
Subject: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 23:02:34 GMT

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As of now there are seven states that have bills pending in the legislature that would require that wal-mart re-pay the tax incentives they were given by communities in those states affected; by increasing the health care benefits offered to their employees. Evidently the local health care delivery systems are overwhelmed by the large amount of wal-mart employees that require free care due to lack of medical coverage. I looked at what the wal-mart benefit package is. They pay 128\$ a month out of a minimum wage salary and for this they have no drug or dental coverage and they have a one thousand dollar deductible per family with maximum coverage levels of less than 12k per yr. For normal care. No well baby care or preventative care included. Bring our troops back from Iraq and attack the terrorists in wal-marts management. Hey Sam; wherever you are; I hear the drumbeat of union organising. You have to wonder; if management doesn't want something in their company that bad, it must be really good for the employees.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Damir](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 12:01:31 GMT

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Little Leonard Cohen?

Everybody knows

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 12:17:23 GMT

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"I'm so poor I got a matchbox hold my clothes", Blind Lemon Jefferson Hey Damir; do they have large ugly box-like looking retail stores that sell cheap crap; pay people nothing and chase the legitimate businesses out of town in your neighborhood?

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Damir](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 15:40:06 GMT

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Of course, that`s what we fought for - free market, capitalism, foreign mega-stores, "businessmen" who cheaply (corruption+bad Law) buy everything that has some value (banks, hotels, old

buildings...). You can see in "real time" how everything is falling apart - from economy to human relationships, from small companies to families.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 17:29:25 GMT

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Damn; that is an interesting post. Can you explain what you mean by "realtime" and how you group the organised cultural significance of economy, human relationships, small companies and families? What do you mean when you say everything is falling apart? Let me give you a scenario. Here in America we are divided along the political divide and I am sure you see that in the media over there. But there are big differences between say a republican Bush supporter in New York and the same thing in say, Iowa. That's a state in the middle of the country. Whereas here in New York there is the Stock Exchange and Big bank hdqtrs and defense contractors; Iowa is a mostly rural state, with big factory farms. The people in NY that support Bush do so for mostly economic reasons. He is business friendly; supports shielding corporations from liability lawsuits; supports the elimination of environmental rules that hamper business and promotes the liquidation of public support systems like Social Security. So the Wall Street guys love him especially the stock market. In Iowa people believe that Bush is fighting some war on terror and that makes him some kind of hero. They don't believe that this Iraq thing is about oil and they support the war as a weapon against terrorism. Now in NY or Massachusetts or other of the eastern seaboard states that story doesn't fly even with the most hardcore Bush supporters. They like him because they feel he is securing the oil for us that we will need in the future; but they know this terrorism thing is forever and he is not really having any effect on it one way or the other. I tell you this to see if you read the situation that way over by you.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Damir](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 19:16:33 GMT

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Simple - for example, some people "bought" (not real price, credits, politic connections) some companies through "privatisation" process, took the money, buildings, machines, vehicles... Then went to another company, another "business", another corruption, etc. And workers - on the street, literally. There's much more, but thinking and writing about it makes me just more sad...
<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/iggypop/ineedmore.html>

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 22:05:13 GMT

people like them. Taking advantage of others isn't the Capitalist way. We in America have the same disgust with unethical business practices as do other countries. What I've seen, having

same in any political system. He's the guy that works for a living, earns his keep, gives at least as much as he takes and often a little more. He stands by his friends and family, but he is warm and open with outsiders. He is able to work in any political system, because he's productive. That's my opinion, based on what I've seen in both cultures.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 23:15:18 GMT

