

WAL 312: George HW Bush Dies, Mortality Rate, Paris Riots

George HW Bush

- Brief details. Unlibertarian record, decent man.
- Clip on toughness. <https://youtu.be/syKUvIHVyPo>
- How can someone disagree with that?
- Can we separate a persons political positions or actions in office from their level of decency?
- First thoughts when Bush died: The libertarians are going to be assholes.
- Persuading people by not beating up on individuals that like politicians.
- Facebook groups and echo chambers are a huge problem.
- Dilemma of the Swamp show.

Shapiro clip on what he thinks his show is - Mortality rate.

<https://soundcloud.com/benshapiroshow/ep670>

Why he's part of the problem.

- Problem with modern analysis is that it's black and white. Anti-instead of solutions. Our audiences want us to validate their beliefs instead of validating our own.
- I don't want to play that game anymore.

<https://soundcloud.com/benshapiroshow/ep671>

Mortality rate

'We are losing too many Americans': Suicides, drug overdoses rise as US life expectancy drops - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/29/us-life-expectancy-suicide-50-year-peak-and-drugs-cause-death/2146829002/>

- Why we are miserable.
- Lack of connections.
- Erosion of institutions.

Book Club - <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/810006-we-are-libertarians-book-club>

Wanting government to give a solution to every problem leads to chaos.

Paris Riots

Riots in France “Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests)”

December 3, 2018

Overview

1. Popular protest initially against rising fuel prices which has evolved from tax protest to against Macron policies which appear to be elitist/business driven
2. Two major tax increases on diesel (new tax raised diesel to over \$7/gallon with another planned increase in 2019) affecting millions of French drivers (both personal and professional).
3. UPDATE - Macron delays 2019 tax hike six months (7)
4. Macron spearheaded diesel tax campaign to make diesel/petrol (gas) prices similar and to combat air pollution, global warming
5. Increased taxes/prices affects mostly rural drivers and companies which do not have access to Metro(subway) or bus routes.

1. Popular protest against rising fuel prices

1. The movement began earlier this month as a protest against the rising price of fuel, but has taken on a wider role, and the gilets jaunes are now seen as symbols of the growing popular discontent with President Emmanuel Macron.
2. Commuters in France’s big cities are well served by good metro systems and bus routes; but elsewhere, many people drive long distances to get to work.
3. Approx 280,000 yellow vests took part in a first day of protest on November 17th, blocking roundabouts and motorway toll booths nationwide.’

4. November 24th protests were about half the size, but turned violent.
5. Unlike union-led demonstrations, the amorphous nature of the gilets jaunes protests also makes it more difficult for the government to negotiate with them.
6. “The culprits of these violence do not want change, want no improvement, they want chaos: they betray the causes they claim to serve and manipulate. They will be identified and held accountable for their actions before the courts.” - <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelMacron/status/1068943621947367424>

2. Gas Tax/Price Policy

1. Diesel prices are already at record highs in France, recent tax increases
2. Price of gasoline past \$7 a gallon in France (US average is \$2.56/gallon)
3. Protests began when rising world oil prices, combined with an increase this year of 7.6 cents per litre in taxes on diesel, pushed prices at the pump up to record highs.
4. Another increase of 6.5 cents a litre planned for early next year, is designed over time to align diesel and petrol prices as part of an effort to reduce diesel consumption and thereby curb pollution
5. “I’d prefer to tax fuel than work,” Mr Macron explained. “Those who complain about higher fuel prices also demand action against air pollution because their children get sick.”

3. Macron states tax is to combat air pollution, global warming

1. President Emmanuel Macron, who was elected in 2017 as a refreshing young leader with a new approach to governing, now

hears his good name shouted in vain with chants of “Macron, resignation!” and “Macron, thief!”

2. The president tells The New York Times that “It’s a little bit unfair. They see my face when they fill up at the gas pump.” The protests, he says, are evidence that France is undergoing a “moral crisis.”
 3. “How can our workers find their place in globalization (which has caused rampant inequality)? France, like many other nations, is asking itself that question. Some say we should close ourselves off. We prefer to respond without abandoning our values.” <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelMacron/status/1068507728996458497>
 4. “To build even more this common European identity, made of dialogue between our imaginary.” <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelMacron/status/1067403974003892224>
 5. Mr. Macron’s popularity has plummeted into the 20 percent range
4. Increased taxes/prices affects mostly rural drivers and companies which do not have access to Metro(subway) or bus routes.
 1. Thousands of police were deployed nationwide to contain the eighth day of deadly demonstrations that started as protests against tax but morphed into a rebuke of President Emmanuel Macron and the perceived elitism of France’s ruling class. Two people have been killed since Nov. 17 in protest-related tragedies.
 2. “It’s going to trigger a civil war and me, like most other citizens, we’re all ready,” said Benjamin Vrignaud, a 21-year-old protester from Chartres.
 3. “They take everything from us. They steal everything from us,” said 21-year-old Laura Cordonnier.

