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You Hate Me, You Really Hate Me

—By [Kevin Drum \(/authors/kevin-drum\)](#) | Wed Sep. 26, 2012 9:50 AM PDT

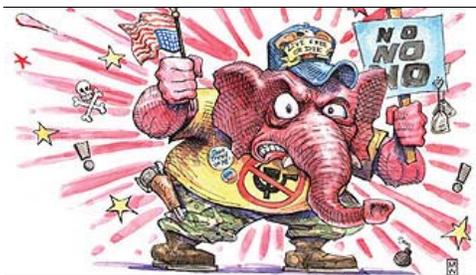
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A recent paper that was posted online for the first time last week concludes that we just can't stand each other these days. "Using data from a variety of sources," [say the authors](#), [\(http://poq.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/09/15/poq.nfs038.abstract\)](http://poq.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/09/15/poq.nfs038.abstract) "we demonstrate that both Republicans and Democrats increasingly dislike, even loathe, their opponents." And apparently this has little to do with policy positions. It's more about the relentless tsunami of negative attack ads and partisan media that have consumed American politics over the past couple of decades.

Sadly, the full paper is gated. However, [Claude Fischer offers up a few tidbits](#):

[\(http://madeinamericathebook.wordpress.com/2012/09/24/the-polarizing-political-paradox-redux/\)](http://madeinamericathebook.wordpress.com/2012/09/24/the-polarizing-political-paradox-redux/)



From the late 1970s through the late 2000s, Americans rated their own political party pretty consistently, at about an average of 70 on the scale. **However, Americans rated the other party increasingly coolly, from about a 47 average four decades ago down to about a 35 average these days.** This trend portrays a growing animosity toward the other side. Notably, the gulf in party temperatures is now wider than that between whites and blacks and that between Catholics and Protestants.

A pair of surveys asked Americans a more concrete question: in 1960, whether they would be "displeased" if their child married someone outside their political party, and, in 2010, would be "upset" if their child married someone of the other party. **In 1960, about 5 percent of Americans expressed a negative reaction to party intermarriage; in 2010, about 40 percent did (Republicans about 50 percent, Democrats about 30 percent).**

Wow. I'm a pretty partisan hack, but I really can't imagine not wanting my daughter to marry a Republican. But who knows? If I actually had a daughter, maybe I'd feel differently.

Still, it's pretty disturbing. I'd call this the Fox Newsification of America, or perhaps the Limbaugh-ization of America, and increasingly liberals are playing the same game. MSNBC may not be quite the partisan hatefest that Fox is, but it's certainly moving in that direction. If America were a parliamentary democracy, this might be more tolerable, but in our presidential system it basically just leads to uncompromising gridlock. Not a good sign for the future.

Via [Balloon Juice](#). (<http://www.balloon-juice.com/2012/09/26/the-girl-that-i-marry/>)

134

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[KEVIN DRUM \(/authors/kevin-drum\)](#) *Political Blogger*

Kevin Drum is a political blogger for *Mother Jones*. For more of his stories, click [here](#)

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Jesus Criss [09/26/2012 09:59 AM \(#comment-663363982\)](#)

<http://disqus.com/google-dbeb8cd50edc849c2383902f66e68824/>

It's true. I would not want my son to marry Sarah Palin. I wouldn't be able to stand to hear her at Thanksgiving; I wouldn't want her spoiled little children talking back to me and taking advantage of my son; I wouldn't want my son to live a miserable life wed to a narcissistic biaatch.

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<http://disqus.com/facebook-588263301> **Jan A. Gillespie and 10 more liked this (#)**

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Kadzimiell [09/26/2012 10:33 AM \(#comment-663400471\)](#)

<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiell/>

It should be said that Sarah Palin would be unappealing as a daughter-in-law regardless of political affiliation.

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<http://disqus.com/twitter-382522977> **B E Pratt and 12 more liked this (#)**

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Eric_Jaffa [09/26/2012 10:00 AM \(#comment-663364503\)](#)

http://disqus.com/Eric_Jaffa/

If not for gridlock, Congress may have passed Lieberman's Cybersecurity bill.

The bill lets email-companies distribute your emails without telling you, as long as they're supposedly doing it for cybersecurity.Thank goodness for Congressional gridlock.

