their responsibilities seriously and did an admirable job. However, after reading his detailed statement to the press, one of the reporters asked if witnesses who had done so much to inflame the situation on Day One by claiming that Officer Wilson had shot Michael Brown in the back or had shot him when he was standing still with his hands raised above his head would face perjury charges. To my astonishment, McCulloch basically blew off the reporter's question.

Even though McCulloch said that most of those "eye witnesses" finally got around to admitting that they hadn't even seen the shooting and were only passing on rumors as fact, he was obviously willing to give them the benefit of the doubt. What doubt that would be, he failed to explain. For my part, I have no doubt at all that they not only committed perjury, but were the major reason that Ferguson became a war zone in the first place.

In fact, I read the next day that Chief of the St. Louis County Police Jon Belman initially ordered his officers "to

back off” and to treat the mob as they would the crowd at “a festival or a ballgame.”

Even at festivals and ballgames, I’ve seen barricades. But in Ferguson, they didn’t even block off the main drag, which had been the flash point of the riots back in August.

Clearly, the protests had nothing to do with the Grand Jury verdict. As it was with the Rodney King riots here in L.A., the verdict merely served as an excuse for black teenagers and young toughs to run wild because they know that the same shit that would get them a stiff prison sentence if they did it alone or with a buddy will be essentially ignored when done as a mob.

I did not have a business burn down and I was about 1,500 miles west of Ferguson, so for me, the worst part of the evening was listening to commentators, including Barack Obama, attempt to be balanced, talking about the racism that is still part of our culture and especially the culture of the police. It reminded me of the moral equivalence he always seems to find when comparing Israel to its vile Middle East neighbors.

What Obama and the media pundits should have been talking about was the culture of black communities that accepts record numbers of illegitimate births, black crime and welfare as a generational tradition, as the norm.

We’ve had half a century of black kids being raised by young black females, of black men who have unburdened themselves of familial responsibilities and of racists like Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson stoking the embers of racial animosity by scapegoating white society.

The mere fact that a creep like Sharpton is still allowed to host his own show on MSNBC and be welcomed like a long-lost brother to Obama’s White House should tell you all you need to know about what the once honorable Civil Rights movement has come to in America.

If I owned a store in Ferguson that was burned or vandalized by the mob, I should be allowed to sue not only Gov. Nixon and the various police chiefs who basically gave the thugs carte blanche, but Sharpton and the various black politicians who all played an essential role in allowing it to happen. I would also be allowed to target Barack Obama and Eric Holder, who inflated the regrettable, but defensible, shooting of a thug into not only a national spectacle, but, if you recall Obama's reference to it during his U.N. address, an international incident.

One element of the case left me scratching my head. As we heard in the aftermath, Officer Darren Wilson had been alerted by a police call that Michael Brown and his buddy were wanted for swiping cigars from a local convenience store and roughing up the store's clerk. But the description apparently only mentioned that one of the two thugs – Michael Brown, as we came to learn – was wearing a red baseball cap and yellow socks.

What if he had tossed the cap and changed his socks? Would he still be running loose? In Ferguson, is it against police policy to mention that a perp happens to be black or that he tips the scales at 320 pounds?

Understand, I've never worked in law enforcement, but I can only imagine that it would make it a lot easier to find a needle in the haystack if you knew the needle was as big as a Volkswagen.

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## **Walker & Martinez, 2016**

Recently I announced that my dream ticket for the 2016 presidential election would be the governors of Wisconsin and New Mexico. I explained that Scott Walker and Susana Martinez represented a nice geographical balance, representing the upper Midwest and the Southwest.

In addition, both are proven winners. In Walker's case, in spite of the unions squandering millions of dollars of their members' dues to defeat him in two regular elections and a recall, he has won three times in four years. For her part, Governor Martinez is both Hispanic and female, and could be counted on to draw a great deal of support from both voting blocs.

