

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE[®]

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CAN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE SURVIVE OUR CULTURAL POLITICS?

IN THE QUESTION ABOVE THAT POSES TWO DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE MEANING OF POLITICS/POLITICAL IS CLEAR AND SHARED. NOT SO, HOWEVER, FOR CULTURE/CULTURAL WHICH CARRY DIFFERENTIATING NUANCES AND SHADES OF MEANING. CULTURE IS A WORD THAT CAN BE PUT TO MULTIPLE USES AND CAN EASILY SHIFT FROM ONE TO ANOTHER WITHOUT WARNING. IN THINKING ABOUT CULTURE IT IS HELPFUL TO KEEP THIS IN MIND AND TO CHECK OUR FOCUS FROM TIME TO TIME BEFORE WE FIND THAT WE HAVE TAKEN THE WRONG PATH.

FOR OUR PURPOSE CULTURE IS THE COMBINATION OF OUR INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITIES THAT ARE REFLECTED FROM OUR SOCIETY. INCLUDED IN THESE IDENTITIES ARE ELEMENTS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT, HISTORY, RELIGION, ETHNICITY, GENETICS, VALUES, TRADITIONS, EDUCATION, ETHICS, THE LAW, LANGUAGE, ART, GEOGRAPHY AND OTHERS. ALL ARE NOT NECESSARILY PRESENT AT THE SAME TIME, BUT, EVEN WHEN ABSENT, ARE READY AND ABLE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE WHEN CALLED.

IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA, WITH MONEY AND POWER HAVING VACATED THE CENTER AND MOVED TO THE MORE EXTREME ENDS (AND MEANS), OUR HISTORICAL POLITICAL CULTURE FINDS ITSELF UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK BY CULTURAL ELEMENTS MANY OF WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH AND SEEK TO DESTROY OR REPLACE OUR NATIONAL HISTORICAL PERSONA.

THIS IS A TRAGEDY OF MULTIPLE PARTS. CULTURES ARE NOT LIKE WEEDS THAT QUICKLY REAPPEAR IF YOU CUT THEM DOWN. THEY ARE FRAGILE AND NEED TO BE NURTURED. IF

ATTACKED AND SUPPRESSED, THEY OFTEN LACK THE INTERNAL STRENGTH OR DIRECTION NECESSARY FOR THEIR REVIVAL. THE GREAT MUSEUMS OF THE WORLD PROVIDE RECORDS OF ONCE POWERFUL AND VIBRANT CULTURES WHICH HAVE COME AND GONE AND WILL NOT COME AGAIN.

IN ADDITION TO THESE MANY VARIABLES, CULTURES REQUIRE HUMAN PROCREATION TO DEVELOP AND EVOLVE, THERE BEING NO SUCH THING AS A ONE-GENERATION CULTURE. AND CULTURES ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY OTHER HUMAN IMPACTS SUCH AS WAR, DISEASE, ABSORPTION AND FOLLY.

THIS BROAD OVERVIEW OF CULTURE IS FORMED BY THE MANY WAYS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF POPULATIONS CHOOSE TO USE THEIR MINDS AND LIVE THEIR LIVES. THESE INDIVIDUAL CHOICES GATHER AND COMBINE AROUND COMMON INTERESTS AND FORM CULTURAL GROUPS WHICH ARE MORE SPECIFIC AND LIMITED THAN THE PRIMARY CULTURE.

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A POLITICAL CULTURE IS A VERY SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION, AND OUR COUNTRY HAS A POLITICAL CULTURE MORE SPECIFIC THAN MOST OTHERS.

THIS IS BECAUSE WE STARTED WITH A NEW CONTINENT AND A CLEAN SLATE THAT ENABLED US THE FREEDOM TO FORM AND PURSUE A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF OUR OWN DESIGN.

IT WAS THIS ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT,

IN THIS ISSUE WE TRACE THE ORIGINS OF THE PRESENCE OF MARXIST SOCIALISM IN AMERICA AND THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS ADAPTED TO OUR POLITICAL PROCESS. WE INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF BOTH MULTICULTURALISM AND POLITICAL CORRECTNESS.

OUR NEXT ISSUE ISSUE REVISITS THE SOURCE AND EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE IN OUR COUNTRY AND WHY WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGAIN OUR IDENTITY AND RESPECT UNTIL OUR INSTITUTIONS CAN ONCE AGAIN OFFER THE PROTECTION FOR WHICH THEY WERE FOUNDED.

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CHALLENGED, EMPOWERED AND PERSUADED THE FORMATION AND EARLY GROWTH OF OUR REPUBLIC.

WE, OF COURSE, HAD CULTURAL TIES OF DESCENT TO ENGLAND FROM WHOM WE ACHIEVED A COMPLETE POLITICAL SEPARATION, BUT WE WERE NEVER SUBJECTED TO OCCUPATIONS BY OTHER CULTURES, WHOSE POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL INTRUSIONS MARKED EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS.

OUR NEW CONTINENT HARBORED BOTH FRENCH AND SPANISH SETTLEMENTS THAT REMAINED FROM THEIR SEVENTEENTH CENTURY EXPLORATIONS, BUT OUR WESTERN MIGRATION SERVED AS AN EFFECTIVE EVICTION NOTICE, AND BY A COMBINATION OF TREATY AND MILITARY FORCE THEY WERE REMOVED IN THE EARLY 1800S.

WHAT IS ABSOLUTELY KEY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PRESENT POLITICAL/CULTURAL QUANDARY IS THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR HISTORICAL POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE FOUNDING OF OUR REPUBLIC WERE ACTS OF EXTREMELY CONSCIOUS AND DETERMINED INTENT.

IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WE SERVED NOTICE OF OUR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, AND THIRTEEN YEARS LATER WITH OUR CONSTITUTION WE ESTABLISHED THE LEGAL STRUCTURE THAT WOULD SUPPORT THE D OF I AND COMBINE WITH IT TO FORM OUR GOVERNMENT. WE BORROWED MANY ASPECTS OF OUR NEW GOVERNMENT FROM THE CENTURIES OF ENGLISH LAW AND THOUGHT THAT HAD EVOLVED SINCE THE MEMORABLE MOMENT OF MAGNA CARTA WHEN KING JOHN WAS INFORMED OF THE LIMITS OF ROYAL POWER.

MOST MATTERS CULTURAL ARE NOT THE PRODUCT OF INTENT, BUT POLITICS (AND ESPECIALLY OURS) ARE DIFFERENT. FROM OUR EARLIEST EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT, THROUGH WAR AND PEACE, PROSPERITY AND DEPRESSION AND EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY, EVEN WHEN TESTED BY SECESSION AND CIVIL WAR, REAFFIRMED OUR POLITICAL CULTURE BY OUR LEGISLATIVE AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES. AND, ALTHOUGH THESE ARE FAR FROM PERFECT AND SUBJECT TO THE USUAL POLITICAL WEAKNESSES, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE, OVER TIME, TO MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR OUR POLITICAL IDENTITY AND CULTURE.

