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2008 Fall Investment Forum
October 28, 2008

Bryan R. Malis, *Managing Director of Altair Advisers*, led off the afternoon by providing a recap of the events that stunned the markets in September and October, causing some of the biggest asset class declines since the 1930s and pushing the global economy into recession.

Dr. Andrew Gelman, *Professor of Statistics and Political Science at Columbia University*, reviewed some of the many myths, facts, and historical patterns he identified in his recent book [Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote The Way They Do](#). With the election a week following the Forum, these insights were particularly relevant, and now with the election behind us, through an update provided to us by Dr. Gelman (<http://redbluerichpoor.com/blog/?p=206>), we are able to see which of the “rules” held and which were re-written.

Dr. Sergio Rebelo, *Professor of International Economics at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University*, provided some context in which to view the current financial and economic crisis. He discussed the origin of the crisis, the current economic landscape, and issues such as fiscal policy and short and long term efficacy of recent Federal actions. Dr. Rebelo also added some perspective on the U.S. economy by comparing key elements to those of countries around the globe, and presented his outlook for the future.

Steven B. Weinstein, *President of Altair Advisers*, provided some perspective on the current market environment, suggesting that based on current policy initiatives, a repeat of the Great Depression is unlikely. He pointed out that in all recessions since the second World War, equity markets began to recover during, not after, the recession, and that recoveries have been swift on many occasions. However, he added, there is still great uncertainty as to how this current recession will play out. He concluded by suggesting that investors re-evaluate their risk tolerance, which surely has been tested, and summarized the advice that Altair has been giving clients in the recent months.