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I see that Northwest airlines is threatening a strike breaking tactic used by many of the responsible businesses Wayne mentions to reduce the wages and benefits of their employees. They threaten to invoke bankruptcy proceedings enabling a court appointed administrator to do the wage cutting in order to circumvent union contracts. That's Contracts; you know a good faith agreement between parties. The average mechanic who might fit Wayne's description of the all around great guy will see a pay cut of over 26%. That's from a 20 yr senior mechanic's pay of 65k annually to 46k annually. Plus cuts in health and retirement benefits contractually agreed to. Sounds similar to your post Damir, right here in the good old U.S.A. People everywhere are the same snakes.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 03:15:26 GMT

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This is a wonderful example of an American view. It shows very well in his last reply. John is concerned with his fellow man, and of the working class. He has been a hard-working American that is always good to his friends and family. He helps those around him, giving advice, engaging in discussions and lending an ear on these forums. John is the perfect example of the American

vision of what Capitalism is all about. He's a man among men, and obviously feels best when doing something productive as opposed to just trying to find ways to make a quick buck.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 09:19:11 GMT

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I can't accept the idea that wal-mart chases legitimate business out of town - the buyers in the area choose wal-mart over the other retailers - the buyers vote with their money to buy crap without regard to value added by the retailer (if any) and wal-mart doesn't hassle people when they return with defective merchandise, they just give back the money (unlike every independent retailer I'm familiar with). You can argue that you don't like what happens when people turn away from local shops and go to wal-mart, but you can't blame wal-mart for giving them the choice. that's arresting the hooker and giving the john a free pass (not that I think hookers should be arrested but you can't condemn one without condemning the other)

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 12:19:35 GMT

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Yes; I resemble that remark! But you sly guy; you know I am not a fan of management and as such make a poor example of a capitalist.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 12:35:53 GMT

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Well; thats what is the real problem. It's similar to the folks around here who hire illegals to do the lawns and the home improvement work because they appear to work cheaper. Then we visit the emergency room of all the local hospitals and who do you think is in there? They are; disproportionately so with their children and older members suffering from ear infections and simple conditions that would normally be treated by a phycsician or a doc-in -the -box for 75\$. But since they are non-resident aliens, they are now sitting in a 750\$ a visit hospital on our dime. Their kids go to school because by law they must; but they have no legal residence so we pay to educate them while they work off the books. Forget about the police rersponses needed to deal with all of the problems in their ares. My point?? Wal-mart petitions a town suffering from a high unemployment rate. They offer jobs in return for tax incentives. The town has really no choice so they opt for this big traffic problem logistics problem box store to set-up shop. Now there are lots of people employed at minimum wage with no health care; back in those hospitals again. The town makes much less than projected because many of the low lying businesses go under as a result of this invasion, businesses that would have been around forever. People can't afford to spend on minimum wage so they don't add all that much to the economy. Wal-mart produces a strain on city services that costs money. Why do the people support this obviously faulty benefit? Do they have a choice? Wal-mart sells cheaper because they qouge suppliers and buy out of the country. And a non-union staff means no permanent jobs or potential for increased revenue which

was set by the original agreement anyway. And when that store is no longer generating enough revenue; what do you think happens? They abandon it; and the town pays to clean up the site. It can go on and on; but think of the fact that there are at least seven states looking to legislate against tax incentives for this monster. Do you think they hate business in those states?

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 13:22:47 GMT

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Hate to reply to my own message; jeez what a conceit! You know Loew's pays decent wages, pays taxes and carries decent merchandise for a box store and they make a profit. Why not Wal-Mart; unless they are greedy CS'S. That's why the Mart targets the weakest places. There will be a union in there in another five yrs and that's the end of them anyway. Instead of running an illegal sweatshop and beating the competition this way they will have to do fair business and I don't think they can survive in a fair environment.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 13:50:39 GMT

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Sounds exactly like the "health care" package I had a couple of jobs ago. Wal Mart is not unique in this respect. The one thing that pissed me off was the well baby care. Here I was a PhD making a good salary, and having to take the kids to the free clinic for their shots, etc. The management team that decided the health care package was composed of older (read as senior mgt.) employees and had no idea that a required shot at the doctor's office could run up to \$300 out-of-pocket. With the number of kids I have, this was serious change. Thank God for the county clinics, or it would have been Mac-n-Cheese every night.....Colin