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ttbnrtpx [09/26/2012 11:17 AM \(#comment-663455116\)](#)

<http://disqus.com/ttbnrtpx/>

Gridlock is better than bipartisan war making and embezzlement. America and the world needed

gridlock in early 2003 and in the summer of 2008.

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Crissa (<http://crissa.twu.net/>) 09/26/2012 12:30 PM (#comment-663546634)

(<http://disqus.com/Crissa/>)

Ahh, because it was so widely supported by those on the left.

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(<http://disqus.com/TheRavenSpoke>) TheRaven liked this

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Ayn Rand Paul Ryan (<http://twitter.com/AynRandPaulRyan>) 09/26/2012 10:00 AM (#comment-663364810)
(<http://disqus.com/twitter-755835576/>)

I would be concerned about my daughter's state of mind if she was even *dating* a Republican. I'm dead serious.

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gyrfalcon 09/26/2012 10:28 AM (#comment-663394542)

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

Really. You can't be a Republican anymore without having an utterly odious world view or extraordinarily bad judgment.

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(<http://disqus.com/facebook-1079238948>) Walter Hall and 17 more liked this (#)

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Matthew (http://pulse.yahoo.com/_KR1XL7URWLJ2LBS4IM4R3EHREA) 09/26/2012 10:35 AM (#comment-663403010)

(<http://disqus.com/yahoo-KR1XL7URWLJ2LBS4IM4R3EHREA/>)

I'll plead guilty as well. I freakin' hate listening to Maher's panels, because the Republicans lie lie lie lie. One guy said a small business "has to pay a trillion [!!!] dollars complying with regulations." His proof? Some lemonade stand shut down by some wack-job in a little town.

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(<http://disqus.com/TheRavenSpoke>) TheRaven and 1 more liked this (#)

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gyrfalcon 09/26/2012 10:43 AM (#comment-663412716)

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

I don't think Kevin sees quite enough of Fox. I saw about the last half hour of Hannity last night, and it was absolutely surreal in its detachment from reality.

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(<http://disqus.com/twitter-362522977>) B E Pratt and 5 more liked this (#)

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Kadzimiel 09/26/2012 01:51 PM (#comment-663648470)

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

A little of Fox goes a long way, in my experience.

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gyrfalcon 09/26/2012 01:58 PM (#comment-663656036)

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

Indeed it does. But it's impossible to understand the political dynamics of this country, IMO, without periodically spending time there because it's otherwise simply inconceivable. And I'm not even talking about famous screamers and bloviators like Hannity, I'm talking about the endless parade of people from all over the country

who appear on these shows and the surreal worldview they all share. (And Fox Biz is even worse because of the more authoritative pretenses of its anchors and hosts, who interlace the weirdness with sober and businesslike reports on the ups and downs of the stock market and corporate news, etc.)

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Kadzimiel [09/26/2012 02:07 PM \(#comment-663666957\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

I force myself to watch Fox reasonably often, if only to get a sense of what Stewart and Colbert are likely to skewer next, but I must say that it's like seeing the last days of some bizarre, drug-addled apocalyptic cult.

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Impulse725 [09/26/2012 12:41 PM \(#comment-663559574\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/Impulse725/>)

I'd regard a family member marrying into Republicans about the same as I'd regard a family member marrying into a cult.

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wfpman (<http://www.jasongooljar.com>) [09/26/2012 10:01 AM \(#comment-663366401\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/wfpman/>)

As a partisan hack myself I agree that gridlock and no compromise is not good for the future. Personally, I don't have any conservative friends nor do I want to relate with them; I don't even really talk to family members who are conservative.

Yes, I am guilty of being part of what you call the Fox Newsification of America-coming from the left, but I say all this with the idea of compromise in the back of my head. If the other side were really willing to compromise I'd change my views, but that's not what we see.

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OmegaCentauri [09/26/2012 12:36 PM \(#comment-663553139\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-0a6f33d77565fdab3eeabb63e3d8c9/>)

I'm afraid I've gotten to a very similar point. I've feared this sort of societal Balkanization for some time. Now that we have too much selectivity in terms of news coverage, we are breaking up into interest groups who become their own echo chambers.

