

The Desperate Republican and the Average American

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The Desperate Republican (waving a brightly colored red, white, and blue flag): Hey, do you want to join my tea party?

The Average American: Wow! That's a great American Patriot costume. You look just like Alexander Hamilton in that sappy historical docudrama I had to watch in 7th grade American History!

The Desperate Republican: We are protesting the evil communist Obama's tax and spend policies just like the colonists in Boston! Do you remember the Boston Tea Party!

The Average American: Yeah, the outraged colonists bravely disguised as American Indians dumped tea in Boston Harbor to protest British tea taxes!

The Desperate Republican: Exactly! We are just like those brave colonists disguised as American Indians!

The Average American: So you are protesting my taxes going to bailout those Wall Street bankers? What is it now... \$2 Trillion if you count the Federal Reserve bailout?

The Desperate Republican: Uh, no.

The Average American: No? Well, what are you protesting?

The Desperate Republican: Er, um, we are protesting bailouts for irresponsible poor minority homeowners! You don't want your taxes to go to bailout irresponsible poor minority homeowners!

The Average American: Er, well, no. Since the government now owns the banks, can't they just tell the banks to reduce the principal

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amount on the loans to reasonable non-bubble values at no additional cost to me?

The Desperate Republican (aghast): Good heavens, no! That's socialism! We can't have socialism in America! What would the founding fathers think! Look, my tea party is really great! Rick Santelli will be giving another speech.

The Average American: Er, um, I don't know. That Rick Santelli seems a little out of touch. Does he really believe traders at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange are a statistical cross-section of the US population?

The Desperate Republican: Of course they are!

The Average American: They all look like guys to me when I watched Rick's rant on YouTube! Isn't half the population female? Doesn't sound like a statistical cross section to me. Don't traders make at least \$200K base salary, not including those million dollar bonuses? You sure you guys aren't out of touch?

The Desperate Republican: Of course not! Look, our tea party will be really great. Phil Gramm is going to be there too.

The Average American: Isn't he the guy who called me a whiner?

The Desperate Republican: Er, um, well, yes. The liberal media took his quote out of context. Look, let's forget about the tea party for now. Drug gangs in Mexico!

The Average American (puzzled): Drug gangs in Mexico?

The Desperate Republican: Yes, thanks to Obama's wimpy liberal foreign policy in only one month the drug gangs in Mexico are tearing Mexico apart and plotting to undermine America.

The Average American: You know, you guys are always at war with drugs. Year after year the drugs keep coming.

The Desperate Republican: No, no, no. It is all Obama's fault. We had the whole situation under control until Obama was inaugurated. Now Mexico is menacing the US with heroin peddling drug gangs!

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The Average American: Didn't you tell me just a little while ago that all the heroin came from Afghanistan?

The Desperate Republican: By way of Mexico. Those awful Taliban are plotting with the Mexican drug gangs to overthrow America!

The Average American: You mean we have been in Afghanistan for eight years and we haven't stopped the heroin smuggling even though we've been running the country for eight years?

The Desperate Republican: Er, um, look, let's forget about drug gangs in Mexico. Ahmadinejad!

The Average American: Who?

The Desperate Republican: Iran's America hating Islamist President, the next Hitler. Remember Neville Chamberlain and Munich! Czechoslovakia! 1938! Never again! Iran hates our guts! We must stand up to Iran! Did you know Ahmadinejad attacks us for supporting the Shah when he was a kid?

The Average American: Well, is Iran selling us oil?

(long pause)

The Desperate Republican: Er, um, well, yes.

The Average American: So what is the problem?

The Desperate Republican: Iran calls us names!

The Average American: I'm a big boy. I don't care what Iran calls us so long as they sell us the oil.

The Desperate Republican: Look, Iran is developing *nuclear weapons!*

The Average American: Didn't you say that about Iraq?

The Desperate Republican: This time it is actually true! Iran may attack Israel.

The Average American (puzzled): Doesn't Israel have over two-hundred *thermonuclear* bombs?

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The Desperate Republican: I can neither confirm nor deny that.

The Average American: So if Iran attacks Israel, Israel wipes them out in ... thirty minutes. End of problem.

The Desperate Republican (waving the flag wildly): Look, remember the founding fathers! Remember the Boston Tea Party! Hugo Chavez!

The Average American: Hugo Chavez?

The Desperate Republican: Hugo Chavez, the terrible communist dictator of Venezuela...

The Average American: Wasn't he elected?

The Desperate Republican: The elections were fraudulent!

The Average American: Even the plebiscite to increase his powers that he lost?

The Desperate Republican: Uh, well, not that one. Only elections that socialists win are fraudulent. Look, Hugo Chavez calls us names! Did you know that he claims that ExxonMobil and other giant oil companies exploited Venezuela?

The Average American: ExxonMobil seems to make a lot of money refining oil from Venezuela. I wonder how they do that. So, is Chavez refusing to sell us oil?

(long pause)

The Desperate Republican: Er, um, no.

The Average American: So what is the problem? I don't care if he calls us a bunch of sissies so long as he sends the oil.

The Desperate Republican (waving the flag frantically): Look, remember the Boston Tea Party! The Flag! Patriotism! Truth! Justice! The American Way! Obama is a socialist! He is destroying the American capitalist way of life!

The Average American: How? By giving Wall Street even more trillions?

The Desperate Republican: No, no, no! Did you know that when Obama gives money to Wall Street he occasionally very timidly suggests that they ... screwed up. I mean you have to read between the lines but there it is! *Wall Street screwed up*. That is socialism! Look, seriously, you have to join my tea party! Really! It will be a lot of fun! And you can feel patriotic!

The Average American (looking skeptically at the Desperate Republican): Look, I'm sure you mean well, but, well, with this Wall Street bailout thing and the Great Depression 2.0 and ... you know, it just looks like a screwup to me. I just find it really hard to vote for you right now.

The Desperate Republican: Well, what could I do to win your vote back? I'll do *anything!*

The Average American: Er, um, well.... I know! You can double-cross your Wall Street campaign contributors! Stab them in the back! Quit bailing out Wall Street! Take back the bailout money! Bankrupt the banks! Write off the bad loans! Denounce Obama, Barney Frank, Chris Dodd, and the Democrats as unpatriotic sell-outs to Wall Street! Power to the people! Reform! Gass-Steagall II! Save the country and the world instead of Wall Street!

The Desperate Republican: But where will I get money without my campaign contributions from Wall Street?

The Average American: Hunh! You pay yourself with the \$2 Trillion in Wall Street bailout money that you take back from the banks! Cut them out of the picture. Ban Wall Street campaign contributions. Enact a super McCain-Feingold campaign reform act and pay for your campaigns out of public funds – the \$2 Trillion you took back from the banks!

The Desperate Republican: Oh! I never thought of that.

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