

Pax Obama

Why does the American right wing regard Obama's award of the Nobel Peace Prize as a laughing matter?

The right objected to Obama getting the peace prize on the grounds that he has done nothing to warrant the recognition. Here's the thing: The American right wing is to peace as the great white shark is to vegetarianism. As they have shown over the past eight years, they don't believe in international cooperation and multilateralism.

They are the tribe that gave us a pointless war and believe that America should cowboy it. They are the gang that operated under the banner of "bring 'em on" and "wanted dead or alive." Bloodlust and flag waving are not the ingredients of a foreign policy calculated to provide national security.

The kindest thing one can say about Obama's critics on the right is that they misunderstand the Nobel Prize and its history. Alfred Nobel laid out in his will that the prize should go to the person or organization that "have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for holding peace conferences."

Obama may have his own "Vietnam" moment if he escalates in Afghanistan, but he had dedicated himself to reducing and ultimately scrapping nuclear arsenals and has made substantial headway in changing relations between the U.S. and the Muslim world. And we are now engaged in direct talks

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with Iran.

With these initiatives Obama has proven himself a game-changer and thereby has met the conditions Nobel set out as qualifications for receiving the award.

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Kissin kudos

Bravo! Kudos to Barry Kissin, whose Oct. 17 column ("Credo") about Frederick and the annexations hit the nail on the head. Kissin expressed perfectly my own feelings as well as those of the city voters who signed the petitions I carried door to door. No pressure needed. Note that this took time often requiring returning two three, or four times to catch folks at home.

"They" say it's inevitable; say only if we let it happen. What's really inevitable anywhere, anytime, is our need to eat. So, we need to stand up and make inevitable the keeping of our agricultural areas — our legacy (if we're lucky enough to win out over those pocketing profits.)

Consumption of the countryside by the city is not the answer. Current city boundaries include many areas already in need of improved development.

Ask yourselves, "What do