TIME IS THE ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT FOR CULTURE AND THE PHRASE "OVER TIME" IS IMPORTANT, AS TIME PROVIDED US WITH THE CONTINUITY THAT WAS HARD TO COME BY UNDER THE EUROPEAN MONARCHICAL SYSTEM

WHEREIN THE MOVEMENT OF ITS COMPETING PARTS WAS DETERMINED BY BOTH MARITAL AND MARTIAL CONSIDERATIONS. IT IS AN INTERESTING POLITICAL CULTURAL NOTE THAT THESE MONARCHIES WHICH HAD RULED EUROPE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS MARCHED WILLINGLY INTO THE ORCHESTRATED CHAOS OF WWI WHICH DID AWAY WITH BOTH THEIR POWER AND WAY OF LIFE.

OUR COUNTRY, EVEN GIVEN OUR INTENT TO MAINTAIN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE, HAS BEEN VERY FORTUNATE IN ITS SUCCESS. MOST OFTEN THE THREATS THAT WE HAVE FACED HAVE BEEN EXTERNAL, AND WE HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY OUR PHYSICAL ISOLATION FROM OTHER POWERFUL NATIONS. THE TWO LAND BORDERS WE SHARE WITH MEXICO AND CANADA HAVE NOT BEEN SOURCES OF SERIOUS MILITARY DANGER.

BEING CONTAINED IN OUR TRANSCONTINENTAL LANDMASS AND ENGAGED IN THE COMMON EFFORT OF SETTLING IT HAS PROVIDED US WITH A FORM OF UNITY THAT HAS LEFT A SPECIAL MARK UPON OUR POLITICAL CULTURE. THIS HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING OUR NATIONAL VALUES, VISION AND IDENTITY. AND IT IS WHEN THESE ARE ATTACKED, AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE PRESENT ARGUMENT OVER OUR USE OF TORTURE, THAT WE ARE MOST VULNERABLE.

THINK BACK, HOW OFTEN IN VOICE OR VERSE WE HAVE INVOKED OUR FOUNDERS; WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN, JEFFERSON, ADAMS, AND LATER JACKSON, LINCOLN, WILSON AND THE TWO ROOSEVELTS. WE HAVE INVESTED MUCH OF OURSELVES IN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE ROLE IT HAS PLAYED IN FORMING AND FRAMING OUR NATION. RIGHT OR WRONG, REGARDLESS OF ISSUES, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, IT HAS EXERTED A UNIFYING FORCE.

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OUR PRESENT EXPERIENCE OF CULTURAL POLITICS HAS A COMPLETELY OPPOSITE EFFECT, AS IT IS BASED ON IDENTIFYING AND DIVIDING THE COUNTRY INTO AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF DISTINCT GROUPS, OR INTERESTS, WHICH ARE ASSIGNED VARIOUS "RIGHTS".

SOMETIMES THESE "RIGHTS" ARE SEEN AS DERIVING FROM OUR CONSTITUTION OR OUR LEGISLATIVE OR JUDICIAL RECORD. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THEY ARE DEEMED TO BE "HUMAN RIGHTS" AND TO CLAIM AUTHORITY FAR BEYOND OR ABOVE NATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

ONE CAN FAIRLY MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT BY PRACTICE OR BY TREATY (I.E., THE UN CHARTER) WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR VIEW OF WHAT

IS FAIR, REASONABLE OR DESIRABLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT'S RELATION TO ITS, OR OTHER, PEOPLE. SUCH AN ARGUMENT IS A DELICATE AND DIFFICULT ONE, AND NOT USUALLY SETTLED QUICKLY BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH PROBABILITY OF CONFRONTATION WITH OUR POLITICAL CULTURE.

BUT EVEN MORE THORNY THAN THE ARGUMENT OVER "RIGHTS" ITSELF IS THE DETERMINATION OF BY WHOM AND HOW THESE NEWLY CONCEIVED "RIGHTS" WILL BE ASSIGNED. OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IS THE CONSTITUTION, AND WE HAVE AMENDED IT SPARINGLY OVER OUR HISTORY TO MODIFY THE CONTRACT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND ITS CITIZENS. AND AT THE NEXT LEVEL WE HAVE USED THE LEGISLATIVE POWER OF THE CONGRESS TO PASS LAWS OR ENTER INTO TREATIES WHICH CAN BE DONE OR UNDONE FAR MORE QUICKLY AND EASILY THAN AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

TODAY, AMERICA FINDS ITSELF HOST TO A WIDE ARRAY OF ORGANIZATIONS, SOMETIMES EVEN FUNDED BY OUR OWN OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEDICATED TO DECLARING, ESTABLISHING AND PROMOTING SPECIAL "RIGHTS" FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS, EVEN THOUGH SUCH "RIGHTS" MAY RUN COUNTER TO OUR CUSTOM AND LAW.

THIS IS NEITHER A PRETTY PICTURE NOR A PROUD MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY, CULTURAL OR OTHERWISE, BUT BIG MONEY IS INVOLVED, AND, WHEN BIG MONEY STANDS UP, OUR CONGRESS GENERALLY STANDS DOWN.

FAR FROM THE UNIFYING EFFECT OF OUR POLITICAL CULTURE, OUR CULTURAL POLITICS OFTEN APPEAL TO THE DIVISIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN OUR SOCIETY, AS CREATING SPECIAL INTERESTS ON BEHALF OF "RIGHTS" (OR WRONGS) FAVORS ONE GROUP AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. IT CHOPS THE COUNTRY UP INTO SMALLER PIECES EACH WITH ITS OWN GOALS, VALUES AND PRIORITIES. CARRIED TO ITS EXTREME, WE WOULD BECOME A MASS OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION SQUABBLING "INTERESTS" AND CEASE TO BE A NATION. WE WOULD OFFER LIVING PROOF OF THE SUM OF THE PARTS BEING GREATER THAN THE WHOLE.

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THE ROAD FROM FRANKFURT

HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT THIS IMPASSE IN OUR SOCIETY WHERE ONE ELEMENT ATTACKS AND DENIES ANOTHER? HISTORY CAN OFFER SOME CLUES AND A REASONABLE PERSPECTIVE.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE CZARIST REGIME IN RUSSIA IN 1917 AND THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE BOLSHEVIKS IMPOSED ANOTHER COMPLICATION UPON A EUROPE TOTALLY ENGAGED IN WAR. SOCIALISM, WHICH HAD BEEN CONFINED MOSTLY TO LABOR AND LECTURE HALLS AND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY FRINGE PRESS, OVERTHREW THE THRONE AND ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST TROUBLED MONARCHY. WITH PEACE IN 1918, THE BOLSHEVIKS BEGAN TO CARRY THEIR ARGUMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM INTO A WEAKENED EUROPE, BELIEVING THAT THE TRIUMPHANT SOCIALISM OF THE RUSSIAN WORKERS' REVOLUTION WOULD EASILY CONVERT THE PHYSICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY EXHAUSTED EUROPEAN STATES.

IN 1922 LENIN, WHO WAS AT THE PEAK OF HIS POWER, AND PERHAPS ALSO IN STALIN'S CROSS-HAIRS, BECAME FRUSTRATED BY EUROPE'S FAILURE TO IMMEDIATELY EMBRACE SOCIALISM, AND HE CALLED A MEETING OF THE COMINTERN¹ IN MOSCOW. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO DEFINE AND PROPOSE THE NEW MARXIST CULTURAL REVOLUTION WHICH WOULD SILENTLY AND SECRETLY PROJECT MARXIST THOUGHT AND POWER TO AREAS UNREACHABLE BY MILITARY CONQUEST.

