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## NU – SPACE EXPLORATION WILL CONTINUE

### Your DAs are non-unique – space exploration will continue to increase – private sector and China – NASA will now explore higher Earth orbits

ECKMAN 11 (Dr. Jim, President of Grace University in Omaha and is Professor of History, Theology, and Ethics, The Space Shuttle Program: A Metaphor For America, Issues in Perspective, July 23 2011, <http://graceuniversity.edu/iip/2011/07/11-07-23-1/>) theo

Second, what of the future? Former President Bush proposed the Constellation Project, which was designed to return America to moon exploration and eventually trips to Mars. President Obama, upon entering office, cancelled the Project. Instead, President Obama has outlined his plans for a space program, which has as its signature element the task of ferrying people and equipment into low-Earth orbit missions using the private sector. For example, later this year two spacecraft, one designed by Orbital Sciences, a Virginia-based firm, and another by SpaceX, a California company run by Elon Musk, an internet entrepreneur, will make cargo runs to the ISS. So, without the burden of financing regular missions or the space shuttle, presumably NASA now will spend billions of dollars developing new engines, propellants, life-support systems, etc. NASA’s plans include the Space Launch System, built partly from recycled shuttle parts, and built to lift astronauts and cargo into higher Earth orbits and even further missions to Mars, asteroids, etc. Nonetheless, Obama’s comments have been vague and void of much detail. With the current budget and debt woes of the US, the brutal facts are that America is definitely in decline when it comes to space technology or leadership in such technology. The Economist correctly observes that “the space race was an outgrowth of the development of ballistic-missile technology, it was fueled by cold-war paranoia about Soviet science and it happened at a time when America’s leaders were willing to spend huge amounts on propaganda.” Furthermore, future manned missions, to say Mars, would be fraught with incredible dangers—it would take six months, not three days as it does to the moon. Further, astronauts would be bombarded with cosmic radiation and risk being baked by unpredictable solar flares. Communication between mission control and Mars would take much longer than the moon, making dealing with emergencies problematic. But non-human space missions will presumably continue. For example, robotics can alleviate some of these above-mentioned dangers, as recent robotic missions to Mars and Titan, one of Saturn’s moons, have shown. And the use of satellites will not diminish, as the enormous number of satellites currently orbiting Earth demonstrates—satellites for farming, military surveillance, telecoms, weather monitoring, TV broadcasts, etc. But it does seem that the heroic phase of space exploration is over, unless China and/or India take over the leadership. In 2003, China became the third nation to put a human into orbit atop a rocket it had developed itself. Since then, China has launched five more “taikonauts,” as the Chinese call their astronauts, have been sent into orbit. China is also launching more satellites to attract business for its Long March rockets and, later this year, it plans to build a very small space station of its own. It also plans a mission to the moon in 2017, with 2025 being a planned manned mission to the moon. Such opportunities and plans for America are distant, if not impossible, for America’s future in space is uncertain; weighed down by foreign adventures against terrorism and burdened by a crushing debt, it is difficult to see America ever again playing the leading role in space exploration. So, in a sense, the end of the space shuttle program is a metaphor for where America is—nostalgic about its past heroic achievements but presently in decline. It simply cannot afford manned space travel any longer and it is ceding such leadership to Russia and perhaps even to China. It is a most interesting and rather sad development.

### More evidence – NASA will continue to expand space exploration projects

Stirland 11 ( Sara Stirland, veteran business and politics repoter at Bloomberg wealth manager, business 2.0, CNN, Congress Daily, The New York Post, POLITICO, and wired.com, “NASA’s Bolden: American Space Exploration Not Dead – We’re Planning a Mission to An Asteroid,” 7/31/11) Hou

Former astronaut and current NASA Administrator Charles Bolden hit back at the media on Friday for characterizing the space shuttle's last flight as the end of the American-led age of space exploration. "President Obama has given us a Mission with a capital 'M' -- focus again on the big picture of exploration and the crucial research and development that will be required for us to move beyond low Earth orbit," he said in a speech delivered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. NASA's space shuttle Atlantis will blast off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to the International Space Station for the last time on Friday, July 8. He added: "He's charged us with carrying out the inspiring missions only NASA can do that will take us farther than we've ever been. To orbit Mars and eventually land on it. He's asked us to start planning a mission to an asteroid. The president is asking us to harness that American spirit of innovation, the drive to solve our problems and create capabilities that is so embedded in our story and has led us to the moon, to great observatories, and to humans living and working in space, possibly indefinitely. That American ingenuity is alive and well, and it will fire up our economy and help us create and win the future now." If Bolden sounds a bit touchy, he was probably reacting to The Economist, which has dedicated the cover of next week's edition to the end of the shuttle program, and the symbolism that holds for America's place in the world. The Economist refers to space enthusiasts as "space cadets," and basically says that the era of exciting human-led space exploration is over, and that all the cool, useful stuff is going to happen in orbit around Earth. And any future exciting exploratory trips will probably be undertaken by the Chinese or robots, its writers add in a couple of articles. And that's just as well, argues The Economist, because manned space flight is a waste of time and money, and "the benefits are hard to measure." "The heroic phase of space exploration, with chiselled-jawed astronauts venturing where no man has gone before, inspiring schoolchildren and defending democracy (or socialism,) is now a thing of the past. Mr. Obama's plan may revitalize NASA and send American astronauts into the solar system once again. But the agency's history as a political football suggests it is unlikely."

