

# DOWNLOAD PDF HOW MONICA LEWINSKY SAVED SOCIAL SECURITY

## ROBIN BLACKBURN

### Chapter 1 : Monica Lewinsky's return and the sexism of political scandals | Al Jazeera America

*How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security by Robin Blackburn [This essay is excerpted from CounterPunch's hot new book, She saved the day. ROBIN BLACKBURN.*

Why does President Barack Obama seem so ill-equipped to meet the challenges of the moment. Amid sagging job approval ratings, prompted by a series of crises abroad and an economic recovery that more closely resembles a new recession, a panel of political veterans pondered all the reasons why Obama seems to be floundering. Purdum noted that LBJ maintained lines of communication open to both his supporters and opponents in Congress, something Obama acknowledges he failed to do in his first term. Purdum was, however, careful to add that Congress and the republic are fundamentally different today than they were then. True, Obama is no LBJ. Obama is not even Bill Clinton — not the Bill Clinton who has positioned himself a partisan firebrand now that he is out of office, but the leader who sought to rebrand his tarnished party as a centrist force for compromise. But is neither nor is it even Before the Monica Lewinsky scandal got in the way in , according to The Pact author Steven Gillon, the White House and the Republican-led Congress were reportedly on the verge of crafting a bipartisan deal which would have partially privatized social security and might have branded the Democratic Party the force for sound and solvent entitlements. Partisan politics got in the way of that deal and entitlement reform will have to wait for a new generation of compromisers, and no one was happier about that than Democrats. But the circumstances which nearly facilitated a grand bargain at the close of the 20th Century no longer prevailed in the second decade of the 21st Century. The seemingly stagnant and occasionally contracting U. The shrinking American pie has made both Republicans and Democrats less amenable to compromises, and the elimination of earmarks has removed a critical incentive which once induced recalcitrant members to make concessions. So when people like Schieffer lament that the way we were in the s was preferable human nature today, he does a disservice to the American character. The fundamental American nature which made the republican government a practical proposition for the last plus years remain in place, but the circumstances of the time in which we live have changed. The methods Democratic presidents once used to effect great change are no longer viable. Whereas Johnson and Clinton could rely on the post-war American largess to grease the wheels of Congress, that tool is no longer available. The overflowing barrels of pork which so many congressional navigators once used to secure support for great reforms have run dry. It will take a new type of leader to guide a majority of nakedly self-interested voting members toward a single end. To the extent that presidents like Roosevelt could rely on force and coercion and the promise of the state to pass his agenda in another time of want, the new strain of libertarianism coursing through the country means that the 21st Century presidency requires a new kind of engagement. Both Republican and Democratic partisans are growing more polarized, making compromise between their representatives that much harder. Rapidly changing political circumstances have made the old tools that once facilitated compromise obsolete.

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### Chapter 2 : List of people associated with the London School of Economics - Wikipedia

*How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security by ROBIN BLACKBURN CounterPunch, OCTOBER 30, Had it not been for Monica's captivating smile and first inviting snap of that famous thong, President Bill Clinton would have consummated the politics of triangulation, heeding the counsel of a secret White House team and deputy treasury secretary Larry Summers.*

