

The war between the fates

The 2020 Presidential election has changed our political landscape in more ways than we'd care to admit. Both Republicans and Democrats increased their voter turnout, markedly, by at least 10 million votes per party. There is one BIG nagging question that remains, however. It is, "how many of those votes were the product of partisan efforts by activist poll workers, rogue algorithms or by manipulative software, operated by Democrat-leaning interventionists."

The courts will be taking up the laundry list of accusations made by the Trump campaign in short order and some of these have rightly been reported on by Fox News as being *allegations* while other cable channels and the mainstream media and the dailies have dismissed them out of hand as being *unworthy of mention, not credible, baseless* and a number of other adjectives. Make no mistake, this is a concerted effort to tar Trump and his followers as a bunch of radicals hell-bent on re-electing him to another four years during which time he will complete his evil plan to 'destroy America.'

The election angst is everywhere. Even the little children (a favorite Democrat victim demographic) are suffering as their Conservative parents yell and scream at the TV when they see the Democrats haranguing them for daring to state that the election could have been manipulated. "That blankety-blank Don Lemon, that moron Chris Cuomo. They all ought to be flogged, drawn and quartered, burned at the stake and their ashes put in a pickle jar and launched out to sea." Yes, the über partisan talking heads over at CNN and MSNBC and their brothers in arms in the media are doing their best to rile up the Leftist *villagers*, helping them light their torches before they head out in search of Dr. Frankenstein. This is obviously what passes for the new Democrat unity push.

Anger is everywhere. I remember the late Rodney Dangerfield talking about the state of American-style anger and violence in one of his routines. He said, "I went to the fights the other night and what do you know a hockey game broke out...and Detroit, oh my God, Detroit, the city is round the bend. I heard they now consider rape, foreplay." I mention Dangerfield because he was a smart (and very funny) man. One of his best quotes is, "I've learned to control everything. I don't get angry at anything. Somebody can do me wrong. That's life. What good is it to get angry?" THAT'S a lesson as yet unlearned by most of us as we enter the next phase of the *war between the fates* (of liberalism and conservatism). That war will be deciding our future as we move through the election lawsuits and the resultant hype and spin that comes from both sides of the media aisle.

We're seeing a massive mobilization of opposing political, social and media forces which are pushing the limits of our patience and tolerance for pain. Families are coming apart; friendships are going up in smoke, and I wouldn't be surprised if even the family pooch is cowering in his doghouse for fear of a swat on the behind by his frustrated owner. The anxiety of not knowing our fate - whether we're going to be marching to the beat of the Biden/Harris collectivist drum - is probably worse than actually *knowing* we are. To be fair, the Left is feeling the same anxiety, but on a smaller scale because they're pretty sure that the Joe and Kami Show is locked in and will debut in D.C. on January 20th.

I think it's safe to say that America's fate can best be described as a perfect storm of perennial discontent that will ravage what little confidence we have left in our country's ability to weather the ideological back and forth that comes from electing diametrically opposite candidates every four or eight years. If this is true, and we have really chosen conflict over compromise and warfare over dialogue, then, as my grandfather used to say, "Katy, bar the door." In this type of conflict, the casualties will be high. We've already lost civility and trust in many of our institutions to previous battles. The next steps, which are sure to include courtroom encounters, will be the last steps before civil unrest and violence take over. The courts are our last hope to derail this potential non-stop conflict. We still have a chance to protect, preserve and defend our Constitution and thereby save our Republic from rack and ruin.

Many of us thought that the election of 2000 would push us over the edge of the cliff and place us squarely on a path to social and political destruction...but, miraculously, it didn't. Cooler heads prevailed - on both sides. But that was then, and a lot of toxic water has flowed over the dam of comity since then. We are not the nation we were twenty years ago. Today, there are anarchists on our streets, a pandemic in our cities and towns, and a cadre of off-the-wall unpatriotic politicians that could care less about preserving our freedoms. Their cause is the preservation of their cause which is the attainment of one-party power which they can use to impose their collectivist will and vision for America that thinks alike, looks alike and acts alike on the rest of us.

One can ask, where's all the diversity you Democrats have been blathering about these last few years? Is diversity only useful to you when it consists of guaranteed voting blocs for your candidates, but is detrimental to your cause when diverse opinions are expressed? I've ridden this hobby horse on the dangers of collectivist group-think before, but I believe that we've never been closer to seeing it become the 'law of the land' than we are now with a possible Biden/Harris takeover in 2021.

The clouds of the 'perfect political storm' are gathering. And when they open up they will unleash a torrent of policy rain that will soak all of us to the bone. This is rain like we've never experienced before. It is the apocalyptic kind that never stops and never goes away and it will soak through everything we hold dear - every freedom, every right, every personal choice. We only have a couple months before a President is sworn in. We should pray for a miracle that somehow those clouds will be held at bay and will disappear as quickly as they formed and that we have another chance to influence our fate with four more years of a Trump Administration.

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