

BRINGING KANSAS HOME



2011 KANSAS HOUSING CONFERENCE



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NOTES FROM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION ON AUGUST 10, 2011
HYATT REGENCY – WICHITA, KS

WHAT DO THESE FACTS MEAN?

1. America is on the downhill slope. The big disagreement seems to be when did it start?
 - a. 1972?
 - b. 1980s Reagan corporate takeover of public policy related to jobs
 - c. 2000s Bush spending borrowed money on wars,
 - d. 2008 Obama spending and borrowing?

“More than 2/3 of the country see the past decade as a period of decline for the US”

“The country is going through one of the longest sustained periods of unhappiness and pessimism ever”

The Pessimism Index. Page 36/37. Time Magazine July 11, 2011

2. People want services, but do not want to pay for them

Ability for self-delusion is huge. In the confusion between American dream and American fantasies, ideology wins out

Nancy Gibbs (Time magazine February 18, 2011. American punish candor)

“Are we too dumb for democracy” by Stephen Dufrechou

“Facts don’t change minds” Self delusion that is so normal we cannot detect it in ourselves or others www.Alternet.org

3. David Stockman, SF Chronicle May 30, 2011. “Waking to the new Reality”
Allow Bush tax cuts to expire, tax top earners, etc

4. “Why is it so unrewarding for politicians to bash the rich in America?
Fat Cats and Corporate Jets” Why is bashing the rich such an unpopular form of populism?
Page 32, The Economist, July 9, 2011

Americans still believe in the market, even when it produce outcomes demonstrably against their interests. Americans love ‘stuff’

Top 1% of Americans take 25% of the nation’s income and control 40% of its wealth. (UC Berkeley economists)

“What’s the Matter with KS.” Thomas Frank says that when people lose faith in the economy and in government, they turn to spiritual path.

It’s Yoga and sports in California 😊