

Awake or Awoke?

A full life is full of unavoidable choices, and next year we Americans will have a major one to make. Will we return to our traditional path of our long-held values of individual liberty and personal responsibility or will we choose a completely different course that prioritizes authoritarianism? The coming year will be a pivotal, watershed moment that could dramatically reinforce 'wokeism' in the USA or safeguard us against it.

Many Americans have arrived at a crossroads of conscience and finally reached a saturation point when it comes to their tolerance for the *wokeists'* attempts to radically transform the great American paradigm of liberty and freedom of expression into a 'one size fits all' state where only the official view on anything is acceptable.

The choice of discarding over two centuries of lessons learned, many of them at the expense of war and conflict, for a new cultural and economic baseline is coming in eleven short months. It's called the mid-term elections, and how we vote then will decide our future for many tomorrows to come. Will we elect to protect our liberties or will we barter them away for some temporary government largesse and thereby give carte blanche to the establishment of a potentially destructive new political dynamic that is rooted in victimhood and guilt?

We've all seen how political tunnel vision and ideological intransigence have failed us over the past dozen years or so. Our unwillingness to find neutral ground for discussion has pushed us farther and farther apart and knee-capped our ability to find agreement on the scope of problems facing our nation let alone offer any meaningful solutions to them. By regarding each other as the enemy we have gambled away all hope of finding any semblance of objectivity. Instead, we have chosen partisan power over pragmatism and a culture war over peaceful coexistence.

We've sacrificed our personal liberties on the altar of expediency and allowed our bedrock values to be purchased with thirty pieces of authoritarian government 'silver' in the form of payments to remain in place at home at a time when we should have been actively engaging one another in the country's workplaces, churches and schools. We have surrendered our spirit, and this has weakened our ability to distinguish between benevolence and malevolence and empowered bureaucratic despots to lead us around like sheep during a health 'emergency.'

We've watched, passively, while our President has undone the successful policies of his predecessor and replaced them with those designed to exact revenge on those who didn't vote for him. In fact, there are very few areas where the current Administration and the political zealots in the Congress have not ventured. The *wokeists* have been working overtime to achieve their overarching goal of radically transforming our culture by dividing us into warring demographic groups. They have pitted the well-to-do against the economically disadvantaged; minorities against the majority; Blacks against Whites; the secularists against the believers; biological males and females against the "fluid genderists." The *woke* movement is the darling of the Left and it advocates for a wholesale destruction of our historic cultural norms - not because they are wrong but because they preserve stability and continuity and no revolution can happen until they are disrupted. And that is why the attacks on our institutions keep coming.

When we begin to doubt the fairness of our courts, our attitudes toward crime and punishment, the honesty of our elections and the motives of our ruling class we become vulnerable to the *woke* community's siren song that attempts to convince us that criminals are more important than victims; that all White people are evil; that all Conservatives are intent on overthrowing the government; that gender is a choice; that freedom of speech and assembly are dangerous. The list goes on and every item on it has one underlying interconnected thread: that the Constitution and Bill of Rights are merely antiquated 'suggestions' and can be ignored when it suits them.

Money means nothing and everything to the *a-woke*. It's never enough when it involves funding their crusade for racial 'equity', global climate change efforts, election reform, abortion on demand, open borders and reparations for slavery. It is way too much when it remains inside the pockets of their adversaries. The *woke* economy does not allow for the creation and retention of wealth that results from hard work, shrewd investments or inheritance. According to them, no one should be permitted to benefit from the fruits of their labors unless that fruit is taxed heavily and shared with those who had no hand in generating it.

To them, government is God and the first and foremost commandment is: "Thou shalt not question the motives or actions of government (when it rests in the hands of Liberals)." To them, the needs of the collective will always take precedence over the rights of the individual as we have seen on full display during the first year of the Biden Administration. Nowhere is the contrast between the attitudes and actions of the a-wakened and the a-woke greater than during the Covid-19 pandemic. Blue states have locked down their people and their economies while Red States have opened them up. The Federal government has taken on the role of arbiter of the individual's freedom and has demonized those who disagree with its pronouncements. Our leaders have abused their power and have unilaterally decided what's best for the rest of us...and they are busy re-writing the rulebook on governance and writing the individual out of it.

Nature tells us that everything has a breaking point. Human nature tells us that all human beings have one, too. In November of 2022, we will be asked to choose which course we want to follow - to shake off what seemed like a bad dream or resign ourselves to an a-woke state where it is impossible to tell the difference.

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