

One man's common sense is another man's non-sense

Time was that 'common sense' was something universal and widely accepted in our country. It was one of the principal factors we used to justify and make our decisions and was generally regarded as unassailable because it was rooted in our values and time-tested. Turns out that with the generational change we've been experiencing, common sense is one of the things that younger people are leaving behind for us 'old folks' to keep us warm as we sit by the fire and stoke our memories of a rapidly disappearing society.

Put simply, our common sense was the product of years of trial and error, lots of mistakes and many successes that all added up to real world experience. THEIRS is theoretical and all bound up in a new, old ideology...Socialism or its cousin, Progressivism.

Relying on our common sense and our founding principles to organize our lives and chart our political direction as a country is what has kept our Republic strong and together all these generations. Many younger voters seem to disagree and see the very construct of our economy and the ism that keeps it fueled as being somehow antiquated, unfair and badly in need of reform. America has flirted with Socialism and Progressivism before. Presidents like Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson and to an extent Franklin Roosevelt were its biggest proponents. Progressivism gained renewed popularity and credence during the terrible eight-year long recession of the Obama years.

For the young, who were (and still are) saddled with massive college loan debt and no prospects for employment to pay it back or to be able to enter the job market in their chosen careers, the promise of government relief was very appealing, especially if it was only the rich 1% that would foot the bill. The resurgence intensified a few years ago with the 'Occupy Wall Street' movement and spread like wildfire through college campuses and was promoted by headliner politicians like Bernie Sanders (Socialist) and Elizabeth Warren (Progressive) who are now contenders for the Democratic Party's nomination for President in 2020.

To be fair, the capitalists at the top of the economic pyramid seemed to have misplaced their own common sense when it comes to protecting their 'brand.' CEO pay has been increasing at a rapid rate and not much in the way of corporate earnings has trickled down to ordinary workers. This was inexplicable to some and unconscionable to many others, all in the midst of America's worst recession since the Great Depression! Who was advising these people, anyway? The election of Donald Trump saved capitalism from taking a lethal blow. America's youth and minorities were about to go to the streets in huge numbers had the economy not rebounded. The cries for more government intervention in a *corrupt* and *rigged* system were temporarily halted, though not stopped.

Realizing they needed to pivot, Progressive Democrats now turned their attention to their favorite pastime - promoting division through identity politics. By charging that America had become a crony capitalist system that routinely disadvantaged minorities, they were able to revive opposition to Trump and keep their troops' anger at a fever pitch. This was common sense, Democrat style. After all, it had worked against Romney's campaign when they convinced the electorate that Romney was a 'Wall Street Raider' that looked down on women and minorities as second-class citizens. Remember the 'binders full of women' red herring? Given these changes and the acrimonious nature of American politics AND the relatively successful push by the Progressive Democrats to demonize job creators and those that support them, Republicans would be wise not to play the 'common sense card' anytime soon.

To quote my southern friends, "That dog won't hunt." The only thing it would do is to widen the gap between young voters and older voters and split the vote between Republicans and Democrats even more.

If we truly want to convince Millennials, Gen X and Y voters and minorities of the value of capitalism and get them to sign on to the Trump economic agenda, we'll need to make our case for it by using actual success stories that resonate with them. Anybody remember a 34 year-old entrepreneur by the name of Mark Zuckerberg or Elon Musk or Steve Jobs? They are individuals the young could identify with.

Forget common sense. It's all relative and generationally dependent.

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