

America's minority boomerang

At the outset, let me say, forcefully and sincerely, that every minority group deserves protection from discrimination whether that discrimination comes from the majority or from other minorities. That should be an unassailable position when it comes to the well-being of the most vulnerable among us.

That said, we have entered an age where America's minorities are acting like the majority, albeit with a couple of big differences. The first is that they (pick your minority) are 'leaning in' and daring the rest of us to take away their victim status. This is happening with racial and ethnic groups and alternative sexual lifestyle groups. The second difference is that many minority groups are trying to force us into accepting their self-assigned rank order position by playing on our guilt. Make no mistake, guilt is a powerful weapon, and many minority groups have used it successfully to achieve their goals.

This is not to say that some groups do not have legitimate reasons to march, protest and to use their PR machines against those of us perceived to be the enemy of their cause(s). Some have real grievances and our nation is not perfect which is why the preamble to the Constitution says, "...in order to form a more perfect union". We may never get there, but I would submit that we're making a 180-degree turn if we allow ourselves to be convinced that it's only fair to reverse the social order of minority versus majority in order to achieve parity.

I hate to get political, but this strategy of *less over more* is ideologically motivated by liberals who want to socially engineer a new normal for our country. Before we go on, let's look at the statistics that we have for those who've chosen minority sexual lifestyles. According to a survey done in 2016, "0.6% of U.S. adults identify as 'transgender.'" (The key word there is *identify* - respondents have offered no proof of their actual gender identification.) Other studies done at varying times over the years have determined that there are from 1.2% to 6.8% of the adult population in the USA who self-identify as homosexuals or transgender persons. Taking the high end of the range, that would mean that there are about 22 million people who are outside the mainstream of our national sexual preference 'community' of 325 million. That poses a fundamental question: "Is it fair that 22 million people should decide how we comport ourselves and tell us how we should view such things as homosexual marriage, etc.?"

And, should that particular minority group be allowed to establish new norms for our speech (insisting that we use gender-neutral pronouns and build millions of new toilets for transgender users) or demand that we view them as the rule rather than the exception to America's mainstream sexual practitioners? It's not my intention to pass judgment on the citizens of that community. I'm simply asking a question about the role of minorities versus those of the majority in the USA. People are free to adopt whichever lifestyle they choose. That is the bedrock of our American liberty of self-expression, but while we are entitled to our own opinions, we are not allowed to manufacture our own facts. And one of those facts is that our sexual practices and choices have consequences.

There is a bill working its way through the New Mexico legislature, as of this writing. If passed, it would enable people to change their gender status on their birth certificates without a doctor's attest or examination. Bills of this nature would not have even been considered in years past because everyone believed that the gender you were born with was the gender you are. Genitalia trumps preference. An effeminate man is still a male and a masculine woman is still a female. That was that. However, in recent years the so-called 'LGBTQ' (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer) community has tried to persuade the majority of us that we are somehow discriminating against them by assuming that thousands of years of heterosexuality was the norm. When I say 'us' I'm not talking about those reprehensible characters in the majority who routinely abused or preyed upon those living alternative sexual lifestyles.

I'm speaking of society in general that still believes in the validity of scientific chromosomal identification rather than personal gender choice. I'm frankly pretty tired of the minority 'tail' wagging the majority 'dog,' with guilt-ridden arguments and shaming exercises. I have never owned slaves and I have never abused any minority person. I'm not a racist or a bigot and neither are any of my friends or family. It's high time we all realized that radicalizing our differences and forcing them on others will not win the day. In the end, we all want the same things: a little peace, some prosperity, a bit of respect and a little space to maneuver without fear. Let's remember that next time we take our ideological dog for a walk.

Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in thirty different countries. He is now a political analyst and strategist and author of nine books and over 1,000 articles on politics, the economy and social trends. He can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com