

Scene in 2010 not pretty, thanks to Bush

Fast-forward to 2010 — former President George W. Bush is happily clearing brush on his ranch in Crawford, Texas. Having run out the clock on his disastrous war in Iraq, he managed to leave Washington, D.C., in a perfect storm of pernicious events that upended tens of millions of American lives.

Eight years of massive federal budget deficits, due to irresponsible tax cuts and escalating military costs, have brought America to a moment of reckoning. Rising energy costs, mostly from imported oil, have thrown the economy into a tailspin that only made the spiraling credit crisis deeper and more traumatic. Double-digit unemployment and inflation are the reality we face. Stagflation, the scourge of the 1970s, is back with a vengeance. Decades of borrowing from future generations has finally caught up with America. America is three nations, as it was in the early 1930s: a tiny and wealthy elite; an increasingly impoverished working and middle class; and a large and growing underclass. People are angry, and they want answers. It's anyone's guess how this will play out, but it's hard to be optimistic.

AJC 3/9/08

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