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 13:54:40 GMT

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Oh, heck no! Capitalism doesn't have anything to do with management. It's about independence of private parties. Capitalism is characterized by private ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined by a free market. Business organizations are owned by individuals or groups of people as opposed to being owned by the state. And in this system, there are lots of workers, all that want a fair shake.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 14:05:09 GMT
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I'm sorry to hear that, genuinely. No adult family in America should have to compromise the health of their children while CEO's get a hundred million dollars to run a company into the ground then walk away. There is no reason on God's green earth that we cannot offer health care to the children of this nation except for greed and avarice.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 14:14:23 GMT
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So; this is a fair and open Market? I have a good essay from an old VTV written by none other than our own Metasonix that deals with just how free this market economy is. He says it way better than I can. Three questions as a courtesy I ask for three answers; If you have to work 60-70 hours a week and have your wife work also while some stranger watches your kids; is that a good example of healthy capitalism? If you cannot afford health care and at some point must sacrifice some needed care for your kids in order to pay rent; If you must work hours above your schedule at a moment's notice without warning and consequently leave your kid to fend for themselves for hours because your boss can dismiss you at will for not complying with mandatory overtime rules; Are these examples of good capitalist results?

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 14:17:05 GMT
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Luckily there are state programs that cover kids. At first I was upset that my company would not cover the basics, but Ohio has a very good health care coverage for kids. For this we are thankful. Like I said, it's not just Wal Mart. From my limited experience, it seems the larger the company, the poorer the health care benefits.....Colin

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 14:41:50 GMT
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My main point to Damir is that corruption and greed aren't Capitalism. They're corruption and

greed. The image of the "Fat Capitalist" that was painted in the Soviet sphere of influence is just as disgusting to Americans. It isn't like all Americans are "Fat Capitalists," nor do most Americans strive to be that way. Your comments here are a perfect example.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 15:41:18 GMT
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Never used to be that way. Why can't these companies at the very least offer a subsidised plan for normal medical interventions? Why? Because they don't feel they owe their employees a damn thing, thats why.And we let them get away with it.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 15:43:13 GMT
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I knew I would not get an answer. Say Wayne; do you have employees working for Pi? (Don't worry, my union days are over.)

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 15:48:27 GMT
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That's why I'm now self-employed. From what I've seen of corporate America, it's not about making a superior product (whatever the criteria) but about screwing someone over to get ahead. It's all about use or be used. The romantic notions of a unified American workforce making the world's products are long gone. The game has changed and we are not looking too good right now.....Colin

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [cheetah](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 16:34:06 GMT
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There is much wrong in "Corporate America" today. All too often descions are made based on

how the will affect this quarter's bottom line. When that becomes the driving force, it gets to be very difficult to see the forrest for the trees. You have many company's giving raises that do not even keep up with the increase in the cost of living, let alone provide a decent health care package. But we can't place all the blame at the employer's door step. When the annual increase in health care benefits runs between 10% and 30%, well it takes a huge increase in business to just keep pace. Most company's simply can not afford to absorb those kind of increases, so they begin to cut services provided and pass a larger share of the costs on to the employee. Some how Congress needs to find the courage to over haul the way health care is provided and paid for, in America. And no, I do not think socialized health care is the way to go.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Damir](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 16:56:42 GMT
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Hey, I said that we over here fought for "capitalism", or "Western way", or so - and get the horror, caricature. And it's not entirely our fault - almost all the banks here are in foreign property, MMF, liabilities...And also - I don't imagine US citizens like "fat capitalists"...huh.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [cheetah](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 17:07:59 GMT
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Manualblock, First off let me say that I have no love for Walmart. I don't generally shop there. The stores are so crowded that you can't get out with out waiting in line for ever. I prefer to shop where it is not such a hassle. That said, why is it Walmart's fault that the emergency rooms are filled with illegals looking to get health care for their children. Why is it Walmart's fault that so many communities bend over backwards to give these large corporations such huge tax incentives. "For their part, Walmart does provide good opportunities for those who demonstrate the desire to work. How do i know this, my wife worked for them for several years. Yes they hire at or slightly above minimum wage, but its not that hard to get into higher paying positions, if you show you want to work." If our Congressmen would step up to the plate and close our borders to illegal immigration, then the problem would go away in time. If our Congress men would stop giving away the candy store inexchange for votes, then hospitals would not be required to provide free health care to any one who walks in with out any insurance. If out Legislatures would level the tax burdens on corporations, then companies could afford to expand with out seeking tax abatments. At some point some one needs to step up and say that the maddness stops here.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 17:12:26 GMT