### US space exploration will continue to expand – private sector

The Daytona Beach, 11 (The Daytona Beach Newspaper, “Farewell to the shuttle, hello to – what?” Editorial from Daytona Beach Newspaper, 7/31/11) Hou

The space shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to take off today on a final mission that will close an incredible chapter of U.S. manned space flight. Maybe 1 million people will watch the launch at various points in Brevard County, and even more outside of the county. Here in Volusia County, people watch launches from beaches and parking lots. "It never gets old," some say as they see the rockets carry men and women into space. Those people will hope it's not the last manned space flight that we see from NASA. Given the mixed messages from the Obama administration, we understand why some think it could be. To be fair, there will still be plenty of work going on at Kennedy Space Center even after 9,000 shuttle-related workers are laid off. And change in any program is inevitable. The world still uses cars, but not Model Ts. The shuttle failed once every 50 missions. Men and women gave their lives in the honorable pursuit of exploration in the shuttle. It's time to ponder a new, safer, more powerful deep-space vehicle. Shuttle research began in the 1970s, following the last of the manned missions to the moon. The first shuttle launched on April 12, 1981,when space shuttle Columbia took off into space, its main pilot driving the vehicle with a heart rate of 130 beats per minute. The use of the shuttles for research, satellite repair, delivery of payloads and construction of the International Space Station helped Central Florida's economy thrive. Our own Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University alone has produced six shuttle astronauts. As we face replacement of the NASA manned flight program with -- something, we're sure, sooner or later -- the technology sector here in Volusia County still has great potential. Embry-Riddle is working at Daytona Beach International Airport on NextGen, the future of air-traffic control. The university also is developing a technology park. But it will still take many more businesses and NASA manned missions to make up for the loss of the shuttle program and its jobs at Kennedy Space Center. Of course, more depends on manned space exploration than the economy of Brevard and Volusia counties. The future of the national economy, international research and our competitiveness with China, Europe and India all depend in part on keeping manned and unmanned exploration on track. We are falling behind with the loss of a manned program. We see various NASA and shuttle workers talk about leaving Central Florida for the Boeing Co. in South Carolina, the European Space Agency -- even the Russian space program. The good news is that while the Russians lend a hand, the U.S. private sector will also step up in getting our NASA astronauts to the International Space Station. Private-sector trips to space are at least three to 10 years away, according to the Associated Press, but it's inevitable that the world's greatest engine of economic progress -- U.S. business and industry -- will help drive space exploration. In the meantime, we are losing people like Gary Stutte, a scientist who has spent nearly two decades perfecting a compact life-sustaining greenhouse for long missions, according to the Miami Herald. Stutte has accepted a fellowship in Ireland, "where the European Space Agency will tap his expertise at growing plants in micro-gravity." "There is the perception and palpable sense that this is the real end of the NASA human flight program. I don't think that is necessarily true but that is certainly the sense," Stutte told the Herald. "The shuttle is gone. There is nothing to take its place." For now. As bittersweet as this moment is, America has the resources, technical expertise and -- we hope -- the will to bounce back

### **Privatization makes space exploration inevitable**

O’Brien, 11 (Robinson O’Brien-Bours, fellow at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C., “The Future of Space Exploration,” No Left Turns, 7/31/11, http://nlt.ashbrook.org/2011/03/the-future-of-space-exploration.php) Hou

However, there is no great loss in this. President Obama's lack of interest in the exploration of the great frontier is unsurprising (he does not seem to be one for gazing up in the stars with great awe and wonder, wanting to know more of the secrets they hold), and his lack of leadership is disappointing. But his inaction and the strained budget of the government is paving the way for a new age of American space exploration. For the past decade, the commercial space industry has been picking up steam, including some successful launches. Led by companies like Virgin Galactic and SpaceX, these private enterprises hold the key to our competitiveness in space. With a sudden influx of the world's premier engineers and scientists now looking for work, the minds and expertise that the private industry has been lacking are now available to help. More importantly, we can start to get excited about space again-- an excitement that can draw more people to study and fund aerospace projects and to become part of something great. It is worth noting that the Old World's discovery and exploration of New World, and its first settlements, were largely due to excited explorers funded by private interests, who served as patrons for exploration both for the economic benefits and the glory that comes with being a part of helping move the human race forward in understanding of some of the universe's great mysteries. For millennia we have gazed up at the stars, the Moon, and our neighboring planets with curiosity and wonder. We have sought new ways to understand and learn more of them, both for the practical benefits and the sake of understanding. As President Reagan fittingly said, it is a way to touch the face of God. America is a nation of innovators; it is for this that I do not fear the fact that China has plans to be on the Moon within a decade while we do not. We have led the way in the exploration of space, and we have the greatest minds in the world to continue this great project. With these great minds now free from the lamentable bureaucracy and managerial incompetence that has plagued NASA in recent years, our innovators and explorers and curious people will continue to seek how to go where Man has never gone before, and to once more touch the face of God.

## Obama political capital – no

### Obama doesn’t have capital- debt ceiling

USA Today 8/1/11 (Susan Page and Fredreka Schouten, “Political damage even if a debt deal is done,” http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2011-07-31-political-fallout-debt-limit-debate\_n.htm?csp=34news)

It's good they made it, but some real damage already has been done. In the debate over raising the government's debt ceiling, President Obama has seen his approval rating fall to a new low, his political adeptness questioned and his liberal base enraged over compromises he made on line-in-the-sand issues such as protecting Medicare from cuts.

### Obama is bleeding political capital – he has lost so much he can’t recover

May 2011 (May is a writer for Lubbockonline.com, The Wolf and the Impending Recession, http://lubbockonline.com/interact/blog-post/may/2011-07-31/wolf-and-impending-recession 7/31/11)

Obama has created a crisis in order to push the Republicans to increase the debt ceiling to accommodate his lavish Socialist spending habits. In order avert the crisis, Obama has also demanded punishing tax increases on corporations and anyone making more than $200,000 per year. Obama has cried “wolf” again, and this is the time that Obama has cried “wolf” once too often. Obama created a crisis that would not have existed without his efforts. In doing so, it appears Obama has tipped us over the brink into another recession. Obama’s reckless massive spending has caused the United States government to run out of money – a problem that could easily be solved by defunding ObamaCare, The Department of Education, and many other meddlesome and destructive bureaucracies that plague the honest efforts of We the People. The American people understand what Obama has done to our nation, and the majority of the American people do not want the Federal debt limit raised. They understand Obama’s Socialist ploy to weaken the United States of America until it is like a European Union country. Obama has lost enough political capital with the American People that he cannot recover. President Herbert Hoover warned us to be on guard against Socialist usurpers like Obama, "Every collectivist revolution rides in on a Trojan horse of 'emergency'. It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini. In the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries of Europe, it was the cry of men striving to get on horseback. And 'emergency' became the justification of the subsequent steps. This technique of creating emergency is the greatest achievement that demagoguery attains." The battle over the debt ceiling increase has greatly diminished Obama’s popularity and has severely weakened him politically. Dick Morris commented on the effects of the debt limit bill that will be passed,