4. (Macron) who swept to power only last year, is the focus of rage for the “yellow jacket” demonstrators who accuse the pro-business centrist of elitism and indifference to the struggles of ordinary French.
5. Far left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon explained to BFMTV the historical importance of this issue in the Gallic mindset: “When tax is no longer agreed to, it’s the start of revolutions in France.”
6. With 72% support for Yellow Vests, the attitude of the French is unchanged in 15 days.
7. Harris poll today particularly interesting in that respect. Support for gilets jaunes according to party sympathy:
En Marche: 26% (Center)
Republican: 54% (Center-Right)
Socialist: 85% (Center-Left)
National Rally (ex-FN): 90% (Far-Right)
Unsubmissive France: 92% (Left Wing)
8. 75% of cars have their gilet jaune on the dashboard as a sign of solidarity (or possibly fear of having their car window smashed!) <https://twitter.com/neilmunro49/status/1069620108128124933>

Impact

- <https://twitter.com/horsematthew/status/1069190667694424064>
- “What has happened?? Why has my Tweet gone viral?? This is unreal. I’m just on holiday in Paris!!” - <https://twitter.com/horsematthew/status/1069325503230824448>
- Pics - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2018/dec/02/the-aftermath-of-the-gilets-jaunes-riots-in-paris-in-pictures>
- “Is Paris safe? Riots continue as France considers declaring state of emergency <http://bit.ly/2EacoKl>” - <https://twitter.com/Newsweek/status/1069647464620281856>

- “French Government Opens Fire on Tax Protesters” - https://71republic.com/2018/12/02/french-government-opens-fire/?fbclid=IwAR3OYQbyrldeLXqYYzqh6jLFUHGLFabviIhE4G-oMuysgtnqSi_HdRtPejA
- Snipers on Rooftops (editor note - this is common for any type of mass police deployment) - <https://twitter.com/LarryLeChanceux/status/1068946011027050498>
- Yellow Vest video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKv-FNBtPfg>
- Unfortunate comment laden video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=zd9AOJVqwt4
- French news video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XN9lCpojsBs>
- “Photos show the aftermath of France's worst urban riot in decades “ - <https://twitter.com/i/moments/1069213447337009154>

Sources:

1. “French protesters angry over fuel taxes clash with police” - https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/french-protesters-angry-over-fuel-taxes-clash-with-police/2018/11/24/391a8f4c-eff6-11e8-8b47-bd0975fd6199_story.html?utm_term=.304250f62870
2. Emmanuel Macron Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EmmanuelMacron>
3. THE "YELLOW VESTS": WHAT PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH AFTER THE DECEMBER 1 DEMONSTRATION ON THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES? http://harris-interactive.fr/opinion_polls/les-gilets-jaunes-quelle-perception-de-la-part-des-francais-au-lendemain-de-la-manifestation-du-1er-decembre-sur-les-champs-elysees/
4. “France's fuel-tax follies” - <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/27/editorial-frances-fuel-tax-follies/>

5. “List of political parties in France“ - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_France
6. “What, and who, are France’s “gilets jaunes”?” - <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2018/11/27/what-and-who-are-frances-gilets-jaunes>
7. “France’s Macron Blinks in Standoff With Yellow Vests” - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/france-to-delay-fuel-tax-increase-after-violent-protests-1543925246>
8. “Violent protests in France reveal a hard-to-heal fracture” - <https://news.yahoo.com/violent-protests-france-reveal-hard-heal-fracture-053116857.html>

George Carlin - The big club - <https://youtu.be/cKUaqFzZLxU>

Listener letter:

What are the major differences between Independent Libertarians, Conservative Libertarians and Liberal Libertarians? And how do these types of subcategories effect the party as a whole? - Raquel

Undercovered News

Baghdad Bob

Pompeo: Trump administration is ‘rallying the noble nations to build a new liberal order’ - <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/419581-pompeo-trump-administration-is-rallying-the-noble-nations-to-build-a>

Baghdad Bob - <https://youtu.be/TrXhxmQJSSo>

SCOTUS laughs at Indiana Solicitor General

Indiana Solicitor General: It's Constitutional to Seize a Car for Driving 5 MPH Over the Speed Limit - <https://reason.com/blog/2018/11/28/breyer-destroyed-civil-asset-forfeiture>

Fake news Alert

Facebook vs. democracy - <https://www.axios.com/facebook-misinformation-democracy-fake-news-9312dcbf-e302-44d6-b9e6-006fa79b431b.html>

Phrases such as 'bringing home the bacon' will be phased out as veganism awareness grows, academic claims - <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/meatrelated-sayings-could-go-out-of-fashion-to-avoid-offending-vegans-a4006486.html>