

## Re: What happened to Japan?

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**From:** Jim Blair (*see\_at\_sig.com*)

**Date:** 07/19/04

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Chief <Chief@Home.com> wrote:

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>*I have no worries about my life but I wish my grandkids could have lived  
>in a world better than the one I grew up in. It's not the case.*

Hi,

I predict that young kids today will have a lot better life and more opportunities than any previous generation. They will live longer, travel more, know more about just about everything (that they care to Google), etc.

>...*Both my*

>*kids have good educations from top tier colleges but go in and out of  
>work occasionally. If they didn't have a good education, I could see  
>where they would be in trouble in today's world.*

Yes, education will (I predict) become ever more important.

>

>*Unless your one of the truly wealthy, education is the only way to enjoy  
>a somewhat decent lifestyle and that education is disappearing as an  
>option to the kids who by no fault of their own were born to poor  
>parents.*

Nonsense. Just about every kid in the US has the OPPORTUNITY for a "good education" IF THEY CHOOSE TO TAKE IT. The problem is that many do not: they spit in the face of that opportunity. But it is there for those who want it.

I worked with a recent MS in chemistry from the UW. His family was from China and I think he was born there. He went to grade and high schools in an inner city school system where most kids dropped out, but he learned enough to get a scholarship to the UW.

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>...*If I were president for a day the first thing I'd do was make  
>public education extend through the first two years of college or trade  
>school and to four years or even higher for kids who choose a hard  
>science.*

Kids can't be given an education: they can be given the opportunity to earn one. I agree that money should not be the limitation, but I think that today it is not.

Remember that rich guy who went to a poor innercity Baltimore school (mostly white then but black now) who returned to his old grade school to give a pep-talk? At the last minute he decided he could not inspire them with words alone, so he promised them that anyone who graduated from highschool and qualified for a college, he would insure that they could afford to attend the college.

Some 6 years later many in that class did graduate from highschool and get accepted to a college. They were motivated by his promise and the idea that they COULD do it.

But it turned out that his promise didn't cost him very much. All those kids got full scholarships to college!

>...*I wouldn't mind a tax increase for that at all.*

I don't object to paying taxes to fund the education for those who want to learn.

>...*But I do mind a  
>tax increase for Bunker nukes, corporate welfare, mistakes that lead to  
>wars, ....*

Me too.

>...*and rebuilding countries for folks that are shooting at our young  
>troops.*

Only SOME shoot at our troops. Many want a free and democratic Iraq. At any rate IF the middle-east can be transformed to be like Turkey, it would be good for the world.

Too soon to tell if that will work out. And Bush will need to help (and/or pressure) Sharon to pull out of Gaza and the West Bank and aid in setting up an Arab Palestine.

>  
>*The current crop of business owners remind me of the farmers of old who  
>planted the same crop year after year after year and were surprised when  
>their final crop was a dust bowl. Today's farmers learned to rotate crops  
>and take care of their land. Today's businesses seem to somehow be unable  
>to relate the worker with the consumer and are consequently competing*

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>for a shrinking pie.

The economy is changing so fast that new companies and new industries are popping up everywhere, and old ones are dying off. I think the "pie" is getting ever bigger, just always different.

>...*The current administration's tired old trickle down policy isn't working any better than it did under Reagan.*

Actually the US economy has been better than ever for the last 20 years. Low inflation and low unemployment and just two shallow and short recessions. That is good by historic standards.

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>*Do you teach?*

I did for 15 years (chemisrty, physics, geology, astronomy. oceanography) but not for the last 15 years.

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