And I think a lot has to do with the loss of an overall ethic of truthfulness and fairness in our public discourse. Partisans view politics/culture as an existential war, therefore any casualties inflicted are acceptable so long as we are advancing our cause. The result has been that tactics, such as repeating a lie until it becomes accepted as truth have become normal. You can't have a serious discussion if one side isn't willing to make a good faith effort to play by an agreed set of rules. And those rules must be ones that favor truthfulness and fairness, as opposed to cheap shots.

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 (<http://disqus.com/motherjones-2194>) BigRichard and 4 more liked this (#) Like Reply



cld [09/26/2012 10:05 AM \(#comment-663370479\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-ae8e0a522a4b6afe4d5a2cba259f83bd/>)

Perhaps what this means is that those people really need some different country to live in.

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 (http://disqus.com/snicker_snack) snicker_snack and 3 more liked this (#) Like Reply

**Heterosensible** [09/26/2012 10:16 AM \(#comment-663381326\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/Heterosensible/\)](http://disqus.com/Heterosensible/)

You think we could convince the south to secede again?

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Maybe. Though if they do all their politics would continue just as it is now, based entirely on idiotic conspiracy theories about the rest of us. Just like the Middle East.

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In fairness to Southerners, the money for selling bullshit "Conservatism" is mostly from NYC and other rich @#\$\$%^ outside Dixie.

Flag (#)[1 person liked this.](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Crissa** (<http://crissa.twi.net/>) [09/26/2012 12:29 PM \(#comment-663545169\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/Crissa/\)](http://disqus.com/Crissa/)

They're providing the market, tho.

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I think it would be great. Just don't let them have any nukes.

Flag (#)[\(http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon\) gyrfalcon and 1 more liked this \(#\)](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Ian A. Gillespie** (<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=588263301>) [09/26/2012 11:11 AM \(#comment-663447091\)](#)
[\(http://disqus.com/facebook-588263301/\)](http://disqus.com/facebook-588263301/)

Can we keep Virginia and North Carolina? I'd like to not need a passport to visit Asheville, Charlottesville, or the Blue Ridge Parkway. Besides, those states aren't even that wingnuttly anymore.

Flag (#)[\(http://disqus.com/TheRavenSpoke\) TheRaven and 4 more liked this \(#\)](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)**derbear** [09/26/2012 01:28 PM \(#comment-663619468\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/derbear/\)](http://disqus.com/derbear/)

That would certainly be my choice, and there are some folks up north whose tickets to Southlandia I'd be willing to pay.

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You obviously don't have a daughter.

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 <http://disqus.com/DetroitDan> DetroitDan and 5 more liked this (#) Like Reply



carolannie 09/26/2012 10:12 AM (#comment-663377559)

<http://disqus.com>
/carolannie/

If Democrats increasingly dislike Republicans, it may be because the brand has become so tainted with wingnuttery. It is hard to get excited about talking with people who can only repeat talking points and cannot reason, discuss or argue coherently, let alone having them join your family. Even my in-laws who are mostly Republican have morphed from people who can talk (10 years ago) into Limbots. It is Foxnewsification of the consevatives more than of the left.

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gyrfalcon 09/26/2012 10:38 AM (#comment-663405735)

<http://disqus.com>
/gyrfalcon/

Indeed. Even if you want to toss some blame at MSNBC, they only came on the scene a couple of years ago. Fox has been with us for what, 20 years now? And Limbaugh and the right-wing screamer domination of radio a lot longer than that. As has been pointed out a zillion times, liberals (never mind left, there is no left in this country to speak of) have never had anything remotely like that. Today's MSNBC is a drop in the bucket.

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MacGruber 09/26/2012 11:00 AM (#comment-663434056)

<http://disqus.com>
/motherjones-3530/

If Democrats increasingly dislike Republicans, it may be because the brand has become so tainted with wingnuttery

If Republicans increasingly dislike Democrats, it may be because the brand has become so tainted with moonbattery.

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Ian A. Gillespie (<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=588263301>) 09/26/2012

<http://disqus.com> 11:04 AM (#comment-663438226)
/facebook-588263301/

Obama is to the right of Nixon on most issues, but thanks for playing.

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 <http://disqus.com/derbear> derbear and 27 more liked this (#) Like Reply



Kadzimiel 09/26/2012 11:04 AM (#comment-663438252)

<http://disqus.com>
/Kadzimiel/

"...the brand has become so tainted with moonbattery"

Well, we did try to warn you about Newticles the Thrice-Married, but I guess you found that moon base just too hard to resist.