But being a fair-minded fellow, I invited all of you to come up with your own dream ticket. In all, 57 readers took me up on my offer. Over half of them, 31, seconded my nominees. The other 26 named 20 different potential candidates in addition to Walker and Martinez, whom they saw fit to split up to form other combinations.

In one case, I was Gov. Walker's running mate. The voter spelled it out in no uncertain words that it would be my job to insult our opponents. It's a role I would cherish, but I'd also want to have a say in laying out our foreign policy, which, basically, would consist of being a loyal ally to our friends and a resolute foe of our enemies. In case of war, the Prelutsky policy would be the same as that laid out by Ronald Reagan: We win, they lose. No playing for ties.

Most of those mentioned only received one or two votes, sometimes offered as president, sometimes as vice-president. The second most popular duo was Ted Cruz and Trey Gowdy. That combination received four votes.

I know that there are those who don't believe that Gov. Walker scores high enough on the charisma meter to be a viable presidential candidate. It so happens that I agree that Walker doesn't set hearts aflutter, but I regard that as a plus. Charisma is what Democrats offer, as exemplified by rock stars and divas like Obama and the Clintons. That's because Democrats have nothing but bells and whistles to offer the uninformed and idiotic. Their policies don't work because, essentially, they consist of taxing those in society who are

productive in order to subsidize their base; namely those who tend to be ignorant, shiftless and ungrateful.

Judging by the recent midterms, I believe that Americans are fed up with a massive federal government controlling their lives. They have seen for themselves that liberals depend on lying and cheating in order to get around commonsense and the Constitution. I believe they are hungry for leaders who offer competence and character. Leaders, I suggest, like Walker and Martinez.

In the old Soviet Union, every May Day, Joseph Stalin and those in his inner circle would pose on a balcony as the Soviet's military might was paraded past the grandstand. And because Stalin was a paranoid butcher, every year a few of those who had been there the previous year would be gone. And to be gone in the Soviet Union meant being gone from the face of the earth. It also meant being removed from the official photos of previous years. One year, whoever was in charge removed a certain person from the previous year's photo, but he neglected to remove the guy's shoes. It was pretty funny, unless, of course, you were that guy.

What brings it to mind is the rate at which Democrats have been losing elections ever since the passage of the Affordable Care Act. It makes me wonder if that famous photo of Obama signing his favorite piece of legislation in the Oval Office will soon face the same fate, so that all we'll see one day are Obama, the little black kid and Henry Waxman's tiny shoes.

For some time now, I've been receiving a cockeyed message that has gone viral on the Internet for reasons I can't imagine. It goes this way: "Barack Obama, not feeling well and concerned about his mortality, goes to consult a psychic about the date of his death.

"The psychic closes her eyes and, after a few seconds, says, 'You will die on a Jewish holiday.'

Shaken by her response, Obama nervously asks, "Which one?"

"It doesn't matter," replies the psychic. "Whenever you die, it'll be a Jewish holiday."

I can't imagine who thought that made any sense at all. I mean, perhaps it would play in Israel, but here in America, 70% of my fellow Jews still support the man and his destructive agenda. So for them it would, alas, be a day of mourning.

In closing, I'll share a joke I just heard. A panhandler stops a passerby and says he needs money for food. The guy shakes his head and says, "I know you'll only spend it on drugs."

"Not so," says the bum. "I already have money for drugs; it's money for food I need."

I can't think of anything that sums up the welfare state that Obama's America has become better than that.

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## **Why the Calls for 'Justice' in Ferguson Ring Hollow**





A few months ago, one of this website's frequent visitors posted a comment under a column about Michael Brown and the nightly protests that were taking place in Ferguson, Missouri. The commenter, whose name is Steve, was convinced that Brown was murdered by

police officer Darren Wilson, and he was adamant in his assertion that the incident was racially motivated.

How did Steve know this? To him, it was all quite obvious: A white cop shot a black, unarmed, young man. End of story.

