

Some wars unite and some divide

America is at war...with itself and among its people. The parties haven't as yet made any formal declarations. They haven't slapped each other with a glove across the cheek and challenged each other to a duel, but the fact is that we've been steadily approaching that point over the past 20 years, ever since the election of George W. Bush.

Yes, we've had severe internal conflicts before that have looked like a war, primarily in the late sixties and early seventies, but we managed to pull back from the brink of total unrest just in time. We've had our share of 'real' wars (some declared, some not) that have tested our resolve and our unity, starting with WWI, moving to WWII, then Korea, followed by Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Both World Wars and Korea saw us come together. Why? Because we felt that freedom and our place in the world were under threat.

Vietnam, Iraq and to a degree, Afghanistan, drove a wedge between us as we sent two and some cases three generations of young men overseas to fight and die - not for us - but for people of other countries whose cultures, languages and politics were far different from our own...and sometimes antithetical to our own. Though there was no perceived *world threat* in our staying neutral from those fights, we were convinced that the containment of tyranny and safeguarding democracy was worth preserving. Unfortunately, that argument started to break down as more and more soldiers died and as questions about our self-appointed role in the world as a missionary for freedom were asked - but not completely answered - by our leaders.

Doubts clouded our commitment to continue to be a global force for the eradication of despots and despotic regimes. Many of our own young people who never knew hunger or poverty or authoritarian rule couldn't buy in to the American decision to stop Communism before it metastasized. Fueled by a cadre of ideologically-motivated teachers, professors and Left-wing groups, our youth rebelled (and are still rebelling). Some opted completely out of the political process while others signed on as foot soldiers in radical organizations in the hopes of pushing back against what they saw as *White elitest privilege* and *American imperialism* along with decades of perceived wasted energy by the Right to desperately hang on to 'antiquated' beliefs in a philosophy gone wrong.

They wanted America to be global, but to reject any notion of global moral responsibility. If a country chose to 'go Commie' or autocratic that was their decision. Cuban-style, Venezuelan-style and China-style politics were acceptable because, as our young believed, it was their countries and if they wanted to self-destruct and suppress thought, speech and public criticism of their policies, that was their business. In the old days, we would have termed those ideas as 'isolationist.' But whatever we might call them today, they are still with us with one big exception...they have now turned inward and are being used as a blunt instrument to oppose the free exercise of speech and expression here at home.

America has had its share of domestic wars before like: the war on drugs, the war on poverty, the war on crime and most recently, the war on terror, each emanating from different Administrations and in different decades. Now we are facing the most potentially destructive domestic war we have ever fought. It is the war over the First Amendment. This is not a war that is being waged from without; it is a civil war being conducted by one group of citizens against another, using 'selective censorship' for the purpose of eliminating dissent and disagreement by those of us on the Right. This new war is all about forcing everybody to speak with one voice (for the sake of unity) and live according to prescribed ways of conduct (established by the morally-superior ideologue elites of the Left to create harmony and facilitate easier top-down control by government). It is being waged by a huge and powerful multi-disciplinary force. This force is an unholy alliance of power-hungry politicians, big tech companies, deep-pocketed billionaire donors, the Deep State, the entertainment industry, corporate America, special interest groups, NGOs, state governors, city mayors, city councils, school boards, teachers' unions, academia and ordinary members of the Democrat Party.

To many that will sound like I'm saying CONSPIRACY.

Not necessarily true. While we can probably point to some peripheral or loose connections among all these people, I do not believe that they are all working together as one organized cohesive unit that is colluding to take down the Right. They have, however, become emboldened by the successes of individual groups and have seized on those successes to either emulate them or strengthen their own plans to silence the opposition. It is getting harder and harder NOT to believe that a cabal exists, however, in light of the recent election that was riddled with 'irregularities' and downright end-runs of certain Constitutional requirements (the rogue changing of election laws by individual states to name just one).

Couple that with the most recent blatant actions by big tech oligarchs to destroy a free-speech social media platform, Parler, by removing them from Amazon's servers; the cancelation of their downloadable application from Apple and Google Play Store and the elimination of the accounts of President Trump and many prominent Trump advisors/supporters' from Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms and you have visible proof that war has been declared by the social media industry at least.

We are entering one of the most dangerous periods in our country's history. The Left is unabashedly unafraid to show its hatred for not only Donald Trump (as a second attempt to impeach the President shows) and Republicans/Conservatives but also for anyone who dares to criticize their Progressive orthodoxy. Make no mistake. This will be a fight to the finish and will probably end up destroying what little chance may have existed for Joe Biden's brand of hypocritical togetherness. The battle is upon us and the odds of winning the fight for free speech are still being calculated. If we are to survive as a beacon of freedom for the rest of the world - and a spotlight shining on those freedoms here at home - then the attacks against those freedoms must be repelled by peaceful but unrelenting means. That said, this is a war like our Civil War that could end up destroying both sides. While it may not be fought on physical battlefields with the traditional weapons of war, it is very much a war to be reckoned with, an ideological conflict of far-reaching proportions and consequences AND we have all seen how ideology can be a poison pill to democracy. It is too late to find a vaccine to protect us against this war. The power brokers on the Left have seen to its inevitability. It is upon us. God save our precious republic.

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