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J. Frank Parnell 09/26/2012 12:07 PM (#comment-663517876)

<http://disqus.com>
/motherjones-1908/

Good to hear from "the earth is flat" side of the aisle. We wouldn't want "the earth is round" side to dominate the discussion with their silly obsession with facts and logic.

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 [.http://disqus.com/dfhoughton](http://disqus.com/dfhoughton) dfhoughton and 12 more liked this (#) Like Reply



MacGruber 09/26/2012 12:33 PM (#comment-663549582)

<http://disqus.com/motherjones-3530/>

Yes, it's quite an obsession with facts and logic. For example: even though the Libyans have said the attacks on the US Consulate were planned, that the terrorists had RPGs and mortars trained on the Consulate and the supposed US safe house, that the US Libyan Ambassador said he feared an attack, that the government intelligence agencies had intel that an attack may be in the works - Obama and his administration still try to convince everyone that the attacks were not planned, just something that got out of hand over a YouTube video.

Facts and logic indeed,.

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Impulse725 09/26/2012 12:46 PM (#comment-663566208)

<http://disqus.com/Impulse725/>

Yes, an administration trying to spin events is exactly like the mind boggling insanity rank and file Fox drones believe without exception. You are as good at analogies as everything else, I see.

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 [.http://disqus.com/FThumb](http://disqus.com/FThumb) FThumb and 4 more liked this (#) Like Reply



Impulse725 09/26/2012 12:49 PM (#comment-663569634)

<http://disqus.com/Impulse725/>

A better analogy, if you were wondering, would be Bush's weapons of mass destruction. That was also something an administration said that no one, base or not, actually believed. But is it similar to the mental lobotomies you require to believe that global warming isn't happening, or that job creators is more than a PR term? No.

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 [.http://disqus.com/FThumb](http://disqus.com/FThumb) FThumb and 4 more liked this (#) Like Reply



OrdAvgGuy 09/26/2012 01:21 PM (#comment-663609951)

<http://disqus.com/OrdAvgGuy/>

Lying liars lie, liar.

Grubby dishonestly pukes in his usual fact free way: *"Obama and his administration still try to convince everyone that the attacks were not planned, just something that got out of hand over a YouTube video."*

President Obama said: *"There's no doubt that the kind of weapons that were used, the ongoing assault, that it wasn't just a mob action."*

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said: *"The President - our position is, as reflected by the NCTC director, that it was a terrorist attack," he continued. "It is, I think by definition, a terrorist attack when there is a prolonged assault on an embassy with weapons." "Let's be clear, it was a terrorist attack and it was an inexcusable attack."*

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said: *"what happened in Benghazi was a terrorist attack." And she said the U.S. would track down, quote, the "terrorists who*

murdered four Americans.”

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 (<http://disqus.com/iPokey4>) **iPokey4** and 5 more liked this (#)

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iPokey4 09/26/2012 02:22 PM (#comment-663684557)

(<http://disqus.com/iPokey4/>)

Welcome back, OAG!

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 (<http://disqus.com/OrdAvgGuy>) OrdAvgGuy liked this

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OrdAvgGuy 09/26/2012 03:27 PM (#comment-663759560)

(<http://disqus.com/OrdAvgGuy/>)

Thanks Pokey. New job has diverted my time and attention. It's probably for the best. If you read enough of Grubby's, Contessa's, Patty's and Shooter's inanity your IQ actually starts to drop.

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1 person liked this.

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derbear 09/26/2012 01:33 PM (#comment-663625629)

(<http://disqus.com/derbear/>)

I know this is probably inconvenient to point out, but the administration is not under any obligation to pay heed to the twenty minute news cycle in any investigations they may conduct. I think I'll wait and see what the various agencies of the administration come out with at the close of their investigations, because you know what ? Sometimes the early reports on events like these turn out to be inaccurate.

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FThumb 09/26/2012 02:43 PM (#comment-663709223)

(<http://disqus.com/FThumb/>)

Yes, it's quite an obsession with facts and logic. For example: even though the Libyans...

Zzzzzzzzzzzz.....

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 (<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon>) gyrfalcon liked this

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gyrfalcon 09/26/2012 04:13 PM (#comment-663810477)

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

Do you have the faintest idea how many things you have factually wrong in this statement? Here's a suggestion. Watch some actual news on the TV once in a while so you get a chance to hear regularly what admin. people actually say from day to day, instead of Rushbo's characterization of what they said.

