

Fighting for the soul of America

In 1964, the Chinese Communist Party introduced "The Little Red Book" or quotations from the Chairman of the party, the great revolutionary, Mao Tse-Tung. It was a best-seller in China (understandably) and served to crystallize the Party's thought using Chairman Mao's quotes and combine them with a plan of action for the next step - the cultural revolution. The cultural revolution was used to streamline ideology and ideological uniformity AND was used as a weapon against "class enemies" or "counter-revolutionaries."

It spawned the creation of 'Red Guard Factions' (groups of middle school or university students) who used the book to 'out' their teachers or fence-sitting bureaucrats and even their friends and families that weren't true to the revolution's ideals. When the Red Guard went completely off the rails and when the economy was out of control, the government ordered the military to step in and restore order. Indeed, the decade from 1966-76 was particularly convulsive and ended up destroying many of the opportunities for the average citizen's educational or career advancement. The country's real cultural development was stifled by those who made it their goal to police the thoughts and actions of their fellow citizens. This was also a time when love was discouraged and politically-correct marriages that were based on class background and revolutionary commitment were promoted. The Kardashians would have hated it.

This brings me to the fight for the souls of America's youth. For decades, we have looked the other way while university professors filled our children's heads with political ideologies like Maoism and the *battle for the worker* all the while pretending that what they were selling was THE only REAL political truth. We accepted their indoctrination perhaps because we thought our young people were too smart to fall for it or if they did that it would soon be replaced by the new reality of the workaday world. We were wrong. Many of them clung to it and began to use it to promote the causes that most mattered to their generations like income inequality, race disparity and other social issues. We ignored the rise of the social activists and the community organizers among us for years and in 2008 we even elected one as President, proving that ignorance is not bliss. 'As ye sow (or not) so shall ye reap' could have been the motto of my generation and the one that followed. We proved that passivity is dangerous. Now I'm not claiming that all Liberals are Maoists or reactionaries or Communists, but I am saying that anyone believing in only the romantic aspect of revolution is not seeing the forest for the trees.

We could tolerate a little ideological daydreaming IF our society was fully vested in and committed to Capitalism and democracy, but it's not. There are millions of Americans who are oblivious to the risk that a poisonous philosophy like Communism poses to our freedoms. They are either poorly educated and unaware of the dangers of Communism or are among the educated upper class - the Bourgeoisie of wealthy societies - that are wealthy but fantasize about giving it away to the proletariat. Both groups are seemingly ignorant of what could happen if their daydreams actually came true and they found themselves under attack from the newly 'woke' activists that aren't going to wait for confiscation orders from their government to 'equalize' (appropriate) the possessions of the rich. Think back to the scene from the movie 'Dr. Zhivago' when Yuri returns to his parents' home in Moscow. Upon opening the front door he sees dozens of people living in his family's home. At this point the Communist housing official tells him that the house was large enough to accommodate fifteen families to which Yuri sheepishly says, "Yes, comrade. This is more just" and heads upstairs with his wife to greet his father and his little boy who are living in one small cramped room.

No one, let alone me, is suggesting that our country is 'going Commie' overnight. That sort of revolution won't happen in the USA. Ours will come through gradual incremental change; through the enactment of laws that are designed to engineer our behavior; by incessant social peer pressure, widespread media manipulation, economic blackmail of corporations and, of course, by tainted elections.

Chairman Mao realized as did the Nazis in Germany that the road to achieving true revolutionary change is through the education and indoctrination of our children coupled with the unyielding application of power wielded by a country's leaders. And, while this is playing out in our schools and universities, a full-court press will be made by other forces (special interest groups, community organizers, activist agitators and criminals) to upend the status quo, neutralize the threat presented to their goals by police forces, free speech advocates and democracy-loving legislators. With that in mind, here are some of the possible new studies that could be offered by liberal universities to the new crop of freshmen college students in 2021...

Activism 101 - This course will teach you the basic elements of how to rebel against authority by using tried and true examples of previous successes made by counter-culture groups in the sixties and seventies. Special taped lectures by famed activists like Bill Ayers.

Revising History 101 - Taught by esteemed activist historians from minority communities and with the assistance of radical professors emeritus from UC Berkeley and other Progressive institutions of higher learning, you will see how to re-write the false narratives existing in America's current history books.

Gender Equality 101 - Responding to an overwhelming outpouring of interest in re-defining traditional gender norms, this course explores the many new ways members of America's LGBTQXYZ community are working to 'Make America more Alternative Again.' You'll learn how experts can identify and explain the differences between the so-called man and the so-called woman and how to use those differences to demand total cultural gender change in America. (Those signing on to this course will also be allowed to audit 'Activism 101' free of charge.)

Black is beautiful and only Black Lives Matter 101 - Now that corporate America has seen the light and been 'convinced' that it has been abusing the Black community for decades, this course explores the methods used by Black pressure groups to force America's advertisers to 'Blackify' their commercials by using more Black actors, thereby pushing out the evil White opportunists from the airwaves. Learn how you can reject your White elitism and atone for the sins of your fathers by listening to audio books by Stokely Carmichael, James Baldwin and ordained ministers like Jeremiah Wright and Louis Farrakhan.

Don't call me a woman 101 - A special extra credit course taught by a select group of pro-feminist professors that together explore the degrading and demeaning use of the word 'woman' throughout the long history of American and world literature. The course will include a special roundtable 'castigation session' with a blindfolded man in which all students are permitted to ridicule him on behalf of all females.

Media/social media manipulation and social engineering 101 - Back again after a successful four-year run boasting the highest attendance of any single course, Media Manipulation and Social Engineering will show you how you can use both traditional media and social media to crush the Conservative viewpoint and in so doing eliminate any opposition from the right-wing zealots who wish to keep American thought in bondage. We'll show you how to set up your own media 'hit squad' to counter the effects of fake news reporting from the Fox News Channel and other right-wing advocacy outlets.

The foregoing may sound fanciful and downright laughable to many of you, and while these courses may not be offered by American universities any time soon, they are probably on some professors' wish lists. My advice? Check out your child's college course offerings before writing a big check.

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 ten books, four of which are on American politics and has written over 1,000 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com