TWO YEARS LATER LENIN DIED AND STALIN, IN ONE OF HIS MANY ATTEMPTS TO CONSOLIDATE POWER IN HIS OWN HANDS, DISMISSED THE LEADERS OF THIS GROUP AS A ROGUE ELEMENT GIVEN TO STRAYING FROM THE PURITY OF THE COMMUNIST DOGMA THAT HAD LAUNCHED THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION SEVEN YEARS BEFORE. SOME OF THIS GROUP WERE REMOVED FROM FURTHER INVOLVEMENT BY THE NKVD². OTHERS REMOVED THEMSELVES TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO PRACTICE SOCIALISM MINUS STALIN. ONE OF THESE WAS A WEALTHY HUNGARIAN, GEORGE LUKACS, WHO SETTLED IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY.

THERE, HE AND OTHERS FORMED A GROUP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT, KNOWN AS THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL, WHOSE STUDIES AND TEACHINGS LEANED HEAVILY ON MARXIST THEORY. WHEN HITLER TOOK CONTROL OF GERMANY'S GOVERNMENT IN 1933, HE SHUT DOWN THE FRANKFURT GROUP AND EXPELLED ITS MEMBERS MOST OF WHOM FOUND NEW HOMES AND EMPLOYMENT AT US UNIVERSITIES.

FROM THE SAFETY AND AUTHORITY OF THEIR ACADEMIC POSITIONS THEY LAUNCHED A "QUIET", CULTURAL REVOLUTION WHICH WAS ABLE TO GATHER ACADEMIC SUPPORT IN THE ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS TIMES OF THE 1930S WHEN FACULTY COMPENSATION WAS NOTORIOUSLY LOW AND UNION REPRESENTATION WEAK, IF PRESENT AT ALL.

AS MARXIST SOCIALISM SOUGHT TO DISGUISE AND CONCEAL ITSELF IN ACADEMIA, IT ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A NEW, SOFTER IMAGE AND SELL THE IDEA THAT IT WAS NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM OUR DEMOCRACY. PLAYING AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF MASS PURGES IN RUSSIA, WHICH THE AMERICAN SOCIALISTS ROUTINELY DENIED, THIS WAS NOT AN EASY SALE. NEVERTHELESS, TOO MANY AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS, SEEKING RELIEF FROM THE GD AND ITS ROOT CAUSES, WERE AT FIRST MISLED, AND THEN MISTAKEN.

FOR THEIR PURPOSE OF SPREADING MARXIST THOUGHT, WORDS BECAME THE WEAPON OF CHOICE. THEY WERE MORE AVAILABLE AND ECONOMICAL THAN MILITARY FORCES; THEY WERE MORE SUBTLE IN THEIR METHOD OF ATTACK AND WERE EVEN EXPRESSLY PERMITTED BY OUR CONSTITUTION; AND THEY ATTACKED THE MIND, LEAVING THE BODY INTACT TO PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS.

IN ITS EARLIEST DAYS THE MARXIST EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA WAS CONFINED TO THE FRINGE WITH ONLY AN OCCASIONAL BOMB EXPLOSION TO CAPTURE WIDE PUBLIC NOTICE. THOSE WHO PLANTED THE BOMBS OR MADE FIERY SPEECHES IN THE STREETS OR HIRED HALLS WERE REFERRED TO AS REDS, COMMUNISTS, ANARCHISTS, BOLSHEVIKS, ETC.

WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HOWEVER, AND AIDED BY THE PAIN OF THE GD, THE MARXIST MESSAGE WAS ABLE TO MORE QUIETLY AND QUICKLY SPREAD THROUGH OUR EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE COUNTERPOINT

TO VIOLENT ORATORY AND STREET PROTESTS. NORMAN THOMAS, A DIGNIFIED AND INTELLIGENT POLITICAL WRITER, BECAME THAT RARITY, A POLITICAL CONSTANT, BY RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT ON THE SOCIALIST PARTY TICKET OVER A TIME SPAN FROM THE 30S THRU THE 60S.

FOLLOWING THE TREMENDOUS CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH IN AMERICA IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES, THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS AND LOSS OF LIFE AS THE RESULT OF WWI, THE STOCK MARKET CRASH AND THE GD, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MARXISM FOUND FERTILE GROUND IN OUR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS. THIS GROWTH WAS SUBSTANTIALLY AIDED AFTER WWII BY THE GI BILL WHICH EXPANDED THE FACULTIES AND STUDENT BODIES OF OUR COLLEGE LEVEL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

OVER TWO GENERATIONS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE FRANKFURT GROUP'S MEMBERS IN THIS COUNTRY. SINCE THEN, OUR ACADEMIC WORLD HAS UNDERGONE TREMENDOUS CHANGE. THE PRE-WAR "IVORY TOWER" IMAGE HAS GIVEN WAY TO A HIGH DEGREE OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM. THIS IS EXPRESSED IN FACULTY WRITINGS, EMPLOYMENT, CURRICULA, STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND EVEN FUND RAISING. SOME FIND THESE CHANGES FAVORABLE, OTHERS SEE THEM AS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT, LIKE THEM OR NOT, THEY ARE TODAY'S REALITY.

MANY OF THESE CHANGES OVER THE PAST ALMOST EIGHTY YEARS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FRANKFURT GROUP AND ITS MARXIST MESSAGE, BUT THE PRESENCE OF THE LATTER CANNOT BE DENIED AND IT HAS, AT THE LEAST, TO BE VIEWED AS AN ACCELERANT. IN THE PROCESS IT HAS MOVED FROM FRINGE TO FRONT ROW CENTER.

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TODAY THE MARXIST ORIENTATION OF THE LIBERAL FAR LEFT IS AS MUCH A BARRIER TO GOOD GOVERNMENT AS IS THE CONSERVATIVE EXTREME RIGHT. WITHOUT MAKING ANY JUDGMENT OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES, THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY POSITION THEMSELVES REDUCE THE CHANCES OF FINDING COMMON, LESS IDEOLOGICAL, GROUND AND, WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT, OFFEND A BROAD SEGMENT OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THIS CONSTANT GRINDING WEARS DOWN OUR POLITICAL PROCESS AND GREATLY REDUCES OUR CHANCES OF RECOGNIZING, LET ALONE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF, THOSE RARE MOMENTS THAT OFFER US THE POSSIBILITY OF FAIRLY SERVING THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

WHAT IS THIS MARXIST PRESENCE THAT HAS GROWN AMONGST US OVER THE PAST THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY? THIS IS NOT AN EASY QUESTION AND IT EVOKES A WIDE VARIETY OF ANSWERS AND EMOTIONS. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, THREE ASPECTS OF IT WITH WHICH MOST PEOPLE MIGHT AGREE:

- 1) IT IS EXTENSIVE. IT PERVADES ALL REGIONS OF OUR COUNTRY AND LEVELS OF OUR SOCIETY, ALTHOUGH IN BOTH CASES SOME MORE THAN OTHERS. THESE DIFFERENCES ARE MOST KEENLY FELT AND DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL.

