

How “Mittmentum” Backfired on Hugh Hewitt

By Cliff Kincaid – September 23, 2015

Salem radio commentator Hugh Hewitt has become a media darling for his “expert” opinions, as he lectures Republicans on how to handle not only the media but the issues. However, Hewitt is the same commentator who had flatly predicted a big Mitt Romney win. On October 22, 2012, Hewitt [announced](#), “Romney’s momentum will continue unbroken, and his demeanor and especially his poise will be the takeaway for any undecideds that are left...Romney won the debates decisively, which means he will win on November 6. Some things are simple, and this is one of them.”

Hewitt, known as Hugh Blewit, failed to understand that President Obama had organized “the strongest grassroots organization in the history of American presidential politics,” in the [words](#) of Jeremy Bird, the National Field Director of Obama for America. This was a network comprised of more than two million volunteers, backed by neighborhood political teams and 2,700 field organizers. They carried the day.



We [noted](#) at the time that Republican strategist Karl Rove was raising \$300 million for television ads depicting Republican candidate Mitt Romney as a would-be efficient manager of the U.S economy. Rove had advised Republicans not to call Obama a socialist, believing that undecided, moderate or left-leaning voters would jump to Obama’s side if that charge were leveled against him. This was a terrible miscalculation. It meant that a significant percentage of conservative voters didn’t think Romney was up to the task of identifying and rolling back Obama-style Marxism. They didn’t turn out for Romney. They also gave up on the Republican establishment, a continuing wave of outrage and discontent that accounts for outsiders moving to the top of the field of Republicans contending for the GOP 2016 presidential nomination.

But the establishment is back, in the form of such personalities as Karl Rove, a Fox News contributor, and Hugh Hewitt.

A moderator during the recent Republican debate broadcast by CNN, Hewitt engaged in back-and-forth with candidate Donald Trump over a Trump interview on Hewitt’s Salem network radio show. Trump complained that Hewitt was playing gotcha with trick

questions about Arab personalities and names in the Middle East. Hewitt has made it clear he doesn't like Trump's style and approach.

Now that candidate Ben Carson is under fire by the media for offering his opinion that a Muslim who believes in Sharia should not be president, Hewitt has gone back on CNN to take issue with Carson and offer his advice. On Tuesday he told CNN's Carol Costello that Carson is a rookie who has to work on getting his message right.

Confirming his role as a gatekeeper, Jim Geraghty of National Review [says](#) that Republican candidates are "attempting to showcase their interest in Hewitt's priorities." Similarly, Politico [says](#) Hewitt "has captured the ears of the GOP and earned the trust of virtually all of its biggest names." But why? As proven by his faulty prediction in 2012, it seems he is too tied up in the establishment Republican Party view to understand the progressive wave that is not only still strong in the U.S., but around the world. Despite how things may look on the Democratic side right now, these forces are strong and believe that history is on their side.



In terms of their most recent gains, consider that the socialists have solidified their control of Greece, anti-American socialist Jeremy Corbyn has been elected the head of the Labor Party in Britain, and socialists seem poised to win the Canadian national elections on October 19. Even if the New Democratic Party (NDP) doesn't win nationally, the left-wing party has already taken control of Alberta, the oil-rich and most conservative part of the country.

Here, avowed socialist Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is strongly challenging Hillary Clinton for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. He draws huge crowds—most of them young people—and [attracts](#) people in the New Age movement who believe in bizarre things like a federal Department of Peace. This may sound strange, but the movement has tens of millions of followers who forecast a new Aquarian Age, apparently to be led by Sanders and the leader of a new global religion.

Having misjudged one presidential contest, it would be nice if the public were reminded of the details surrounding Hewitt's prediction of a Romney victory in 2012. His blog at the time had proclaimed, "Why Romney Wins: the Economy is Tanking." It is easier to pontificate than actually examine what is happening out in the country, as I recently did when covering a Sanders for President rally. The surge for socialism is real and has taken hold among those being "educated" at our public universities. No wonder Sanders

wants to give them free college, a maneuver that could guarantee the Democrats millions of votes.

In a 2012 column entitled "[Mittmentum Builds](#)," Hewitt seemed to have New Age powers of clairvoyance, saying that "He who surges last surges best in a presidential campaign, and it appears that Romney has indeed caught the last big wave." He said that an "amazing" Romney speech in Wisconsin "is the sort of performance that flows from a candidate who knows he is winning."

September 24, 2012

Why is Romney trying to lose?

By [Cliff Kincaid](#)

Billionaire hedge fund operator George Soros said that, if Mitt Romney wins the presidency, there will be "little difference" between him and Barack Obama in the White House. As if to prove the point, Romney on Tuesday will speak to the Clinton Global Initiative sponsored by the disgraced and impeached former president.