## SKFTA Answers – Non-unique

### SKFTA not going to pass now – debt ceiling and TAA – not on docket until after Labor Day

Lutey, 7/31. (Tom is a staff writer for the Billings Gazette. July 31, 2011, “Stalled trade deals frustrate farmers,” http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article\_c28a7d92-8206-5d09-ba53-37fcf8d364bd.html, CALLAHAN)

To feed the world, you need a seat at the table. That’s what Montana wheat producers hoped for last spring when long-delayed free trade agreements with three rapidly improving economies seemed ready to pass. But with the table set for trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, Congress has seemingly lost its appetite for deal making. The agreements worth $13 billion a year to the U.S. economy were once slated for passage this summer but will now wait until after Labor Day. Meanwhile, America’s three would-be business partners are striking deals with U.S. trade rivals. “The big thing for Montana, and wheat and barley commodities in particular, is that the Canadian free trade agreement with Colombia is going into effect in August,” said Lola Raska, executive vice president of the Montana Grain Growers Association. MGGA had hoped to beat the Canadians to the punch when Colombian ships began loading hard red spring wheat in Portland. Montana happens to be one of the nation’s largest producers of the crop. And the state became the nation’s largest lentil producer in 2010. Colombians eat a lot of large, green lentils — the kind Montana grows. “We started our free trade agreement with Colombia before the Canadians did and now they’re going to pass us,” said Kim Murray, of the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council. “We’re cutting our own throats here, I think.” Murray, who farms near Froid, sees a chance to sell 60,000 tons of U.S. lentils to Colombia annually if House Republicans and Senate Democrats can compromise on the free trade agreement first proposed by President George W. Bush in 2006. Murray, Raska and a dozen other Montana business representatives accompanied Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., on a Colombian trade mission in the spring. At that point, the House and Senate indicated they would pass the trade agreements by July 1. They have since dug in their heels over a worker retraining program that costs $322 million, or 2.4 percent of what the U.S. expects to gain in business if all three trade agreements are approved. The delayed Colombia trade agreement promised to immediately eliminate 80 percent of the dues on U.S. products sold there, with the remaining 20 percent slowly expiring. South Korea presented Montana with bigger opportunities. Even with high tariffs, South Koreans have become the No. 2 foreign buyer of Montana exports. South Korea spent $189.8 million on Montana products last year, according to the Montana Department of Commerce, a 141 percent increase from the previous year. There, Montana ranchers hoped better trade would produce a $200 million increase in U.S. beef sales. Panama had doubled its U.S. imports in the past five years. Its trade deal was to eliminate all tariffs on Montana wheat and beef immediately. Panama has already signed trade agreements with Canada and Europe, which now trade at bargain prices compared to tariff-burdened U.S. products. The stalled U.S. trade agreements are rooted in two things. First, the battle between the House and Senate over raising the debt limit has put trade agreements and several other issues on the back burner. Second, House Republicans and Senate Democrats are at odds over the worker retraining program, known as Trade Adjustment Assistance, which for 40-plus years has been used to retrain U.S. workers who lose their jobs as a result of increased imports of foreign products or added pressure from foreign manufacturers.

### Non-unique – won’t pass Korea

Yonhap, 7/20. (Yonhap News Agency, July 20, 2011, “(LEAD) Ruling party chief: Korea-U.S. FTA must pass through parliament next month,” http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2011/07/21/63/0301000000AEN20110721005100315F.HTML, CALLAHAN)

SEOUL, July 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's ruling party leader stressed Thursday the free trade agreement with the U.S. must pass through parliament next month, saying the long-pending deal will face greater difficulties unless it's approved in the upcoming extraordinary session. Rep. Hong Joon-pyo of the Grand National Party made the remark in a policy meeting with the administration and the presidential office, saying the accord will face greater obstacles starting in September as rival parties fight over the national budget and other domestic political issues. "However good the policies of the Lee Myung-bak administration are, they will be of no use unless the National Assembly finalizes them," Hong said during the meeting, asking the government and the presidential office to make greater efforts to help persuade opposition parties. "If we do our best with a firm belief that we're going in the right direction, the people would support us," Hong said. The trade agreement, signed in 2007 and supplemented last December, has been awaiting approval from the legislatures of the two countries. The main opposition Democratic Party claims the deal is unbalanced in favor of the U.S. and calls for renegotiations.

## Spending DA Answers – NU – No fiscal discipline

### Non-unique – Congress not likely to pass current debt deal by ceiling deadline – the deal does not reign in deficit spending

Green et al 8-1 (Andy – Opinion editor for The Baltimore Sun, Cross-Barnet, Mike – Baltimore Sun commentary editor, Jensen, Peter – former state house reporter, Editor for The Baltimore Sun, Mc Natt, Glenn – editor for The Baltimore Sun, “Debt Limit Deal: Debt limit deal: President Obama, Congress avert disaster but fail the country”, *The Baltimore Sun*, 8-1-2011, [http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-debt-limit-deal-20110801,0,6569759.story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-debt-limit-deal-20110801%2C0%2C6569759.story)) [Crystal Hou]

The tentative debt limit agreement President Barack Obama and leaders in Congress negotiated over the weekend is awful. It involves extensive spending cuts at a time when economic growth and job creation are practically non-existent, all without actually providing enough deficit reduction to secure our long-term prosperity. It offers no assurance (and considerable doubt) that the wealthy and large corporations, who now pay as low a percentage of their incomes in taxes as at any time in decades, will contribute anything whatsoever to the ultimate solution, **and** it represents less an example of a well-functioning democracy than a case of panicky deal-making. Also, it might not actually pass Congress before the nation starts running out of money to pay its bills tomorrow.

