

## Into Trump's arms

It's déjà vu all over again. Americans' patience and confidence has been stretched to the breaking point. Our leaders have failed us and our country has been kidnapped by ideologues who are completely untethered from reality. Granted, there are other ways to make the following point, but those are the facts as this writer sees them.

Return with us now to those less-than-thrilling days of yesteryear (if you're a core values-based Conservative who loves his country). It's 2015 and our country has managed to survive nearly two terms under a speechifying President who was more concerned about *remaking* America into his own craven image than celebrating its strengths. Barack Obama was the squanderer-in-chief, ignoring opportunities to bring Americans together under one racially neutral-colored 'umbrella.' Instead, he did everything he could to maximize and exaggerate our differences by telling us that we on the Right were a bunch of Bible-thumping, gun-toting, knuckle-draggers who wanted to, as his Vice-President said to a group of African-Americans on a summer day in 2012, "put y'all back in chains."

Those comments made three years earlier by then Vice-President Joe Biden revealed his true colors and should have served as a wake-up call to all Americans that the Left had turned an important racial corner and had vowed to use accusations of racism as their battle cry to get Mr. Obama re-elected to a second term. Mitt Romney didn't have a chance when Joe the prevaricator made those remarks. Romney was White, a Mormon, came from a political family...and he had earned his fortune by taking full and lawful advantage of an economic system that most of the free world envied. (The latter is something the Biden family cannot say.)

So, it was no wonder that Mitt lost. Millions of Americans were still in love with Barack the 'cool guy' and couldn't see themselves voting for a candidate whose speeches were bereft of lofty, 50,000 ft. soaring rhetoric AND who had 'saved' us from the jaws of economic ruin in 2009. Nope. Romney's defeat was a foregone and predictable conclusion. Competence lost out to one-dimensionalism. During the next three years Obama used up nearly all of his goodwill. His posturing as the "first Black President" was slowly losing its appeal as many Americans on the Right struggled to understand why he would befoul his own table with a deep and abiding distaste for American exceptionalism. Neither did they understand why he would lead a crusade to recast *his* particular minority group as the eternal victims of historical inequality while simultaneously setting us up to be driven down into a counter-culture rabbit hole where 'genderism' and mass victimhood lived.

Then came Donald Trump in June 2016 who said that "enough (of Barack Obama) was more than enough" and entered the Presidential sweepstakes.

A month later in July of 2016 Barack's party passed the 'baton' to his former Secretary of State, the former Senator from New York and former First Lady to finish the race he started. While this excited his base (that America was to get another *first* - this time its first woman President) it also jogged Americans' memories about Obama's policy failures. In addition, it coalesced opposition to four more years of the same from a woman who called half the country 'deplorables.' Obama had held their country hostage for far too long... and they were all too aware of Hillary's back story to be fooled again. The anger, resentment and disappointment plowshares of the Right were forged into swords and Trump trounced her on Tuesday, November 8th of that year.

America breathed a sigh of relief. Correction: Conservatives breathed a sigh of relief. The Democrats were heartbroken that *their* gal came up short. I know. I saw it first-hand, walking the streets of Manhattan, as thousands of Clintonistas gathered to protest the election of the 'orange man' in front of Trump Tower.

The rest is history as they say, but they also say that history repeats itself.

It's now 2023 and we're right back where we started in 2012 when the country was rapidly losing its patience and its confidence in America's future. Now, instead of a silver-tongued orator at the helm, the country is being led by a doddering old man with no common sense nor any respect for American ideals and values. Americans have watched as the gates to the city have been flung open to let in all manner and form of anti-traditionalist revolutionaries who regard themselves as benevolent Dr. Kevorkians. They have given us the tools, the reasons (racism, White supremacy, national guilt, etc.) and the permission to destroy ourselves as they wait patiently in the hallway to remove the body.

Thankfully, there are still those among us who see their quest for what it is... an ideological bait and switch that uses a one-two punch of 'diversity, equity and inclusion' to eliminate what they have identified as our *systemic racism and inequality of opportunity*. Fortunately for us, they have come on too strong. We have seen through their smokescreen and recognize it for what it is, nothing but a perverse form of cultural elitism packaged within an autocracy that has used coercion, censorship and character assassination to achieve its goals.

The bottom line is simple. The Left has gone too far - again - and pushed too many of Americans' buttons all at once and have awakened the sleeping giant of discontent, AND they have set the country up to repeat the election of 2016 with a familiar cast of characters, Donald Trump being one of them.

*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 twelve books, six of which are on American politics and has written over 1,300 articles on politics, economics and social trends. He operates a political news story aggregator website: [www.projectpushback.com](http://www.projectpushback.com). He can be reached at: [stephan@stephanhelgesen.com](mailto:stephan@stephanhelgesen.com)*