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We already have socialised health care only it goes to illegal aliens; who utilise according to some studies upwards of 11% of the average states health care budget. The feds want the cheap labor and until they decide to secure our borders the situation will only get worse.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 17:30:10 GMT

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Now we are getting somewhere. Before I answer your post though I must state that I didn't say Wal-Mart is at fault forcing illegals to use the hospitals; I say Wal-Mart, by not providing the very basics of health care to it's employees even though these towns and cities give a generous tax abatement to this company, forces even their employees to use the hospitals; since who has a thousand dollar deductible on a minimum wage job? I have no experience working there so am not qualified to speak on their advancement potential; but look at the ratio of minimum wage workers there to above average paid workers and that should settle that story. The corporations get huge tax deferments in ways only our accountants can even begin to explain. Look at the total of corporate tax revenue records per-capita. The average Joe pays more than the aggregate corporate tax liability. I think your argument seeks to define personal participation in the economic system via a paycheck. Well; here the deck is stacked. Can you own stock in these companies and thereby share in the profits and shut guys like me up? No; not really. The accounting regulations tilt the board so that you will always enjoy a return on your capital investment in American industry of about 6%. That includes risk factors you accept as part of your being allowed to even invest you paltry sums. Why Wal-Mart; what makes them the bad guys? With their business model of searching aggressively for the weakest and most vulnerable sections of our country; making promises of jobs and increased wealth for these desperate towns and cities, then providing very little or nothing in the way of increased revenue and locking those communities into bad agreements. That is their crime. Searching the world over for goods made by slave labor or in sweatshop conditions drives the value of all American goods and labor down. How do they do this, by manipulating the political system in the most vulnerable communities. Wheew!

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 19:05:03 GMT

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By the same token they offer goods, however shoddy you believe them to be, at prices that people at the bottom of the economic ladder can afford - where else would "working poor" people buy stuff they need these days? The people who make that stuff might be paid sub-slave wages; would they be better off with no alternative but to pick through the garbage dumps? It's a

double-edged sword. WM might pay slave wages - are those people better off with no wages? WM doesn't ask very much of their employees qualifications at hiring- I doubt most of the clerks there are biding their time waiting for the job as CEO of Westinghouse to open up. Should WM pay their staff a so-called living wage plus bennies and raise their prices so high that those who turn to WM as the only source of affordable stuff spend all their money at Goodwill and in thrift stores? Look, there's a lot of goddamn misery in this world and I sure as fuck wish there wasn't. There's no doubt in my mind that if all the self-professed christians in america acted on the beliefs they claim to hold there'd be a lot more equity. No CEO needs 500X or 1000X times the income of their lowest paid employee; corporate boards these days are just a facade for theft from stockholders fueled by insatiable greed; there's evil upon evil and I don't dispute that for a minute. But there's also an inter-relationship between all the parties involved that does benefit all who participate - it may not be shared equitably but it's not clear to me that if WM disappeared tomorrow or never existed in the first place that their thousands of employees and their supporting vendors/contractors would be better off without them.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [cheetah](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 19:58:41 GMT