It seems only yesterday “in fact it was only yesterday” that we had Barack the Populist flailing away at the banks. In January he was shaking his fist at the mighty powers of Wall Street: That is part of the free-market system. Wall Street wants to get its mitts on retirement funds as an investment pool, to drain to their advantage. In July of he even went to one of their work sessions as they put the finishing touches to their plan to hand Social Security over to the mutual funds industry. But then, suddenly, all bets were off. He was subpoenaed by a grand jury and a month later admitted a relationship with Monica Lewinsky. As Robert Blackburn, exhuming this history on CounterPunch. The itinerary mapped out for Clinton by the Democratic Leadership Committee would have been complete. Republicans were swiftly moved to insist that they too would give priority to Social Security. Pessimism about the future of the program was replaced by a growing consensus that the program must be “and could be” saved. The American system is nicely balanced so that foul deeds judged too perilous for Republicans to undertake can be handed off to Democrats, like throwing poor women off the welfare rolls. They put on a better act, tears streaming down their faces as they protest that they must kill in order to be kind. So, when Obama gave an interview to the Washington Post shortly before he took over the White House, saying that it was high time to take an unsparing look at entitlements, the warning shot rang clear and loud. But of course general economic meltdown required the rescue of the bankers, the stimulus and other urgent matters. On February 7 last, the New York Times sounded the tocsin, with a vast editorial calling for entitlement reform. The Sulzbergers, their own retirement cushions nicely plumped up by Carlos Slim, the Mexican billionaire keeping the NYT afloat, are keen on it. How marvelously efficient is the hidden hand! The NYT calls for deregulation of ailing third world economies and sale of public assets. Mexico auctions off its telecommunication systems, which are duly seized up by Slim, who buys a slice of NYT B stock with a small part of his loot and makes sure the Sulzbergers will have a blanket and a crust amid their twilight years. But the cries for reform come at a juncture when desperation reigns in the Democratic Party, following the debacle in Massachusetts. But how many times have the Democrats finally swallowed the poison pill so temptingly offered by the Republicans as a tactical ploy? Their original motive was to get out in front of the Republicans and the President. Now we have the formation of an admittedly non-binding presidential commission on entitlements and the deficit. The AFL and progressive groups had better get out on the trail, right now. There are kindred compelling suspicions, regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King. Dear Alex, In your brilliant survey of achievements and failures of American left from to you forget to mention about one signal achievement of left. That of eliminating an American president by one of them. I have read some of the diary entries by Oswald when he was in the Soviet Union. He was an idealistic left-wing young man, like most the Left which made the Sixties an exciting decade. He was definitely angry that Kennedy was tormenting Cuban Communism and decided to stop Kennedy, a super war criminal like all American presidents, and succeeded. William Manchester was right, The prevailing right wing anti-Kennedy atmosphere in Houston has nothing to do with Kennedy death. Unlike that rightwing, Oswald hated Kennedy for the right reasons. It is difficult to imagine Israeli right wing denying Yigal Amir who killed Rabin was a rightwinger. They proudly accept Amir was a rightist. But not the American leftists. Instead of accepting Oswald as their own, American leftists developed sudden compassion for arch criminal Kennedy and started the deplorable cottage industry of his Assassination cult which is still going strong.

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### Chapter 3 : Obama is no LBJ, but is no

*But as Robin Blackburn explains in this article, he was thwarted, not by the party's base, but by the Monica Lewinsky scandal which forced him to appease his base in order to save his political skin.*

From to he was a writer with The Village Voice , originating its longstanding "Press Clips" column. In his time there, he interviewed Rupert Murdoch after a struggle over the ownership of The Voice culminated in Murdoch buying the paper. He actually had us both to lunch and offered us a column. Chess and the Dance of Death as a class history of chess, and a lot of "bogus Freudian stuff", as he would later put it, in a critical evaluation of the claims made for chess. In Cockburn found a regular position at The Nation with a column called "Beat the Devil" after the title of the novel written by his father. He was not afraid to write for newspapers which took a conservative editorial standpoint, such as The Wall Street Journal for which Cockburn wrote for ten years, even becoming a columnist for Chronicles in In he completed what would be the first of a series of books composed of columns, diary entries, letters, and essays from over the preceding decade. It was called Corruptions of Empire and its cover featured a portrayal of Admiral George Cockburn torching the White House with slaves escaping. Journeys and Encounters in much the same mode, combining diary entries with columns, essays, and letters, even including hate mail. The last collection in this series was A Colossal Wreck: A Road Trip Through Political Scandal, Corruption, and American Culture , which was published posthumously, having completed it shortly before his death. He became a US citizen in Clair were soon on board. The aim was a newsletter capable of "muckraking with a radical attitude" drawing on inspiration from Edward Abbey , Peter Maurin , and Ammon Hennacy , as well as the left-wing populist newsletter Appeal to Reason. The end result was CounterPunch. It was first a printed newsletter until when Cockburn and St. Clair took CounterPunch online. By that time Silverstein had moved on, leaving Cockburn and St. Outspoken criticism of U. Contempt for the mainstream liberal establishment, in particular for public figures who, in his view, gain mainstream respectability by criticizing those to their left; targets have included The New York Times , President Barack Obama , Senator Bernie Sanders , the late academic Irving Howe , and some of his colleagues at The Nation, including Marc Cooper , David Corn [19] and Eric Alterman. Cockburn was also highly critical of his former friend and colleague, Christopher Hitchens. His nudge-nudge, wink-wink brand of humor is demonstrated in his response to a question asking for a comparison between George W. They have virtual slavery of women. They are in favour of the bride price. The more complex the weaponry, the deeper the pork barrel and the more swollen the bottom line. In the same column, Cockburn concluded that every major Republican or Democratic nominee running in the presidential election was supportive of Iraq sanctions, and was therefore complicit in mass murder. On 12 September , he wrote "The targets abroad will be all the usual suspects: The target at home will be the Bill of Rights. Clair ran articles by Manual Garcia, a physicist, on the events of September 11, , challenging the conspiracy theories that have been circling since the attacks. The Left is in terrible shape. I think [Bush and Cheney] are capable of monstrous evil, I just think the theories they have " of no plane hitting the Pentagon " is nutty. Spinney "worked for the government. He reiterated this view at a conference in He went as far as taking a critical stance on hate speech legislation and wrote in Seattle and Beyond Alexander was asked what his position on the Second Amendment was and responded " I then proceeded to my gauge and brought that turkey down, thirteen and a half pounds, plucked it, drew it, and ate it, with my loved ones as they say. America is not about to dump the Second Amendment giving people the right to bear arms. Developers, Destroyers and Defenders of the Amazon in which they criticised environmentalists for disregarding indigenous rights , highlighting the Yanomami people in particular, and challenged the European belief that the Amazon was " virgin forest ". Cockburn and Hecht estimated that there may have been as many as 12 million people living in the Amazon basin when Europeans first arrived in Combustion of petroleum products in the First World provides most of the carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and chlorofluorocarbons going into the atmosphere, but Third

