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[Left-Right Alliance Against Empire?](#)

Posted on April 15th, 2010 by Daniel Larison

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The [TAC symposium](#) in the new issue of the magazine that I mentioned last week is now available online. Markos Moulitsas asks and answers a fair question in his contribution:

So where exactly are these anti-interventionist conservatives, willing to partner with progressives on rolling back the most ridiculous tenets of the absurd war on terror? Unfortunately, they don't exist in any appreciable numbers.

To come back to [Justin Logan's post](#) from a few days ago, the trouble is not just that there is not that much political or intellectual leadership on the right that opposes the warfare state, but that there are so very few self-identified conservatives who will support non-interventionist and antiwar conservative leaders.

Filed under: [foreign policy](#), [politics](#)

3 Responses to “Left-Right Alliance Against Empire?”

amconmag.com/.../left-right-alliance-a...

1. **Jim Dooley**, on [April 15th, 2010 at 6:01 pm](#) Said:

“...there are so very few self-identified conservatives who will support non-interventionist and antiwar conservative leaders.”

This is true for too many reasons to list here. Among the most notable:

The warfare state became the first great commandment of the “conservative” movement during the ideological cold war. Though the threat arguably may have been exaggerated, small imagination was required to consider the USSR an existential threat.

When victory came, President Clinton was too much the triangulator to start beating swords into plowshares and the Republican party was too stupid, politically venal, and morally obtuse to recognize the better course.

The military industrial complex is a military industrial complex. It will not go gently into the good night. The army you have needs a war; no hammer too big, no nail too small.

The religion of American exceptionalism is the opiate of enough of our people that the political priesthood believes that it cannot be forsworn.

Mainstream conservatism, or more properly neo conservatism, is incoherent. Small government, the M-I complex, aggressive war to achieve empire on the basis of American exceptionalism cannot be done.

2. **Rowan**, on [April 15th, 2010 at 8:44 pm](#) Said:

Well, that was an informative and depressing read. I found myself generally nodding that it sounds like a great idea but most, if not all of the reasons why it wasn't going to happen were entirely valid.

3. **Grumpy Old Man**, on [April 16th, 2010 at 10:45 am](#) Said:

“Why do they have the friends at the top
 Why do they have the jobs at the top
 We've got nothing
 Always had nothing
 Nothing but holes and millions of them
 Living in holes dying in holes
 Holes in our bellies and holes in our clothes . . . “

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« [A Lesson in Iconography You Might Very Well Think That; I Couldn't Possibly Comment](#) »

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