

## [Election 2010: Instant Reactions](#)

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*Last night was Christmas for Republicans and a funeral for the Democrats. But what are independently minded conservatives, libertarians, and progressives to make of the GOP's sweep to power in the House — and failure to capture the Senate?*

*We asked a little over a dozen American Conservative writers for their off-the-cuff impressions. Below are their snap responses, delivered in a time-frame ranging from the night before the election to 3 pm the day after.*



**Doug Bandow**

The good news is that a lot of Democrats lost. The bad news is that a lot of Republicans won. Washington's ruling class remains essentially unchanged.

The electoral result delivered a stinging rebuke to President Barack Obama's statist agenda. But there is little reason to believe that the GOP will offer principled leadership dedicated to restoring the federal government to one of limited, enumerated powers. After all, President George W. Bush and the Republican Congress used their opportunity to govern to expand government at almost every turn.

Principled leadership is especially unlikely in foreign policy, since the GOP's leaders continue to endorse a strategy of endless intervention and permanent war. If Republicans really believe in limited government, they must challenge both aspects of today's welfare/warfare state. Until they do so, they will remain just the second party of Big Government.

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