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World energy use and deforestation contribute to the ever-increasing amounts. One index of the changing situation is the rising curve of complaints from satellite photo-analysts that they are unable to get decent dry-season shots of the Amazon anymore, because of the great clouds of smoke and particulates hanging over large parts of the forest. He believed the phenomenon has not been proven to be caused by humans. Cockburn was also critical of the "greenhouse" explanation for warming by positing that it is incongruous with the laws of physics, specifically the second law of thermodynamics. He elaborated "Gradually you make it impossible in the Southern countries for a peasantry to survive and make a go of it," and concluded that this process has left people in Mexico, Central and South America little choice except to find work in the United States. He writes "Unz does us all a favor by raising important questions about the role of the reserve army of the unemployed or of migrants in sustaining the current low-wage capitalist economy. He poses an escape from the low-wage vortex, which is also all to the good. Cockburn went on to state that "Marine Le Pen certainly has made some unsavoury comments about immigrants and Islamisation. But she has gone to the heart of the matter, asserting that monetary union cannot be fudged, that it is incompatible with the French nation-state. Rather, Cockburn stressed "The number-one issue is employment. Cockburn had previously accused Dershowitz, in , of plagiarism , [65] and, in October , of supporting torture. Dershowitz also claimed that Cockburn was one of three writers along with Finkelstein and Noam Chomsky engaged in an attempt to discredit him, which Cockburn also denied. The purveyor of anthrax may have been a former government scientist, Jewish, with a record of baiting a colleague of Arab origins, and with the intent to blame the anthrax on Muslim terrorists. On various accounts, they were trailing Mohamed Atta and his associates, knew what was going to happen but did nothing about it, or were simply spying on US facilities. In regards to the same passage, Suzanne Fields goes on to note "When asked if the stories were true, Mr. Rather, by noting that all of these Jewish conspiracy stories are "sloshing around the news," Cockburn seems merely to be pointing out that, hey, anti-Semitic ideas are still out there todayâ€”so why the shock that [Billy Graham] endorsed them 30 years ago? Indeed, when I reached Cockburn to ask him about these conspiracies, he insisted he was just reporting what was already in circulation. You see a brisk uptick in the number of articles here accusing the left of anti-Semitism. I minded then, as I mind now, but overuse has drained the term of much clout. I do see a threat to [the] survival of Palestinians , who are living on what a dollar a day in Gaza. In terms of its pretensions, the capitalist system has failed. The Financial Times ran an editorial in favour of it. But in the end, to reform finance capital you have to offend people and institutions, including the Financial Times. There he gave a speech on Martin Luther King, Jr. And there today America is on that line. These were brave people trying to hold their ground. Although he stated that Scientology deserved scrutiny, he also maintained that the demonization of any particular unpopular group â€” even one officials consider a "cult" â€” presented a far more imminent danger than the activities of Scientologists, or the organization they belong to. He later said in that "There is more evil in one second of the history of the Roman Catholic Church than there is in the entire lifetime of Scientology". The two of them were close friends in the s as Hitchens had just arrived and Cockburn had been in the country for a decade already and was well situated to give Hitchens advice. They would meet regularly in Greenwich Village. Robin Blackburn remarked "Alexander sort of invented Christopher. He showed him what could be done. Cockburn would later note that Hitchens "wrote some really awful stuff in the early 90s about how indigenous peoplesâ€”Indians in the Americasâ€”were inevitably going to be rolled over by the wheels of Progress and should not be mourned. It left a rift between Blumenthal and Hitchens. Not long after Cockburn lambasted Hitchens in a speech at an anti-war rally: Partly proposed by a colleague of mine writing in The Nation.

