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## **FORCED EQUIVALENCIES REQUIRE TORTURED REASONING**

By Steve Bakke  June 24, 2018



*Here's what provoked me:*

*I never cease to be amazed at how many progressives somehow find admirable qualities in the brutal Cuban dictatorship. I think it all comes down to the fact that progressives, in ever greater numbers, find equality their most important measurement. It makes no difference if we are equal in poverty, as is the case in Cuba, the main goal is equality at any level of prosperity.*

*Here's my response:*

### **Forced Equivalencies Require Tortured Reasoning**

The June 3 Opinion Exchange article by Brandon Ferdig, "Differential Diagnosis," sets out to evaluate Cuba and the United States while leaning over backward to give Cuba the benefit of the doubt.

The author has an interesting definition of government. He calls it "a kind of medicine. It exists to treat symptoms of flawed human nature - violence, fraud, theft, exploitation....." He sees government as something prescribed and administered in doses. The traditional U.S. definition calls for government to protect citizens from being denied our unalienable rights, as declared by our Founders.

The U.S. definition of government emphasizes freedom and liberty, and Cuba would not show well in those categories. Recognizing Cuba's lack of freedom, Ferdig invents this equalizer: Cubans "enjoy universal education and universal health care, and an egalitarian society." He drifts into something he calls "fairy tale nice." That's his favorable reaction to waitresses and tour drivers earning more than doctors and engineers.

Ferdig admires egalitarian principles, but does recognize that the quest for total equality takes a toll on quality of life and beautiful surroundings because there's less prosperity and no incentive to take care of possessions and property. "Prosperity and opportunity for all" is given little weight. It's used by the author only as an equalizer for America's numerous deficiencies. Relative quality of life, U.S. vs Cuba, is mostly ignored.

Outrageous equivalencies betray the author's biases. The author's main goal is equality at any level of prosperity, even if it occurs in an impoverished country like Cuba.