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Also, in many cases it is the governments of these third world nations who limit the wages, not the companies who build there. Yes these multi-national companies are attracted to the third world by lower employment costs. However many soon find that they must begin to offer more to keep their employees coming back to work. WARNING- anecdotal evidence being sited here...Case in point. A very good friend of mine is an engineer at Hoover. In the early nineties Hoover built several plants in Mexico. They were attracted by low wages and big tax encentives offered by the Mexican government. Soon after these palnts opened Hoover began to notice a pattern, in their employees behavior. After the workers were paid, they would not show up for work for severak days. With money in their pockets, many chose to party rather than come to work. Hoover sought to provide more to the employee, as an encentive to come to work, but were barred from paying any more by Mexican labor laws. The company began to offer free health service, dental service, eye exams for their employees and their families. The kicker was, the employee had to maintain an acceptable standard of attendance to qualify. To end this, its not always, or only the Big, Bad American Corporations who are to blame for the exploitation of the third world labor market. Blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the politicians from these countries as well.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2005 22:17:14 GMT

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The cabinet shop and machine shop are both contracted. So they take care of their own payrolls and stuff like that. I just submit bid requests when I make new designs, and after that point it's a

matter of placing orders and paying invoices. I also work very closely with Monte Vogt on many projects. Monte is a mechanical engineer who has been a friend of mine since school days.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 02:01:51 GMT

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You know Charley; I don't have anymore valid thoughts than you do. I only have my own suspicions about how things work and what I observe. I mean why are there working poor? If they are working they shouldn't be poor. Maybe struggling but poor? Would there be a place for the struggling to buy necessities at prices they could afford? I think so. When they need something someone will provide it. Where does Wal-Mart come in? Well before we liquidated the manufacturing base in this country we didn't need Wal-Mart, so what; we can't have a company that makes a profit that equals the GNP of a third world country offer the workers health and wage benefits that are supportive? Are people buying this cheap stuff and actually saving anything? I find that the cheap stuff is more costly in the long run myself. If there was no WM then the working poor would find that out also. The benefit part; the community absorbs the refusal of WM to provide adequate wage by using tax revenue to make up the shortfall. So maybe those working poor might have more in their community to help support them if WM wasn't absorbing all that public monies. The effect of box stores is to lull the community into a false sense of safety that implodes when the bill comes in for health shortfall/education tax revenue shortfall; higher cost of people delaying medical treatment until it becomes acute and costly. What do you think about all this?

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 02:03:46 GMT

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My friend; are there any American Companies anymore? Aren't they all multi-national with bases in many countries and continents? Shouldn't our cgovernment bre protecting us from the abuses of these multi's that seem to be above the law?

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 03:41:17 GMT

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You're probably right - what the hell do I know. Maybe overall they're just evil greed-crazed bastards profiting from desperation and misery. No doubt that our federal government does