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### Chapter 4 : Famous women who never got married | KiwiReport

*The conventional wisdom is that Lewinsky and her "simple blue dress" saved Social Security -- or, depending upon your point of view, prevented it from being reined in and reformed.*

He has to be smart, funny and kind. Marriage has never been a big deal for me. I got to have all the fun in the world, to experience a lot of people and figure out what I really like. Kimberly Stewart Kimberly Stewart is still an unmarried woman, despite the child she shared with Benecio Del Toro via a one night stand in I know what I want now. A nice husband, good career, and babies. We have the semblance of a marriage. Vanessa Paradis Vanessa Paradis may have been partnered up with Johnny Depp for about 15 years but like a few other golden couples we know, they chose never to tie the knot. You know, we might do it for the kids one day. But we are more than married: The Chicago actress has never been married and never led anyone to believe that she wanted to. Recently, she split with her longtime girlfriend, Eboni Nichols. You gotta deserve it. If you are blessed, you are blessed, whether you are single or married. But a life shared together? I think you have to be somebody who can compromise and be realistic. I could never do it. Oprah Winfrey Oprah Winfrey has been with Stedman Graham for over 30 years and so far, they still have no plans to be married. If you were to ask him, he would say the same thing. But the very idea of what it means to be a wife and the responsibility and sacrifice that carries. Sometimes you get too much information when you spend time with people. You start to see things, bad habits. Marriage, to me, is like eating meat. When your parents are madly in love for 45 years, your standards are really high. She did have a year relationship with actor Diego Serrano, but the two broke up in Marisa Tomei Marisa Tomei found success as an Oscar winner at an early age. Mary-Louise Parker Mary-Louise Parker experienced one of the most painful types of heartbreak a woman could ever be subjected to; when she was 7 months pregnant with their child, Billy Crudup left her for Claire Danes. But you know what? That would be the least of my problems. Bush, has never been married. Lauren Graham, also known as the coolest TV mom in the world, has never been married much like her on-screen counterpart, Lorelai Gilmore. In , Ellen DeGeneres asked Graham whether or not a wedding would be in the works between her and her longtime boyfriend and Parenthood co-star, Peter Krause. We are really happy. The mother of 3 was in an on again-off again relationship with Scott Disick for 10 years and the pair never tied the knot. The situation was never right. Robin Roberts Robin Roberts is a symbol for resilience and strength for almost every viewer that tunes into Good Morning America. Roberts has been with partner Amber Laign for 14 years and the couple still lives in separate households. In , the National Inquirer reported that Robin and Amber planned on getting married over the holiday season but as it turns out, the wedding rumor was just that "a rumor. Why would I want to head there? I want love in my life, no question about that. But I have a ton of it. Allison Janney Allison Janney held nothing back when she spoke to E! Magazine in regarding her thoughts on marriage. I want to feel sexy and young and pretty for as long as I can. Rhimes has 3 children but refuses to ever tie the knot. Joan has never been married and rarely opens up about her personal affairs. They had two children together, Billy and Nell, and infamously derailed themselves from the traditional marriage path. The Sleep Hollow actress will only get married when she meets her legitimate Mr. I think, intermittently, that you find Mr. Right, but you have to get lucky. Dina Meyer Actress Dina Meyer is 48 years old and has yet to get married. Actually, it is hard to tell if she has even ever had a boyfriend or not. This former star of both Starship Troopers, Saw, and Beverly Hills, likes to keep her personal life private and away from the public eye. All we know is that this accomplished actress would be quite an awesome catch for anyone. Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice author Jane Austen is perhaps one of the best known women who decided not to ever get married. Despite being an accomplished author and slated to appear on the new British 10 Pound Sterling note in late , she never married after meeting what many assume to be the love of her life, Tom Lefroy. She has seriously dated both men and women, but as of now does not seem to be in a relationship with anyone. While there were rumors that she got married to Gary Dourdan, these rumors were proven to be unfounded. The

