

It's time we stopped lying to ourselves

We Americans are divided by more than unites us. There, I've said it in print and it looks doomsday-like when you read it, but in my humble opinion, there is more that divides us as a nation than holds us together these days. It pains me deeply to say those words. It used to be that the vast majority of American citizens were card-carrying Constitutionalists, ready to sacrifice everything for our freedoms and beliefs, and indeed upwards of a million of our relatives did so in America's many wars.

Today, the Constitution is viewed as just a collection of antiquated 'suggestions' as to how we might govern ourselves. Heretofore unassailable Amendments are regularly trashed, and those that the Left doesn't like are put on the chopping block for 'redefinition' or downright opposition. They use the phrase 'a work in progress' to describe it and our Bill of Rights as if these were fungible laws that could be bent or even broken with the 'right' argument or justification. They are likened to the words in the preamble: "the pursuit of happiness" and are not to be taken literally. After all, no one can guarantee freedom or free speech or the right to bear arms...so the Left regards them as mere suggestions.

This "more that unites us" meme is just that, a meme that desperately tries to remind us that the days of yore are still the days of today - that we are one people, one nation, under God, indivisible. Nothing, I'm afraid, is sacred in our Divided States of America. Even our 'Pledge of Allegiance' which was written in 1892 has been amended twice (for the better I might add; once in 1923 when "the flag of the United States" was added and again in 1954 when "under God" was inserted), but it is under fire. The quest to eliminate those phrases has become the war cry of the Left. In some towns in our country, the pledge is criticized or even prohibited from being recited due to its supposed connection with oppression or because Liberals perceive it as being representative of the White power elite. In years to come, I fully expect a call for its elimination by Progressives who see it as being 'too patriotic.' After all, to them, patriotism is the same as fascism and 'radical' views like making America great again or putting America first are to be rejected out-of-hand as subversive.

Our institutions are continually under siege from without, but more troubling is the attack from within. Few would deny the existence of a 'deep state' in the bureaucratic civil service and foreign service after having witnessed the lengths to which the FBI has embedded personnel in the President's political campaign; lied to get admissions of guilt from officials; fabricated evidence to secure FISA warrants and then conducted a two-year investigation into 'Russian collusion' on senior members of the Trump inner circle...and of the President himself.

We have seen this 'film' before and it doesn't end well. As the Left pursues a strategy of incremental destruction of our faith and trust in government, in our leaders, in our virtues and values and in our ability to persevere through our many challenges, they fail to realize that their slope is a slippery one. Should they continue, they will take everybody down on it, themselves included.

We have lost control of our society. Free speech is criticized as being injurious to the sensibilities of our university students and is harmful to our schoolchildren so we must shield them with euphemisms. We cannot say there are only two genders or we will be fired from our jobs as one Colorado journalist experienced only last week. We are now allowing the use of 'personalized' self-selected pronouns on our radio waves as Albuquerque's National Public Radio affiliate (KUNM) did when they referred to their vacationing morning host as 'they' instead of 'he.' The tail of 'abused' demographic groups is now wagging the dog of the majority and forcing people to muzzle themselves for fear of a citation from the 'PC Police.'

We tolerate willful criminal acts like illegal immigration and squatting on public and private property by thousands of homeless people who dare the authorities to break up their camps in once-beautiful cities like San Francisco. We allow revisionist history and sex education that supports abortion to be taught in our schools to primary-schoolers.

We are slowly but surely on a path to legalize Schedule One drugs like marijuana for personal use in our states. We routinely deny those in opposition of such laws or regulations sufficient time to state their cases in city council meetings.

We attack the character of our Supreme Court nominees and ascribe ulterior motives to decent people who disagree with the prevailing wisdom of the Left. And we impeach Presidents for doing their job. It is no wonder that our elected representatives in Washington, DC are held in such low regard, for they prove it in practice with specious and fallacious arguments that are nothing but unabashed power grabs.

We are told to pass bills before we can read them by professional politicians whose political agenda is more important than protecting their citizens. We stand idly by while medical care is denied fetuses surviving a third trimester birth. We do not take effective measures against the brutal murders in our major cities like Chicago, New Orleans and others for fear of being seen as 'overreacting.'

Instead, we ban soda straws and plastic bags and pat ourselves on the back for 'protecting the environment.' We are blinded to the reality that people, not guns, kill people. We twist the statistics on the issue of gun control to suit our own positions and refuse to acknowledge that over two-thirds of all gun deaths each year are suicides...yet we are willing to ban the possession of firearms of sane and law-abiding citizens. Our hypocrisy knows no bounds. We put people in jail for lying to the FBI while letting those in the FBI who've lied to us get off scot-free. We criticize the very economic system that has raised millions in America and hundreds more millions around the world out of poverty, and instead idealize the one system responsible for creating poverty, the destruction of hope and even death. We relish pandering or any rhetoric that supports our own narrow views and reject those speaking plainly and directly to us.

Over 600,000 people died in our Civil War in four short years while 623,471 pregnancies were terminated in the U.S. in 2016. We wring our hands about the death of a terrorist killed by a drone but don't bat an eye when partial birth abortions take place. We have an urban-rural divide, a Red-Blue political divide, a Black-White racial divide, a rich-poor economic divide, an old-young generation divide, a male-female gender divide, etc. Taken together, these are pushing Americans apart and creating the conditions for a new civil war where violence could effectively destroy our Republic. The fault lines are already appearing with the migration of Right-thinking or Left-thinking people to specific states where 'their' views are represented in law. Soon, the populations of the Liberal 'Blue Vise' of the East and West Coasts will begin to squeeze America's middle until it bursts.

The 2020 Presidential Election will take place in fewer than 285 days and it will be a test of whether the only remaining thing that holds Americans together - the economy - is powerful enough to keep the U.S. from coming apart at the seams.

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