World War II constituted New York’s last great industrial era. At its conclusion, the defense industry shrank and the economy shifted towards producing services rather than goods. Returning soldiers disproportionately displaced female and minority workers who had entered the industrial workforce only when the war left employers no other choice. Companies moved to the south and west, seeking lower taxes and a less costly, non-union workforce. Many workers followed the jobs. Former New York Governor George Pataki argues that there’s been a complete failure of leadership in the state. Former New York Governor George Pataki argues that there’s been a complete failure of leadership in the state.