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reason for this was for the greater good of England however, as she would have had to marry a member of a royal family from some other country, thereby potentially destabilizing her kingdom. England was able to see four decades of stability due to her not getting married. Despite people wondering whether or not she is into other women, it seems as if this strong and independent woman has just decided to focus on her career as opposed to love. She was a huge advocate of the abolitionist movement against slavery as well as helping to get women the right to vote. One of the first feminists, she argued for a day when men would not be the ones in control of marriage, and advocating giving women equal legal standing in a holy matrimony. This is because it was part of her vows to never come into physical contact with a man. Mother Theresa helped thousands of destitute people in India and increased the numbers of church going Catholics in that country by the tens of thousands. She has since been beatified as a saint. She is most famous for her novel *Wuthering Heights*, a novel which has been deemed to be an English Language classic. However, she remained single for her entire life, with biographers describing her as a shy woman who mainly stayed at home. It was said that she made very few friends besides her family. Chelsea Handler Chelsea Handler is unquestionably one of the funniest and most fierce women on television but at one point, she implied that marriage was synonymous or correlated with murder. You Can Say No. I really want for myself a long-term relationship. I have been in a long-term relationship. The actual ceremony is not important to me, but I see the importance for other people. Eva Mendes Sorry, Eva Mendes "we gotta be straight with you. If we had Ryan Gosling, we certainly lock that down without hesitation! We did it for land originally. How unromantic is that? But, in real life, actress Kristin Davis has her own reasons for staying single. The stunning host has reportedly dated musician, Dave Navarro, who was also famously married to Carmen Electra. Monica Lewinsky Perhaps best known for her special relationship with President Clinton, Monica Lewinsky has yet to get married. While she does date, she has found it hard to maintain a stable, long lasting relationship. She also finds it difficult to find a steady job, travelling all over the United States looking for work. Lewinsky does do a lot of volunteer work however, and is a huge advocate against the phenomenon of cyberbullying.

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### Chapter 5 : The Death of Retirement?

*First, read through the excellent Counterpunch essay by historian Robin Blackburn, How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security, which explains how the neoliberal Democratic Party agenda regarding.*

After reflecting this evening, I am strongly opposed to giving the President any? I have tried hard to bend over backwards and to be fair to him and to think of all reasonable defenses to his pattern of behavior. In the end, I am convinced that there really are none. The idea of going easy on him at the questioning is thus abhorrent to me. What has especially convinced me of the appropriateness of obtaining his and complete" testimony regarding the precise details of the relationship are the sheer number of his wrongful acts. The President has disgraced his Office, the legal system, and the American people by having sex with a year-old intern and turning her life into a shambles callous and disgusting behavior that has somehow gotten lost in the shuffle. He has committed perjury at least in the Jones case. He has turned the Secret Service upside down. He has required the urgent attention of the courts and the Supreme Court for frivolous privilege claims all to cover up his oral sex from an intern. He has lied to his aides. He has lied to the American people. He has tried to disgrace you and this Office with a sustained propaganda campaign that would make Nixon blush. He should be forced to account for all of that and to defend his actions. It may not be our job to impose sanctions on him, but it is My job to make his pattern of revolting behavior clear piece by painful piece on Monday. I am mindful of the need for respect for the Office of the President. But in my view, given what we know, the interests of the Office of the President would be best served by our gathering the full facts regarding the actions of this President so that the Congress can decide whether the interests of the Presidency would be best served by having a new President. More to the point: Did you tell Monica Lewinsky that she should deny the nature of the relationship that you and she had? If Monica Lewinsky says that you agreed to lie about your relationship with her, would she be lying? Would Monica Lewinsky be lying if she said that you told her after her name appeared on the witness list: If Monica Lewinsky says that you inserted a cigar into her vagina while you were in the Oval Of? If Monica Lewinsky says that you had phone sex with her on approximately 15 occasions, would she be lying? If Monica Lewinsky says that on several occasions in the Oval Office area, you used your fingers to stimulate her vagina and bring her to orgasm, would she be lying? If Monica Lewinsky says that she gave you oral sex on nine occasions in the Oval Office area, would she be lying? If Monica Lewinsky says that you ejaculated into her mouth on two occasions in the Oval Office area, would she be lying? If Monica Lewinsky says that on several occasions you had her give her oral sex, made her stop, and then ejaculated into the sink in the bathroom off the Oval Office, would she be lying? If Monica Lewinsky says that you masturbated into a trashcan in your secretary?

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### Chapter 6 : Project MUSE - The Politics of Policy Change

*DNC: Primary rigging is protected by the 1st Amendment. How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security. by Robin Blackburn How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security.*