### The debt agreement won’t pass – run-away partisanship in the House

Green et al 8-1 (Andy – Opinion editor for The Baltimore Sun, Cross-Barnet, Mike – Baltimore Sun commentary editor, Jensen, Peter – former state house reporter, Editor for The Baltimore Sun, Mc Natt, Glenn – editor for The Baltimore Sun, “Debt Limit Deal: Debt limit deal: President Obama, Congress avert disaster but fail the country”, *The Baltimore Sun*, 8-1-2011, [http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-debt-limit-deal-20110801,0,6569759.story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-debt-limit-deal-20110801%2C0%2C6569759.story)) [Crystal Hou]

The eminent sensibility of that idea is, in today's Washington, the very reason for its unlikelihood. Thanks to gerrymandered congressional districts that mean many representatives face competition only in their party primaries, there are few centrists left, and members of both parties' fringes not only have an incentive to embrace extremism but reason to fear for their re-election prospects if they don't. The tea party freshmen in the House are likely more concerned with being outflanked to the right than they are by the prospect that they'll be beaten by a moderate of either party. It's worth noting that the Gang of Six proposal was born in the Senate, where members must win state-wide, and no similar attempt at consensus emerged in the House. There is good reason to fear that the deficit committee enforcement mechanisms the president and congressional leaders negotiated won't work. The mix of cuts to domestic programs and defense is designed to be sufficiently unpalatable to both sides that it will heighten the incentive to compromise, but it's not clear that Republicans will seek to avoid defense cuts at all costs. In a world in which virtually the entire GOP caucus has signed a pledge to never allow an increase in taxes under any circumstances, the normal rules don't apply. Whatever the committee comes up with is likely either to fail or to be a compromise in name only.

## SPENDING DA ANSWERS – NO LINK

### AND, NO LINK – NASA BUDGET IS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF FEDERAL SPENDING

**GANGALE 2009** [Thomas – former US Air Force Space Engineer and current director @ OPS – Alaska, an aerospace industry think tank, THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUTER SPACE, pages 241-242] ttate

The public generally supports the civil human space program, although it has little knowledge of what it is actually doing. And not only does the public not know what it is getting for its tax dollar, neither does it have any idea of what it is paying for. Polls show that only about 10 percent of the public correctly estimates that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget represents less than one percent of federal spending, whereas approximately 20 percent of the public believes that the NASA budget accounts for more than a quarter of federal expenditures. This suggests that there would be much greater support for the civil space program if the public knew what a bargain they were getting, and might support spending levels several time higher than the current levels.

## Spending DA Answers – US not key to world economy

### **US not key to world economy – US recession at a time of global growth empirically proves**

Greenspun 8/1/2011 (Philip, semi-retired American computer scientist, educator, and early Internet entrepreneur who was a pioneer in developing online communities, “Does It Make Sense To Talk About The U.S. Economy Being In A Recession?,” Business Insider, http://www.businessinsider.com/philip-greenspun-recession-economy-2011-8)

A commenter on a recent blog post says “Philip, I know you don’t believe there’s a recession” (based on the fact that the NBER declared the U.S. economy to have come out of the most recent recession in the summer of 2009). It occurred to me that maybe asking whether or not the U.S. economy is in a recession is the wrong question. Now that the world economy is so tightly linked, what does it mean for a single country to be in a “recession”? A recession implies that there is a business cycle within each country that inevitably expands and contracts. Thus if a country is “in recession”, without any changes in laws, education, tax rates, or attitudes, it will inevitably enjoy strong growth when the recession is over. The world economy has never been in better shape than right now. You might not get that perspective from news articles, but of course they tend to focus on problem spots such as Greece, Ireland, the U.S., etc. There has been a huge amount of growth in the world economy since 2007 (chart). If a country, such as the U.S., has a smaller economy than it did in 2007, does it make sense to say that country is “in a recession” or simply that whatever conditions are necessary for growth in the current world economy are not present in that country? Does it make sense to predict that next year will be different from this year in terms of a business’s willingness to invest in the U.S.? The existence of growth generates inequality. In a subsistence economy, most people have about the same standard of living. Growth, however, will affect different people to different extents and lead to an inequality of income and wealth. Rather than talk about recession or expansion of a particular economy, would it not make more sense to say that different regions of the world will enjoy a larger or smaller share of the world’s economy growth? Even within the U.S., the expansion periods have not been experienced equally in all regions and industries. Michigan stagnated while North Carolina grew. Investment banks grew fat while other kinds of companies at best stayed even. The U.S. recession is over and yet there are a lot of unemployed Americans. Maybe the answer is that it simply is not productive to consider the concept of a national “recession” at a time when the world economy is exploding with growth.

