

Left Right in the Middle



a podcast exploring the gray
areas of political debates



ABOUT

Left Right in the Middle is a media project whose purpose is the promotion of productive political discourse. Through a podcast that addresses key political issues via analytical research and analyses, as well as listener conversations via a forum on *Left Right in the Middle's* [Facebook page](#), I hope to foster conversations that can lead to a middle ground where people possessing opposing views on pressing political issues can find amicable solutions that best serve us all—not just a particular ideology.

I invite people of all political persuasions to listen to the nine shows I produced and join the conversation; everyone's input matters. I only ask that forum conversations remain civil and constructive, and that listeners back their arguments (not opinions) with viable sources. It's ok to possess a particular political ideology; what isn't ok is being so entrenched in that ideology that one cannot entertain having a conversation with a political foe. This media project offers a forum where those with opposing political views can meet in the middle and discuss the issues that matter most to us.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

EPISODES

Ideologies

(air date: 07/29/12)

Health Care 1.0

(air date: 08/19/12)

Health Care 2.0

(air date: 09/02/12)

Social Security

(air date: 09/16/12)

The War on Drugs

(air date: 09/30/12)

Fixing the Republican Party

(air date: 12/09/12)

Gun Control

(air date: 12/23/12)

Global Climate Change

(air date: 01/06/13)

The Culture War

(air date: 01/20/13)

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EPISODE 1: IDEOLOGIES

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Jahzzar - "Look Inside"

Delphine Dora - "Something About the World"

8in8 - "I'll Be My Mirror"

Tab - "Neuropolitics"

Reigning Sound - "We Repel Each Other"

OBN IIIs - "Communicated to Death"

SOURCE LINKS:

["A Model of Reflective Equilibrium and Ideology Formation"](#)

[Ashford's "Ten Principles of Classical Liberalism"](#)

["Censorship in the United States"](#)

["Presidential Advance Manual"](#)

ACLU - ["Criminalizing Protest"](#)

[Redlining](#)

["The Manifesto of the Communist Party"](#)

[Marxism, Morality, and Social Justice](#)
Rodney G. Peffer (book info)



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EPISODE 2: HEALTH CARE 1.0

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Unknown Artist - "You Will Never Need A Doctor No More"

The Simple Carnival - "Nothing Will Ever Be As Good"

Billy Murray - "So What's the Use"

Machine, Dear - "One Of Us Has To Jump"

Mike Viola - "Clusterf*#k"

Graham Parker - "I Discovered America"



SOURCE LINKS:

[President Truman's Proposed Health Program](#)

[Truman's Message to Congress](#)

[IHSP Report - "Market Based Health Care"](#)

["Sicko" Clip - "Nixon Launches the HMO's"](#)

["Measuring Overall Health System Performance for 191 Countries"](#)

[World Health Rankings](#)

[The Commonwealth Fund - "U.S. Ranks Last Among Seven . . ."](#)

[Reuters - "U.S. Scores Dead Last Again in Healthcare Study"](#)

[Heritage Foundation - "Assuring Affordable Health Care for All Americans"](#)

["A Plan For Responsible National Health Insurance"](#)

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EPISODE 2: HEALTHCARE 1.0

SOURCE LINKS cont:

[CBS Report via Huff Post - "Health Care Law Repeal Efforts By House GOP Cost Nearly \\$50 Million"](#)

[CBO - Letter to John Boehner](#)

[WSJ - "Tangible and Unseen Health-Care Costs"](#)

[Public Citizen - "A Failed Experiment"](#)

[GOP - "A Pledge to America"](#)

[PolitiFact - "Does Barack Obama's Health Care Bill Include \\$1 Abortions?"](#)

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EPISODE 3: HEALTH CARE 2.0

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Noi - "Everything is Changing"

Tickle - "Call to Action"

Regal Degal - "Making U Think"

Robin Grey - "These Days"

No One and the Somebodies - "(Humans) Being Human (Beings)"

Maya Solovey - "American Song"



SOURCE LINKS:

[Affordable Care Act \(PDF\)](#)

[Illustrating Health Reform: How Insurance Coverage Will Work](#)

[ACA Implementation Timeline](#)

[Patient's Bill of Rights](#)

[Bill of Rights Fact Sheet](#)

[Forbes - "Is ObamaCare the Largest Tax Increase in U.S. History?"](#)

[Forbes - "ObamaCare's 7 Tax Hikes on Under \\$250,000-A-Year Earners"](#)

[Dr. Mark J. Perry - "Uninsured Americans by Household Income, 2010"](#)

[Kaiser - "Explaining Health Care Reform: How will the Affordable Care Act affect small businesses and their employees?"](#)

[Kaiser - "Employer Health Benefits: 2011 Annual Survey"](#)

