



Conservative think tanks react to Obama's re-election

By Laurie Bennett

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Once again, think tanks are proving why we ought to find a new term for think tanks.

Take a look at this video from Heritage Action for America, an affiliate of the conservative Heritage Foundation:

"We are in a war," says Michael Needham, CEO of the group. "We are in a war to save this nation."

The war is not with Iraq, Afghanistan or terrorists. It's with the president of the United States and his supporters.

Partisanship in think tanks isn't limited to the right. The liberal Center for American Progress has an action fund. George Soros's Open Society Foundations are affiliated with the Open Society Policy Center.

But the vitriol from conservatives was particularly acidic on the day after the election.

Roger Pilon, vice president of the [Cato Institute](#), wrote this Wednesday about the president's win:

Obama's victory means, for now at least, that the politics of personal destruction and division by identity ("Voting is the best revenge") has carried the day with a thin majority of the electorate, who seem to believe

that the laws of economics, which Obama has never understood, can be reversed.

The [American Enterprise Institute](#) published a column by John Yoo, the former Justice Department lawyer best known for his memo arguing that President Bush was within his rights to permit torture of al-Qaeda captives.

Here's what Yoo had to say:

Mr. Obama's silence on substance promises four years of listless government, interrupted only by sporadic lurches of activism. Instead of an "energetic executive," the hope of the Constitution's framers, Obama's reelection will usher in the passive-aggressive presidency.

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