## Spending DA Answers – US economy low now

### US economy not recovering – growth is at zero

Damon 07-30-11 (Andre, Economic reporter for the World Socialist Web Site, “US economy stalls as growth rate drops to 1.3 percent,” WSWS, 7/30/11, <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2011/jul2011/econ-j30.shtml>) [Stryker]

The US economy stalled in the first half of the year, according to figures released by the commerce department Friday. The economy grew just 0.32 percent, or 1.3 percent on an annualized rate, in the second quarter, far lower than the annual figure of 1.8 percent that economists had predicted, according to statistics released Friday by the Commerce Department. The figures come against the background of the negotiations over the slashing of trillions of dollars in government spending, which will further reduce consumer spending and result in hundreds of thousands of additional layoffs. Barack Obama responded to the latest figures only by calling for the passage of the $3-4 trillion in cuts to social spending currently under discussion in Congress. In remarks early Friday morning, Obama said that the latest figures are a reminder of “how fragile the economy already is,” and urged an end to the “gridlock” in the debt negotiations. Stock markets responded negatively to the news, with the Dow closing Friday down by 0.79 percent, dropping nearly 100 points, and the S&P 500 index down by 8 points or 0.65 percent. The Commerce Department's figures followed the announcement by the British government that the UK economy grew by only 0.2 percent in the second quarter, after a gain of 0.5 percent in the first quarter. Perhaps even more significant than the second-quarter GDP estimate, the figure for growth in the first quarter was revised down to an annualized rate of 0.4 percent, from the earlier estimate of 1.9 percent. The annual growth rate was likewise revised down for 2008, from an increase of 0.1 percent, to a contraction of 0.3 percent. The annual estimate for 2009 was also revised downward from a decline of 2.6 percent to a decline of 3.5 percent. This means that the US economy contracted 5.1 percent between 2007 and 2009, significantly worse than the 4.1 percent previously reported. If the latest second-quarter figure is revised in similar fashion, then that means that US economic growth was essentially zero in the first half of the year. The US economy grew at a rate of 3.9 percent in the first quarter of 2010, 3.8 percent in the second quarter, 2.5 percent in the third quarter and 2 percent in the fourth. Whatever the real level of growth may be in the second quarter of this year, it is clearly far less than the 2.5 percent rate necessary to create jobs and lower the unemployment rate. The same day the growth figures were released, Merck, the pharmaceuticals company, said it would eliminate 13 percent of its workforce, cutting 12,000-13,000 jobs by 2015. This week, the US Postal Service said it plans to close 3,600 post offices, resulting in thousands of additional layoffs. Earlier this month, the bookseller Borders said it would close all of its stores, laying off over 10,000 workers. That same day, Cisco, the telecom and network equipment maker, said it would cut its workforce by 11,500. The aerospace giant Lockheed Martin also announced this month that it would eliminate 6,500 jobs. These disastrous mass layoffs are in line with the quarter's unemployment figures. Between March and June, the unemployment rate has grown every month, rising from 8.8 percent to 9.2 percent. The number of unemployed, meanwhile, grew by 545,000, from 13.54 million to 14.08 million. The latest figures on durable goods orders show a similar trend. The Commerce Department said Wednesday that durable goods orders fell 2.1 percent, to $192 billion, in June. This was significantly less than the increase of 0.3 percent predicted by economists. The Commerce Department figures also showed that auto sales fell 5.3 percent between March and April, followed by a 0.2 increase in April-May, and a 1.5 percent drop in May-June. Motor vehicle production fell at an annual rate of 16.4 percent for the second quarter as a whole, compared with a 29.2 percent increase in the first quarter, according to earlier data from the Federal Reserve. These results correspond with the findings of the latest Federal Reserve “beige book” survey of regional economies, with most of the districts under survey reporting a slowdown in economic activity. These calamitous figures make it impossible to characterize the present state of the US economy as a “recovery.” The rate of growth of the US economy has slowed in five of the last six quarters. There is no indication of improvement: rather, every indicator points to decline and stagnation. Amid these disastrous economic conditions, official politics in the United States is dominated not by discussions of how to address unemployment, or even secure an economic recovery, but a struggle to determine the exact form of the trillions of dollars in social cuts declared necessary by both the Democratic and Republican parties. Yet it is becoming increasingly clear that the passage of the cuts will be the prelude to an economic catastrophe. With the US economy stagnant, the firing of hundreds of thousands of government workers as a result of the proposed cuts―on top of the half million laid off in the first half of this year―would push the US economy into even deeper slump.

### Economy low now --- not enough jobs created in July, debt ceiling

Willis 07-31-11 (Bob, reporter for Bloomberg, "U.S. Jobless Rate Probably Unchanged in July," 7/30/11, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-31/economy-in-u-s-probably-failed-to-create-enough-jobs-to-cut-unemployment.html>) [Iuliano]

The U.S. probably failed to create enough jobs in July to reduce unemployment, showing anxiety over government debt deliberations and a slowdown in consumer spending have shaken employer confidence, economists said before reports this week. Payrolls climbed by 90,000 workers after an 18,000 increase in June that was the smallest this year, according to the median forecast of 62 economists surveyed by Bloomberg News before a Labor Department report Aug. 5. The jobless rate held at 9.2 percent after rising in each of the previous three months. **The lack of jobs threatens to further reduce consumer spending, raising the risk the economic recovery will come to a halt**. The inability to reach an accord raising the debt ceiling and unexpectedly weak growth in the first half of 2011 caused the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index to drop 3.9 percent last week, the most in a year. “The whole uncertainty we’re seeing right now is going to keep firms cautious and households cautious,” said James Knightly, a senior economist at ING Bank NV in London. “It’s unlikely anybody is going to go on a hiring binge in that environment. The risk is we see ongoing softness.” Private payrolls, which exclude government jobs, rose 115,000 after a gain of 57,000 in the prior month, economists forecast the employment report will also show. Growth Slowdown The economy grew at a less-than-forecast 1.3 percent pace in the second quarter following revised growth of 0.4 percent in the first three months of the year that was less than previously estimated, the Commerce Department reported last week. Consumer spending grew 0.1 percent, the smallest gain since the second quarter of 2009, the final months of the recession. The projected gain in payrolls would bring the average from May through July to 44,000, down from 215,000 in the previous three months. Increases of around 125,000 a month are needed to keep the unemployment rate steady, while about 200,000 a month would bring it down a percentage point over a year, according to Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Pierpont Securities LLC in Stamford, Connecticut. Through June, the economy had recovered about 1.77 million of the 8.75 million jobs lost as a result of the 18-month recession that began in December 2007. In his semi-annual testimony to Congress earlier this month, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said the “economy still needs a good deal of support.” Bernanke’s View “The most recent data attest to the continuing weakness of the labor market,” Bernanke said the July 13. “It’s improving very slowly in terms of jobs regained. Wages are very stagnant and that’s affecting consumer spending and consumer confidence. There is also ongoing uncertainty about the durability of the recovery.” The drop in shares last week was accompanied by a surge in Treasury securities. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note dropped to 2.80 late on July 29, the lowest since Nov. 30. Some companies are firing workers to keep costs down as the economy slows and uncertainty builds over the debt ceiling, European default risk and regulatory and tax costs. Cisco Systems Inc. (CSCO), the largest networking-equipment maker, plans to eliminate about 6,500 jobs, or 9 percent of its full- time global workforce, to help trim $1 billion in annual costs and step up profit growth. The job cuts will come from across the company and aren’t concentrated in a single unit, said Karen Tillman, a company spokeswoman, in an interview July 18. The company said affected workers in the U.S. and Canada will be notified this week.

