

Taking refuge in subterfuge

I know I will be roundly criticized for saying this, but it's high time that we who live on the Right side of the political line of demarcation realize - and admit to ourselves - that it's useless to keep talking with Liberals.

Oh my God, he actually *said* IT, the forbidden sentence! Is he advocating retreat or surrender or is it an attack disguised as surrender? What are those crazed Conservatives up to? Well, I'll tell you. It's a reality check masquerading as a reality check. Republicans have finally had enough of being led around the center ring of the big top by the nose, slipping in the sawdust of circular arguments that the Democrats have been using against us. We're done with being taken advantage of and having our good nature and sense of fair play used against us.

Truth is, we're bone tired of the Left's manipulation. We're through trying to engage in facts-based arguments while the Progressives make everything personal and go for our jugular over and over again. It's taken us a long time to be so fed up that we are willing to reject the angels of our better nature and just admit that we've been played for suckers...but we have, and we only have ourselves to blame. We should have realized long ago that we would gain no purchase by reasoning with the opposition. Reason is not a modern weapon of war. It is something academics and think-tankers and 'reasonable people' use to win debates. But we're long past the debating stage. We've entered a hot LZ where the opposition is playing for keeps and are taking no prisoners, so why should we Conservatives be any different?

My friends will say, "Because we're Republicans and we take the high road, that's why." To that I say, "Then you have already surrendered; you just don't know it." I am basing my suggestion to change tactics on the last four years of observing the Democrats' paranoia and numerous attempts to destroy Donald Trump and everyone that voted for him. These repeated attacks served their purpose well and the attempts to destroy and demonize us was something to behold if for no other reason than the Dems' superb coordination and their unwavering dedication to a singular objective - that of removing any obstacle to the implementation of their radical Progressive agenda. If we learned anything from those tumultuous years it is that the Left is deadly serious about dramatically transforming America into a cheap *imitation* of America - a cultural hologram that looks like the real thing but is vastly different.

Goodness knows we have tried to engage Liberals on a broad range of topics from abortion to open borders to the rule of law, Critical Race Theory, gender equality, 'social justice', the decriminalization of criminals, defunding the police and America's role on the international stage not to mention 'climate change', the Coronavirus and vaccine mandates and everything in between. Our principal weapons of choice were the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, common sense, tradition and historical American values. The Left would have none of it. Instead, they chose to attack every position, every facts-based argument as something inherently racial that embodied 'White-supremacism' perpetrated by the ruling status quo that has oppressed America's minorities, especially America's Blacks for generations.

Every time we pushed back at the unrelenting onslaughts of personal animus-based criticism we were accused of not caring about 'collective America' and were deemed traitors to the 'greater good.' The most glaring example of that is the current Administration's push to get every American vaccinated against the Coronavirus with no consideration of remedies to treat the virus or to give exemptions to those who've either already contracted it (and gotten over it) or the millions whose immune systems are strong enough to repel it.

We've about talked ourselves to death on this issue, and no more public service announcements with Hollywood celebrities touting the benefits of Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson and Johnson's vaccines are going to change anybody's minds on my side of the political aisle because those PSAs are pure pandering to our emotions and not our brains.

Again, a typical Liberal approach - tug at the heartstrings not the grey matter - to push your agenda AND create a few villains along the way for good measure. Well, friends, we've seen through the veil of the Left's subterfuge and we're not impressed. Neither are we interested in wasting our time debating them. We're only interested in defeating the ideologies that propagate mistrust and that divide rather than unite us. We're interested in celebrating our victories and the heroes of the Republic. We're all about patriotism and rejecting the false prophets of socialism. And we're fed up with those who are intent on talking us into submitting to their radical agenda. Instead, we will use our time more productively. We will support candidates that espouse our beliefs and work hard to oppose those who don't. We won't mince words and will not be goaded into playing 'Mister nice guy.' We will not fritter away our time wringing our hands or cowering in some neutral corner or 'safe space' out of fear of confrontation. We will take you on, Democrats, Progressives, Liberals, and we will beat you at your own game.

We may fail at first because we're not accustomed to using subterfuge as a tool to win, but we will learn from each failed attempt and we will conquer our hesitancy to *get down and dirty* and our fear of street-fighting. November of 2022 is just around the corner. Watch for us where you live.

Stephan Helgesen is a retired career U.S. diplomat who lived and worked in 30 countries for 25 years during the Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush Administrations. He is the author of eleven books, four of which are on American politics. He operates a political news story aggregator website, www.projectpushback.com and can be reached at: stephan@stephanhelgesen.com