Conservative Origins of Obamacare

Here's a useful resource for tracking the history of the ideas embodied in the Affordable Care Act.

The essence of Obamacare, as of Romneycare, is a three-legged stool of regulation and subsidies: community rating requiring insurers to make the same policies available to everyone regardless of health status; an individual mandate, requiring everyone to purchase insurance, so that healthy people don’t opt out; and subsidies to keep insurance affordable for those with lower incomes.

The original Heritage plan from 1989 had all these features.

These days, Heritage strives mightily to deny the obvious; it picks at essentially minor differences between what it used to advocate and the plan Democrats actually passed, and tries to make them seem like a big deal. But this is disinformation. The essential features of the ACA — above all, the mandate — are ideas Republicans used to support.
FROM THE OPINION BLOGS

ROSS DOUTHAT
Good and Evil on Cable
Moral agency in "Breaking Bad" and "The Sopranos"

DOT EARTH
Innovation from the Bottom up
A foundation tries an innovative approach to finding places to use its money to foster progress—through innovation.

FOLLOW THE NEW YORK TIMES »

FEEDS
Paul Krugman Blog RSS
Subscribe to Paul Krugman’s Reading List