- 2) MARXIST THOUGHT, WHETHER PURE OR DILUTED, CHALLENGES, IF NOT DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS, MUCH OF OUR CONSTITUTION. THIS UNIQUE DOCUMENT IS THE RESULT OF BOTH OUR INDEPENDENCE AND HERITAGE FROM OUR ENGLISH ORIGINS. AS THOSE EXPERIENCES ARE ONES THAT MARXISM WILL NEVER KNOW, ITS ROLE IN CHALLENGING OUR CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN TO REFUTE OR STRETCH IT WHENEVER POSSIBLE. BOTH OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE MARXIST FORCES CARRY WITH THEM A SENSE OF DESTINY AND THEIR STRUGGLE HAS DISTURBED MANY OF OUR MOST SENSITIVE POLITICAL AREAS.

- 3) IT HAS ITS OWN AGENDA WITH WHICH NOT ALL SOCIALISTS AGREE BUT FROM WHICH ITS LEADERS DO NOT DEVIATE, AND THAT IS THE WINDING DOWN OF WHITE, WESTERN EUROPEAN CULTURE WHEREVER IT EXISTS. IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE THAT IS SOCIALISM'S LEADING, AND CUTTING EDGE.

SOCIALISM CAN APPEAR IN DIFFERENT FORMS WITH DIFFERENT FACES. FOR INSTANCE, IN ENGLAND IT TOOK THE IDENTITY OF FABIAN SOCIALISM WHICH FOUND SUPPORT AMONG BOTH THE UPPER AND LOWER CLASSES. IT WAS MODERATE AND INTELLECTUAL AND SHUNNED THE VIOLENCE OF LENIN'S MODEL WHICH WAS SUITABLE FOR THE RUSSIANS, GERMANS AND BALKAN POPULATIONS, BUT NOT FOR ENGLAND. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, THE GREAT IRISH DRAMATIST WHO LIVED AND WROTE IN ENGLAND FOR MOST OF HIS LONG LIFE, WAS A FABIAN, AN ELEGANT VOICE ON BEHALF OF SOCIALISM FOR MANY YEARS, AND PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE COUNTERPOINT TO LENIN'S EXTREMISM.

FROM THE LATTER'S EARLIEST ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, THE MARXIST MESSAGE WAS ONE OF OVERTHROW AND REVOLUTION. THESE WERE NEEDED TO "LIBERATE" THE PROLETARIAT FROM ITS CAPITALISTIC BONDAGE. AND GOVERNMENT WAS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENERGY OF THE MASSES WOULD BE APPROPRIATED, DIRECTED AND PUT TO SERVE THE PURPOSE AND PRIVILEGE OF THE VERY FEW WHO WIELDED POLITICAL POWER AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

UNDER SUCH A STRUCTURE IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED WOULD PLAY AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT PART IN ESTABLISHING INTERNAL DISCIPLINE AS IT WOULD IN EXTERNAL EXPANSION.

MARXIST SOCIALISM'S ARCH ENEMY WAS FASCISM AS IT APPEARED IN SPAIN, GERMANY, ITALY AND ELSEWHERE BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS. WITH FASCISM'S DEPARTURE AFTER WWII THE LINES OF CONFRONTATION WERE REDRAWN SO THAT WORLD COMMUNISM, WHICH HAD ABSORBED MOST SOCIALIST POLITICAL PARTIES, FACED THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES IN THE NEW COLD WAR STRUGGLE FOR DOMINANCE.

THIS WAR WAS FOUGHT GLOBALLY, OFTEN USING PROXY COUNTRIES AND THEIR TROOPS TO ACHIEVE LOCAL SUCCESS. LIKE OTHER WARS, IT CONTESTED MARKETS, POLITICAL REGIMES AND SOMETIMES TERRITORY, BUT AT ITS CORE WAS THE MATTER OF IDENTITY. WHOSE WOULD SURVIVE?

THE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS OF SOCIALIST THOUGHT ESTABLISHING ITSELF IN OUR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING PROVIDES A PLATFORM FROM WHICH THE SOCIALIST LEFT

CAN ATTACK OUR POLITICAL CULTURE AS EXPRESSED IN OUR CONSTITUTION, ELECTORAL PROCESS AND LEGISLATION, AS WELL AS THE MANY DIFFERING ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIAL CULTURE WHICH ARE EASILY EXPLOITED BY NON-DEMOCRATIC INTERESTS.

AGAIN, THE SOCIALIST FORCE IN AMERICA TODAY, AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND TIMES, IS ONE OF DIFFERING PARTS, AND SOMETIMES PURPOSES, BUT IT IS BY NO MEANS FREE OF ITS ORIGINS, AND THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL, AND PROBABLY DOMINANT, ELEMENT WITHIN IT THAT SEEKS TO ERADICATE OUR BORDERS, OUR PROCESSES, OUR CURRENCY'S VALUE AND OUR HISTORICAL VALUES — IN SHORT, OUR IDENTITY.

WE HAVE EARNED THIS STATUS BECAUSE WE HAVE BECOME THE STRONGEST AND MOST VISIBLE REPRESENTATION OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND, THEREFORE, WE, LIKE IT, MUST GO. IT IS A MEASURE OF MARXIST WEAKNESS THAT CO-EXISTENCE IS NOT AN OPTION. IN THIS CONCLUSION SOCIALISM REFUSES TO PART FROM ITS EARLY ORIGINS OF OVERTHROW AND REVOLUTION. ITS PRESENT IDENTITY REMAINS HOSTAGE TO ITS PAST. THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE SELF-DEFEATING OR END IN MUTUAL DESTRUCTION. WHATEVER THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME, WE MUST BE AWARE IN OUR TIME AND PLACE THAT OUR IDENTITY, AND THAT OF OUR WESTERN CULTURE, ARE UNDER ATTACK.

WHAT WE HAVE OFFERED HERE IS A BRIEF REVIEW OF A SITUATION THAT NOW FACES OUR COUNTRY AND HOW IT CAME ABOUT. WE HAVE TRIED TO AVOID STAKING OUT POLITICAL PARTY OR IDEOLOGICAL PREFERENCES, AS THEY ARE MATTERS TO BE DECIDED BY THE READER. OUR INTEREST LIES IN IMPROVING OUR COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT AND, THEREFORE, HOW THE HISTORY DESCRIBED HERE WILL IMPACT THAT PROCESS AND OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

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GETTING HERE FROM THERE

THE EARLY AMERICAN MARXISM OF THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL WAS CENTERED AROUND THE ACTIVITIES OF LEADERS SUCH AS MARCUSE, GRAMSCI, ADORNO, FOUCAULT AND FROMM. GERMAN-BORN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL WRITER HERBERT MARCUSE ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE LONGEVITY AS MARXISM'S FAVORED VOICE FROM THE 30S INTO THE 70S.

