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10-9-2012

October 9, 2012: Living in a Dream World

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Ledewitz, B. (2012). October 9, 2012: Living in a Dream World. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/ledewitz-hallowedsecularism/683>

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Title: Living in a Dream World

Date: 2012-10-09T05:09:00.001-04:00

10/9/2012—I have a friend who is a Republican who asked me last week if I would vote for Romney if I thought he would do something about the deficit. I replied that I did not think he would but that I would probably not vote for him anyway. I am a pretty strong partisan Democrat. He then said that my views about deficits were rationalizations. I have to think about this. I have been amazed that so many Republicans, whom I think of as hard-headed realists, deny that the world climate is warming and/or that human activity is causing it. I find this amazing when the ice cap around the arctic is recognizably thinning and so much other evidence abounds—obviously rising temperatures over time in Pittsburgh, for example. Then there was the suggestion that the employment figures last week were tampered with. Those figures were not that great to begin with. But apparently politicians cannot tamper with them. And then there is evolution and geology. But at least those are based on religion in the face of science. But back to the question put to me. I have been assuming that the people I disagree with are more prone to do this, to deny bad news, than I am. What if this is not the case? Then I would have to begin to rethink those matters that I have been rejecting or ignoring—such as the role of government housing policy in the housing bubble. The left says it was all Wall Street. Was it?