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Frieda W Landau (<http://www.facebook.com/frieda.landau>)
09/26/2012 06:45 PM (#comment-663975033)

(<http://disqus.com/facebook-1050809838/>)

Morning Joe is the only show on any network that is truly fair and balanced. The only problem is it's on at 6 am.

Flag (#)

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**gyrfalcon** [09/26/2012 06:54 PM \(#comment-663983632\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/\)](http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/)

That's what DVRs are for!

I agree it's a good show, but I wasn't talking about shows and analysts and commentators but about simply actually hearing what the various officials actually said in their own words. If MacGruber had, he couldn't pass off the crap he's trying to pass off above with a straight face.

[Flag \(#\)](#)[Like](#)**J. Frank Parnell** [09/26/2012 09:46 PM \(#comment-664142272\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/motherjones-1908/\)](http://disqus.com/motherjones-1908/)

Hey Grubster. Did you realize your presidential candidate thinks the Garden of Eden was in Missouri? Is this part of the reason God made us an exceptional nation?

[Flag \(#\)](#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**Crissa** (<http://crissa.twu.net/>) [09/26/2012 12:28 PM \(#comment-663544379\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/Crissa/\)](http://disqus.com/Crissa/)

Yes, please, what moon battery is enshrined in the DNC platform? Posited by our leading politicians?

You got nothing.

[Flag \(#\)](#)[FThumb](http://disqus.com/FThumb) and 4 more liked this (#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**nominal** [09/26/2012 11:14 AM \(#comment-663450817\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/nominal/\)](http://disqus.com/nominal/)

I know!

I wouldn't mind if my kids married a Republican who was basically like Eisenhower. But you know what that is today? A Democrat.

Would I want my kids marrying Birch Society lunatics from the Fifties and Sixties? Hells No! That's what the question means today. And vice versa - it's like ask a John Bircher if he wants his girl marrying a Racial Equality/Free Love hippy. Of COURSE he's against it!

[Flag \(#\)](#)[OmegaCentauri](http://disqus.com/motherjones-0a6f33d77565fdab3eeabeb63e3d8c9) and 14 more liked this (#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**Daniel Kim** [09/26/2012 12:52 PM \(#comment-663574036\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/DanYHKim/\)](http://disqus.com/DanYHKim/)

This is a pretty accurate perspective. Even Barry Goldwater looks like some long hair hippie compared to the current GOP.

[Flag \(#\)](#)[shamelessly](http://disqus.com/shamelessly) and 3 more liked this (#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**axzaxis** [09/26/2012 03:55 PM \(#comment-663790297\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/axzaxis/\)](http://disqus.com/axzaxis/)

I would talk to republicans but I refuse to negotiate with terrorists.

[Flag \(#\)](#)[gyrfalcon](http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon) and 1 more liked this (#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)

**No2GOP** [09/26/2012 10:16 AM](#) ([#comment-663381938](#))<http://disqus.com/No2GOP/>

I call BS on the MSNBC false equivalency statement!! Fox is truly a partisan hatefest, hate mongering de facto arm of the Republican Party. The talking heads on MSNBC, although left wing biased, at least are educated enough to present facts and show courtesy towards guests from the other side of the aisle. It's not shameful, or wrong, to call the mouthpieces on Fox "liars", because most of them are - at least while they are on the air.

We are as divided as a nation as we are because politics is now a business. Too many special interests have too many hands out that they now control government. "Of the people, by the people, for the people" is purely a pipe dream now.

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<http://disqus.com/kiboshki> kiboshki and 19 more liked this (#)

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**gyrfalcon** [09/26/2012 10:40 AM](#) ([#comment-663408843](#))<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>

Agree mostly, but MSNBC can indeed be pretty rough on righties (ever watch Matthews these days?) and Fox, except for O'Reilly, is generally reasonably polite to its liberal guests and captive commentators.

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<http://disqus.com/DetroitDan> DetroitDan liked this

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**Crissa** (<http://crissa.twi.net/>) [09/26/2012 12:27 PM](#) ([#comment-663542406](#))<http://disqus.com/Crissa/>

Yeah, no.

