

## Forces and farces of America

If we've learned one thing about the first six months of the Biden Administration it is that America is now firmly controlled by an unholy alliance (I stop short of calling it a cabal) of forces that are dedicated to the dismantling of our Constitutional republic and all the traditions that many of us have come to revere as being uniquely American. Granted that's a big, bold general statement, but I believe it to be true. We needn't look too far for the proof. Here are a few examples of what I mean. (They are not listed in the order of importance.)

One of the first forces we're up against is populated by the academic establishment. For years we've stood idly by while radical teachers' unions have conspired with deep-pocketed ideological donors and like-minded politicians to infuse our students' curriculum with popular 'wokeism' that has at its core a deep-seated guilt of - if not hatred for - America. By allowing Critical Race Theory (CRT) and other perverse belief systems to become an integral part of our children's learning, we are following the example of China's Maoist brainwashing, seasoned with a 'snitch mentality' reminiscent of the former East Germany.

Indoctrination, itself, is nothing new. We've always had educators who have attempted to mold young minds into their own personal view of what an 'ideal citizen' should look like and think like, but the difference today with, say, the sixties' experience, is the frightening speed and success that schools are embracing radical anti-American concepts into their syllabuses. Fortunately, many parents are pushing back against school boards and school administrators that are attempting to make these changes part of their teaching models. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration is doing nothing to call out such radicalization attempts to indoctrinate America's young people. Instead, the Administration is encouraging all of its Cabinet Secretaries and our military leaders to push for more 'equity' and 'diversity' training and hiring to redress what they believe is the "systemic racism" that has permeated all aspects of American society. What is even more shocking is that the Administration is not even bothering to try to hide its efforts to upend the status quo and is busy writing regulations for incorporating such 'wokeism' into laws that govern everything the Federal government and the military does!

Another dangerous force is comprised of those who would abuse our First Amendment rights. What we're experiencing in real time is a true 'public-private partnership' from an alliance of government, the traditional media and social media who are colluding to control the narrative about the Covid-19 virus and to keep Trump supporters or those who wish to exercise their own judgment about vaccines from doing so. The demonization of vaccine naysayers is an insidious and reprehensible abuse of power by the Left and will undoubtedly continue up to Election Day 2022...or beyond.

The Administration is currently conscripting the Democrat-dominated Congress and Speaker Nancy Pelosi to carry its anti-Trump water by supporting a one-sided *January 6th Insurrection hearing* that will be purely political in nature, all with a view to deal a final blow to Republicans' chances to win seats in the upcoming mid-term election AND to seal Donald Trump's fate as America's political *persona non grata* in the eyes of the electorate. The hearing will have all the hallmarks of yet another Democrat farce like the 'Russia collusion' hearing that ended with a whimper instead of a bang. That it ended that way is immaterial as the Left cares little for the facts or the outcomes. It is only concerned with maintaining power, perpetuating false narratives and assassinating the character of its opponents. The farcical nature of such hearings is, sadly, more a tragedy than a comedy as they tend to rob all of us of the truth, waste our valuable resources and poison the well of comity.

The third force we must acknowledge are those proponents of socialism. Real gains have been made in gentrifying socialism as a cure for what ails America among a large number of our fellow citizens who have become convinced that the evils of the American way of life are rooted in our most basic individual freedoms and our right to exercise them.

This is particularly scary because such collectivist thinking can be applied to almost every area of our civil society starting with our states' rights and includes our freedom of assembly, of speech, of our right to private property and our protection from big government overreach. I believe the Biden Administration and powerful forces on the Left are intent on transforming our capitalist economy into a national quasi-welfare state with guaranteed incomes and guaranteed government outcomes. The price they will demand for such a wholesale *conversion* will be a high one - the loss of some of our individual freedoms. Judging by the slow pace of many to head back to work in favor of staying unemployed and cashing their stimulus checks, the government may indeed be winning the first stages of the socialist transformation.

Another force to be reckoned with is comprised of various groups that are fighting attempts to legislate procedures to insure free and fair elections. Some like Stacey Abrams' *Fair Fight* voting rights organization in Georgia and others around the country like the *Texas for All* Progressive coalition of 35 groups in Texas are united in their opposition to more transparency in the election process. They are vehemently opposed to voter ID, for example, and are characterizing (predictably) such efforts to make voter identification a requirement to vote as 'racism.'

That brings us, inevitably, to the forces behind the pervasive *racist* mantra being chanted by Marxist groups like Black Lives Matter, race profiteers like the Reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, Black organizations whose livelihoods depend on perpetuating the fires of racism in America and by a wide range of African-American politicians and academics who all stand to benefit from keeping the specter of racism alive here. Akin to the 'Red under every bed' McCarthyism of postwar America, the race baiters are busy portraying every criminal code designed to protect the population as oppressive and every one (especially Caucasians) who support these codes as *enablers* of racism if not downright *oppressors*, deserving of cancelation. At some point, the forces that are encouraging outright civil disobedience, destruction of public and private property along with de-funding of police forces around the nation will see their 'chickens come home to roost' in their own communities as murder and other violent crime rates rise. One would hope that even they will see the error of their ways and soften their rhetoric. I have little faith in that happening, however, as many of those hard-core proponents are prepared to allow their own towns and cities burn rather than admit defeat.

That attitude is perhaps THE most dangerous force of all and it is one that permeates the minds of all zealots. The fanatical and uncompromising pursuit of any group's ideals is an enemy of considerable strength. We have seen examples in our own time with fascist regimes and with terrorists who are only too willing to lay down their lives in support of an idea. I'm aware that there are some who would say that that is the definition of a patriot - one who is willing to sacrifice life itself for his or her beliefs. I would agree if those beliefs were rooted in the individual's right to live a free, full and productive life. Those are not the beliefs of the Left or of those forces who would seek to divide us a people. They are, regrettably, a perversion of real patriotism and a force we must defeat.

*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](http://www.projectpushback.com) and can be reached at: [stephan@stephanhelgesen.com](mailto:stephan@stephanhelgesen.com)*