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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Buchanan's foes and
fans offer comments**

Patrick J. Buchanan's state-of-the-art paean to conservatism fairly invites charges of disingenuity.

His opening statement — "the things that truly count, the character of (a nation's) people ... cannot begin to be measured by reference to any number on a balance sheet" — sounds like a fine contract between moral fiber and crass materialism.⁵

Later, however, in part four, he reads like a clone of former State Department planner George Kennan, who laid down post-World War II foreign policy with chilling clarity in 1948.

The strategy, as Kennan outlined it, was "to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this disparity ..."

"Disparity" here means nothing less than that the U.S., with 6 percent of the world's population, should continue to own 50 percent of its wealth. To that end, Kennan continued, "we should cease to talk about vague and ... unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards and democratization," since we would then be "hampered" by "idealistic" slogans.

This advice was followed, and the postwar CIA replaced several popular governments, some even democratic, with pro-U.S. dictatorships of incredible brutality (Iran, Guatemala, Chile). The reason given was always the same: "the Soviet threat." The real sin these popular governments committed was in threatening to use their national resources and labor for their nation's benefit.

For years the balance sheet read 6 percent-50 percent, guaranteed by Orwellian alliances that give the lie to Buchanan's fine phrases. U.S. administrations abandoned our dictator friends only when it became politically stupid to continue supporting them.

Buchanan's Cold War mentality is not up to the challenges ahead, which include honest and effective help for developing nations, instead of beating up on them whenever they form peasant cooperatives. We can buy our coffee and bananas from indigenous cooperatives as well as from a U.S. trans-national corporation.

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