Flag (#)

<http://disqus.com/TheRavenSpoke> TheRaven liked this

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**firefall** [09/26/2012 03:31 PM](#) ([#comment-663763344](#))http://disqus.com/Phil_Malthus/

I couldn't say about Fox - I've always refused to give Rupert Bear a sliver of a penny - but in general, who would watch that buffoon Matthews?

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**gyrfalcon** [09/26/2012 04:07 PM](#) ([#comment-663803926](#))<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>

Possibly because he isn't a buffoon, or at least he's not only a buffoon. I wouldn't call his show "must see TV," but it's often enough interesting if you're a politics junkie, as I am.

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<http://disqus.com/facebook-1050809838> Frieda W Landau and 1 more liked this (#)

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**Frieda W Landau** (<http://www.facebook.com/frieda.landau>) [09/26/2012 06:48 PM](#) ([#comment-663977536](#))<http://disqus.com/facebook-1050809838/>

I never thought I'd hear the word reasonable about Hannity...

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**gyrfalcon** [09/26/2012 06:55 PM](#) ([#comment-663985147](#))<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>

Didn't say "reasonable," said "reasonably polite." I agree no actual substance that comes out of his mouth is even remotely reasonable, as far as I've ever heard.

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Frieda W Landau (<http://www.facebook.com/frieda.landau>) *09/26/2012 06:47 PM*

(<http://disqus.com> ([#comment-663976979](#))/[facebook-1050809838/](#))

Rachel Maddow actually apologizes and corrects her own mistakes. And she's courteous to those who oppose her politically. She just destroys them - in a polite way - with facts.

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gyrfalcon *09/26/2012 07:00 PM (#comment-663989800)*

(<http://disqus.com> /[gyrfalcon/](#))

No, she doesn't actually. That's a very cute little game she plays with the viewers, and she frequently plays fast and loose with facts every bit as much as the Fox News people do.

I refer you to Bob Somerby's invaluable site at The Daily Howler who occasionally takes in her show and deconstructs her games. He's got a search function there. (He loathes her -- as do I -- but ignore the sneering and just look at the factual critique.)

I don't like liberals who grossly distort the news any more than I like righties who do.

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1 person liked this.

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Tadeusz Plunko *09/26/2012 10:19 AM (#comment-663384546)*

(<http://disqus.com> /[Tadeusz_Plunko/](#))

The last time I attended a gathering of extended family members, folks I've known to be right-leaning for some time, the conversation quickly turned into a discussion of how the Mexicans were ruining the country. Just openly racist and way beyond the usual California Republican sniping you heard on the matter in the past. I said my piece and walked away from the conversation without any huge rifts created, but I do not plan on spending time with these people in the future.

Does this make me part of the problem? I feel bad, but I am not going to morally compromise myself by passively accepting that kind of bile.

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(<http://disqus.com/Crissa>) Crissa and 20 more liked this (#)

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Brian Arbour (<http://twitter.com/bkarbour>) *09/26/2012 10:21 AM (#comment-663386695)*

(<http://disqus.com> /[twitter-167590598/](#))

Don't take this result too seriously. My wife is due any day with our first child, and we plan to raise him with values of tolerance, concern for others, appreciation of his privilege, respect for diversity, feminism, and all sorts of other values that should make him a liberal.

Do we want him to marry a conservative or a Republican? Of course not; they don't share our important values.

But that's a theoretical future spouse. In theory, I don't want my son to marry a conservative.

But in reality, present with a responsible adult who will love him as much if not more than my wife and I do, and that's all I'll care about at that point.

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(<http://disqus.com/TheRavenSpoke>) TheRaven and 11 more liked this (#)

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MacGruber *09/26/2012 11:01 AM (#comment-663435366)*

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-3530/>)

So you admit that a conservative may be capable of actually loving their spouse.
That's a start!

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 (<http://disqus.com/DetroitDan>) DetroitDan liked this

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Kadzimiel *09/26/2012 11:05 AM (#comment-663440065)*

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

Ah, but not all conservatives are Republicans. A good number of conservatives prefer Obama, for instance, to the raging stew of racism and ignorance that the Republican party now presents.

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 (<http://disqus.com/DetroitDan>) DetroitDan and 7 more liked this (#)

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MacGruber *09/26/2012 11:19 AM (#comment-663457527)*

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-3530/>)

A good number of conservatives prefer Obama

Cite?

