

# Last Week This Week 5-29-16

**Wrath** /ræθ/ *noun*

1□: strong vengeful anger or indignation□  
(chiefly used for humorous or rhetorical effect)

2□: retributory punishment for an offense or a crime: divine chastisement□

## On WBT

Two articles for Memorial Day: [The first](#) is in memory of some good soldiers who died in Mosul (and an extended attack on Christopher Hitchens). [The second](#) is an eloquent argument for reason over passion in dangerous times (with an extended discussion of the writings of Tiziano Terzani).



## Editor's Recommendations

### Memorial Day

Benjamin Fountain [goes off](#) on chickenhawks and channels his inner-Bitter Bierce in this Memorial Day fusillade.

### Turkey

Erdogan is [drunk on power](#). If interested, check out WBT's [take](#) on the problem of Erdogan and free speech.

### Retribution and Remorse

“Richard Weisman, a sociologist at York University in Toronto, says that in his research of different legal systems, he frequently encountered the view that “remorse is weakness.” Expecting a defendant to show remorse, he says, amounts to [“a ritual of humiliation.”](#)

The NY Review of Books [looks at](#) how our judges have failed us.

“Thus, a gap seems to exist between what we as victims want and what third parties decide for us. When we have been slighted, we tend to our own needs rather than pursuing punishment, but when we make decisions on behalf of someone else, [we prefer an eye-for-an-eye strategy](#). This finding calls into question our reliance on the putative impartiality of juries and judges.”

“[Restorative justice can be a noble goal](#), but it does not speak to...anguish, which could not be assuaged by public apologies or rectified by community service. Nor can this approach take the place of punishment for most criminals. In fact, restorative-justice programs actually increase the power of the state by adding yet more layers to an already crowded and overworked judicial bureaucracy, subjecting those in trouble with the law to extraordinary levels of social control.”

Sentencing [without Remorse](#)

## **Technology**

Coders are increasingly becoming like dog trainers, and less like gods, as programs become smarter. Unrelated news, Adrian began hyperventilating and sweating about 1/3 of the way [through this article](#).