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EPISODE 3: HEALTHCARE 2.0

SOURCE LINKS cont:

[“Nearly Two-Thirds of Employers Expect Health Benefit Costs to Rise Under ObamaCare, Survey Says”](#)

Clip - [“Walmart: The High Price of Low Cost”](#)

Business Insider - [“Wal-Mart Guts Its Employee Health Care Plan and Raises Premiums”](#)

East County Magazine - [“How the Healthcare Bill Will Impact You, Your Family & Your Business”](#)

GAO - [“The Federal Government’s Long-Term Fiscal Outlook Fall 2010 Update”](#)

Sam Stein - [“Health Care Law Gives ‘Notable Improvement’ To Debt Outlook If Implemented: GAO Report”](#)

Ezra Klein - [“11 facts about the Affordable Care Act”](#)

CBO - [“CBO’s Analysis of the Major Health Care Legislation Enacted in March 2010”](#)

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EPISODE 4: SOCIAL SECURITY

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Red Hook Ramblers - "I Swear It's True"

Lian Ray - "These Things We Can't Repair"

Houdini Roadshow - "Gimme Gimme"

Josh Woodward - "I Want to Destroy Something Beautiful"

Mike Doughty - "Looking at the World From the Bottom of a Well"

Zounds - "Can't Cheat Karma"

Matt Keating - "Nothing to Figure Out"



SOURCE LINKS:

[1935 Social Security Act](#)

[1983 Social Security Amendments](#)

Excerpt - [Poverty in the United States](#)

CBPP - ["SOCIAL SECURITY REDUCES PROPORTION OF ELDERLY WHO ARE POOR FROM NEARLY ONE IN TWO TO LESS THAN ONE IN EIGHT"](#)

CBPP - ["Social Security and Poverty Among the Elderly"](#) [pdf]

[SSI Federal Payment Amounts for 2012](#)

[1983 Social Security Amendment Summary](#)

Social Security Bulletin - ["Social Security Amendments of 1983: Legislative History and Summary of Provisions"](#) [pdf]

[CBO's 2011 Long-Term Projections for Social Security](#)

Forbes - ["Commonsense Ways To Fix Social Security"](#)

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EPISODE 4: SOCIAL SECURITY

SOURCE LINKS cont:

[Retirement Planner: Benefits By Year Of Birth](#)

[CNN Money - "The next great bailout: Social Security"](#)

[Matt Bruenig - "The myth of Social Security insolvency"](#)

[History of Social Security Amendments](#)

[NYT - "How Privatized Social Security Works in Galveston"](#)

[CATO Institute - "State and Local Government Retirement Programs: Lessons in Alternatives to Social Security"](#)

[NASI - "Strengthening Social Security for the Long Run"](#)



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EPISODE 5: THE WAR ON DRUGS

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

John Cohen and the Dust Busters - "Prohibition Is a Failure"

Jonathan Coulter - "RE Your Brains"

CM aka Creative - "All For the Cause"
Featuring Javier Starks

Delphine Dora - "Free People"

Lorenzo's Music - "Just Had to Let You Know"

Chain & the Gang - "Nuff Said"



SOURCE LINKS:

["Marijuana as a 'Gateway' Drug"](#)

["Study: The 'gateway drug' is alcohol, not marijuana"](#)

["Marijuana Smoking Doesn't Kill"](#)

["Teen Pot Users Risk Long-Term IQ Drop, Study Says"](#)

[BBC - "Alcohol 'more harmful than heroin' says Prof David Nutt"](#)

[The Lancet - "Drug harms in the UK: a multicriteria decision analysis"](#)

["The American Medical Association Reconsiders Marijuana. Will the Justice Department Follow?"](#)

[AMA - "Use of Cannabis for Medicinal Purposes"](#)

["Infographic: The Cost of the War on Drugs"](#)

[Beckett & Herbert - "THE CONSEQUENCES AND COSTS OF MARIJUANA PROHIBITION"](#)

[Jeffrey A. Miron - "The Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition"](#)

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EPISODE 6: FIXING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Seneca Indians - "Funeral Chant"

Brown Bird - "Nothing Left"

The Wedding Present - "Why Are You Being So Reasonable Now?"

Tab (Featuring Elle Rose) - "Calm Before the Storm"

The Agrarians - "Our Tragedies Refined"

Fit & the Conniptions - "Broken"

SOURCE LINKS:

No source links for this show, just commentary.



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EPISODE 7: GUN CONTROL

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Seneca Indians - "Funeral Chant"

Brown Bird - "Nothing Left"

The Wedding Present - "Why Are You Being So Reasonable Now?"