AND IF WE LOOK BACK TO THE EARLY ARGUMENTS OF THE 1930S WE FIND THAT MANY OF THEM HAVE WITHSTOOD EIGHT DECADES OF CHANGE AND ARE SURPRISINGLY CONTEMPORARY. FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER THESE: VIEWING WOMEN AS VICTIMS AND MALES AS THEIR SUPPRESSORS; CREATING RACISM AS A SPECIAL OFFENSE WITH SEPARATE LEGAL STATUS; THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNCONTROLLABLE LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION; THE DUMBING DOWN AND DESTRUCTION OF OUR TRADITIONALLY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE MEDIA; EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND BENEFITS INTO MORE NUMEROUS AND EXTENSIVE AREAS OF OUR LIVES; THE ASSAULT UPON MANY AREAS OF TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND THE FAMILY³. THE LIST GOES ON.

HAVING WITHSTOOD ALMOST A CENTURY OF MIXED

ECONOMIC DEPRESSION, WARS AND PROSPERITY, TODAY'S CONTINUED AND ACTIVE PRESENCE OF MARXIST SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PRESSURE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT WE ARE EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE, OR BOTH, TO MAKE A STAND IN DEFENSE OF OUR HISTORICAL POLITICAL CULTURE AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENTS OF OUR CURRENT CULTURAL POLITICS.

HOW DID THIS COME TO BE? WE MUST GO BACK TO THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NON-EVENT OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT — THE FAILURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROLETARIAT IN EUROPE AFTER WWI TO LAUNCH THE REVOLT THAT LENIN SOUGHT TO TRANSFER POWER FROM CAPITALIST MANAGERS TO WORKERS AND TO BRING DOWN THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

LENIN'S ERROR WAS THAT HE EXPECTED TOO MUCH. EUROPE, AFTER 1918 AND INTO THE 30S, WAS DESOLATED BY WAR, INFLUENZA, HYPER-INFLATION, POVERTY AND POLITICAL FAILURE. IT HAD SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ITS CENTURIES OLD SOCIAL ORDER, AS WELL AS SOME 60 MILLION DEATHS, CASUALTIES OR OTHER WAR RELATED LOSSES TO ITS SOCIAL/ECONOMIC STRUCTURE⁴.

HAD STALIN NOT BEEN PERCEPTIVE ENOUGH TO CHANGE COURSE, MARXIST SOCIALISM MIGHT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE, BUT THE WORSENING ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GD YEARS PLAYED TO SOCIALISM'S STRENGTH AND BOUGHT TIME FOR ITS REMAKING.

LENIN HAD BASED HIS MOVEMENT ON POLITICAL REVOLUTION, ON USING THE LABORING CLASSES, MOSTLY INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, AS ITS PRIMARY ASSAULT WEAPON. THIS BOLSHEVIK BATTERING RAM WAS ENERGIZED BY AGENTS THAT OPERATED WITHIN THE UNIONS AND WORK FORCES OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY. ITS SUCCESS WAS OFTEN UNPREDICTABLE; IT WAS UNWIELDY AND PHYSICALLY DEMANDING AND IT CALLED FORTH DETERMINED RESISTANCE AND RETRIBUTION.

THE DECIMATION OF JOBS AND WORKERS, AS THE GD TOOK HOLD AND AS PLANTS SHUT DOWN, SHRUNK ONE OF SOCIALISM'S KEY TARGETS, AND STALIN MADE A QUICK SUBSTITUTION OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION FOR ITS POLITICAL PREDECESSOR. FROM NOW ON THE KEY WEAPON OF SOCIALISM'S CHOICE WAS TO BE THE WORD AND IT WAS TO SPREAD THROUGH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, PRINT/BROADCAST MEDIA AND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.

THESE OUTLETS, WHICH HAD HISTORICALLY ACTED AS PROTECTORS OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE WERE UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE INVASION OF THE "NEW" LANGUAGE OF SOCIALISM. THEY BECAME THE BATTLEFIELD WHERE THE FORCES OF THE LEFT BEGAN TO DECONSTRUCT, ALTER AND DESTROY OUR CULTURAL COHESION. QUITE SIMPLY, THE WAR WAS WIDENING, ALBEIT UNKNOWNST TO MOST AMERICANS ON AND OFF CAMPUS.

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WITH AN AGENDA OF SUCH DURATION, AND PERHAPS DANGER, WERE THERE NO WARNING SIGNS? YES, THERE WERE AND THERE CONTINUE TO BE. BUT DO WE NOT HEED THEM? APPARENTLY NOT, AT LEAST SO FAR.

IN THE 1930S THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE US UNDERTOOK TO LAUNCH A REVOLUTION HERE THAT WAS TO BE

SPEARHEADED BY BLACK AMERICANS ONE OF WHOM WAS A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE NAMED ALBERT GAILLARD. THIS OVERTHROW ATTEMPT FAILED FOR LACK OF BLACK SUPPORT. LOOKING BACK SOME YEARS LATER FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, GAILLARD IN 1960 VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED FACTUAL TESTIMONY AS TO THE DETAILS OF THIS PLOT AND THE DECEPTIONS EMPLOYED TO GAIN BLACKS' PARTICIPATION. HE STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT MINORITIES WERE VIEWED BY THE COMMUNISTS AS THE LEADING EDGE OF THEIR REVOLUTIONARY EFFORTS AND AS THEIR PREFERRED MEANS OF CREATING DIVISION AND UNREST⁵.

FURTHER WARNING MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE FROM OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE IN 1944 CALLED TO BRING ABOUT REFORMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR THE POSTWAR PERIOD. ITS MOST INFLUENTIAL SPOKESMAN WAS ENGLAND'S JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES, A FABIAN SOCIALIST AND RENOWNED COMMENTATOR ON ECONOMIC THEORY. AMERICA'S REPRESENTATIVE WAS TREASURY UNDER-SECRETARY HARRY DEXTER WHITE WHO, A FEW YEARS LATER, WAS FOUND TO HAVE ACTED AS A COMMUNIST SPY. WITH THE WAR NOT YET CONCLUDED, IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW THESE TWO MEN DOMINATED THE BRETTON WOODS PROCEEDINGS AND DECISIONS.

CURRENCY DEGRADATION HAS PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN MANY NATIONAL DECLINES, AND YET FOR ALMOST A CENTURY OUR GOVERNMENT HAS PURSUED A POLICY OF DEBT FINANCING MARKED BY SEEMINGLY UNRESTRAINABLE SPENDING. IN PEACE OR WAR, PROSPERITY OR RECESSION, WE HAVE LEGISLATED OUR WAY FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST CREDITOR TO ITS LARGEST DEBTOR, AND, SADLY, THERE IS NO SIGN OF A WILL TO CHANGE.

SO MUCH FOR WARNINGS FROM THE PAST; ARE THERE ANY NOW FOR OUR FUTURE? FORTUNATELY, THE ANSWER IS "YES", BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THE ACTION NECESSARY TO CHANGE OUR PRESENT DIRECTION.

WE REFER TO THE CREATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN UNION (NAU) WHICH CONTEMPLATES THE JOINING TOGETHER OF MEXICO, CANADA AND THE USA ALONG MANY OF THE LINES EMPLOYED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU).

