The Democrats aren't the problem

For once, let's be clear about something. Republicans have got to stop blaming the Democrats for everything that's wrong with America. Why? Because they aren't the sole problem. They are only the carriers of the destructive ideological virus that has infected our system - a virus that we Conservatives and traditional values advocates have allowed to escape the biolabs of our society.

To stay with the virus analogy, we looked the other way or were too busy with other aspects of our lives to notice that our immune system (our elected representatives and our laws) were being breeched by an infectious attack by incrementalist social engineers. Like an occasional nagging cough that comes and goes over time, we dismissed it thinking that it would go away and that we would soon return to normal.

We looked upon the increase of social activism by our children as something they'd outgrow when their adolescence was over and they had joined the 'real world' where ideology gives way to prevailing practice. We bemoaned radical professors' indoctrination of them but did nothing about it, preferring to allow the body of rational thought heal itself. After all, time heals all wounds, and we had plenty of time, or so we thought. The virus then migrated from the campus. It 'graduated' and mutated into a dozen different strains that targeted very specific areas of our social corpus.

It focused on the alleged inequities of our economic system, our *tainted* history, race relations, our social construct, our attitudes towards family, sexual mores, religion, etc. All of a sudden we were hit from all sides, blindsided by an assault of micro-attacks on our values and institutions that we thought were impervious to harm. The virus spread quickly, helped along by a willing media who gleefully attached themselves to the new cellular revolution. They aided and abetted its spread, seeing their fortunes increase by promoting it while they looked forward to the time they would also profit from its cure.

Viruses have but one goal, to take down the host. Conservatives should have known that. They should have also recognized the early warning signs of growing social discontent coming from our minority populations and the ever-widening earnings gap that made more Americans susceptible to infectious ideologies like socialism. The truth is that America, like any living organism, has always been vulnerable to a myriad of diseases, but we weren't listening to our bodies that were quietly telling us that all was not well and that we ought to seek help. Never mind getting a second opinion, we needed an initial one that would take our history of denial into account.

We were too sedentary, too complacent, too trusting, too naïve, too poorly educated, too willing to ignore the obvious signals from the increased levels of our soldiering white blood cells that we had become compromised. Now wide awake, we realized our predicament when the virus enlisted a powerful carrier to overwhelm what was left of our strength to resist. It called on the Democratic Party and the Progressives within that party to merge the diverse but like-minded activist groups working behind the scenes in all areas of American society into one powerful movement that would administer the fatal coup de grace on what was left of the body of conservative values.

They succeeded in electing a candidate that purported to be an antidote for what ailed us, a President that would re-program and re-direct the virus and turn it into a powerful force for good. Barack Obama would smooth over the political scars and excise our worries. And the prognosis? America's health would improve under his stewardship and his care.

The problem was that the virus of discontent was out of his control. It became a voracious eater. Nothing could satiate it. No amount of social power was enough. It demanded more racial equality, more gender equality, more government largesse, more money with less work until even Barack Obama couldn't contain its growth. Finally, after eight years, Americans woke up and told the virus that its time had come. They had had enough and were going to push back.

The virus retreated from the surface but moved into the background while the next President built up our resources and made us more resistant to a new attack. This lasted for three years while Americans came to grips with the choices and changes they needed to make to ward off future attacks of the ideological virus that had nearly decimated our country. Unfortunately, the Progressives had been steadily gaining strength and working on all fronts to mount another attack, another push for power. This time they were leaving nothing to chance. They had fortified their defenses with special interest groups, big donors and the media (both social and mainstream) and had extended their reach even into the election process, realizing that mere discontent wasn't enough to turn the tide away from an *America First* populist revolution.

They wagered that the American system was vulnerable; that the American memory was short and that many Americans were impatient. Together, they reasoned, a reversal was not only possible but inevitable, especially if they could out-vote the opposition in the swing states.

Viruses are unscrupulous. They sap our will, cloud our thinking and leave us in a weakened state. Then they step aside and let other illnesses like our political indifference and laziness do us in. The Democrats and their Progressive cousins know this. They exploited our weakened state and our latent fears to win an election by offering up a candidate that promised to 'build back (America's immune system) better' and make us more resistant to any efforts by a competing Conservative virus and an aggressive President to 'Make America Great Again,' which they warned would destroy us.

The Left was clever. They used the biggest medical crisis in man's recent memory to make their point that conservative politics was by nature antithetical to their view of a strong and vibrant collectivist-first America. The individual, they contended, was subordinate or incidental to the public at large. Individual freedoms could be dispensed with as long as they improved the collective's chances for success. And they would make sure to remind us that we were but small cogs in a greater wheel. The real virus, the Covid-19, presented that opportunity and they seized it with gusto. Using the states' governors' emergency powers, they made their move towards consolidating their own power in advance of the Presidential Election.

It worked. They wrested control from the conservative *infidels* and have now begun a political jihad against the Right. Two viruses have now successfully merged into one and are in the hands of the lab rats who want revenge on their captors. The question is, "will they get it?" Anything is possible, but one thing is for certain. This new virulent virus won't be eliminated without a fight, and we had better be prepared for that fight no matter how long it takes.

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