

Gentrifying hypocrisy

"Hypocrisy is when our actions don't match our words. Tyranny is when it no longer matters."

That's my own personal definition, and you probably have one of your own. Either way, it seems that we in America are well down the road towards gentrifying hypocrisy as a kind of new age, 21st century art form. By refusing to condemn it we are tacitly accepting it as our preferred political modus operandi. The wizened elders among us will probably chuckle that I'm even bothering to spend time talking about such a mundane subject. After all, hasn't hypocrisy always been a part of American politics? The short answer is yes, but the explanation for its spread and the reasons behind its popularity are longer. To get to those reasons, let's first take a binary journey together with a few basic yes/no questions.

Is hypocrisy just a form of exaggeration? Do you regard hypocrisy as helpful to understanding and solving our country's problems? Do you see it as unavoidable in modern politics? Do both Republicans and Democrats use it to accomplish their goals? Can you recognize it when you see it? Do you use it to get your way? Should those who engage in it be called out and held to task for it?

Your answers will reveal whether you've come to embrace it, reject it or are simply resigned to living with it. If you embrace it or are comfortable living with it then you might as well stop reading now, because it's my belief that hypocrisy is a cancer on our body politic and must never be allowed to become gentrified or mainstream. That begs the question: What conditions must exist for hypocritical actions to succeed and escape punishment? Uncertainty is one. A lack of verifiable facts is another. A third would be a populace that is ready to countenance the actions of others that contradict their rhetoric. Finally, there is the individual's willingness to accept those contradictions as simply *part of the process*.

There are a few absolutes when it comes to hypocrisy. It is more destructive than constructive. It contributes to a devaluing of the truth and can lead to a corruption of the individual's sense of right and wrong. If not stopped early on it can become the mainstay and moral compass of our society, replacing honesty, transparency and forthrightness.

The 'Trump years' that ended in January of 2021 were perhaps THE most vivid example of hypocrisy in action as the Democrats strove to destroy a President by pretending to act in the best interests of the country. By attempting to seize the moral high ground and gain political advantage under the guise of 'protecting Democracy,' they manufactured one hoax after another. First it was Russia and Trump's 'Putin connection' to win the 2016 election. Then they accused him of profiting from his office by putting up people in the old DC post office-cum hotel that the Trump organization owned.

Then there was his abuse of his office by threatening the Ukrainian government to find dirt on Joe and/or Hunter Biden. Finally, they impeached him (twice), the second time for instigating or leading an *insurrection* on our nation's Capitol Building one year ago tomorrow. Where is the hypocrisy you say? Weren't all those things legitimate inquiries, albeit highly-charged political ones? The hypocrisy lies in two areas - both proven. One was by the Robert Mueller 'Russian collusion investigation' and then the John Durham investigation which pointed the finger back at the Democrats for fabricating *evidence*. The second hypocrisy involves Congressional Democrats like Adam Schiff who never acknowledged culpability and wrongdoing by promoting the false collusion narratives.

Without hypocrisy, Democrats could not sell themselves or their policies.

Everything in politics has a shelf life, even hypocrisy. But you wouldn't know that by looking at the first year of Joe Biden's Presidency. Biden ran on uniting America, bringing us together. The opposite has happened because he literally ignored the will and wishes of the 74.2 million people

that voted against him. He promised to "kill the [Corona] virus," but over 400,000 people have now died from it. He convinced Americans that we were wasteful and 'ungreen' so he cut the fossil fuel industry off at the knees with the stroke of his Executive pen. Instead of continuing Trump's successful border policies he reversed them and created wholesale chaos, allowing hundreds of thousands of faux 'asylum-seekers' to illegally enter the U.S. He's emboldened his cabinet to root out 'White supremacists' in a remake of the McCarthy Communist witch-hunt of the late forties/early fifties and has created a healthcare class system that demonizes unvaccinated American citizens for exercising their rights to reject experimental vaccines.

"One man's hypocrisy is another man's truth." And without hypocrisy, Democrats could not succeed in getting support from their base or money from their donors. Their use of specious assessments of the country (and largely Conservatives) as being *racist, homophobic, misogynistic, White supremacists who are intent on subjugating America's minorities and destroying the planet's climate by gorging themselves on fossil fuels not to mention advocating for widespread voter suppression* is the height of hypocrisy because the opposite is true. Maybe it's unfair of us to label all this as hypocrisy because it actually stems from deep-seated beliefs of those on the Left. If that is indeed the case, then maybe we should just call it what it is...lies and propaganda... and deal with them that way.

Hypocrisy is not just a slightly modified form of the truth practiced by well-meaning people. Neither is it rooted in a mere exaggeration of the facts. It is a deliberate duplicitous act perpetrated by individuals and groups that are unable of using the truth to support their arguments. We cannot afford to look the other way because hypocrisy can actually change outcomes. The only way to fight it is to confront it head-on and call it what it is. THAT and the truth are a powerful combination.

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