

Chaos of Empire

In my observation of the political and social climate here in the declining years of the U.S. as an entity, I have come to several conclusions. Number one, the masters of propaganda from both major political parties depend on exactly the same traits in their followers. Number two, public education has been a failure in its stated goals but a huge success in its real goals. Number three, any attempt to return the U.S. to a time of respect for individual civil liberties cannot succeed until the system collapses. Number four, the individual can only live a truly free life outside of the system. Significantly, all these points bear a close relationship to one another.

Propaganda from both sides of the welfare/warfare party.

Let me expand a bit on each point. First, the use of propaganda by both political parties amounts to an incontrovertible truth. When one party holds the presidency, any of the then current president's actions, which may offend the opposition, will provide said opposition with an excuse to bash the current president. This makes sense. However, when roles reverse, the same partisan supporters slip into such a role of denial that it boggles the mind. I follow with recent examples. During his presidential regime Bill Clinton presided over a number of military fiascos that clearly violated the constitutional limits on the executive branch. Some few people of the opposition along with many consistently anti-war folks objected. Clinton's supporters went into clear denial on that issue. Another egregious malfeasance was the conclusion of the raid on the Branch Davidian residence. While both Clinton and then AG Janet Reno claimed that they would take responsibility for that clearly abusive act of tyranny, neither did. The citizens were left with a whitewash. What got Clinton in trouble, though, was his sexual appetite and lack of tact. Now this was particularly ironic to me because clearly Clinton amounted to the epitome of what the majority of his supporters would refer to as a sexual predator. And yet, Clinton's support demonstrated a degree of denial almost impossible for me to comprehend. For what it's worth, I believe that Clinton was impeached for the wrong reasons. At the time, though, the so-called "conservatives" had a field day with Clinton. Now, let's fast-forward to our present "commander in chief". George Bush (II) has pretty much taken up where Clinton, et. al. left off in breeching the constitution. From the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to the so-called USA PATRIOT Act to the Total Information Awareness agency, the U.S. under Bush (II) resembles nothing so much as Oceana from Orwell's 1984...right down to the two-minute hate and Big Brother. But, the Clinton supporters hate Bush for taking Clinton's lead and running with it and the people who bashed Clinton for his actions applaud the same actions in Bush. So, what, you may ask, is my point? All that it takes for tyranny to succeed is for a programmed population to want to believe in its so-called leaders despite the fact that those so-called leaders have nothing but raw power as their goals. This struck home to me when I talked to some truly irrational Bush and Clinton supporters and ended up seeing almost a total similarity in them. For propaganda to succeed, the targets of it have to want for it to succeed.....leading to....

The myth of public education...

Point number two, concerning the concept of public education. From what I've read, the original push for public education in the U.S. came from the owners of factories during the industrial revolution. Seems those captains of industry wanted a trained work-force that would not ask too many hard questions. The fact is that the American system of public education originated from using the Prussian model in the 1850s as a guide. Massachusetts was the first state to enact compulsory education in 1850. At that time the literacy rate in Massachusetts was 98%. Today it is 91%. The Prussian model of education featured complete submission to authority. As Franz de Hovre wrote in 1917:

The prime fundamental of German education is that it is based on a national principle.... A fundamental feature of German education: education to the State, education for the State, education by the State. The Volksschule is a direct result of a national principle aimed at national unity. The State is the supreme end in view.

The result from the beginning to the present has led to an increasing level of mediocrity. The turning point, in my view, came in this country with the continuing trend of passing more control of public education to federal level agencies, specifically the Department of Education (even the name has a Soviet ring to it). Even in my day, when basics really were taught to the willing, the real effectiveness of education depended on how the individual progressed and that was in turn largely effected by how the individual's parents encouraged learning. Now, with a host of cultural ills enabled by government intervention into all aspects of individuals' lives (and the subject of another rant later on), the products of public education often emerge from the other end of the process functionally illiterate by objective standards. However, in participating in the dumbing down of the population, government gores its own ox from a long-term perspective. As the newer, more illiterate generations of proles enter the job market, the U.S. business environment finds itself at a disadvantage in the real, competitive world. The real goal of public education proposes to create a population that will dedicate their own lives, liberties and welfare to the will of the state. Unfortunately, that makes such a population lower on the food chain and leads to cultural decay and eventual impoverishment.

Why the system must die before freedom can return

This leads to my third point. In no way can this system ever undergo any meaningful reform. Until the total collapse of the U.S. federal government, individual liberty will diminish to the point where the citizens have no more protection of rights than the people in Russia did prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The growth of the state in every instance throughout human history has exhibited a one-way step function. The state NEVER shrinks. And to quote a maxim posted by John Stovall, "The end state of every government is tyranny!". I was once active in the Libertarian Party. I now have come to the position that the LP faces a basic paradox. Its very existence and assertion that it can work within the system represent broken assumptions. By making the assumption that government possesses a valid power to impose taxes on any individual

or group of individuals, the LP breaks the non-aggression principle. Politics, by its very nature, implements its goals through use of force, coercion and quite often, outright fraud. Note, following the collapse of the U.S. federal government, the chaos that follows may not be conducive to individual freedom either. One possible outcome is that new social structures will accrete based on more local or regional issues and values. Whether such results will be beneficial to individual liberties remains to be seen. But in the final analysis, one thing becomes clear, the current incarnation of federal power will have to cease to exist if any hope of the return of civil liberties is to follow.

Can liberty rise again?

Finally, and sadly to me, I have concluded that an individual cannot live a free lifestyle engaged in the cultural morass I find currently extant in the U.S. By this, I mean that an individual who wishes to live free and allow the same of others cannot survive under the current system. Far be it from me to even suggest what others should do, but my conclusion is that the best I can do is to gather a community, either close physically or philosophically and engage each other with love and mutual respect. Allowing the acts of political power-seekers to kill the individual's spirit through stress over unchangeable reality allows evil to win finally and irrevocably. On the positive side, I do think that it's probable that small communities of like-minded people will survive and engender a new era of liberty as the phoenix rises from the ashes of the tyranny that the U.S.A. has become.

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