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kiboshki *09/26/2012 11:38 AM (#comment-663481497)*

(<http://disqus.com/kiboshki/>)

Do you think that 90%+ of the black population is genuinely "liberal"? Or 2/3 of the hispanic population? Or the Blue Dogs?

There's a vast gulf between conservatives and "conservatives".

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 (<http://disqus.com/OrdAvgGuy>) OrdAvgGuy and 7 more liked this (#)

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nominal *09/26/2012 01:02 PM (#comment-663587294)*

(<http://disqus.com/nominal/>)

Well, there's that dirty, pachouli-smelling hippy, Colin Powell:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...> (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_NMZv6Vfh8)

Conservatives have been ditching the Republican brand for 6 years now. That's why they had to invent the "neo-con" label.

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 (<http://disqus.com/dfhoughton>) dfhoughton and 2 more liked this (#)

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Kadzimiel *09/26/2012 01:50 PM (#comment-663646443)*

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

Colin Powell, Susan Eisenhower, Christopher Buckley, Andrew Sullivan, Rita Hauser, Francis Fukuyama, Doug Kmiec, Michael Smerconish, Kenneth Adelman to name only 9 fairly prominent ones, and, of course, the good folks who created this:

<http://www.republicansforobama...> (<http://www.republicansforobama.org/>)

Want to try another round, Grubbikins?

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 (<http://disqus.com/FThumb>) FThumb and 3 more liked this (#)

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scarmig *09/26/2012 11:17 AM (#comment-663454879)*

(<http://disqus.com/scarmig/>)

A theoretical Republican.

Is Mitt Romney capable of an emotion as human as love? I'm not sure that our AI is that advanced, or ever could be.

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gyrfalcon *09/26/2012 04:15 PM (#comment-663813373)*

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

Please don't go there. I do NOT want to think for one split second about what goes on in the Romney bedroom.

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(<http://disqus.com/facebook-1050809838>) **Frieda W Landau and 1 more** liked this (#)

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Kadzimiel *09/26/2012 05:17 PM (#comment-663883090)*

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

"Ride me like Rafalca, Money Boo Boo!"

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gyrfalcon *09/26/2012 05:35 PM (#comment-663901756)*

(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/>)

Auuggghhhh!

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kiboshki *09/26/2012 05:55 PM (#comment-663923386)*

(<http://disqus.com/kiboshki/>)

I agree with gyrfalcon: Auuggghhhh!

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jsjiowa *09/26/2012 01:00 PM (#comment-663584653)*

(<http://disqus.com/jsjiowa/>)

You've hit on the key to this issue: shared values is what really makes for a strong marriage, in which trust and respect can thrive.

It used to be that each party had conservatives, moderates, and liberals, and so when you put the two parties together, you could find some bipartisan overlap on individual pieces of legislation, usually because the legislators shared some common values. As someone who has worked with the state legislature over the course of almost two decades, I've watched the moderates and liberals pushed out of the Republican party, and the far-right increase their numbers. It's made the contrast between the two parties more stark, and it's pretty hard these days to find many shared values between legislators. So, I would caution my boys about dating Republicans, not because I'm intolerant of their political views, but because I'd be worried that they didn't have core values in common, which could be a constant source of stress to the relationship. Even if they never discussed politics, that different worldview expresses itself in other ways that would be more apparent over time. But I also know that sometimes kids have to make their own mistakes, and learn...

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(<http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon>) **gyrfalcon** liked this

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**gyrfalcon** [09/26/2012 04:16 PM \(#comment-663814222\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/\)](http://disqus.com/gyrfalcon/)

Good luck!

[Flag \(#\)](#)[jsjiowa](http://disqus.com/jsjiowa) liked this[Like](#)[Reply](#)**Pete Shanks** [09/26/2012 10:27 AM \(#comment-663393587\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/google-bb42b3ea15cc70b62bdb2da54f7a6672/\)](http://disqus.com/google-bb42b3ea15cc70b62bdb2da54f7a6672/)

Ahem. In 1964 a certain well-known poet, hopin' he don't blow it, opined:

Now, I'm liberal, but to a degree

I want ev'rybody to be free

But if you think that I'll let Barry Goldwater

Move in next door and marry my daughter

You must think I'm crazy!

