The Illusion of Control

From National Review's Jonah Goldberg, Throw Away the New Playbook:

> *Here's the important point. Politics is like the weather; it doesn't care what you think about it. It simply is. And at least in this sense, I was right when I said that democracy gives the illusion of control.*
>
> *In 2006, I wrote in the Corner about the Left's belief, as expressed by Simon Rosenberg, that we were entering an era of "new politics." Conservatism was over. A new era of modern, expert-driven political management was upon us. To his credit, Rosenberg didn't say that politics was over, just that this was some new era where the old playbook didn't apply. But it's sort of the same thing. The idea that politics will go away if we elect the right person is a form of utopianism that plagues the Left — and, alas, the Right.*
>
> *Barack Obama entered office thinking the exact same thing (So did LBJ. So did JFK. So did FDR. So did Woodrow Wilson). As I've written 8 trillion times, Obama really believed that he was a post-ideological president who only cared about "what works." This progressive understanding of pragmatism is a kind of exquisite confirmation bias. We're not ideological, we just want to do the smartest, best thing (which just happens to line up with our undisclosed and unacknowledged ideological biases).*
>
> *The problem? Politics doesn't vanish just because you want it to. Wilson was convinced that the wisdom of the Treaty of Versailles was akin to scientific fact. It wasn't, but let's say that it was. His view didn't erase the political necessity of selling it to Congress.*
>
> *During the election, lots of people told me that a businessman would cut through all the politics by running the*

> *government like a business. Jared Kushner is apparently heading up the latest version of this incredibly hackneyed and ancient idea. The simple problem is that government isn't a business (never mind that Donald Trump is not a typical businessman). The incentive structure of politics is entirely different than the incentive structure for a businessman. A CEO can walk into a meeting and explain to his employees that if they don't hit their widget sales quota, no one will get their bonus. Politics doesn't work like that.*
>
> *Moreover, people who say "Who cares about politics" or "Politics are irrelevant" are like people who go sailing in a hurricane on the assumption that weather shouldn't matter.*

HKO

I have long contended that success in business does not translate well into success in politics.

Those who claim to be unencumbered by ideology are fooling themselves and become suckers for unproven schemes and wishful thinking.