

Perverting creative destruction

The Left is on a tear to remake America and you and yours and everything you hold dear. That includes authentic traditional American values AND an economy that was once the envy of the world. Their efforts have gone way beyond resolving some of our social and cultural problems with alternative solutions that have some reasonable basis in the possible. They have shelved those solutions permanently and are now in favor of adopting and co-opting theories from anyone whose views would seem to support their own.

One of those is 'creative destruction' (CD), an economic postulation made 45 years ago in 1976 by an Austrian-American economist by the name of Peter Schumpeter. Put simply, CD is an economic theory that is based on the principle that old assumptions need to be broken so that new innovations can benefit from existing resources and energy. A practical example of that is how an idea proceeds along an innovation pathway which will lead to the replacement of an existing product. Before taking that path there must first be a perceived need for a new product. After that need has been established, the next step is to follow the path and to incorporate new technology and/or *foreign* or previously-used processes, borrowed from other successful product manufacturing to create economies of scale which can lead to lower prices that will give the new product a competitive advantage, thus making it more attractive to potential consumers.

An example of that might be the development of the 'e-reader' - an electronic device that can replace both a product (in this case a book) - and a costly and environmentally impactful process of turning trees into paper.

Schumpeter wasn't an economist without a political point of view. He felt that capitalism is a system out of balance and that that imbalance leads to constant creative destruction like innovation leads to chaos (for certain products and systems of production). He believed that it was imperative that we keep searching for new solutions and improvements to make our lives better through economic growth. Some people might just label Schumpeter's CD theory as just a singular devotion to innovation. However, when you couple his beliefs in CD with those of ground-breaking scientists like Charles Darwin who felt that innovation was a natural component to survival (adaptation and change) you have both an explanation and a rationale for taking the next logical steps...especially if you are social revolutionaries like the radical Left.

Though the Left doesn't need scientifically-defensible reasons to upend our society (they have plenty of their own), Schumpeter's and Darwin's theories do give them some extra ballast for their long journey towards the new perfect utopian state. The Left believes that our economic and social system has outlived its usefulness. It isn't fair or equitable and it is artificially weighted in favor of the White privileged class. Their belief is similar to that of the Bolsheviks of the early years of the 20th century who saw a concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a ruling class as antithetical to their idea of the perfect Mother Russia AND a direct threat to leveling the playing field for the have-nots. That is not to say that all American Progressives are Bolsheviks or Communists. Some probably are and some probably aren't, but their core beliefs are uncannily similar.

Armed with those basic beliefs, America's Left is on a crusade to 'creatively destroy' certain industries to achieve their goals of forcing Americans to lower their expectations and thereby give themselves time to re-engineer our cultural and economic system one vital aspect or sector at a time. It started under Barack Obama with healthcare when the Left tried to impose its views of a one-size-fits-all system on the country which would have destroyed millions of jobs and limited Americans' healthcare options. The Left did, however, partially succeed in getting their way with the Patients' Affordable Health Care Act. Now that they have the Executive Branch and a slim three-vote Democrat majority in the House and a possible 51-50 Senate they are in full assault mode and taking aim at our energy industry.

Theirs is a full-court press using the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation, the Commerce Department, STATE and the Department of the Interior (and others) to both pressure legislators and implement Executive Orders and regulations that will creatively destroy the fossil fuel industry and thereby make room for the alternative energy sector to gain a foothold as the new dominant energy force in the USA. This massive power play to make America energy dependent is a stark departure from Schumpeter's belief that innovation will be the driver for progress.

The Biden Administration and its supporters are playing a very risky game of Russian roulette with our economy by limiting our flexibility and our ability to move deliberately towards a comprehensive all-of-the-above energy future that has room for both fossil-fuels and renewables. They are betting that Americans will tighten their belts and accept higher energy prices as a consequence of being *good world citizens* and that we will be forced to look in the mirror and accept the reality that we are serial resource abusers and then adapt to a world of reduced growth and lowered expectations.

The Left has badly misread the American public. Americans will not be browbeaten into accepting *someone else's* reality through a manufactured crisis though it is easy to see why the Left thinks it will gain traction with its tactics. They have watched how the federal and states' governments have succeeded in imposing onerous restrictions on our social congress in the name of 'protecting us' from the evil Coronavirus. The Left has seen how American companies have become intimidated by the Biden Administration to accede to vaccine mandates and they have noted how mere accusations of racism have frightened America's companies into taking defensive actions. The Left will not stop until it has accomplished its goals of turning the United States into a country afraid of its own shadow and one that is on a never-ending apology tour for its "abdication from its global responsibilities." There is nothing creative about the Left's perverted creative destruction ambitions. We've seen them all before and they always end badly.

Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in 30 countries for 25 years during the Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush Administrations. He is the author of eleven books, five of which are on American politics and has written over 1,200 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He operates a political news story aggregator website, www.projectpushback.com. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com