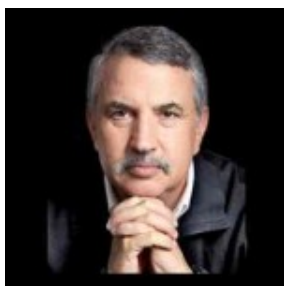


# Opinion: U.S. bickering is costing it its greatness

By Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times

Countries that don't plan for the future tend not to do well there.

When you watch the reckless behavior of the Tea Party-driven Republicans in Congress today, you can't help but fear that we'll be one of those. What makes it all the more frustrating is that in so many ways we have the wind at our back, if only we'd pull together to take advantage of it.



Thomas L.  
Friedman

In a world that rewards imagination, we have an incredible melting pot of immigrants that constantly blends together new ideas from technology to commerce to the arts. In a world where secure, clean energy is a huge asset, our investments in efficiency and discoveries of natural gas, if properly exploited, have the potential to pull manufacturing back to America from all corners of the globe. In a world where the big divide is no longer between developed and developing countries but rather between high-imagination-enabling countries and low-imagination-enabling countries, we remain the highest-imagination-enabling country in the world – and we have the innovative companies, start-ups and venture capitalists to prove it. In a world where so many countries

are struggling with diversity, we do so as well, but at least we've reached a point where we could twice elect a black man for president, whose middle name is Hussein, who defeated a woman in his own party and then four years later a Mormon from the other. No one else does that.

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