You may recall that Clinton is married to Obama's Secretary of State and that he nominated Obama for a second term at the Democratic Party convention.

Check the [list](#) of speakers yourself. It is no surprise that Obama is going to speak there. But Romney? What is he thinking?

One left-wing site has run an [article](#) "Does Mitt Romney Even Want to be President?" Even left-wing "progressives" don't think he is serious about capturing the presidency. The argument is that Romney is content to capture the GOP presidential nomination and the party apparatus.

A contrary view before the 2012 election

Let's remember that Republican Mitt Romney lost an easily winnable election. He got only 48 percent of the vote, just two points more than Senator John McCain's (R-AZ) total in 2008.

Candidates get scorched for making perceived mistakes, in response to trick or gotcha questions, but commentators are rarely held accountable for their errors. Let's take a look back at some other predictions from the 2012 election, as reflected in headlines or actual quotations:

- Karl Rove's Prediction: Mitt Romney wins 285 electoral votes to President Obama's 253.
- George Will Predicts 321-217 Romney Romp.
- Larry Kudlow (CNBC) predicts Romney Landslide. "A huge victory for a principled Romney."

- Ann Coulter confident of Romney victory.
- Why Glenn (Beck) thinks Romney will have a decisive victory on Tuesday.
- Dick Morris: Romney will win popular vote by 5 or 10 points.
- Charles Krauthammer: It will be very close but Romney will win the presidency.
- Landslide (win for Romney): Limbaugh predicts 2012 election.
- (Michael) Barone predicts Romney wins handily.
- Fred Barnes in The Weekly Standard: “Why Romney Will Win.”
- Jonah Goldberg: “I think Romney wins in an absolute nailbiter.”
- Matt Vespa at Red State: “My Prediction: Romney Wins Comfortably.”
- Edward Morrissey (Hot Air): “Joe Biden Can’t Save Obama.”
- James Pethokoukis (American Enterprise Institute): “...Mitt Romney will be elected the 45th President of the United States, winning the two-party popular vote 51% to 49% and the electoral vote by 301 to 237 for President Obama.”



KUDLOW'S CORNER

A Huge Victory for a Principled Mitt Romney

Larry Kudlow | @Larry_Kudlow
Thursday, 4 Oct 2012 | 12:21 AM ET

Commentators get things wrong, and that doesn't disqualify them from continuing to hold their jobs and make predictions. But getting a presidential contest wrong, without analyzing why it happened and whether the progressives are still outsmarting the Republicans, is a recipe for another disaster.

The headline over that October 22, 2012 Hugh Hewitt column was, “Romney Wins Again, And Left Gets It Wrong—Again.” The left was not only “right,” but is as strong as ever. Today, they have the pope on their side.

Republicans listen to and follow a Pied Piper like Hewitt at their own risk.

Where the Conservative Media Went Wrong

By Cliff Kincaid — **November 26, 2012**

Conservative columnist and author Ann Coulter is trying to rationalize her outspoken support for Mitt Romney in the wake of his stunning defeat. “Romney was not the problem” is the title over her latest column. “Don’t Blame Romney” was the title over her column immediately after his defeat. “Romney is What the Country Needs Now” was the title over her column just before the election. She had confidently predicted a Romney victory, tweeting, “I can’t see a scenario where Romney wins less than 273 electoral votes.”

Since the stakes were so high, it is imperative that if conservative columnists and commentators are going to perform a useful educational function going forward, they should realize where they went wrong and why. Michael Barone, who had predicted a Romney landslide win, tells PJ Media that Romney was “outhustled in a base turnout election” and that voter fraud was not a significant factor.

Steve Baldwin, former Executive Director of the Council for National Policy and a former California state legislator, says the problem all along was that “...as any conservative from Massachusetts knew, Romney was a liberal at heart who, as Governor, led the nation in passing three of the left’s most sacred issues: Same sex marriage, Cap and Trade, and government control of health care.” Baldwin’s report, *The Buying of a Movement*, contends that Romney never had a conservative worldview but that he cultivated support among important parts of the conservative movement and media in order to remake himself for a presidential run. However, a significant number of conservatives nationwide clearly did not buy the argument that Romney was a legitimate conservative. They found their voice in websites like *Renew America*, founded by Stephen Stone and associated with Alan Keyes.

One of these issues—same-sex marriage—is worth a detailed examination. After attending Restoration Weekend in West Palm Beach, Florida, Ronald Radosh reports that leading conservative analysts and political leaders have concluded that the Republican Party has to move left on issues like illegal immigration and cultural issues. Regarding the latter, he notes that gay marriage initiatives were passed in four states on November 6. “We need a truce on divisive social issues,” is supposed to be one of the verdicts from these conservative thinkers.