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN STRONGLY PUSHED BY THE BUSH AND OBAMA ADMINISTRATIONS AND IS BEING GRADUALLY CONSTRUCTED AND IMPLEMENTED, MOSTLY OUT OF THE PUBLIC'S VIEW, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER AND BY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AND/OR EXTENDED AUTHORITIES WITHIN OUR ACTIVE GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS, AND ALSO MORE REMOTE AND LESS VISIBLE SECTORS OF OUR VAST BUREAUCRACY.

WITH THIS ONE MOVE WE WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE ERADICATION OF OUR NATIONAL BORDERS, OUR LANGUAGE, OUR CONSTITUTION AND OUR CURRENCY. UNDER ALREADY AGREED TO CONDITIONS OUR DOLLAR WOULD CEASE TO EXIST AND WOULD BE REPLACED BY THE AMERO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ADJUST UPWARD THE VALUES OF THE MEXICAN PESO AND CANADIAN DOLLAR. UNBURDENED BY BUREAUCRATIC LANGUAGE, THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A VERY SIZEABLE TRANSFER OF WEALTH FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO ITS NEIGHBORS.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY WRITE THE RULES, BUT IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO WILL PAY. WITHOUT EXCEPTION THE NAU CONSTITUTES A UNIQUE THREAT, BOTH IMMINENT AND

CONTINUING, TO OUR REPUBLIC, AND ASKS IN A VERY SPECIFIC WAY WHETHER OUR POLITICAL CULTURE CAN SURVIVE OUR CULTURAL POLITICS.

AS WE MOVE NOW FROM THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, MUCH OF HISTORY'S CERTAINTY WILL BE LOST TO THE WELTER OF CONFLICTING OPINION.

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AS THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT EXPANDED UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF ITS ACADEMIC FOUNDERS, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT ITS TACTICS, WEAPONS AND TARGETS WERE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED PARTS OF A PRECISE PLAN FROM WHICH VERY LITTLE DEVIATION WAS PERMITTED.

THE PRIVILEGES THAT DEMOCRACIES GRANT TO THEIR CITIZENS OFTEN CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO ATTACK THEM. WE HAVE THESE SOFT, UNARMED PLACES UNPROTECTED BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN OUR IDEALS AND INTENTIONS. IN THE WORLD OF GLOBAL POWER CONFLICTS IT SEEMS WE HAVE BEEN ISSUED A SHORT LANCE, A DULL SWORD AND A SIGN THAT READS "KICK ME" TO WEAR ON OUR BACKS. AND YET, QUITE SURPRISINGLY AND FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENDURE EQUALLY THE ATTACKS OF OTHERS AND OUR OWN ERRORS.

WE SAW IN THE TESTIMONY OF ALBERT GAILLARD HOW THE US COMMUNIST PARTY USED AFRICAN-AMERICANS AS A LEADING EDGE ASSAULT WAVE TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT REVOLUTION. CERTAINLY, RACE RELATIONS IS ONE OF OUR MOST SENSITIVE AREAS OF DEMOCRACY, AND YET THIS TACTIC FAILED IN SPITE OF WHICH IT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY USED SINCE THEN.

TODAY THERE ARE DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE MOST NUMEROUS MINORITY GROUP IS NOW LATINO, AND OUR IMMIGRATION PROFILE FAVORS ILLEGALS OVER LEGALS. OUR LATINO POPULATION IS SERVED BY LARGE AND PROSPEROUS LATINO "RIGHTS" ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE THEMSELVES INVITING TARGETS FOR THE MARXIST MESSAGE.

IN SHORT, THE MARXIST TACTIC OF USING OUR ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF MINORITY GROUPS TO PRESS ITS MESSAGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISIVENESS IS ONE THAT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL.

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LANGUAGE, ESPECIALLY IN OUR MEDIA DRIVEN AGE, CAN UNDERGO GREAT CHANGE IN TIME FRAMES AS SMALL AS A COUPLE OF DECADES OR A HALF CENTURY. OFTEN THIS CHANGE OCCURS BECAUSE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. THE COMPUTER AND THE INTERNET FOR INSTANCE, HAVE ADDED SO MANY NOUNS, VERBS AND ADJECTIVES TO OUR LANGUAGE THAT IT IS UNDERGOING A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION OF BOTH STRUCTURE AND STYLE.

WORDS ARE WEAPONS, AND THE TWO MOST FREQUENTLY USED IN THE MARXIST ARSENAL ARE "POLITICALLY CORRECT" (PC) AND "MULTICULTURALISM" (MC). THESE ARE VERY MUCH WEAPONS OF CHOICE AND CAN BE WIELDED WITH GREAT EFFICIENCY, ESPECIALLY IN A WELCOMING DEMOCRACY.

PC HAD ITS ORIGINS IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MARXIST-LENINIST STRUGGLES. ITS EARLIEST APPEARANCE IN PRINT WAS IN A LENIN SPEECH IN RUSSIA IN 1921. IT TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY, MOVING FIRST TO COMMUNIST CHINA AND THEN TO WESTERN UNIVERSITIES WHERE IT WAS SOFTENED AND MODIFIED BY THE NEW LEFT. IT FIRST APPEARED IN THE US IN THE LIBERAL WRITINGS OF THE 1960S AND THEN EXPANDED INTO PUBLIC USE AROUND 1990.

IT MEANT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH, NOT DEVIATING FROM, THE PARTY LINE ON ANY ISSUE. IT BOLSTERED POLITICAL PURITY, DEFINED PARTY THEORY AND ACTIONS VERY NARROWLY AND, BY EXTENSION, PROJECTED PARTY VALUES FROM SMALL TO MUCH LARGER NUMBERS.

PC'S STRICTNESS AND ITS DESCENT FROM LENIN TO STALIN TO MAO FORMED THE LINES OF CONTROL BY WHICH THEIR POPULATIONS' FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS WERE REGULATED. TO STRAY BEYOND THESE BOUNDARIES WAS CAUSE FOR IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH, AND THOSE WHO DID, THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT, WERE CHARGED WITH REVISIONISM, FACTIONALISM AND BEING THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE.

LEON TROTSKY, AN EARLY RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY WRITER, PARTY LEADER, AND SECRETARY OF WAR (1918-25) WAS APT TO STRAY TOWARDS INDEPENDENT THOUGHT AND WAS LABELED "REVISIONIST" BY STALIN. TROTSKY FLED RUSSIA AND CREATED A NEW LIFE AND IDENTITY IN A REMOTE PART OF MEXICO. NOT SO REMOTE, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD ESCAPE THE NKVD, WHICH AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS TRACKED HIM DOWN AND EXECUTED HIM.

INDEED, THESE SEEMINGLY MINOR (FROM OUR DEMOCRATIC PERSPECTIVE) CHARGES OF POLITICAL INCORRECTNESS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE TRIALS AND CONVICTIONS OF STALIN'S "GREAT TERROR" AND MAO'S "RED TERROR" WHICH REDUCED THE NUMBERS OF PEASANTS, THE MILITARY, THE INTELLIGENTSIA AND PARTY MEMBERS BY ABOUT 65 MILLION⁶

LENIN'S SOCIALISM FOCUSED ON POWER. IF A SMALL, REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WAS TO TAKE POWER, IT MUST MAINTAIN ITS PURPOSE, PURITY AND DISCIPLINE. HE HAD NO USE FOR COFFEE KLATCH, COOKIES AND CONVERSATION GROUP POLITICS. TODAY PC IS A DETERMINED, BUT SOMEWHAT DILUTED, FORM OF ITS ORIGINAL MODEL THAT HAS SURPRISINGLY SURVIVED ALMOST A CENTURY OF VIOLENT CHANGE AND LEADERSHIP WITHIN WORLD SOCIALISM. WE'RE NOT TALKING BEAN-BAG HERE!

