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Cancel culture amid calls for unity

By Steve Bakke  November 18, 2020



AOC announcing her cancellation schedule

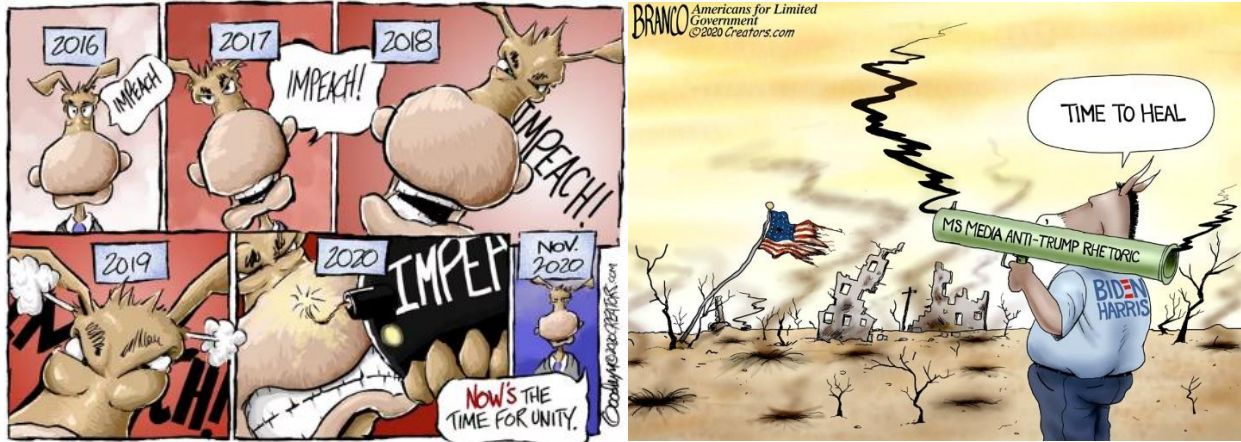
A few months ago, the fledgling “cancel culture” was busy removing statues, portraits, and historical accounts of our Founders and other prominent historical characters. This ranged from Christopher Columbus and George Washington to former slave and civil rights leader Frederick Douglass. It seemed that no logical reason was necessary, other than emotional expression of personal opposition or hatred.

The cancellation movement has also been hitting close to home. Too many conservatives have experienced friends and relatives disappearing from their lives. Sometimes this followed loud disapproval, in other cases those formerly close to us have quietly snuck away. Have you been given an ultimatum to forsake support for conservative principles? Have you been called a sycophant? Would you dare put a MAGA bumper sticker on your car? Has your conservative discussion group evolved into a support group? And recently we’ve learned that if we step over the line, we’ll be put in Twitter jail. Reflect on ways ordinary conservative citizens have been assigned a “scarlet letter” to wear forever.

A “cancellation mindset” isn’t totally new. Relive the adventures of an alleged terrorist from decades ago through this comment by Larry Grathwohl, undercover FBI agent who infiltrated The Weather Underground in the 1960s: “.....the most bone chilling thing Bill Ayers said to me was that after the revolution succeeded and the government was overthrown, they believed they would have to eliminate 25 million Americans who would not conform to the new order.”

The recent “bloom” of leftist influence is evidenced by influential progressives, leftists, and even declared socialists occupying high political positions. This is evidenced by planks in the democrats’ 2020 presidential election platform, and statements from leftist national officeholders exemplified by the Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez (“AOC”) coalition.

Just days after calling Trump supporters “chumps” Joe Biden declared “it’s time to put the anger and harsh rhetoric behind us and come together as a nation.” Given all that’s been said up to this point, his pleas for unity are likely demands for republican and conservative capitulation and submission. Biden only wants the unity that comes from victory.



Contemplate these expressions of “unity” from leftist politicians, media, and their friends:

- “[Trump voters occupy] a level of fanaticism that I’ve only seen in cult groups and Middle East terrorist groups.” – MSNBC contributor Malcolm Nance.
- “[GOP is] now an extremist party. They have to be broken, burned down and rebuilt.....treat them like the active threats to democracy they are.” – NYT op-ed writer Wajahat Ali.
- “Let’s remember that tens of millions of people voted for the status quo, even when it meant supporting lies, hate, chaos, and division.” – Michelle Obama.
- “It is not enough to simply beat Trump. He must be destroyed thoroughly. His kind must not rise again.” – David Plouffe, Obama’s former campaign manager (way back in 2016).
- “We should keep and publish a list of everyone who assists Trump’s frivolous and dangerous attacks on the election. Name and shame forever.” – former CIA officer and independent politician Evan McMullin.
- “Any [republican].....making baseless allegations of fraud should never serve in office, join a corporate board, find a faculty position or be accepted into “polite” society. We have a list.” – Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin.
- Like all men who commit crimes against humanity, [Trump advisor Stephen Miller] should be imprisoned by the society he wounded.....- from an editorial in Slate.
- “.....one has to think [about] how any future employers might see your character.” – CNN’s Jake Tapper issuing a warning to vocal Trump supporters.
- “.....we need a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It would erase Trump’s lies, comfort those who have been harmed by his hatefulness, and name every official, politician, executive and media mogul whose greed and cowardice enabled this catastrophe.” – Clinton Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich.
- “Is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to deny their complicity.” – AOC. “Yes” states the “Trump Accountability Project.” According to their website, they are identifying: “those who.....chose to put their money, their time, and their reputations behind” numerous Trump evil deeds, including those who elected him, worked for him or his campaign, RNC or PACs, appointees, and so on.

Consider those comments in the context of Biden's plea for unity. To provide a comparison, I'm compelled to quote Vladimir Lenin from over a century ago: "Enemies must be placed under the special surveillance.....they must be ruthlessly punished."

George Orwell exhibited incredible foresight when he penned a concerned conversation about "Big Brother." Winston and Julia, characters in his iconic novel "1984," were talking secretly: "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered.....History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the party is always right." These two friends were eventually "reeducated."

It's hard to believe we are facing this situation in America. But after all, what else should we expect? This is 2020.