

# Time Out!



**Please take  
our survey...**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2005

## Lebanon: Why Can't It Just Make Up Its Mind And Do What Bush Tells It To Do?

by Michael in New York on [3/09/2005 08:57:00 PM](#)

"The Daily Show w Jon Stewart" calls the Middle East Mess O'potamia, and with good reason. It truly is a troubled region, even though Bush has been crowing for the last few weeks that baby steps in the Palestinian territory and elsewhere count as vindication for invading Iraq. And when Democrats don't explode with enthusiasm or suggest the region is more complicated than Bush wants to admit, they're lambasted on the Sunday talk shows by right wingers for being spoilsports who "want America to fail."

Reality check. Bush cheered when demonstrators in Lebanon demanded Syria leave. Crowds equaled tens of thousands, an impressive number since Syrian troops still basically control that country. But yesterday, Hezbollah organized a demonstration of HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS saying Syria is welcome and the US should butt out. Today, the [Lebanese assembly re-elected the pro Syrian prime minister](#) who was forced to resign a few days ago.

Everyone says Hezbollah is the best organized group and has the best military outfit. It's gaining strength in office and should pick up more seats in the next election. Will Bush cheer this terrorist organization if it reflects the will of the people? Given what he's done in Latin America (by supporting coups against democratically elected leaders he thought were too leftist), I'm guessing no.

This doesn't mean the majority of the Lebanese want Syria to stay. But it would be silly to claim the majority categorically want them to leave after yesterday's mass protest. Some have suggested Hezbollah has hurt itself long-term by aligning with Syria. Certainly the intellectual elite and the upper and middle class want it gone -- that's why their smaller demonstrations were termed part of the BMW revolution.

Bush faces the same problem in Iraq, where horse-trading among the groups that can't wait to take their pound of flesh out of the Sunni minority that dominated the country for ages still hasn't resolved whether Iraq will be merely influenced or dominated by the Koran. Then there's Afghanistan, which according to many reports has devolved into a narco-state where a good third of the country is controlled by war lords and drug dealers. Opium production is at near-record levels.

The only good news lately is from the Palestinian territories, where the real breakthrough came because Arafat died, not because of Bush's global savvy.

None of this is pessimism. The elections in Iraq were an

JOHN'S PHOTOS



## HOT OFF THE WIRE

### **P** Ben Smith

Obama: Cambridge police acted 'stupidly' - After spending most of an hour patiently reiterating his arguments for changing the health insurance system, President Barack Obama turned his press *4 minutes ago*

### **H** HuffPost Politics

The Wrong Reporter Asks Obama A Question - The chance to ask a question during a prime-time presidential press conference is treasured real estate in the world of journalism. So when the President... *12 minutes ago*

### **P** Paul Krugman

Professor in chief - I found Obama's health care presentation so impressive - so much command of the issues - that it had me worried. If I really like a politicians' speech, is... *24 minutes ago*

### **B** Eschaton

Obama Speaks - In Case You Missed It *33 minutes ago*

### **D** Daily Kos

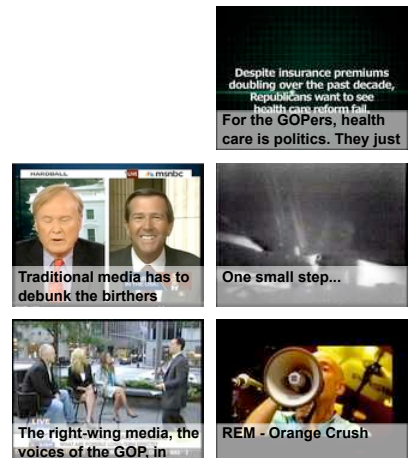
Waterloo, But for Who? Liveblog 5 - In his opening remarks, President Obama had some tough words for Republicans like Jim DeMint who think health care reform is a political game: As strong ... *41 minutes ago*

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV

Next 6






Despite insurance premiums doubling over the past decade, Republicans want to see health care reform fail. For the GOPers, health care is politics. They just

Traditional media has to debunk the birthers

One small step...

The right-wing media, the voices of the GOP, in

REM - Orange Crush

I collect with  vodpod [see all 322 videos >](#)

Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.

GAY POLITICS




Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS

- [Blog RSS](#)
- [1,423 readers](#)
- BY FEEDBURNER
- [AMERICAblog TV RSS](#)
- [Twitter RSS](#)
- [Twitter Feed](#)
- [Mobile Version](#)
- [Google](#)

Get the blog by email:

[Subscribe me!](#)



**We're Listening!**

Take this quick survey and help us help you.

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

**Ezra Klein**

Tab Dump  
2 hours ago

**Wonk Room**

Sen. Byron Dorgan:  
The 'Trade' In  
Cap-And-Trade 'Makes  
No Sense To Me'  
4 hours ago

**Health Beat**

Truth Squad: Wall  
Street Journal Health  
Care Editorial Wrong on  
the Facts

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
  Web

**Search**

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

**Blog Archive**

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

**Donate**

---

Recurring monthly donation

\$

**Donate**

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

**Why AMERICAblog?**

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

**What issues do you cover?**

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

**Who are you?**

**John Aravosis**  
Editor  
Washington, DC

**Joe Sudbay**  
Deputy Editor  
Washington, DC

**Chris Ryan**  
Associate Editor  
Paris, France

**Robert Arena**  
Contributing Editor  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Jacki Schechner**  
Contributing Editor  
Washington, DC