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MARXISM'S OTHER PRIMARY WEAPON TODAY IS MULTICULTURALISM (MC). UNLIKE PC'S EMPHASIS ON THE POLITICAL INDIVIDUAL, MC AIMS TO DECLARE AND MAINTAIN AN AREA OF COMMON, SUPPOSEDLY NON-POLITICAL THOUGHT WHERE MEMBERS OF ALL CULTURES CAN CONGREGATE. THIS DISTINCTION CANNOT OBSCURE THE FACT THAT PC HAS SERVED AS THE BASE FOR MC.

THE WORD MULTICULTURALISM, ITSELF, IS SOMEWHAT OF A DECEPTION. THE UNSUSPECTING READER MIGHT WELL ASSUME THAT IT REFERS TO A STATE OR CIRCUMSTANCE

IN WHICH MANY CULTURES ARE PRESENT AND BY GENERAL CONSENSUS ASSIGNED EQUAL VALUE, AND THAT THIS MASS ACCEPTANCE EXTENDS EQUALLY FROM EACH ONE TO EACH OTHER IN THE COMMERCIAL, LEGAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ETHICAL MATTERS OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

IN TODAY'S AMERICA SOME PEOPLE STILL FEEL THAT WAY, BUT THEIR NUMBER IS DECLINING AS OUR CULTURAL WARS HEAT UP, AND FAR FEWER OF US WOULD CONSIDER THE ABOVE DEFINITION APPROPRIATE TO OUR TIME AND PLACE. THOSE WHO ACCEPT THIS BENIGN CHARACTERIZATION OF MC PERCEIVE MORE COMFORT THAN REALITY, FOR THE TRUTH IS THAT BENEATH MC'S SOFT PUBLIC PITCH LIES THE HARD, SHARP EDGE OF POLITICIZATION. IT IS A WEAPON USED TO CREATE RESENTMENT OF OUR HISTORICAL WESTERN, JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN CULTURE, AND EVENTUALLY TO DISCREDIT IT AND REPLACE IT WITH A STATE-CENTERED MODEL CONTROLLED BY THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND STATE MACHINERY.

THE EMOTIONS UNDERLYING THIS POLITICIZATION OF MC AND ITS USE TO ATTACK OUR CULTURE ARE SEARING ENVY AND ANGER ORIGINALLY DERIVED FROM EUROPE'S 19TH CENTURY ECONOMIC DISPARITIES, BUT NOW SEEMINGLY MORE DUE TO A COMBINATION OF OUR WEALTH/POWER AND THE FRUSTRATING FAILURES OF GLOBAL SOCIALISM TO BRING ABOUT THE KIND OF MASS REVOLT AND OVERTHROW THAT HAS BEEN CENTRAL TO ITS THINKING.

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ALL CULTURES ARE UNIQUE TO SOME EXTENT AND OFFER ASPECTS OF VALUE. POLITICIZED MC DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THOSE IN THE WEST, ALTHOUGH IT EFFUSIVELY CELEBRATES AND PROMOTES OTHERS, AND IT VIEWS ANY CLAIM ON BEHALF OF WESTERN VALUES AS RACISM THAT DEMEANS OTHER CULTURES. THEY MAY CELEBRATE; THE WEST MAY NOT.

TODAY, MILITANT MARXISM CONTINUES TO ATTEMPT TO EXPAND ITS CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHILE TRYING TO AVOID BEING TAGGED FOR SOME OF THE BLOODY EXCESSES OF THE STALIN AND MAO ERAS. ITS MOST PERSISTENT CHARGE AGAINST THE WEST HAS BEEN THE OFTEN CRUEL AND UNJUST PRACTICES OF 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY COLONIALISM FOR WHICH THERE IS NEITHER DOUBT NOR ANY EXCUSE EXCEPT THAT IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE, PROPERTY, LIBERTY AND IDENTITY UNDER COLONIALISM IS A DARK CHAPTER IN HUMAN CONDUCT. BUT THE SAME ABUSE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS, THE RUSSIAN GULAGS, THE AFRICAN DIAMOND MINES AND OUR AMERICAN COTTON FIELDS. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED IN THOSE PLACES, THE SIMILARITIES WOULD FAR OUTWEIGH THE DIFFERENCES, AND THE POLITICAL LABEL OF THE OPPRESSOR WOULD COUNT FOR LITTLE.

ALL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE RELIEF VALVES BY WHICH INTERNAL PRESSURES ARE DISPERSED. ELECTED GOVERNMENTS ARE ABLE TO SHED THESE PRESSURES WITH MORE FAIRNESS AND LESS VIOLENCE THAN AUTHORITARIAN STATE REGIMES, BUT EACH TYPE HAS ITS OWN FLASH POINTS.

THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF SOCIALISM'S MESSAGE

THAT COULD BE SEPARATED OUT AND BLENDED WITH OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, BUT THIS IS NOT PERMITTED AND THEY ARE ABSORBED AND RECAST AS WEAPONS OF WAR BY THE FORCE OF MILITANT MARXISM.

THIS IS AT THE HEART OF THE DIVISIVENESS OF MC AND PC. IN THE PROCESS OF CLAIMING TO UNIFY, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DISPARATE GROUPS ARE ACTUALLY EMPHASIZED. CONSIDER THE PRESENT BATTLE OVER GENDER/SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL MC CALL WAS FOR AN ATTITUDE OF PUBLIC EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES. THAT HAS BEEN FURTHER DIVIDED INTO LEGAL, JUDICIAL AND POLITICAL “RIGHTS” FOR HOMOSEXUAL AND OTHER ORIENTATIONS. AND, OF COURSE, THE MORE SPECIFIC CONSTITUENCIES THAT CAN BE CREATED FOR AN ISSUE, THE MORE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO STIR THEIR VOLATILE EMOTIONS.

FOR THE CULTURE UNDER ATTACK IT MEANS BEING BESIEGED ON MULTIPLE FRONTS AND HAVING TO DEFEND ITSELF IN VOTING BOOTHS, IN THE MEDIA WHEN POSSIBLE AND AT EVERY LEVEL (STATE, APPELLATE AND SUPREME) OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THE OBJECTIVE IS DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS.

AGAIN, IN MC AND PC THERE ARE GRADATIONS OF OPINION AS TO ENDS AND MEANS, BUT THESE ARE LARGELY OVERWHELMED BY THE ABILITY OF THE CENTRAL FORCE TO COLLECT THE VARIABLES AND PUT THEM AT THE USE OF THE MASS MOVEMENT. SUCH IS THE DIVISIVE NATURE OF MC AND PC.