### No economic growth coming

New York Times 07-31-11 ("Meanwhile, Back in the Economy," 7/30/11, <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/31/opinion/sunday/meanwhile-back-in-the-economy.html>) [Iuliano]

The economy is in trouble, and Washington — fixated on budget slashing at a time when the economy needs more spending — seems determined to make matters worse. On Friday, in the midst of the debt limit battle, the government reported that economic growth nearly ground to a halt in the first quarter of 2011, a far worse performance than previously estimated. The second-quarter growth number, a feeble 1.3 percent annual rate, is not nearly enough to stop unemployment from rising even higher. Nor are there persuasive signs that absent more government support, conditions will turn around anytime soon. Indeed, they are bound to worsen if Congress approves deep near-term spending cuts as part of a debt-limit deal while letting relief and recovery measures expire. We will leave it to the historians to figure out how both political parties, and many Americans, became convinced that austerity is the road to recovery. History provides evidence that it is not, including the premature budget tightening of 1937 that reignited the Depression. For now, it is clear that the traditional drivers of recovery — consumer spending and residential real estate — have failed to rebound, with the latest report showing consumers extremely cautious about spending on anything and the housing market stuck at its post-bubble lows. Weak demand leads to slow growth, and slow growth leads to high and rising unemployment, which then reinforces weak demand and slow growth, and so on, in a vicious cycle from which the economy, obviously, has found no escape. It is a situation that cries out for help from the government, and yet the opposite is happening. As federal stimulus programs from 2009 have ended — including aid to states and infrastructure projects — state and local governments have also cut back, leading to layoffs and less spending on contractors and social programs. The fiscal drag will only intensify in the quarters to come if the near-term budget cuts being called for in the debt limit fight are enacted.

### The economy is in trouble, regardless of the debt ceiling

Reuters 07-31-11 ("Debt deal could spur relief rally," 7/31/11, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/07/31/us-usa-stocks-weekahead-idUSTRE76U2BA20110731>) [Iuliano]

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid said on Sunday he hopes to hold a Senate vote tonight on an emerging deal to raise the U.S. $14.3 trillion U.S. debt ceiling. The possibility of an agreement raised hopes that a bitter, weeks-long partisan battle over cutting the U.S. deficit might be near a close. "At this point, the markets are perceiving that a deal and a vote will be announced," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist at Prudential Financial in Newark, New Jersey. The consequence of a debt deal will be "a relief rally in stocks," Krosby said. "There will also be an attempt to deconstruct the information: where the austerity will come from. You will see analysts try to dissect which sectors and companies will be impacted by the cuts." Anxiety over the debt crisis and the U.S. economic outlook sent the S&P 500 lower last week, resulting in the worst week and month for the benchmark index since last August. The CBOE Volatility index, Wall Street's "fear index," rose more than 40 percent, its biggest jump since May. U.S. Treasury prices rallied last week as investors clung to relatively safe U.S. government debt and concluded that a weak economy meant the Federal Reserve would keep monetary policy accommodative for the foreseeable future. A stock market rally prompted by a debt ceiling deal could be limited, however, by the U.S. economy's uncertain outlook, prospects that could be hurt by a debt ceiling plan based on fiscal austerity. "Once the euphoria of having a deal is over, we will get back to the economy and that picture is not a pretty one," said Kevin Giddis, president of fixed income capital markets in Morgan Keegan in Memphis, Tennessee. Government data released on Friday showed the U.S. economy stumbled badly in the first half of 2011 and came close to contracting in the January-March period. "The market will quickly shift its focus to the employment data coming out on Friday," Krosby said. "A relief rally could fade if the data underscore that the economy is shifting into a stall, rather than sitting in a soft patch. "The market (will) quickly focus on the data and on corporate earnings and corporate guidance," Krosby said. Any relief enjoyed by the stock market would probably come at the expense of the U.S. Treasury market which benefited from its safe-haven status during the debt ceiling conflict. That would lead to higher U.S. yields. Still, any rise in U.S. Treasury yields resulting from diminished anxiety about the debt ceiling would be limited by the troubled outlook for the U.S. economy, circumstances that appear to ensure that the Federal Reserve's monetary policy will remain accommodative for a long time. The recent retreat in stocks has put them in a precarious position from a technical perspective as the S&P 500 index moves closer to its 200-day moving average, a level which could bring about additional selling if the index breaks below it. The benchmark index successfully bounced off the level on Friday after the early morning decline. "That is the line in the sand that really divides things going maybe bad -- to things really turning bad," said Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services in Charlotte, Vermont. Even if a deal is struck, a possibility remains the United States could lose its triple-A credit rating if the terms are not draconinan enough to satisfy credit rating agencies. "You will hear analysts debate whether or not the package is sufficient to keep the ratings agency at bay in terms of downgrading U.S. government debt," Krosby said. Investors can still find some solace in corporate earnings. According to Thomson Reuters data through Friday, of the 327 S&P 500 companies that have posted earnings, 73 percent have reported results higher than analysts' expectations. Companies due to report earnings this week include Kraft Foods Inc, Clorox Co, Pfizer Inc and Prudential Financial Inc. But a weak economy combined with a debt ceiling bill that involves more fiscal restraint could hurt stocks later on. "Companies have been able to offset a lack of demand by refinancing their balance sheets, but longer term, the sledding will be much tougher for equities and corporations," Giddis said. "We have to improve job growth for businesses to do well or for the equity market to do well." In addition to weak economic data, corporate earnings, and U.S. debt ceiling developments, investors must remain prepared for any developments from the simmering debt crisis in the euro zone, which could further heighten investor angst. "There are two things I keep my eye on -- one on Washington and one on Brussels, because between the two of them you never know which headline risk is going to hit you over the head next," said Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services in Charlotte, Vermont.

