



Brad DeLong 🙌

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Jun 5th 2020, 10 tweets, 15 min read

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Yes, I did read the whole column. But, as I said—it some length—I think you would have written a different column had you thought more, and considered the full context.

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Take a look at what you wrote:

Anyone who reads the first seven paragraphs thinks you are approving of the decision to publish.

Anyone who reads through paragraph eighteen thinks you think the equities are finely balanced: "Everyone agrees that The Times draws those 2/

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boundaries. The question is where."

Reading through paragraph 20, your close is: "It's important to understand what the people around the president are thinking. But if they're honest about what they're thinking, it's usually too disgusting to engage with. This creates a 3/

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crisis for traditional understandings of how the so-called marketplace of ideas functions. It's a subsidiary of the crisis that has the country on fire."

The takeaway from someone who reads the whole thing is "I've started to doubt my debating-club approach to the question 4/

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of when to air proto-fascist opinions." "started to doubt"—in the column read as a whole, you are not stating that you were wrong in thinking that it was "helpful", you are saying that you can "sort of appreciate my bosses' decision on Wednesday to run Senator Tom Cotton's 5/

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screed" (present tense: an opinion you hold now, not your first reaction), that Kirstjen Nielsen and Stephen Miller are over the line, but that Cotton is very close to the line.

Now it is true that if were here, she would point out that when a woman says: "I used 6/

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to share your opinion, but now I am starting to doubt it" she probably means the same thing as "that view is wrong, and is in fact bats--- insane". Point taken. Rhetorical mode of starting where people are and then bringing them on to the end as effective, taken. But it is 7/

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still the case that the 2/3 of people who read up through paragraph 7 and then head off elsewhere think you approve of publishing Cotton, the 30% of people who read to the end but do not read very closely think you think the equities are finely balanced, and that the 3% who 8/

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figure out that you oppose publication get that... well, from where, exactly? 9/END

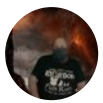
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Jun 5th 2020

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The very wise, very insightful, and usually highly reliable Michelle Goldberg makes, I think, a significant mistake here. She defends Bennet and Sulzburger's decision to publish Senator Cotton's call for massive violence against demonstrating American citizens by the security 1/


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May 19th 2020

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Keynes is, I think, better than Hobsbawm on this: "Whilst... the enlargement of the functions of government, involved in the task of adjusting to one another the propensity to consume and the inducement to invest, would seem to a nineteenth-century publicist or to a 1/


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May 19th 2020

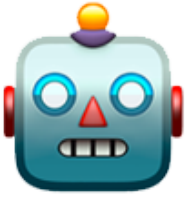
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I realize that this is a hell of a hill to die on, but I have never understood classifying Hayek as any kind of "liberal". I have always thought that Sam Brittan had his number back in 1980: "Hayek's... ethical philosophy is highly conservative. He faces the question of how /

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