



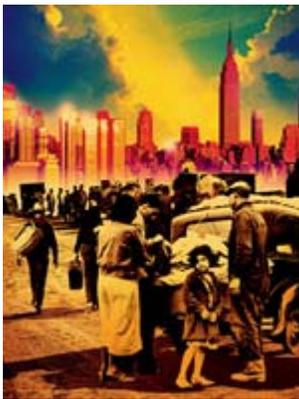
**SUSAN NIELSEN**

**The Oregonian columnist's articles on politics, law, culture and gender**

## **[A triple grande recession](#)**

**by Susan Nielsen, The Oregonian**

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Sean McCabe/The Atlantic

Below is the best essay I've read lately on the economy, plus a few other goodies about rich people, Starbucks and unemployment.

Richard Florida writes [a cover story](#) for the March issue of The Atlantic called, "How the Crash Will Reshape America." His theory is that the recession will **accelerate the rise and fall** of specific places within the United States, speeding up the fates of some cities and reversing the fortunes of others. Interestingly, he lumps Portland and Seattle with the cities that will fare better than most. This article is a must-read for anyone wanting to know more about the nation's cultural and economic landscape.

Why don't Americans **hate the rich**? A Newsweek [column](#) by Jerry Adler explores why Americans prefer to mock and envy rich people rather than despise them.

"Populist sentiments have waxed and waned over the decades, peaking during times of economic distress for farmers and workingmen, especially the 1890s and

the 1930s," Adler writes. "Yet by and large most Americans have tried to stay neutral in the war between the classes, particularly in contrast to European countries of comparable wealth. What Americans lack is what the European working classes gleefully exhibit: resentment of the rich personally, as distinct from unhappiness with policies that affect how income and wealth are distributed. ..."

Jonathan Last writes a [short, smart essay](#) for the Philadelphia Inquirer about **Starbucks as an economic indicator**. "If you think about what Starbucks sells, (the company's woes) makes sense," he writes. "By its own admission, Starbucks isn't really in the coffee business - it sells affordable luxury, lifestyle, and a 'third place' where people can gather that isn't the home or office. When consumers get spooked, this is the first kind of spending to go. People still need caffeine in a recession; they don't need a 'third place.' "

Meanwhile, a [story](#) on msn.com ranks Oregon as the **6th worst state** to find a job. The article isn't great, but the rankings are interesting. (Michigan, by the way, is the worst.)

-- *Susan Nielsen, associate editor, The Oregonian*