I have repeatedly said that progressives have to be most on the alert when Democrats are in power. We see Obama doing things in the name of national security that would have evoked howls of protest if Bush had done them. We see Obama treating Wall Street with a generosity that would be loudly protested if a Republican did it. The big prize for the oligarchy is, of course, Social Security. The privatization of Social Security has been a long-cherished dream of Wall Street anxious to get their hands on that trillion-dollar account. In general, Republicans have been thwarted when they tried to do it. Bush tried to privatize it in his second term but was beaten back and gave up on it. The Democratic Party has long been seen as the defenders of Social Security, which is why the oligarchy sees it as a better agent for achieving its goals. These secret plans were well advanced and getting down to the level of fine-tuning details in preparation for a public announcement. We have this on the authority of high-ranking members of the Clinton Treasury who gathered in Harvard in the summer of to mull over the lessons of the s. The media lent an eager ear to charlatantry from outfits like the Third Millennium, which ventriloquized a supposed consensus amongst youth that the program would not be there for them when they came to retire “and that consequently their best bet was to take their FICA payments and put them in a private share account in soar-away Wall Street. But it did tap into a vein of public anxiety and skepticism concerning Social Security finances and, with the stock market soaring upward, its Wall Street connections were an asset not a liability. He proposed that 62 per cent of the budget surplus should be used to build up the Social Security trust fund. He promised to veto any attempt to divert Social Security funds to other uses, and he urged that 15 per cent of the trust fund should be invested in the stock market, not by individuals but by the Social Security Administration. The first part of the plan to privatize Social Security, which has long been in evidence, is to soften up the public by persuading all people that the system is in dire crisis, and especially the young, that they are being ripped off because Social Security will not be there for them when they retire. This is a lie. There is no long-term problem with Social Security that cannot be fixed with minor tinkering within the system. This graph of the Social Security trustees projections of future financial status as a percentage of GDP shows that there are no runaway costs in Social Security in the foreseeable future and the gap between revenue and outlays can be easily closed. Furthermore, the current surplus in the trust fund well over three trillion dollars that has been built up over the years can be used to fund the deficit in the current account at least over the next two or three decades without any changes at all in the system. There is no doubt in my mind that Barack Obama also wants to raid Social Security in some way to benefit the oligarchy, to do what Clinton and Bush could not. You can be sure that his economic team is already working on it. The cautious thing to do would be for Obama to wait until his second term, like Clinton and Bush, so that he does not have to worry about any negative impact on his re-election chances. But Obama seems to have an arrogant confidence about his ability to get his followers to rally behind him whatever he does, and he may well think that he can tackle Social Security now and escape unscathed. And he will unless people protest loud and long. Monica Lewinsky played her part. Now it is up to the rest of us to save Social Security.

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### Chapter 7 : Did Monica Lewinsky Really Save Social Security? | History News Network

*In the provocatively titled "How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security," British leftwing scholar Robin Blackburn investigates how a sex scandal saved retirees from being shafted by the Democrats rather than Evil Republicans.*

In both the print and Internet editions, Counterpunch has been publishing articles on practically a daily basis making the case against "lesser evil" politics. Beyond the Lesser of Two Evils is not only a timely contribution to the debate; it will have ongoing value as a probing analysis of how money, class and political power intersect in the American Empire. One of the most enduring myths of the ABB camp is that a second Bush term will lead to the privatization of Social Security. Whatever the flaws of the Democratic Party, they can be relied on to stick their thumb in the privatization dike like the little Dutch boy. In defending Gore against Bush in the election, Nation Magazine columnist Eric Alterman wrote, "For Social Security, our most important instrument of collective, intergenerational solidarity and the single most effective antipoverty program in US history, a Bush presidency could mean the beginning of the end. In the provocatively titled "How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security," British leftwing scholar Robin Blackburn investigates how a sex scandal saved retirees from being shafted by the Democrats rather than Evil Republicans. The History and Future of Pensions, he is an authority on such matters. A top-secret working group had been convened by Clinton in order to come up with a bipartisan plan for privatizing one of the crown jewels of the New Deal under the rather neutral sounding rubric of "Special Issues. It is of course no accident that John Kerry has drafted Sperling to his team of top economic advisers. In an infamous memo, he proposed: Summers hailed the example of Chile, which had privatized its own government pension system as one of the first conquests of the Pinochet dictatorship. Nowadays Summers serves as President of Harvard University, where his tenure has been marked by a well-publicized dressing down of African-American professor Cornel West for lacking scholarly accomplishments. West left Harvard in disgust. Clinton was kept abreast with the deliberations of the "Special Issues" working group and even attended one of their meetings. But in July of the Monica Lewinsky scandal threw a monkey-wrench into their plans. As one team member put it, "Toward the end of , as the possibility that the President would be impeached came clearly into view, the policy dynamic of the Social Security debate changed dramatically and it became clear to the White House that this was not the time to take risks on the scale that would be necessary to achieve a deal on an issue as contentious as Social Security reform. If anything, a second term for Bush would probably be better protection since the American people have been geared to oppose a plan so associated with the Evil Republican Party. Another enduring myth of the ABB camp is that the Republicans are racists and the Democrats oppose racism. To even suggest that African-Americans should vote for neither major party is to risk being crucified in some circles. As Ralph Nader spoke to the Black Congressional Caucus requesting their support, Congressman Melvin Watts heckled him, calling out that he was "another fucking arrogant white man" just for having the temerity to run. It is not about the skin. It is about the spirit and the soul of this soul brother" -- Gray confesses that he was "mildly amused, a bit disgusted but not surprised" when Clinton was nominated to the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame as the only white member out of sixty-two. How Clinton earned this goodwill escapes Gray. For a very small investment, Clinton seems to have benefited from a windfall black vote. Was it the fact that he mailed out postcards showing him posed with black families that did the trick? While some argue that his economic policies were a boon for African Americans, they fail to acknowledge that black-white income disparity remained fixed during his two terms in the White House. His partisans also point to the record number of Black appointees in his administration. On a cruder level, some point to his saxophone playing and even his affair with Monica Lewinsky as if having rhythm and being promiscuous are Black traits somehow. For Gray, other images loom larger: Then for good measure, he rushed back to Arkansas to oversee the execution of convicted killer Ricky Ray Rector, a brain-damaged black man. For years after his first election, I kept a picture of Clinton and Georgia Senator Sam Nunn posing in front of a phalanx of black inmates in white