nothing to mandate workplace equity and that the present administration actively works to strip workers of all protections – they clearly want to ensure an abundant supply of passive drones grateful to be exploited. I'm pretty certain that's how it's always been for the have-nots. Maybe those of us who have the advantage of a bit of security, a little more understanding, are the ones to blame for not demanding basic reforms that would more equitably distribute the productivity of the society among all the stakeholders instead of benefiting just the greedy few at the top with their 200 foot yachts. We certainly don't – if somebody says taxes are too low, they can't get to first base without being called a tax-and-spend idiot. If you talk about fairness and equity you're a lunatic liberal commie subversive. People only vote for millionaires and celebrities – they don't ever consider why they're millionaires or celebrities except to trash them like John Edwards was trashed for being a trial lawyer. We end up with no choices in the voting booth because we let good people get trampled – we let corporate interests get away with smearing people who might rock the boat – we let their disinformation campaigns convince the less than astute that raising the minimum wage or nationalizing basic health care is just trying to strip them of their ability to pursue the American dream – not many of us support organizations that try to counter that sort of obvious propaganda. The end result is that the sheeple vote for their own slaughter while denouncing the evil liberals with the war chants their masters taught them. Even the churches are full of so-called christians these days who've swallowed the whole laissez-faire republican message rather than questioning how the poor can be helped. The only help the poor are offered is to become supporters of their oppressors in the incredibly naive belief that they can become one of "them". To perpetuate the illusion the press publishes Horatio Alger stories pre-cooked by the corporations for immediate publication (no editing required)- it's like ads for lottery tickets; the suckers keep buying into the scam. We have met the enemy and they is us.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [wunhuanglo](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 03:44:55 GMT
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Don't blame the feds - blame us. We're the ones who put them in power over us and keep making the same mistakes over and over.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 09:24:23 GMT
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Amazing to hear on CNN a show that delves into the current Religious Fundamentalist revival. A preacher or spiritual guide or whatever they call confidence men who work the religion con telling the congregation that God wants you to vote Republican and support the war in Iraq. I first noticed this during Reagan. Union guys who would vote for a guy who was virulently anti-union. Why I would ask; He is a strong leader, would inevitably be the answer, or the other guy will raise taxes.

And cut funding to the military. He ended up doing both and as for a strong leader; so was Stalin; what does that mean. See the same cognitive dysfunction in today's administration. But logic; hey what's that? We have WMD's to find. But Wal-Mart is a symbol of all that nonsense come to a head. That's the bottom line and that's why they are under fire now; because even sheep will fight back if things get too ridiculous; or maybe not.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 13:13:03 GMT

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I've always frowned on the manipulative tactic used by many that try to promote a religion or "pass the word," and that's the "get out of hell free card." Instead of suggesting an idea that spiritual growth might make a person happier, they proffer the advice that without immediate attention, the person will go to hell and be tortured forever. I think it's a mistaken principle. I like the idea of attraction rather than promotion. If you know something worth doing, then do it. Don't push it. It will show its own good virtues and people will be attracted to it. I personally never thought God to be so insecure as to demand a person's immediate attention. I see God as more of a Grand Unification Theory. So then you're really just learning science better, social interactions, micro and macro structures in everything. Put it all together and give it a name. If Jesus and Zoroaster were trying to describe some of the ways to live, be productive, successful and happy, I see it no differently than the Wright Brothers developing a better understanding of gravity and aerodynamics. I doubt they would have gone door to door telling people they needed to learn their principles lest they might die a horrible death, but if you try to fly without a pretty good grasp of the things Orville and Wilber Wright found, you'll probably die a horrible death.

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 20 Aug 2005 13:56:27 GMT

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What I have always wanted to know is; Who is Zoroaster? I've seen that name before; just what is his deal? The joining together of God and science; is that Scientology?

Subject: Re: wal-mart

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 21 Aug 2005 02:48:25 GMT

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Do a search of Zoroastrians. They believed in a monotheistic God, (Ahura-Mazda) and a lot of their religious teachings were good common sense about things like hygiene and social graces.

It's a pretty interesting religion. There are only about 100,000 of them left, and it's a blood-line based religion that doesn't allow converts. I 'spose you could read their religious text (the Avesta) and go to their temples in Bombay but they do not have a conversion process.

Subject: Re: wal-mart
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 21 Aug 2005 12:17:29 GMT
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Yeah; and I don't drive a Mazda anyway.

Subject: What to d owith old Wal Marts
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 23 Aug 2005 12:38:54 GMT
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John, Thought you would get a chuckle out of this article.....Colin
http://news.yahoo.com/s/wlwt/20050822/lo_wlwt/2895242

Subject: Re: What to d owith old Wal Marts
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 23 Aug 2005 21:41:20 GMT
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Gee; I thought all the employees were already ON work release!