## Capitalism K Answers – Capitalism sustainable

### Capitalism is dynamic , self-correcting, and wealth-generating – insures sustainability

Goklany 7 (Indur, Julian Simon Fellow at the Political Economy Research Center, “Now For the Good News,” Reason.com-free minds and free trades, 3/23/7, <http://www.reason.com/news/show/119252.html>) singh

Environmentalists and globalization foes are united in their fear that greater population and consumption of energy, materials, and chemicals accompanying economic growth, technological change and free trade—the mainstays of globalization—degrade human and environmental well-being. Indeed, the 20th century saw the United States’ population multiply by four, income by seven, carbon dioxide emissions by nine, use of materials by 27, and use of chemicals by more than 100. Yet life expectancy increased from 47 years to 77 years. Onset of major disease such as cancer, heart, and respiratory disease has been postponed between eight and eleven years in the past century. Heart disease and cancer rates have been in rapid decline over the last two decades, and total cancer deaths have actually declined the last two years, despite increases in population. Among the very young, infant mortality has declined from 100 deaths per 1,000 births in 1913 to just seven per 1,000 today. These improvements haven’t been restricted to the United States. It’s a global phenomenon. Worldwide, life expectancy has more than doubled, from 31 years in 1900 to 67 years today. India’s and China’s infant mortalities exceeded 190 per 1,000 births in the early 1950s; today they are 62 and 26, respectively. In the developing world, the proportion of the population suffering from chronic hunger declined from 37 percent to 17 percent between 1970 and 2001 despite a 83 percent increase in population. Globally average annual incomes in real dollars have tripled since 1950. Consequently, the proportion of the planet's developing-world population living in absolute poverty has halved since 1981, from 40 percent to 20 percent. Child labor in low income countries declined from 30 percent to 18 percent between 1960 and 2003. Equally important, the world is more literate and better educated than ever. People are freer politically, economically, and socially to pursue their well-being as they see fit. More people choose their own rulers, and have freedom of expression. They are more likely to live under rule of law, and less likely to be arbitrarily deprived of life, limb, and property. Social and professional mobility have also never been greater. It’s easier than ever for people across the world to transcend the bonds of caste, place, gender, and other accidents of birth. People today work fewer hours and have more money and better health to enjoy their leisure time than their ancestors. Man’s environmental record is more complex. The early stages of development can indeed cause some environmental deterioration as societies pursue first-order problems affecting human well-being. These include hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, and lack of education, basic public health services, safe water, sanitation, mobility, and ready sources of energy. Because greater wealth alleviates these problems while providing basic creature comforts, individuals and societies initially focus on economic development, often neglecting other aspects of environmental quality. In time, however, they recognize that environmental deterioration reduces their quality of life. Accordingly, they put more of their recently acquired wealth and human capital into developing and implementing cleaner technologies. This brings about an environmental transition via the twin forces of economic development and technological progress, which begin to provide solutions to environmental problems instead of creating those problems. All of which is why we today find that the richest countries are also the cleanest. And while many developing countries have yet to get past the “green ceiling,” they are nevertheless ahead of where today’s developed countries used to be when they were equally wealthy. The point of transition from "industrial period" to "environmental conscious" continues to fall. For example, the US introduced unleaded gasoline only after its GDP per capita exceeded $16,000. India and China did the same before they reached $3,000 per capita. This progress is a testament to the power of globalization and the transfer of ideas and knowledge (that lead is harmful, for example). It's also testament to the importance of trade in transferring technology from developed to developing countries—in this case, the technology needed to remove lead from gasoline. This hints at the answer to the question of why some parts of the world have been left behind while the rest of the world has thrived. Why have improvements in well-being stalled in areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab world? The proximate cause of improvements in well-being is a “cycle of progress” composed of the mutually reinforcing forces of economic development and technological progress. But that cycle itself is propelled by a web of essential institutions, particularly property rights, free markets, and rule of law. Other important institutions would include science- and technology-based problem-solving founded on skepticism and experimentation; receptiveness to new technologies and ideas; and freer trade in goods, services—most importantly in knowledge and ideas. In short, free and open societies prosper. Isolation, intolerance, and hostility to the free exchange of knowledge, technology, people, and goods breed stagnation or regression.

## Capitalism K Answers – Alternative fails

### Capitalism is too resilient – can’t be broken down

**Serwetman 97** ( Will, He is the owner/editor of the www.ninjalawyer.com, 5/1/97, <http://www.ninjalawyer.com/writing/marx.html>) singh