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prison suits taken at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Historians generally give Pulaski, Tennessee, the dubious honor as the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan. The picture appeared in newspapers all across the south the day of the southern primaries in That picture is what Clinton has always represented to me. When he first came into office, one in four black men was in the criminal justice system. When he left, the number had increased to one in three. Ironically, when black felons were denied the right to vote in Florida, this had the effect of abetting George W. Mendocino County is huge geographically -- larger than Vermont -- but contains only 85, people. Many of them fled the Bay Area in the s in search of cheaper property values and a place where they could get "back to the land. For those who did not have the stomach for criminal activity, the next best way to stay afloat economically was to get jobs in the public sector. Thus mid-level government posts became dominated by flower children, who then rapidly became Democratic Party loyalists and elected officials since the party was favorably disposed to keeping bureaucrats employed and well-paid. It mattered little that the chemical would sicken the mostly Mexican workers who treated the soil. With the connivance of the wine bourgeoisie and their ex-hippy friends in local office, laws to curtail the use of the herbicides and pesticides were thwarted. Socially, the industry provides little to no worker housing for the immigrant labor upon which it depends. The wine industry, which seldom pays better than minimum wages for seasonal work, rises up as one to crush UFW organizing attempts like so many grapes, and fires any worker who complains without so much as promising anything resembling a fair hearing. As long as it is perceived as a party of ordinary working people, blacks and others, an independent left will forever be marginalized. By the same token, when the left tries to work as a component of the Democratic Party, its impact will be lessened. Illusions in the Democratic Party can be bolstered most successfully if its sordid past is swept under the rug. Since many Americans, including some official intellectuals, lack an interest in history, its origins in genocide and slavery remain hidden. When Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Sooner or later, a new generation of radicals will find a way to connect with the working people, blacks, women and gay voters who stick with the party despite being abused and lied to. When that day arrives, the United States will be shaken to its foundation. You can order the book directly from AK Press. It can also be ordered from your local independent bookstore through Booksense. Simply enter your Zip code and click on "Go" to find all local independent bookstores near you in the U.

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### Chapter 8 : Citizen Green: Grand juries wielded as a political cudgel | The NC Triad's altweekly

*How Trump is Secretly Blowing Up Social Security Right Now. I have the video starting at the point where they start talking about SS. It's hard to listen to it at times with the idiot in the middle yelling all the time, but good info.*