Tab (Featuring Elle Rose) - "Calm Before the Storm"

The Agrarians - "Our Tragedies Refined"

Fit & the Conniptions - "Broken"



SOURCE LINKS:

[2nd Amendment](#)

[DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA et al. v. HELLER](#)

[Necessary and Proper Clause](#)

[Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates](#)

[Iraq Demographics](#)

["Over 26,000 annual deaths for uninsured: report"](#)

[History of Gun Control Legislation](#)

[FAQ: Gun Show Loophole](#)

["Innefctive rules let gun shows endure"](#)

[Negative vs. Positive Rights](#)

["Sources of Payment for Mental Health Treatment for Adults"](#)

["It's Easier For Americans To Access Guns Than Mental Health Services"](#)

["10 Terrifying Facts About Guns In The U.S."](#)

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EPISODE 8: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Carsie Blanton - "Honest Truth"

Sloan - "If I Could Change Your Mind"

The Simple Carnival - "You Jump First"

Goodbye Kumiko - "Heliotrope"

Opio - "World of Pain"

The Freak Fandango Orchestra - "At World's End"

SOURCE LINKS:

[D.O.D. Report - "Trends and Implications of Climate Change for National and International Security"](#)

["Ocean acidification could disrupt marine food chains"](#)

["Plankton May Hold Up Well to Ocean Acidification"](#)

[\(1981\) Hansen, et al. - "Climate Impact of Increasing Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide"](#)

[\(1988\) Hansen, et al. - "Global Climate Changes as Forecasted by Goddard Institute for Space Studies Three-Dimensional Model"](#)

[\(2006\) Hansen, et al. - "Global temperature change"](#)

[CBS News - "The U.S. and Iraq Go Way Back"](#)

[\(1988\) NY Times - "Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate"](#)



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EPISODE 8: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

SOURCE LINKS cont:

[“James Hansen, NASA GISS Director, Briefing to Congress”](#)

Transcript: Hansen Speech at Columbia University (2008) - [“Global Warming Twenty Years Later: Tipping Points Near”](#)

Transcript: Hansen TED Talk - [“Why I must speak out about climate change”](#)

[“Projected sea-level rise may be underestimated”](#)

[“Arctic permafrost leaking methane at record levels, figures show”](#)

[“Study Says 1 Billion Threatened by Sea Level Rise”](#)

[“Climate Change Kills 400,000 a Year, New Report Reveals”](#)

[“Greenhouse gas levels pass symbolic 400ppm CO2 milestone”](#)

[2012 Fiscal Year Budget of the U.S. Government](#)

[“Bombshell: Koch-Funded Study Finds ‘Global Warming Is Real’, ‘On The High End’ And ‘Essentially All’ Due To Carbon Pollution”](#)

[“The Conversion of a Climate-Change Skeptic”](#)

[Kyoto Protocol](#)

[“Solar Energy Facts You Should Know”](#)

[“Pricing carbon efficiently and equitably”](#)

Wen Stephenson - [“A Convenient Excuse”](#)

Here & Now (Audio) - [“Wen Stephenson on the failure of the media to talk about climate change”](#)

Einstein, Albert. *Out of My Later Years*. New York: Wings Books, 1956.

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EPISODE 9: THE CULTURE WAR

Music Courtesy: freemusicarchive.org

Nobody's Bizness - "Smack Dab in the Middle"

Twin Guns - "Eternal War Between Good and Evil"

Lately Kind of Yeah- "Friends Are Evil"

Smokey Hormel - "You're Bound to Look Like a Monkey"

State Shirt - "Please Stop"

Uniform Motion - "Pen Fallacy"

The Beets - "The Devil"



SOURCE LINKS:

["Federal Advisory Committee Draft Climate Assessment Report Released for Public Review"](#)

["Climate Science as Culture War"](#)

[Stonewall Riots - "40 Years Later: A Look Back at the Turning Point for Gay Rights"](#)

J.D. Hunter - [Culture Wars](#)

(video) Pat Buchanan - ["1992 RNC Speech"](#)

[Establishment Clause](#)

[ENGEL ET AL. v. VITALE ET AL. \(1962\)](#)

[WALLACE v. JAFFREE, 472 U.S. 38 \(1985\)](#)

[LEE v. WEISMAN, 505 U.S. 577 \(1992\)](#)

["The Strange Origin of the Pledge of Allegiance"](#)

David Flowers - ["7 Reasons I Hate the Culture War"](#)

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EPISODE 9: THE CULTURE WAR

SOURCE LINKS cont:

[“When Same-Sex Marriage Was a Christian Rite”](#)

[“Backstory: How The Texas Textbook Revision Came To Be”](#)

[“After creationism bill failed, Indiana senator will push ‘truth in education’ measure”](#)

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