They need to think harder. First, the movement for gay rights, which is funded by billionaires like George Soros and rich homosexuals, will not accept a truce. Second, in the four states where gay marriage won on the ballot on November 6, the vote tallies against gay marriage surpassed the vote totals for Romney. In Maryland, Romney was behind the vote for traditional marriage by 12 points. This is telling. It means that a certain number of people voted against Obama’s position on gay marriage, but they did

not vote for Romney. This suggests that Romney failed to galvanize social conservatives on his behalf.

the weekly Standard

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THE BLOG

Why Romney Will Win

12:20 PM, NOV 5, 2012 • BY FRED BARNES

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Mitt Romney will win. The tie in the polls goes to the challenger. Here's why:

Enthusiasm. It matters enormously, and it's disproportionately so on the Republican side, in good measure because of an intense desire to defeat President Obama. True, enthusiasm doesn't guarantee an edge in turnout, but it's certainly a key indicator. "In these final days, turnout is driven by intensity," says Republican pollster Ed Goess. The nearly half the electorate that strongly disapproves of Obama's performance in office "will need little else other than the opportunity to vote against President Obama to motivate them to go to their polling place." Goess conducts the bipartisan Battleground Poll along with Democrat Celinda Lake.

MEMBER DIARY

My Prediction: Romney Wins Comfortably

By: [Matt Vespa \(Diary\)](#) | November 6th, 2012 at 05:23 AM

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Although Romney's position was that he was in favor of traditional marriage, he did not campaign on the issue. What's more, he had said publicly that the spontaneous public protests in favor of Chick-fil-A over its CEO's comments in favor of traditional marriage were not part of his campaign. In addition, during the campaign he reiterated his support for opening up the Boy Scouts to homosexuals.

Mat Staver of Liberty Counsel recognizes the political reality. On the group's "Faith and Freedom" radio show, he pointed out that Romney failed to speak out in favor of traditional marriage, including in the four states with gay marriage on the ballot. In addition to Maryland, they were Minnesota, Maine and Washington. "Had he done so," Staver said, "his numbers would've gone up and I bet the marriage polls would've gone up." Instead, he noted, Romney was a "one-note" candidate who focused almost exclusively on the economy.

George W. Bush, when he was running for re-election in 2004, was smart enough to realize that he should campaign for president by emphasizing support for traditional marriage. Bush had endorsed a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Many commentators believe that the anti-gay marriage measures on the ballots in 11 states in 2004 helped drive Bush's re-election. The ballot measures passed easily, receiving on average roughly 70 percent support. The belief is that some of this support went to Bush, as a result of his campaign emphasizing traditional marriage. In other words, social conservatives were motivated to go to the polls and some of this support rubbed off on Bush. In the swing state of Ohio, which Bush won, it was seen as critical.

Landslide Watch: George Will Predicts 321-217 Romney Romp (Video)

Jim Hoft Nov 4th, 2012 1:01 pm

Conservative columnist **George Will** predicted a Romney landslide this morning on ABC's "**This Week with George Stephanopoulos**." Will added that traditional Democratic state Minnesota would go for Romney. **The Daily Caller** reported:

The rationale behind Romney's candidacy was that the economy would propel him to victory. How many times did we hear the claim that "No President since FDR has been re-elected when unemployment is above 8 percent?" Emphasizing his business acumen, Coulter had confidently predicted, "Romney will be the most accomplished incoming president since Dwight Eisenhower."

Bombarded with messages from the Obama campaign and the Soros-funded propaganda machine, including the Super PACs he funded, voters found Romney's private sector experience on Wall Street and wealth more objectionable than Obama's record as a Marxist president. Of course, Romney, acting on the advice of Karl Rove, never uttered the word "Marxist" or "socialist" when talking about Obama. Romney ran a campaign that was designed in part to win the votes of those who went for Obama in 2008. It was a disaster in the making that many prominent conservatives in the media did not see coming. Some still do not want to grasp the magnitude of the defeat.

Barone: Romney wins, handily

By CHARLES MAHTESIAN | 11/03/12, 05:04 PM EDT

Michael Barone, a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner and co-author of the Almanac of American Politics, [goes out on a limb](#) and predicts victory for Mitt Romney - by a margin of nearly 100 electoral votes.

“Fundamentals usually prevail in American elections. That's bad news for Barack Obama. True, Americans want to think well of their presidents and many think it would be bad if Americans were perceived as rejecting the first black president.

Washington
Examiner

Barone: Going out on a limb: Romney beats Obama, handily

By MICHAEL BARONE (@MICHAELBARONE) • 11/2/12 12:00 AM

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Fundamentals usually prevail in American elections. That's bad news for Barack Obama. True, Americans want to think well of their presidents and many think it would be bad if Americans were perceived as rejecting the first black president.

But it's also true that most voters oppose Obama's major policies and consider unsatisfactory the very sluggish economic recovery -- Friday's jobs report showed an unemployment uptick.