Of course, Steve received a lot of push-back from this website's other regulars. They called his statements irresponsible and pointed out that they were based on pure speculation – speculation that stood at stark odds with the few facts, surrounding the incident, that had already been released to the public. No one was able to persuade Steve that he might be wrong. No one was able to plant a seed of doubt in his mind. He showed up to this website just about every day, restating his claim and providing hyperlinks to odd sources that he said proved his assertions to be correct.

One day, Steve linked to a YouTube video entitled, "Michael Brown, Ferguson Victim Paid For His Rellos." He cited it as concrete proof that Michael Brown, in fact, had *paid* for those cigars that security cameras captured him taking from *Ferguson Market and Liquor*, approximately 15 minutes before he was killed.

This was Steve's *aha moment*. You see, if Brown had paid for (and not stolen) those cigars, the series of events that followed couldn't have possibly gone down the way police were saying it did. A call to the police would have never been made or even warranted, thus Officer Darren Wilson would have had

no reason to confront someone fitting Michael Brown's description in the first place – unless, of course, he was a racist cop looking to shoot a black kid.

Out of curiosity, I went ahead and watched the video. It was taken from a security camera inside the store that day – a different one than the one that recorded Brown famously strong-arming the small shop owner who tried to keep him from leaving his store with a package of cigars. This video was trained on the cash-register counter and *showed exactly the opposite* of what Steve claimed it showed. There was no visible transaction of cash for merchandise. The recording clearly showed Brown reaching over the counter in an aggressive manner, grabbing a handful of merchandise, and leaving the store with the store owner in cautious pursuit of him.

Somehow, Steve was able to watch that video and actually see something that just wasn't there. It was then that I realized once and for all that Steve simply didn't care about justice when it came to the Michael Brown shooting. It was the furthest thing from his mind. He didn't care at all about what *really* happened that day between the two individuals involved. All he wanted was a sacrificial lamb to quench his thirst for retribution against what he perceives as a fundamentally racist society.

Being a black man in his fifties who grew up in a different part of the country than I did, Steve undeniably has vastly different life experiences than I do. I'm sure he's encountered various forms of racism throughout his life. Whatever bitterness those experiences have left him with was probably behind his need for the narrative of an unarmed black man being shot for "no reason" by white officer to be true. It was probably what was behind his need for a glaring example of institutional racism – one that he could hold up high in the air and point to in order to plead his case of what he believes is a much broader issue.

The problem, however, is that the facts surrounding the Ferguson case just didn't match up with the narrative. They didn't early on, and they *certainly* didn't after the details of the grand jury's decision were released on Monday. If you erase skin color from the equation, I don't believe *any* fair-minded person would view the actions of Officer Wilson as *criminal*, or even inappropriate. According to the eyewitnesses and the physical evidence, Michael Brown assaulted Wilson and grabbed for his gun. After a short pursuit, the vastly larger Brown then charged at Wilson like a football player. Under those circumstances, what difference would Brown's skin color have made? The notion that Wilson wouldn't have fired his gun at a white man engaged in the same actions is ludicrous.

Will these facts and this logic make any difference to Steve? I doubt it. They didn't make a difference to the hostile, unprofessional reporters who peppered St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch with breathtakingly stupid questions on Monday night. They didn't make a difference to the rioters who took to the street and looted small businesses before burning them to the ground. They didn't make a difference to cable news personalities like MSNBC's Ronan Farrow who evoked a Martin Luther King Jr. quote to romanticize the street violence that he was watching on television. They didn't make a difference to the *New York Daily News* who nearly ran with the Tuesday morning headline "Killer Cop Goes Free". They didn't make a difference to the race hustlers like Al Sharpton who continue to fuel the flames. They didn't make a difference to the Congressional Black Caucus who wrote that the grand jury decision meant that people may now "kill Black men in this country without consequences or repercussions." Perhaps most disturbingly, they didn't make a difference to scores of low-information Americans who've spent the last 24 hours on social media continuing to ask why it's now "okay" to shoot an unarmed black man for "no reason."