Marx utilizes the Hegelian dialectic in his attempt to prove that capitalism will inevitably collapse from the crisis of overproduction and the class conflict caused by enmiseration and alienation. Capitalism, he felt, would inevitably be replaced by socialism. Marx died waiting for this revolution to come about, and it never has. Even the Russian and Chinese revolutions cannot be viewed as results of capitalism collapsing, nor can they be seen as socialist states because they retain post-revolutionary class structures and are not radical democracies. While Rosa Luxemberg wrote that while the capitalism will inevitably consume itself and that socialism is a possible option, I go so far as to question the Marxist logic that capitalism is doomed to c collapse. The capitalist that Marx evokes in his work is only a caricature of the behavior of capitalists and does not reflect reality as history has shown it to be. Successful capitalists are smart enough to plan for long-term profits in addition to the short-term. Like anyone else, they will make mistakes and learn from them. There is a Darwinian process to capitalism and those unable to account for factors beyond their short-term profits will be replaced by those who can. How many buffalo-fur coat businesses do we see? Despite the various crises of the past century, capitalism thrives and shows no major signs of strain. Despite Marx's predictions, capitalism is perfectly capable of inventing new markets to replace saturated ones. If stereo manufacturers can no longer find a market for their goods, they close down and invest their money in a new industry, such as cable television or computers. The crisis of overproduction will never happen because capitalism is flexible and will sacrifice it's short term goals to achieve its long term ones. Marx also never took into account the effect government regulation and welfare would have on the capitalist system. Any business naturally desires monopolies over its markets, but when that is achieved, the consequences are disastrous. The final stage of capitalism, in which trusts and monopolies prevent the economy from running naturally and efficiently, has been prevented by legislation and unionization. None of the problems Marx predicted are unavoidable as long as we do not sink to the level of sharks.

## Capitalism K Answers – Value to Life

### Capitalism best ensures value to life

Tracinski 8 ( Robert, He is the editor of the Intellectual Activist, “The Moral and the Practical,” 5/8/08)

 <http://www.moraldefense.com/Philosophy/Essays/The_Moral_and_the_Practical.htm>) nikhil

Stated in more fundamental terms, capitalism is practical because it relies on the inexhaustible motive-power of self-interest. Under capitalism, people are driven by loyalty to their own goals and by the ambition to improve their lives. They are driven by the idea that one's own life is an irreplaceable value not to be sacrificed or wasted. But this is also a crucial moral principle: the principle that each man is an end in himself, not a mere cog in the collective machine to be exploited for the ends of others. Most of today's intellectuals reflexively condemn self-interest; yet this is the same quality enshrined by our nation's founders when they proclaimed the individual's right to "the pursuit of happiness." It is only capitalism that recognizes this right. The fundamental characteristics that make capitalism practical—its respect for the freedom of the mind and for the sanctity of the individual—are also profound moral ideals. This is the answer to the dilemma of the moral vs. the practical. The answer is that capitalism is a system of virtue—the virtues of rational thought, productive work, and pride in the value of one's own person. The reward for these virtues—and for the political system that protects and encourages them—is an ever-increasing wealth and prosperity.

## Capitalism K Answers – Capitalism Good

### Turn - Capitalism is the most important factor in peace – draws nations together and raises the economic price of war

**Bandow 05** (Doug, Senior Professor at the Cato Institute, "Spreading Capitalism is Good for Peace", Korea Herald, 11/10/05, [**www.cato.org/pub\_display.php?pub\_id=5193**](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=5193)) Usha

Today's corollary is that creating democracies out of dictatorships will reduce conflict. This contention animated some support outside as well as inside the United States for the invasion of Iraq. But Gartzke argues that "the 'democratic peace' is a mirage created by the overlap between economic and political freedom." That is, democracies typically have freer economies than do authoritarian states. Thus, while "democracy is desirable for many reasons," he notes in a chapter in the latest volume of Economic Freedom in the World, created by the Fraser Institute, "representative governments are unlikely to contribute directly to international peace." Capitalism is by far the more important factor. The shift from statist mercantilism to high-tech capitalism has transformed the economics behind war. Markets generate economic opportunities that make war less desirable. Territorial aggrandizement no longer provides the best path to riches. Free-flowing capital markets and other aspects of globalization simultaneously draw nations together and raise the economic price of military conflict. Moreover, sanctions, which interfere with economic prosperity, provides a coercive step short of war to achieve foreign policy ends.

### More evidence – Capitalism drives peace – capitalist systems lead to free political systems, which protects civil and political rights – those countries rarely go to war with one another

**Bandow 05** (Doug, Senior Professor at the Cato Institute, "Spreading Capitalism is Good for Peace", Korea Herald, 11/10/05, [**www.cato.org/pub\_display.php?pub\_id=5193**](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=5193)) Usha

In particular, poorer democracies perform like non-democracies. He explains: "Democracy does not have a measurable impact, while nations with very low levels of economic freedom are 14 times more prone to conflict than those with very high levels."

Gartzke considers other variables, including alliance memberships, nuclear deterrence, and regional differences. Although the causes of conflict vary, the relationship between economic liberty and peace remains. His conclusion hasn't gone unchallenged. Author R.J. Rummel, an avid proponent of the democratic peace theory, challenges Gartzke's methodology and worries that it "may well lead intelligent and policy-wise analysts and commentators to draw the wrong conclusions about the importance of democratization." Gartzke responds in detail, noting that he relied on the same data as most democratic peace theorists. If it is true that democratic states don't go to war, then it also is true that "states with advanced free market economies never go to war with each other, either." The point is not that democracy is valueless. Free political systems naturally entail free elections and are more likely to protect other forms of liberty - civil and economic, for instance. However, democracy alone doesn't yield peace. To believe it does is dangerous: There's no panacea for creating a conflict-free world. That doesn't mean that nothing can be done. But promoting open international markets - that is, spreading capitalism - is the best means to encourage peace as well as prosperity. Notes Gartzke: "Warfare among developing nations will remain unaffected by the capitalist peace as long as the economies of many developing countries remain fettered by governmental control." Freeing those economies is critical. It's a particularly important lesson for the anti-capitalist left. For the most part, the enemies of economic liberty also most stridently denounce war, often in near-pacifist terms. Yet they oppose the very economic policies most likely to encourage peace. If market critics don't realize the obvious economic and philosophical value of markets - prosperity and freedom - they should appreciate the unintended peace dividend. Trade encourages prosperity and stability; technological innovation reduces the financial value of conquest; globalization creates economic interdependence, increasing the cost of war. Nothing is certain in life, and people are motivated by far more than economics. But it turns out that peace is good business. And capitalism is good for peace.