I wouldn't let him do it for all the farms in Cuba

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Dang, you beat me to it!

[Flag \(#\)](#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**ath716** [09/26/2012 10:29 AM \(#comment-663395585\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/ath716/\)](http://disqus.com/ath716/)

"When people ask me, good listeners, why do I hate all the Tutsi, I say, "Read our history." The Tutsi were collaborators for the Belgian colonists, they stole our Hutu land, they whipped us. Now they have come back, these Tutsi rebels. They are cockroaches. They are murderers. Rwanda is our Hutu land. We are the majority. They are a minority of traitors and invaders. We will squash this infestation. We will wipe out the RPF rebels. This is RTL, Hutu power radio. Stay alert. Watch your neighbours."

(OK, it probably won't be THAT bad. Except, maybe, Texas. Or Arizona.)

[Flag \(#\)](#)[dfhoughton](http://disqus.com/dfhoughton) and 4 more liked this (#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**keith** [09/26/2012 07:13 PM \(#comment-664002443\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/motherjones-1865/\)](http://disqus.com/motherjones-1865/)

Texas has a large and growing Hispanic population, and most of even the more conservative members of that community identify as Democrats. Demographics move slowly but surely, and while the day of reckoning is still a long way off, the future may not be all that bright for Republicans in Texas. Perhaps at that time we'll see more conservative Democrats, and even a few liberal Republicans, and that would make things interesting.

[Flag \(#\)](#)[Like](#)[Reply](#)**rilkefan** (<http://rosenschale.blogspot.com>) [09/26/2012 10:29 AM \(#comment-663395586\)](#)[\(http://disqus.com/rilkefan/\)](http://disqus.com/rilkefan/)

This is surely mostly a reflection of the increasing radicalism of the Republicans. Before the Civil Rights Act and the Southern Strategy separated the conservatives from the center and left, it was routine to dislike people on your own side. Now those folks are in the opposition.

Maybe when the new demographics and the growing secularization of our society break the GOP (e.g. in twelve years when Texas turns blue), the country can get back to liking and hating folks on both sides of the new aisle.

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cld [09/26/2012 10:29 AM \(#comment-663395924\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-ae8e0a522a4b6afe4d5a2cba259f83bd/>)

Conservatives are to politics what Charlie Sheen is to television, an addled blithering idiot, but somehow he never misses a day of work and they keep hiring him and people keep tuning in to stare.

Flag (#)  (http://disqus.com/Phil_Malthus/) **firefall and 3 more liked this (#)** [Like](#) [Reply](#)



(<http://disqus.com/>) **Denis O'Bell** (<http://twitter.com/denisobell>) [09/26/2012 10:30 AM \(#comment-663397005\)](#)

(<http://twitter.com/479923715/>)

America is still polarized along exactly the same lines as it was 150 years ago. Then, preserving the union was necessary to ensure the abolition of slavery. But it is not necessary now.

Flag (#)  (<http://disqus.com/facebook-1079238948/>) **Walter Hall and 3 more liked this (#)** [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Kadzimiel [09/26/2012 10:32 AM \(#comment-663398998\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/Kadzimiel/>)

"I really can't imagine not wanting my daughter to marry a Republican."

You do have some strange desires, Kevin. Still, it's your life - or her life, rather. Seriously, though, it's very hard to see why anyone would be happy to see their child marry a member of an obviously deranged party. As for your little moment of "both sides do it" in media terms, I don't see evidence that MSNBC is anywhere near to being as dishonest and hateful as Fox - and I'd really like to see why you suggested it was going that way.

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urban legend [09/26/2012 10:43 AM \(#comment-663412307\)](#)

(<http://disqus.com/motherjones-1724/>)

Kevin has a compulsive need to be accepted by the VSPs. You must be balanced if you wish to be accepted as a journalist, and it if it means false balance, well, that's the price of joining the club. Basically, it's a tic. Remember Peter Sellers' uncontrollable salute in Dr. Strangelove?

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g (<http://profile.yahoo.com/J5KLIDA5CVO4TTXTWV7TEJEC5D/>) [09/26/2012 10:49 AM](#)

(<http://disqus.com/yahoo-J5KLIDA5CVO4TTXTWV7TEJEC5I/>) [\(#comment-663420272\)](#)

Wait, some of my best friends are Republicans!

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