

🇺🇸 TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

E.J. DIONNE: OUR POLARIZATION IS ASYMMETRICAL! WHAT IS THAT?

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 April 13, 2015



Courtesy, Minneapolis StarTribune Paul Lachine - NewsArt

Here's what provoked me:

I found a COMMENTARY by E.J. Dionne to be quite reasonable. But, as usual, he had to find some of his own greatest faults and assign them to his political opponents, the Republicans. So I had to attempt to redirect his discussion to a more realistic premise.

Here's my response:

E.J. Dionne: Our Polarization is Asymmetrical! What is That?

In an otherwise reasonable COMMENTARY on 4-13, E.J. Dionne declares that most political polarization comes from Republicans: "Republicans are much more conservative as a group...than Democrats are liberal." I've attempted to make a comparison of current issues with opinions from a generation ago. Consider:

- Definition of marriage
- Abortion policies
- Voter ID requirements
- Border security enforcement
- Balanced budget
- Expressions of American pride
- Government controlling health care
- Energy independence relying on fossil fuels
- Firearm ownership
- Definition of equality
- The government's role in our lives
- U.S. leadership in the world

Regarding these issues, I believe positions held in 2015 by the more conservative among us, many of which give Democrats severe "stomach acid," would be very much **the mainstream or moderate, even majority, opinions of just a generation ago.**

While we have had real cultural changes which have led to different perspectives on old issues, and some very new issues, does Dionne have the right to accuse Republicans of making movement to the radical right? No! Because whether it's for the better or not, Republicans haven't changed that much! So Mr. Dionne, who actually IS creating the most polarization?