In *Age Shock*, Blackburn delves into the realities of an ageing demographic in the midst of the disintegration, from both a monetary and social obligation perspective, of sound financial conditions for the elderly. Through a telling mix of historical, current and future-looking data, Blackburn dissects the economic realities of growing older, in a way that is startling and unfortunately, all too true. In a world where economic and changing social norms are creating an imbalance between the younger and older generation, Robin Blackburn explains why not only are public insurance programs like our social security system, and private pensions like the ever-shrinking Defined Benefit DB and Defined Contribution DC plans breaking at the seams; but how, in fact, without appropriate remedies and a new way of structuring retirement security completely, their adequacy will continue to deteriorate. Blackburn presents sobering and expertly researched about our aging society and the economic and social challenges it presents. He also bravely suggests there is a remedy that is better than what we have today: But the costs must be met and they will not be modest. *Fat and Lean Years* Blackburn constructs an innovative solution, one rather ingenious in its simple logic. Joseph had a vision that Egypt would enjoy seven years of plentiful harvest, but this would be followed by seven years of famine. The only way to ensure there was enough food to go around when the fields were no longer fertile was to build storage units for saving a portion of the harvest in times of plenty, and then maintain adequate rations. Joseph told the Pharaoh of his dream and was placed in charge of creating reserves. The rest is history, and a hit musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber. We could learn a lot from that story, and Blackburn has turned its lessons into a worthy alternative to having the elderly choose between a less financially burdensome early death and comfortable older life. In the United States, Blackburn says, the aging problem will unfold more slowly than in Europe, because of its higher birthrate and immigration rate – and sadly, a poorer health system that fails the economically disadvantaged elderly. He divides the ageing into different sub-categories, each of which has different economic abilities and challenges. Blackburn focuses mostly on pension costs of ageing, and to a lesser extent general costs of ageing, taking off from his prior work *Banking on Death*, in which he provided an illuminating historical perspective on pension evolution. He realistically acknowledges that effectively dealing with the situation requires a broad combination of a public and private approach. *Commodifying the Elderly* In a scary trend toward the commoditization of the elderly, in which the young-old are pelted by tour operators and cosmetics dealers, and the old-old by private nursing homes and geriatric equipment suppliers. The danger in this is that it shifts the focus from current problems to the future, with very high stakes; employee retirement and health benefits become economic fodder for financial opportunists. It encourages governments and employers to try to escape past promises in their effort to stay in business. He provides the alarming statistic that the U. He discusses the shrinking number of Defined Benefit pension schemes, and why Defined Contribution pensions are far more risky, particularly if they come due during stock market downturns. This is all part of the great shift in the private pension sphere from corporate to individual risk, and points to one of the questions I have with his solution, which as I mentioned earlier is brilliant, yet also places more responsibility on the corporation. I agree with Blackburn this is necessary, but I am more cynical and less optimistic than he that it is do-able. Blackburn shows the ageing problem in the context of these plans, and explains how to keep paying on them; corporations must shed jobs, cut current benefits to new employees and perform other worker-negative acts. This problem is exacerbated by the critically important component of secure retirement, the exploding cost of health care, one of the benefits usually given in tandem though decreasingly so with defined benefit or other pension plans. As the September strike at GM showed, only after tens of thousands of layoffs can remaining union workers barter for better health coverage, the effectiveness of which is temporary at best. Coverage is poor and of low quality, and certain DB schemes are risky: One way

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to fix this, suggests Blackburn astutely, is to acknowledge the need for universal public health coverage, to offset part of the costs of retirement benefits in general. Bush, have been thwarted. The government would invest in pension funds to benefit all citizens with profits garnered from sales of public assets, betterment levies to be put into the pot on luxury apartments and mall-type complexes, as well as a wealth tax on net worth, which would particularly be useful as the inequality gap continues to widen. He explains that a share levy works because it targets corporations, not individuals; instead of individuals paying tax on their shares, corporations would issue new ones, to cover the necessary benefits amounts. Resources raised by the levy would be added to the existing trust funds, with a central organizing body, or existing one to administer this activity. The extra money would be used to ensure a better retirement for all, additionally these new shareholders would provide more of a malfeasance watch committee on any corporation. Indeed, the share levy could raise large sums to help our ageing society, as well as help subsidize free time and freely-chosen work. Few alternative proposals can say the same. Limits of Corporate Funding To some extent, this is a sensible solution. As employees migrate away from the corporate structure, can the idea of share levies work from a financial standpoint “ will there be enough flowing in, even through share issuance to sustain the number of employees finding alternative employment, or will we all have to work for corporations in the end? It would be easy to merely point out that the government is shirking responsibility, providing for the rich at the expense of everyone else, or that there is no real crisis of lack of funding for social security, merely lack of will to appropriate funding for the aging rather than things like war and Wall Street. The trend that Blackburn details in his book continues unabated. The trend is more pronounced for females than males, and for minorities more than whites. Many workers are counting on employee-provided benefits that are increasingly not available. Get articles and upcoming events delivered every month.

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*Recall the masterful essay by Robin Blackburn, How Monica Lewinsky Saved Social Security. Robert Rubin and Larry Summers are the neoliberal economic policy gurus who have defined the New Democrats and their fiscal conservatism for three decades now.*

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: References Aaron, Henry J. The Great Social Security Debate. Achman, Lori, and Marsha Gold. Adams, Rebecca, with Mary Agnes Carey. Administration for Children and Families. Revisiting the Electoral Connection. Altig, David, and Jagadeesh Gokhale. The Battle for Social Security: Altman, Nancy, and Eric Kingson. The Formative Years of Social Security. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, www. Angeles, January, and Edwin Park. Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, www. American Enterprise Institute, www. Invoking the Invisible Hand: Social Security and the Privatization Debates. Michigan State University Press. Incrementalism and the Persistent Pull of the Status Quo. False Consciousness and Crisis. The Politics of Liberalism from Reagan to Clinton. University of Kansas Press. Baker, Dean, and Mark Weisbrot. University of Chicago Press. Straight Talk about Social Security: An Analysis of the Issues in the Current Debate. Social Policies for the s, edited by Joseph A. Bane, Mary Jo, and David Ellwood. The Dynamics of Spells. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles: