

In case of Biden break glass

If - and I say *if* - Joe Biden actually becomes President and *if* he actually manages to finish out a full four-year term, where do we see America in 2024? Those among us who are avid America-watchers are convinced that *if* - and I say *if* (again) - Republicans lose their Senate majority we are all in for major problems on a number of fronts.

A month or so ago I wrote about what a Biden win would do to us, but after absorbing the reality of the election results, seeing the turnout numbers and the extent of the Left-Right divide I have to say that I'm actually not displeased that that divide is so evenly proportional. I know that sounds a bit crazy to say, that a divided America may be America's salvation, but in a strange way it might be. Let me try to explain. I'm not suggesting that we should re-establish a new Antebellum South-like mentality along geographic lines and then encourage everybody with one specific political belief to pack up and move to those states. I don't need to advocate for that; it's already happening!

The 'Blue vise' of the two coasts is real. On the West coast, the traditional Democrat domination in CA, WA, OR has now extended to NV, NM and now AZ. And, quite frankly, I do not see that re-location migration from Left-leaning residents/voters is going to change anytime soon because Americans have slowed their re-location from the highs we once experienced a couple decades ago when one-sixth of our population was moving every year. What I DO see happening is the economies of those West coast Blue states faltering. I'm also interested in the increasing urban/rural divide that's happening INSIDE as well as outside those states and what influence it may be having on our elections. One state that hasn't been a part of that Blue vise is Georgia, and because of the importance of GA's Senate race runoff in January to the Republican majority, all eyes will be trained on its outcome. If you believe the voter tally in GA, the state flipped from Red in 2016 to Blue in 2020.

There are probably many reasons for it and we can explore those at another time, but the fact is that there is an ideological and economic migration going on because many of those traditionally Blue states are having serious money problems due to the fact that they have allowed their political ideology of free-wheeling spending and continuing a policy of unfunded long-term liabilities like sky-high pensions to dominate their state and municipal governance. Even some more reasonable Democrats are seeing the handwriting on the wall and are getting out while they can...before the hammer of insolvency makes it necessary to hike their taxes to unsustainable levels. Conservatives, too, are leaving the Blue vise in a steady stream, but are experiencing difficulty in finding a 'safe harbor' that would protect them from Progressive radicalism.

Back to the divide and why it's not all bad.

Red states are prospering largely because they're better managed and have a 'live and let live' credo or management style that respects the individual and avoids and rejects regulations that would destroy the individual's right to invest, to work and to build. The Red state mantra is the American mantra, "out of many individuals comes one prosperous collective."

As I said, even Left-leaning future-oriented residents of Blue states are envious of the Red states' success, AND they are increasingly willing to leave the protective but costly cocoon of their Progressive communities and are considering re-location. The problem is, and it is widely documented, that what happens is once they DO relocate to a Red state and begin to enjoy the benefits of less government intrusion into their lives and lower taxes, they work to transform those states (by their vote) into the kind of states they left! It's counter-productive and self-destructive, but it is happening. I don't know what that says about my fellow Americans, but whatever it is it can't be good. That's for sure.

Ideally, America's political divide should catalyze dialogue and conversation. Unfortunately, it has done the opposite. We have retreated to the safety of our respective 'tribes.'

We do not dare raise an issue in mixed political company for fear we will be targeted for social media condemnation, physical protests, vandalism and 'gaslighting' (*gaslighting: def. a form of emotional abuse; the act of manipulating a person by forcing them to question their thoughts, memories, and the events occurring around them*).

In order for our political divide to work to our benefit, we will need to break the conversation logjam. THAT will not be easy, and I expect that it is that mantra that will be repeated and will be the face that will be adopted by the incoming (maybe) Biden Administration. "Listen to me (says good old Joe), just do as I say and I will bring you all together. C'mon, man, we can do this."

It's time to ask the rhetorical question, "How many Americans REALLY believe that Joseph Biden and his sidekick Kamala Harris can unite Americans who are so divided that they can't even eat lunch together without sticking their forks in each other's eyes?" I can understand how a 78-year old man with grandchildren and who may be on his way out might want to leave his grandkids a united America, but what I understand even *better* is the political nature of the American beast - an animal that only feeds on dissent and disagreement. For many, the politics of division - not unification - is used to attain and retain power. For others, who may be the youthful idealists who support Progressive orthodoxy or those oldsters whose expiration dates are approaching, politics is a way to sow fresh seeds of hope for their future and the future of their families. And while it can be, it seldom is, a blueprint for ensuring unity of purpose.

Yes, *folks* (as Biden annoyingly keeps saying) his administration will be pedaling the hope and change snake oil that characterized the Obama/Biden sideshow. Get ready for it. Pick up your free pair of rose-colored glasses, today. You'll need them. What you will see when you put them on is a concerted effort, emanating from the halls of the West Wing by the 'healers,' to coerce us to unify...or else. They will start by making enemies lists (something political zealots always do) of unification nay-sayers and label them as unpatriotic. They will tell us that those of us who are unwilling to embrace their policies are literally opposed to togetherness! They will conveniently forget or absolve themselves of all the vitriol that their own party members have spewed at us over the last four years, but should they do admit it by some miracle, they will say it was "necessary to preserve a space for unity to flourish."

Hogwash. Dangerous hogwash. Coerced unity is not real unity. It can't be legislated. It is artificially induced and subject to control by the unifiers. If we want real unity, we're going to have to work for it, not just talk about it. That work will include educating voters on the differences between Conservatism and Progressivism and applying pressure on the media to stop being the 'fourth branch of government.' Even as I write this, the media are already busy creating *unifier* roles for both Joe and Kami. They will be portrayed as the crusaders for truth and justice and, most importantly, defenders of America's civility, fighting for YOU from the stone walls of the Alamo on the Potomac. Many of my Conservative friends are in shock, in a trance, or are pacing the floor while the Democrats are partying hearty on the streets of our major (Blue) cities in celebration that the evil 'orange man' has been wiped away by a tidal wave of true Americans who've answered the call to save the country from imminent peril. We have a duty to wake up our fellow Conservatives and tell them it's time to mobilize.

Here's the bottom line and my final point about division. We Conservatives must become multi-taskers, embracing both activism and passivism these next few years. Despite the fact that the Democrats will call us 'spoilors' or 'traitors' to civility or compromise, we must be ACTIVE and never give the Democrats even one millimeter of room to deprive us of what we've gained during Donald Trump's time in office. We have to push back each and every time they use our heartstrings as bowstrings to launch dangerous arrows at our freedoms. We must call out their hypocrisy, their duplicity and their disingenuousness IMMEDIATELY and not wait for those arrows to hit their marks. We must also be patient or PASSIVE, grit our teeth and allow the Democrats' programs and policies (that we cannot change or effectively reject) to fail.

When they do fail (and fail they will), we must be willing to unleash the 'dogs of war' (a concerted PR effort) and make our fellow citizens aware of the failings of those programs.

Each of us has a responsibility to stay active and engaged and remember that we are not alone. After all, there were 70 million of us that stood up for Donald Trump and for American values. As for me, I'm going to remember that humor, combined with 'poking the bear (or donkey),' works. My next project is designing a sweatshirt that says, "In case of Biden, break glass." What's on your list of things to do?

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