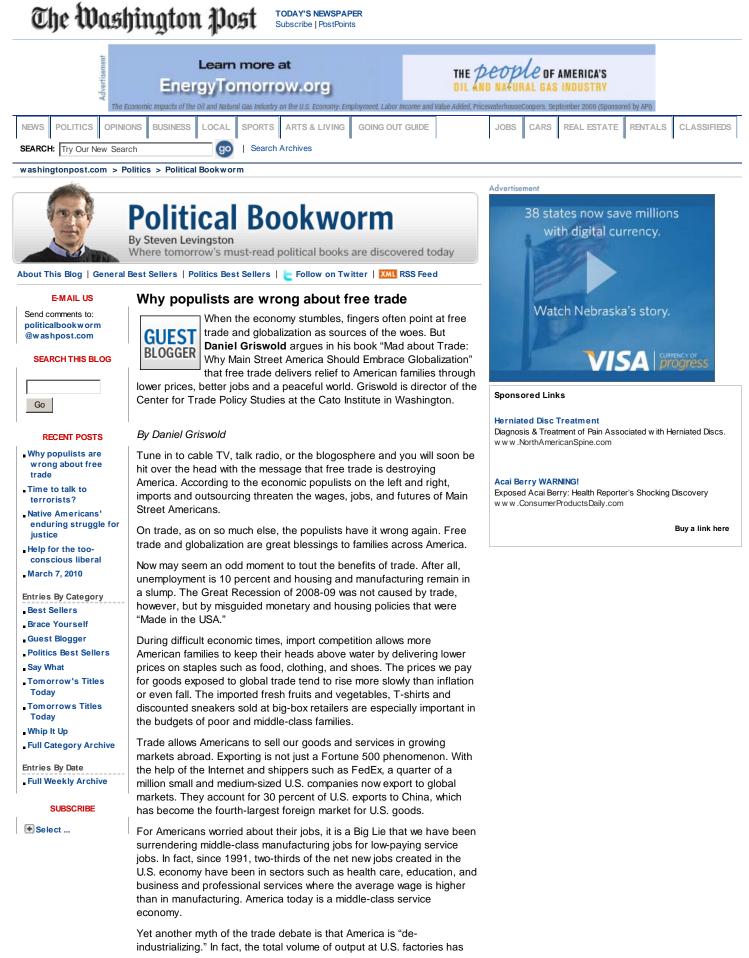
3/11/2010





Political Bookworm - Why populists ar...

been trending up in recent decades, not down. American workers on American soil continue each year to produce thousands of civilian aircraft and aircraft engines, millions of motor vehicles, computers, medical devices, and heavy household appliances, and billions of books, pills, and semiconductors. We produce all that stuff with fewer workers because our manufacturing workers have become so much more productive.

Beyond our borders, the past three decades of expanding trade and globalization have witnessed dramatic global progress. Between 1981 and 2005, the share of the world's population living on the equivalent of \$1.25 a day dropped by half, from 52 to 25 percent, according to the World Bank.

As a global middle class has emerged, so too have more democratic forms of government. The share of the world's population living in countries that respect civil liberties and the right to vote has climbed from 35 percent in 1973 to 46 percent today, according to Freedom House. And fewer people are dying in wars today than in past decades, in large part because commerce has replaced military competition.

America and the world face daunting tasks today, as in generations past, but expanding trade is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

By Steven E Levingston March 11, 2010; 5:30 AM ET
Categories: Guest Blogger Tags: benefits of free trade and globalization;
populist views on free trade



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