

My bi-polarized America

There is no other way I can think of to explain why so many people voted for a washed up, mediocre, former Vice-President and Senator to be their President except to say that we are obviously suffering from a rare form of national bi-polarization.

With this condition, a person experiences considerable mood swings and occasional disconnects with reality, and Americans must have had an attack of this last month to actually think that by voting in a 78-year old career politician with no noteworthy successes to his name as the leader of the free world that he would be able to make lemonade out of America's lemons.

By lemons I'm talking about our problems with China, Iran, North Korea, Russia and a host of other international relationships that are percolating. Then there are our border issues, illegal immigration, the Covid-19 plagued economy, racial unrest and a variety of other domestic challenges. We should add to these the rogue tech and social media (and 'regular' media) companies that are chipping away at our individual freedoms not to mention the growing lawlessness endangering our cities and towns by violent anarchists.

I would be remiss if I didn't add the threats to our other freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution such as our right of assembly, religious worship, gun ownership, a fair voting process and, of course, freedom from excessive government intervention in our lives as we've experienced since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Joe Biden. The mere mention of his name does nothing to set my mind at ease as either a great statesman, problem-solver, manager or keen intellect. All I see is a lop-sided grin perched on a weathered face, a halting walk, malapropisms and misplaced anecdotes like hairy legs, dog pony soldiers and *c'mon man's* a plenty when he cannot come up with a reasonable or cogent argument.

His historical gaffes, plagiaristic actions and his denials about his son's financial doings in China, the Ukraine and other countries give me no reason to trust him or have a modicum of confidence in his ability to tackle the big problems our country is facing. His choice of a running mate and now Vice-President elect, Kamala Harris, worries me to no end. It's as if he just checked the right identity politics box, rolled the dice and hoped for the best without considering her past, her bona fides or her ill temper which was on full display during the Brett Kavanaugh nomination hearings, not to mention her performance against HIM in the Democrat Presidential debates.

I suppose the choice of Joe to be the 'big guy' could point to an episode of mental lapses on my countrymen's part, but I'm more inclined to ascribe it to something greater, something infinitely more insidious like an acute case of national bi-polarization with a dollop of schizophrenia thrown in for good measure. However, it could also be something much simpler like a couple of spoiled generations of children with history appreciation deficiency and a couple scoops of misplaced victimhood thrown in ALONG with our inability to recognize something of real value when it's staring us in the face.

Because many of us haven't experienced real hunger, real disappointment or real persecution, are chronically impatient and would rather have something *new* (in this case something considerably older) we make bad choices when it comes to picking our leaders. Fortunately, we had a moment of clarity in 2016 when we tapped Donald Trump to be our 45th President. For four years, Mr. Trump made promises and then kept them. He faced down stiff opposition and moved the country forward on a path towards energy self-sufficiency and general prosperity. He strengthened our borders and got us out of bad trade and environmental deals. He fortified our relationships in the Middle East and stood up to our adversaries. Yes, maybe he was too forceful for some people and made enemies on the Left and even alienated some of his initial supporters, but he understood that a bold leader will inevitably make enemies of entrenched and powerful interests and that that is the price leaders pay for showing courage.

Joe Biden has never shown true political courage and has never displayed demonstrable nor measurable leadership. He has always been *number two* to someone else's *number one* and this leaves a lasting imprint on men who hunger for power and recognition. It does not humble them; it makes them bitter and can lead to feelings of entitlement and sometimes even creates delusions of grandeur. While there doesn't seem to be anything manic depressive about Joe Biden, there is certainly something very depressing and pretty boring about him. At a time when America needs a leader with energy and dynamism, we are stuck with a man in his eighth decade of life who is better suited to playing with his grandchildren, fishing or playing golf, not sitting behind the Resolute desk.

Instead, he will be thrown into the lion's den with seasoned, battle-hardened, self-absorbed Machiavellian types who regard him as a meal ticket to more power. This will not be a brain trust that will seek and weigh opinions from the other half of America that didn't cast their votes for him. It will be the polar opposite where only one ideology will be allowed to flourish...a radical Left-of-center Progressive one bent on undoing everything that a real leader has built.

To minimize the damage Joe and company can do to reverse the gains we've made since 2016 we must be ready to hold his feet to the fire of public scrutiny and thoroughly vet all his staff and appointees, and that means going way back in time using the same fine tooth comb that was employed with the aforementioned Brett Kavanaugh. It's the least we can do for our Republic. We can work on our collective psychological problems, later.

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