The fact of the matter is that these people don't want justice. What *actually* happened between Michael Brown and Darren Wilson is of no interest to them. What they want is restitution for a society they view as unfair, and they are perfectly willing to capitalize on tragedy and convict an innocent man of murder in order to get it.

I find that sad beyond belief.

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## Life and Death in Polarized America

☒ Sooner or later everything becomes polarized in this divided country of ours. It's against the rules to see the other side's point of view. That's like giving ammo to the enemy. Besides, in media circles, where people make a good living dividing Americans, seeing the other guy's point of view is bad for business.

When he first ran for president Barack Obama promised to unify us. You remember what he said about no Red America or Blue America, just a United States of America.

Instead we got the most polarizing president since Lincoln. I don't know anybody who's lukewarm on Mr. Obama. Liberals adore him – or at least have adored him for most of his presidency. And conservatives don't simply disagree with him; many detest him. If he were caught on video robbing a bank, liberals would find an excuse to exonerate him. "He was just withdrawing money he had deposited, but the bank was closed. What was he supposed to do?" And if he found a cure for cancer, conservatives would condemn him for not finding it sooner. "If he didn't play so much golf, he'd have found a cure years ago

which would have saved the lives of many little children.”

Which brings us to Ferguson, Missouri. Nobody knows what actually happened there, except for the police officer involved – and we haven’t heard from him. Was he justified in shooting an unarmed kid 6 times or did he panic and overreact to some imaginary threat? We don’t know.

But in a polarized America, everybody is an expert. And everybody must take sides. To sit on the sidelines and wait for the facts to come in is a sign of weakness. Warriors don’t sit on the sideline – ever.

So if you’re a liberal who gets what passes for news from MSNBC you know what happened: The racist white cop shot the black kid because he’s a racist white cop.

And if you’re a conservative who gets the lowdown from Fox, you’re pretty sure the cop is getting railroaded. Didn’t Michael Brown bust the cop in the face and fracture his eye socket? That’s what Fox News reported, initially getting its information from a conservative website. The report may be true – or not. But so far no one in authority has confirmed the story. But if you play right field, you’re hoping the story is true because that would confirm what you always knew – that the cop was right and the kid was wrong.

When they’re feeling generous both sides will say, “We have to find out what really happened” right before they tell us what really happened, even though they don’t know what really happened.

On MSNBC, we get contributor Michelle Bernard, a black woman, telling us that what happened in Ferguson amounts to a “war on black boys” that could turn into “genocide.” We get nothing from her about the inconvenient fact that black boys are far more likely to be killed by other black boys than by white cops.

Liberals condemn abusive cops – especially when young black males are involved. Conservatives say the problem isn't racism, but dysfunction in too many black communities.

I've been a reporter long enough to know that there are bad cops out there. And some are racist bad cops. I've also seen dysfunction in too many black neighborhoods. But both sides have a problem in polarized America acknowledging that the other side might have a point. And on TV or talk radio or on the Web, it's simply bad business to see more than one side. People turn to partisan media to get their own biases validated. They don't want to hear the other side. That might require them to consider some arguments they'd rather not consider.

When the police in Ferguson released the video of Michael Brown stealing some cigars and roughing up the convenience storeowner, liberals said it was a "smear." Conservatives said – correctly, in my view – that a kid who had just committed a crime might also go after a cop he thought was on to him.

We don't know.

None of this is a case for wishy-washy even-handedness. We all have deeply held opinions based on our values. There's nothing wrong with that. But sometimes, especially when we don't know the facts, it might be a good idea to keep an open mind. Maybe that cop was one of the bad ones. Who knows? Maybe the kid was a thug who after stealing the cigars instigated a confrontation with the cop that turned deadly. Could be. Hanging on to deeply held principles is one thing. Circling the wagons to protect your side, and your preconceived notions – ahead of the facts – is something else altogether.