

Greetings from Tyler,

Media attention is heavily focused on the [oil spill in the gulf](#), with the [president taking heavy criticism](#) even from some of his most ardent cheerleaders. It's hard for many, including yours truly, to comprehend some of the [decisions made, and not made in response to the ongoing disaster](#). The idea that intellectuals and their Nobel prizes would be lauded in the naming of commissions while the Coast Guard interrupts the efforts of cleanup vessels siphoning heavy muck off-shore, citing life vest and fire extinguisher violations, is as patently absurd as every other aspect of this disgusting situation.

[That the administration would use the disaster to push its political agenda while the gusher spews unabated is unconscionable](#). Further [deepwater drilling has been curtailed indefinitely](#), putting untold thousands out of work amid an already deep recession while Americans are lectured about our need to embrace a green future. Critics charge that the [\\$20 billion "escrow fund"](#) agreed to by British Petroleum will be funneled through union channels in an effort to expand influence into the southern states that have hitherto avoided union muscle. I guess we'll see.

If only the price of gas could be propelled up above the [\\$7.00 per gallon level](#), it would be the fulfillment of the socialist tree-huggers' dreams. And they're saying it out loud! If you put this stuff in a fictional novel, the books would be hurled against walls in fits of disgust. Nobody would buy into such an irrelevant and unrealistic story line. And yet we're living it.

[Conspiracy theories surround the unlikely chain of events](#), and no wonder. Government agencies of all stripes have tripped over each other in an apparent effort to make the consequences of the rig accident more serious than they needed to be. If we ever wondered what happens when a government declares virtual war against its own people, their prosperity, their energy supplies and their livelihoods, we need not wonder any more. It's playing out in high definition images, from the gusher at the bottom of the sea to the bumbling federal officials blocking nearly every effort to contain damage.

Worries about what is happening to the United States, economically, ecologically and politically now tend to divert our attention from urgent troubles elsewhere in the world, notably the Middle East and Europe. Just yesterday U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates revealed that [Iran has the capacity to fire salvos of multiple missiles simultaneously capable of reaching Europe](#). Though Israel was not mentioned in the hearings which dealt with anti-missile defense systems for Europe, it goes without saying that Israel is well within range and a more likely target. Analysis of Gates' presentation holds that the balance of power in the region has now shifted in Iran's favor against Israel.

[As for sanctions recently enacted by the United Nations against Iran, results have been predictable](#). In reply, [Iran boasts that it is increasing the number of centrifuges in operation](#) and determined to pursue its nuclear ambitions more doggedly than ever.

The European Commission made headlines in the British papers this week, worrying that the [growing economic crisis threatens democracy in Greece, Spain and Portugal](#), unless of course more money is pledged forthwith. From the UK Mail, “The stark warning came as it emerged that EU chiefs have begun work on an [emergency bailout package for Spain which is likely to run into the hundreds of billions of pounds](#).” This is atop the trillion dollars already pledged for Greece. And the U.S. is implicated in all this through its stake in the IMF.

As for the threat of a breakdown in democracy, the warning implies an outbreak of anarchy and military dictatorships arising to restore order. This whole picture is looking more and more like the scenario that played out in Europe at the end of World War I. And the U.S. is pursuing the same policies wreaking havoc in Europe.

The stage is set for major upheaval wherever you look. Militant Islam is a major wild card for nearly every western nation at the same time that economic crisis threatens the developed world with collapse. We’re entering a period of turbulence, where we’re going to be met with unpalatable developments on a regular basis.

We certainly need God’s intervention and blessing on our nation and on His people in the weeks and months ahead.

The Garner Ted Armstrong telecast brought 314 requests with one hundred twenty first time contacts. We’re into the summer period now when school’s out and lots of people are traveling, but hope that audiences are building over our new stations in Canada and in New York.

Did you see the story about the [six story tall statue](#) (*actually a bust from the torso up*) meant to depict the Savior along I -75 in Ohio? You guessed it. It was hit by lightening and burnt to the ground leaving only bits of the inner steel structure strewn about. The mega-church that erected the idol in violation of the second commandment plans to reconstruct it because it “meant a lot to people.” It sounds like a defiance of “nature’s law,” but apparently they just don’t get it.

Have a great Sabbath,

Mark Armstrong