

## Revenge of the middle class

One of the most noticeable characteristics of America's great middle class has been the way it has put its head down, avoided confrontation and continued to toil in silence, hoping against hope that its fortunes will improve (or at least not deteriorate) under administrations that have ignored their needs for far too long. Working at one if not two jobs didn't leave much time or room to be involved in politics or to advocate for special causes. The care and feeding of families took precedence over extra-curricular activities like attending school board meetings or volunteering to help political candidates get elected... until Donald Trump decided to run for President.

Unlike the scholarly Barack Obama who appealed to the elite of the Democratic Party with lofty promises of hope and change woven into the fabric of soaring rhetoric, Trump touched the pulsating nerve of the forgotten men and women of middle America with a powerful message of patriotic populism. Ironically, it was because of Obama's ideological overreach and the speed of his attempts to radically transform America that awakened the sleeping giant of America's working men and women to Trump's overtures to 'Make America great again' and gave him his victory in 2016.

Now awake, Trump called them to rally around an agenda steeped in pragmatism and promises and then proceeded to fulfill them, all the while reminding them that he was their President and not a creation of Washington DC politicians or the wealthy ruling class. Trump knew only one speed and it was full speed ahead. In four short years he did more for the middle class American than most presidents before him with two terms under their belt. Unfortunately, it was *his* speed at putting the country back on its traditional path that was his undoing. Trump found out that no good deed in American politics goes unpunished for long, especially when the preeminence of the elites is challenged and their ideologies are held up to scrutiny.

So, in November of 2020, he was given his walking papers by 80 million angry Democrat voters and told never to darken America's doorstep again, that they were taking back their country and the middle class be damned. The hopes and dreams of millions of hard working, law abiding people were silenced along with their champion who had answered their pleas for a return to greatness. The Left had chosen to ignore the realities of a thriving economy and a secure border and instead chose a return to its *own* dreams that bore no resemblance to the American dream of a meritocracy based on individual personal responsibility, time-honored traditional values and proven successful strategies.

The middle class was told it would soon be healed, brought together by a professional politician who had built nothing in his career and done absolutely nothing for them except take their money for over four decades. HE was their new champion, protector and friend of organized labor and a product of working class parents in a blue collar town. In fact, Joseph Robinette Biden was an opportunist that wore the blue collar when he needed votes and promptly hung it up when he didn't, preferring instead to mingle with elite Democrat donors who could guarantee him a few more years at the public trough.

Meanwhile, the real middle class was in reluctant retreat, back to its jobs on the shop floor and behind the counters of commerce, back to plugging away in relative silence with its head down and with its hopes for a brighter future, dashed. It had now become the sworn enemy of the elites and the schooled class who sought to demonize and demean them and force them into submission. Many of them were now called White supremacists who bore the guilt for America's ills, past and present. They were racists, homophobes, bigots and just didn't understand or accept the new order as it was being written by the social justice warriors and secularists who felt entitled to attack them as the dangerous status quo. The attacks on them intensified with the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic that emboldened the power elite to exact demands on Americans to mask up, vaxx up and basically shut up regarding their honest heartfelt questions about the science behind the Draconian measures that eventually brought the American economy to its knees and stripped the middle class

of its ability to gather, to worship and to speak out. The new President, who vowed to bring us together as a nation, quickly shelved his promise. He turned his back on the festering divisions that had been simmering but had now escalated into a series of confrontations between the elite and the obedient middle class who had become targets of opportunity for powerful special interests and a government who regarded them as misguided (and potentially dangerous) people who must be tamed and brought into submission. It caught the middle class off guard, but that was soon to change as the pandemic wore on and the economy began to falter.

The policies that Trump instituted on energy, the border and on creating opportunities for America's middle class as well as disadvantaged minorities were reversed in short order causing significant hardships for millions of citizens who were now facing runaway inflation, lockdowns and massive government overreach. Then came the events of January 6, 2021. What started as a peaceful protest against perceived election irregularities of 2020 morphed into a regrettable and unwarranted mass trespass of the nation's capitol building by a few hundred agitators bent on destruction.

The political elite were quick to seize upon this event as a visible demonstration of the inability of the middle class to control itself and its emotions...and it had to be stopped before their dissatisfaction could grow and strengthen into an opposition movement that could threaten the Left's political futures. Conservatives in the middle class who dared question any of the government's ideology or edicts such as the teaching of 'White privilege' and 'critical race theory' in schools were vilified. Some were even labeled as 'domestic terrorists' for their disagreements with authority.

The tipping point had been reached.

The great 'parent revolt' against the teaching of CRT in Virginia's schools which led to the election of a Republican governor there triggered a return of the silent middle class from its self-imposed hibernation. Middle class citizens throughout the country had had enough of lockdowns, of rampant crime and of unelected bureaucrats' decisions to ignore their wishes for safe streets, social stability and freedom of movement along with personal health choices. The middle class was now standing up, leaning in and pushing back, much to the surprise of the elite who were beginning to sense that the country was turning against them. The President's agenda was failing. Opinion polls were revealing that throngs of Americans had abandoned the ruling class and their issues and were defecting from the Left's ideas. Skyrocketing prices, supply shortages and the prospects of a cold winter of discontent were plaguing the re-election hopes of the Democrat elite.

The middle class was now rebelling against the Left's claims of them as terrorists, secessionists or unpatriotic and were expressing their discontent, openly and often. They wanted their country back and were prepared to fight for it. The mid-term elections of 2022 would be the crucible for their fight and the Washington elite (along with many Blue state governors) were worried that their power would soon be stripped from them. And they should be worried, because the middle class had now found its voice and was determined not to "go gentle into that good night" as the poet Dylan Thomas once said. "Old age should burn and rave at close of day; rage, rage against the dying of the light."

The middle class is back. For how long and with what intensity is yet to be determined, but it is back. Make no mistake about that.

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