

The Liberal Planning Meeting on the Wall Street Bailout

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The Supreme Liberal (banging the gavel): I am calling this emergency meeting of the Supreme Liberal Steering Committee to order. Gentlemen, we are faced with a dire threat to our movement. We must take immediate decisive and compassionate action to solve this problem.

The Loony Leftist: What problem? Wall Street is on the ropes. They've screwed up! We can bring back the New Deal, complete what FDR started! National health care. Worker's rights. Socialism!

The Supreme Liberal (scowling): That's the problem. We are getting some serious pushback from the gullible masses on our plan to bailout Wall Street. They keep citing our stated principle of helping the little guy, Main Street, instead of Wall Street.

The Concerned Liberal Senator: Yes, it's terrible, they keep asking me why we don't lend the \$700 billion directly to their employers so they can continue to get paid. I keep explaining that I empathize with their feelings but that I have no choice but to do Wall Street's bidding.

The Supreme Liberal: I have been in close consultation with my esteemed colleague the Supreme Conservative all morning. We have devised a new ideology that will enable us – with a straight face – to subsidize the rich in the name of the poor.

The Loony Leftist: Well, I don't know about that.

The Amoral Yoda: I agree totally.

The Social Liberal: So long as I get to sleep with a different woman (or man – I'm not narrow-minded) every night, I'm in favor of it.

The Supreme Liberal: I think we can work that in.

The Fiscal Liberal: It doesn't involve balancing the budget does it. I would never balance the budget on the backs of the poor.

The Supreme Liberal: Not a problem.

The Peacenik: Well, it doesn't involve war does it?

The Supreme Liberal: Well, er, um, it won't be a nuclear war.

The Academic Liberal: I'm in favor if it is rational and does not involve primitive reactionary superstitions like religion.

The Supreme Liberal: Well, er, um. The point is this ideology will enable us to bailout Wall Street and other giant companies that screw up on behalf of the poor.

The Amoral Yoda: Sounds good to me. If my polling data shows that the gullible public will buy it, I'm all for it. So what is it?

The Supreme Liberal: Well, this is a proven ideology that was briefly embraced by romantic idealistic Fabian socialists like William Morris during the 19th Century.

The Loony Leftist: Now that sounds good.

The Academic Liberal (glowering at the Loony Leftist): Oh, no!

The Supreme Liberal: Feudalism. We will make the incompetent Wall Street executives and corporate CEO's that subsidize our liberal think tanks into noblemen – Dukes, Counts, Viscounts, Earls, the whole bit, straight out of the 14th Century, complete with the *droit de seigneur*. That will go over well with our Social Liberal base.

The Social Liberal: What is the *droit de seigneur*?

The Academic Liberal (a pained expression on his face): That was the right of the nobleman to sleep with his female serfs – the random teenage daughter, somebody's wife, that sort of thing.

The Social Liberal: I like that! I get to be a nobleman, right? Did the noblemen get to sleep with guys too?

The Academic Liberal (sourly): They got to do pretty much whatever they wanted.

The Social Liberal: That sounds great, very progressive.

The Loony Leftist: But, but, that doesn't sound very progressive to me.

The Supreme Liberal: Now here is the liberal spin.

The Amoral Yoda: I like spin. My polls suggest we should not call it "feudalism". Feudalism is not a popular word. How about "Compassionate Capitalism".

The Supreme Liberal: Ahem. The basic idea is *noblesse oblige*. The noblemen and heroic knights were selfless champions of their serfs, protecting them from dragons, bandits, evil Black Knights, that sort of thing. Just like in King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

The Loony Leftist: Well, I don't know about that. Aren't we in favor of democracy?

The Supreme Liberal: Good God! No! We are the liberal elite. If we had a democracy, the unreliable poorly educated masses could easily be manipulated by evil corporations into electing evil leaders like Mussolini and Hitler.

The Academic Liberal: Look, the idea is that we pay lip service to democracy, but we all realize the gullible masses are too stupid to actually make the decisions. So we make the decisions for them in their own best interests.

The Loony Leftist: I'm not sure about that.

The Supreme Liberal: Look, we are getting off topic here. The point is that under feudalism when the aristocracy screwed up, ...

The Academic Liberal: Which was often.

The Supreme Liberal (glaring at the Academic Liberal): Under feudalism when the aristocracy screwed up, they imposed even higher taxes on the serfs to fund their mistakes. No free market. No burdensome government intervention to help the poor. No choice. It was just like the Wall Street bailout and it was all done in the name of the poor.

The Academic Liberal (disdainfully): And God.

The Supreme Liberal: Yes, and God. We can let the conservatives play up that angle.

The Loony Leftist: That...er...what happened if the serf's objected?

The Supreme Liberal: Objected?

The Loony Leftist: Yes, objected?

The Supreme Liberal: They never objected. They were grateful for the wise, sage leadership of the compassionate nobility and heroic knights who protected them from dragons, bandits, Black Knights, and evil Muslim marauders who would otherwise harm the serfs.

The Academic Liberal: Well, actually, they were usually drawn and quartered, burned at the stake, slaughtered by the thousands in mass uprisings, that sort of thing.

The Loony Leftist: That just doesn't sound very progressive to me.

The Peacenik: Yeah, that sounds like war to me. They didn't start wars with other nations to divert the peasants from pressing social problems at home, did they?

The Social Liberal: You know, I'm not sure about that *droit de seigneur* thing. I believe people should be free to choose to sleep around. That is a little weak on the "free to choose" part.

The Amoral Yoda: I agree with you totally. But we can't call it feudalism. We need a better name: "The New Deal II", "Progressive Capitalism", "Trans Globalism", ... something like that.

The Supreme Liberal: Enough! This is a team. You are not being team players. Either get with the program or leave now and kiss your Wall Street donations goodbye!

The Amoral Yoda: Absolutely. Whatever you say.

The Social Liberal: I can live with that *droit de seigneur* thing.

The Fiscal Liberal: I'm sure it won't balance the budget.

The Peacenik: Look, I realize that we live in an imperfect world. I'm sure it won't lead to a nuclear war.

The Academic Liberal: Let's just leave the God part to the conservatives. I'm for it.

The Concerned Liberal Senator: I'm with you 100%!

The Supreme Liberal (turning to glare at the Loony Leftist): Good. And what about you?

The Loony Leftist: Well, I'm going to start a peasant uprising! Screw you!

The Supreme Liberal (shouting as the Loony Leftist leaves): We are going to bring back drawing and quartering in the new feudalism!

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