

Intervention Magazine

War, Politics, Culture

New Forum

Intervention Forum



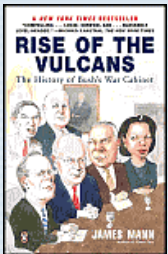
Explore the issues and discuss the events, make new friends and discover new idiots. Join us in our **Forum**.

Book Reviews

Rise of the Vulcans

By James Mann

Reviewed by **Lawrence J. McNamee**



Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on

By Michael Scheuer

Reviewed by **Robert C. Cheeks**

Commentary: The Big Lie About Social Security

The Bush Administration is lying to create a sense of crisis to fundamentally change Social Security.

By **Dan Merica**

Sen.



Charles Grassley, Republican Head of the Senate Finance Committee, blasted Democrats for not coming up with solutions for making Social Security solvent. His tirade is just a prolongation of Bush's "big lie" campaign to scare Americans into believing that Social Security is in crises.

The "big lie" works like this. Invent a crisis where none currently exists. State only the information (real or not) that benefits your argument and repeat the message over and over and over until people believe. Ignore all information that might undermine your argument and attack anyone who might disagree. Then, after convincing everyone that there is a crisis and marginalizing your opponents, you come up with the solution to the crisis you manufactured.

Republicans dutifully repeat the claim that the program will go bankrupt in 2042. The reality is that, if nothing is done, Social Security will be taking in more revenue than it pays out until 2018. After 2018, current obligations can be met until 2042. After 2042, there would still be enough money to pay at least 73 percent of benefits. These figures aren't wishful thinking from a liberal think tank, they are the government's own calculations.

Grassley conveniently ignored the fact that Democrats did suggest that the earning cap of \$90,000 for Social Security taxing be raised. This move would solve any projected shortfalls down the

Quoted

"We spend far more per person on health care than any other country - 75 percent more than Canada or France - yet rank near the bottom among industrial countries in indicators from life expectancy to infant mortality." -- **Paul Krugman**, *NY Times*

"Except for winning passage of the USA Patriot Act, Mr. Bush has not generally worked through Congress but has asserted broad executive war powers to take controversial steps on his own." -- **Washington Post**

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Poetry

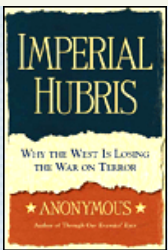


God Off His Back Porch

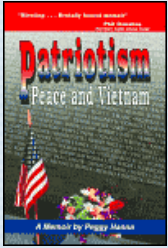
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Calling Allen Ginsberg
By **Lydia Howell**

Coaching Winter Track in Time of War



**Patriotism, Peace,
and Vietnam**
By Peggy Hanna
Reviewed by Scott D.
O'Reilly



Hell's Angels
By Hunter S. Thompson
Reviewed by Stewart
Nusbaumer





road into future decades. Also, some people have suggested raising revenue for Social Security with a corporate tax on American brand name goods imported from sweatshops in China and elsewhere. Bush's support for offshoring good-paying American jobs has certainly cut FICA tax collections and the number of Americans able to save for retirement.

It's not surprising that investing in the stock market would be the solution that millionaire Republicans would come up with for their manufactured crises. After all, it would inject massive funding into corporate America, in particular the investment industry. They could care less that it would be at the expense of a secure retirement for senior Americans.

Furthermore, investing for retirement would be a daunting challenge for most Americans who would be novices in the world of stocks and bonds. Many would become easy prey for unscrupulous or incompetent brokers. Bush should know. His brother Neil participated in wiping out the retirement savings of many seniors during the savings and loans scandal in the eighties. Of course, Neil Bush escaped prison because his old man was president.

You can email Dan at DanMerica@netzero.com.

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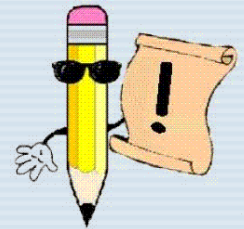
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Is Nancy Grace of Court TV a feminist or traditionalist? Probably both, as well as controversial, irreverent and smart.

"Chosen by God to Lead America"

By **Rick Friedman**

Having received the green light from "above," Christian George is about to unleash a holiness that just might Armageddon all

of us.

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