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THE WESTERN CONFUCIAN · 西儒



"THE SUPERIOR MAN IS CATHOLIC AND NO PARTIZAN. THE MEAN MAN IS A PARTIZAN AND NOT CATHOLIC. (君子周而不比、小人比而不周。)" — CONFUCIUS, THE ANALECTS, 2.XIV, TRANSLATION BY JAMES LEGGE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010

The Founders and Standing Armies

The [American Conservative's](#) Justin Logan reminds us that "it is worth remembering just how much the American Founders detested the signs of a bloated state: standing armies, a large fiscal-military federation, and a capacious national bureaucracy" — [An Empire, If You Can Keep It](#). He continues:

It may be going too far to say that today's conservatives would denounce the Founding Fathers as unpatriotic conservatives—but not much too far. While members of the Right now flutter like schoolgirls at the mention of military leaders like Gen. David Petraeus, the Founders scorned the prospect of military leaders becoming figures of worshipful esteem. As the historian Arthur Ekirch has highlighted, aversion to standing armies and centralism was at the heart of the American founding.

Tolle, lege. His grim conclusion: "Maybe our ultimate destiny was to become what we revolted against in the first place."

Labels: [America the Beautiful](#), [American History](#), [Governance](#), [Militarism](#), [Paleoconservatism](#), [Paleolibertarianism](#)

POSTED BY THE WESTERN CONFUCIAN AT 4:54 PM (PERMALINK) [Comment \(4\)](#)

4 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

Back in the day, putting together an army meant going out to the boonies, finding outdoorsmen and hunters, and putting them into new clothes and putting a musket into their hands.

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Today it takes 12 years to get a new army grouping functioning at a reasonably acceptable level.

6:04 PM

 The Western Confucian said...

I like the Swiss approach: give everyone basic training and an assault rifle to keep at home.

7:47 PM

 Anonymous said...

A very good point, but not a perfect analogy.

Don't forget that the Swiss have tanks, an air force, and the like, which are run by full-time soldiers. It's also a tiny country that can mobilize in a day, and has informal understandings with its better-armed neighbors.

What they did get right though, was to insist that the upper class furnish the officer corps; that and the draft kept wasteful spending to a minimum.

9:23 AM

 love the girls said...

Anonymous writes :

"What they did get right though" Also:

"It's also a tiny country"

_____ -

As a rule I could not care less what the Founders thought, and find it rather silly how "members of the Right now flutter like schoolgirls at the mention of" the Founders using them as arguments from authority.

The article is a subject on which the author can't loose, but which he does his best to make the arguments, (i.e. that centralism and standing armies are an evil), look their worst by citing Founder authority, anecdotes, and a historical timeline as if all of those prove his argument when none of them do.

The article does a good job of compacting a lot of information into a small space, and does it at a nice pace. It's rather disappointing the author didn't put the same effort into his argument.

The first principle of oped writing is make one simple argument, answering all the objections and get out.

But then again, when an articles starts of by insulting part of the readership which isn't already in agreement, it probably doesn't matter after that if the objections are answered.

10:13 PM

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[July 2009](#)

[August 2009](#)

[September 2009](#)

[October 2009](#)

[November 2009](#)

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RECENT COMMENTS

[The Western Confucian](#) commented on [three score and five years ago today](#): *"Stephen, some kind soul posted here -- Catholic Victims of Nagasaki.I.t.g., well said.Faith, both..."*

[Stephen](#) commented on [three score and five years ago today](#): *"Joshua, unfortunately it appears that your article at Spero Forum cuts off mid-stream. Do you have..."*

[love the girls](#) commented on [three score and five years ago today](#): *"Faith writes : "Thanks to the bomb, our Daddy came home safely."The same with mine. But..."*

[love the girls](#) commented on [founders and standing armies](#): *"Anonymous writes : "What they did get right though" Also: "It's also a tiny..."*

[Anonymous](#) commented on [dalai lama on marital act](#): *"The spin you cite is absurd.Wojtyla grew up in a world where the Gestapo and Communist police would..."*



Omnes Sancti et Sanctæ Coreæ, orate pro nobis.

Faith commented on three score and five years ago today: *"My family would agree with Bad Catholic. Thanks to the bomb, our Daddy came home safely. We..."*

Jonathan Wolfe commented on dalai lama on marital act: *"Is a prelate who jets around on 'Shepherd One,' knowing full well that he is aiding..."*

Anonymous commented on three score and five years ago today: *"Had the US not forcibly opened Japan thanks to Perry, then repeatedly insult Japan from the..."*

The Western Confucian commented on three score and five years ago today: *"In World War II the Devil was on high holiday." Weel said. Your last paragraph is also..."*

The Western Confucian commented on stephen c fosters hard times come again: *"Lookin' forward to those beers in NYC."*

The Western Confucian commented on blog post: *"Harry Truman = Osama bin Laden?" Suggested reading: Pat Buchanan's Hiroshima,..."*

Abdul Alhazred commented on blog post: *"I find thousands of Allied soldiers dead more acceptable than thousands of civilians..."*

Abdul Alhazred commented on blog post: *"Harry Truman = Osama bin Laden? Hmph... I would agree that civilians should not be deliberately..."*

Bad Catholic commented on three score and five years ago today: *"All war is due to sin. In World War II the Devil was on high holiday. However, if I were one of..."*

Kevin J Jones commented on justin raimondo on so called gay so: *"I have doubts about Raimondo's understanding of normal male sexuality. It is not promiscuity..."*

The Western Confucian commented on blog post: *"Like abortion, the issue is simple: Is it moral to target civilians for political and/or military..."*

Anonymous commented on stephen c fosters hard times come again: *"Yes! I was listening to the yo yo Ma Simple Gifts the other day! Why do you keep doing this? haha"*

Anonymous commented on dalai lama on marital act: *"Jonathan, There is a difference between saying such acts are not"*

"licit" or..."

Anonymous commented on dalai lama on marital act: *"Stephen, My main beef with the man is that deliberately and consistently acted in bad faith; I would..."*

The Sanity Inspector commented on blog post: *"Whatever anyone's opinion may be, honesty requires that everyone make mental note of the fact..."*

The Sanity Inspector commented on blog post: *"There is just something uncivilized about killing an enemy without looking into his face. I find..."*

Jonathan Wolfe commented on mongolian neo nazis: *"Who wants to bet that the Internet is responsible for this? :P"*

Jonathan Wolfe commented on blog post: *"Amazingly gracious people, the Japanese. If you mean the white-washed posturing and..."*

Jonathan Wolfe commented on dalai lama on marital act: *"Men who make claims they know not to be true are called con men, even if they dress up in bed..."*

Abdul Alhazred commented on blog post: *"Historians and others will be debating the necessity and/or morality of the Hiroshima &..."*

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