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MANY OF THE VOICES THAT EMANATE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZE OUR “FREE MARKET” SYSTEM AND OUR ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO ITS PRINCIPLES. THIS IS NOT TRUE, OF COURSE, BUT IT SPARES OUR CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH THE NEED TO THINK AND ACT CONSISTENTLY. THE TRUTH IS THAT WE EMBRACE THE “FREE MARKET” PHILOSOPHY ONLY UP TO THE POINT WHEN DOING SO BECOMES POLITICALLY DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. AT NO TIME HAS THIS BEEN MORE EVIDENT THAN LAST FALL WHEN GOVERNMENT INTERVENED WITH MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF PUBLIC MONEY TO AVOID COMPLETE COLLAPSES IN OUR FINANCIAL AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES.

OUR CAPITALIST SYSTEM HAS WEAKNESSES LIKE ANY OTHER, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO ADMIT, LET ALONE CRITICIZE. IT IS AS IF WE ADMIT ERROR IN ONE SUCH IMPORTANT AREA, WE WILL ALSO FIND IT ELSEWHERE. HAVING TO BE RIGHT IS A TERRIBLE BURDEN FOR ANY SYSTEM, AND ESPECIALLY A FREE MARKET ONE WITH WIDE INDIVIDUAL CHOICE. OURS IS WHAT IT IS, RIGHT AND WRONG, AND WE SHOULD NOT ALWAYS EXPECT THE WORLD’S APPLAUSE. BUT THERE’S TOO MUCH BAGGAGE TO BE CARRIED. CAPITALISM IS ONLY AS SUCCESSFUL AS THOSE WHO CONTROL ITS POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE. AND IN THESE AREAS OUR FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY AND OUR CONGRESS, WHICH HAS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY, HAVE PUT TOGETHER A RECORD OF CONSISTENT FAILURE.

THE SOCIALIST, STATIST MODEL IS NO BETTER, BUT OUR ERRORS PROVIDE IT WITH GROUNDS FOR CRITICISM. THE MODERN COMPETITIVE TENSION BETWEEN STATE CONTROLLED

AND FREE MARKETS EXTENDS BACK FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY. WERE IT NOT FOR THE POWER FACTOR IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT. IN OUR PRESENT AGE OF ECONOMIC GLOBALISM, WHICH CAN SEEM LIKE A NEW DESCRIPTION OF THE OLD COLONIALISM, THAT IS NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR.

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WE MUST REMEMBER THAT PC, WHICH IS STRONGLY PROMOTED AND PRESENT IN OUR CULTURE TODAY, WAS LIFTED FROM LENIN’S PLAYBOOK. IT REMAINS WITH US TODAY BECAUSE IT PROVED TO BE USEFUL TO THE MARXIST ARGUMENT.

AND IT PUTS THE LIE TO MC’S CLAIMS TO BEING AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN EQUALS OF SHARED CULTURAL VALUE.

SIMILARLY, HERBERT MARCUSE IN HIS ESSAY ON REPRESSIVE TOLERANCE⁷ WROTE “ALL SPEECH THAT ADVOCATED CHANGE IN SOCIETY (I.E., WESTERN) SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND ALL SPEECH THAT DEFENDED EXISTING SOCIAL STRUCTURES SHOULD BE REPRESSED.” IT TAKES NO GREAT LEAP OF IMAGINATION TO SEE THAT THIS, TOO, HAS ENDURED INTO OUR OWN TIME AND PLAYS A KEY PART IN SOCIALISM’S CONTINUING PUSH FOR RECOGNITION. AND IT PUTS THE LIE TO MC’S CLAIMS TO BEING AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN EQUALS OF SHARED CULTURAL VALUE.

THE MANTRAS OF TODAY’S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LEFT (MC, PC AND DIVERSITY) ARE WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN PUSHED PAST THEIR CUSTOMARY MEANING BY THEIR USE AS WEAPONS. FOR INSTANCE, WE PREFER “MULTICULTURALISM” TO DENOTE THE HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE OF CULTURES THAT WE SUGGESTED EARLIER, BUT THAT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. THE WORD’S MEANING HAS BEEN EXTENDED AND IS NOW SO LOADED WITH ANTAGONISM AND MILITANCY AS TO OVERSHADOW ANY OTHER INTERPRETATION. THE SAME HOLDS, TO A SOMEWHAT LESSER DEGREE, FOR “DIVERSITY”.

WHAT THEY ALL HAVE COME TO SHARE IS THAT THEY ATTACK AND SEEK TO WEAKEN OUR IDENTITY. NOT ALL IDENTITIES ARE CREATED EQUAL, BUT IN A WORLD OF NATIONS THEY SERVE AS BOTH AMBASSADORS AND BOUNDARIES. AND IN OUR POLITICALLY POLARIZED WORLD IT’S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ONLY THEY CAN PROVIDE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE DEMANDS.

THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE IS A FIXATION SHARED BY BOTH PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHEREBY ORDINARY POLITICAL PREFERENCES OR CHOICES ARE TRANSFORMED INTO A RIGID VALUE SYSTEM. THIS ADDED IDENTITY FACTOR, COMBINED WITH ITS EMOTIONAL CHARGE, DEMANDS THAT ITS SOURCE BE ALWAYS RIGHT! AND IT ROBS OUR SYSTEM OF MUCH OF THE INTELLIGENCE AND FLEXIBILITY THAT ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR LEGISLATIVE BODIES TO PRODUCE GOOD GOVERNMENT.

IT SHOULD BE APPARENT THAT THIS NEED TO BE RIGHT! DERIVES FROM AN UNDERLYING INSECURITY WHICH MUST NOT BE REVEALED. IT DISCLOSES ANOTHER AREA WHERE OUR IDENTITY IS CHALLENGED AND UNCERTAIN. TO COMPLETE THE CYCLE, MOST OF OUR CONFUSION AS TO OUR NATIONAL

IDENTITY IS TRACEABLE TO OUR NUMEROUS AND INCREASINGLY FREQUENT FAILURES OF INTEGRITY, ESPECIALLY OVER THE PAST HALF-CENTURY. THE TENSION BETWEEN IDEOLOGY, IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY IS IN CONSTANT PLAY. AND YET SOMETIMES OUR MANY MARKET AND POLITICAL FORCES CAN ONLY COMBINE TO CREATE A FATAL INERTIA. WE APPEAR TO BE IN ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

IN A WAY, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO OBSERVE THIS STRUGGLE WITHIN OUR SOCIETY, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS PRETTY. IT LAYS CHARGE TO MATTERS OF OUR RELIGION, RACE, ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY AND IS FOUGHT OUT IN OUR PRISONS, SCHOOLS, MEDIA, LANGUAGE, WORK PLACES, VOTING BOOTHS, PLAYING FIELDS, IN OUR IMMIGRATION AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS, OUR LOCAL POLICE/FIRE SERVICES AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. IT DOES NOT OPERATE AT FULL SPEED ALL THE TIME, NOR DOES IT DISAPPEAR. IT HAS BECOME PART OF US.

IN THESE CONTESTS, JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE ARE EQUALLY CALLED UPON FOR PROOF OR SUPPORT, AND OFTEN ‘WHATEVER HURTS, WHATEVER WORKS’ SEEMS TO APPLY. CONSISTENCY IS A QUIANT CASUALTY OF OUR TIME, MUCH LIKE ASSIMILATION, AND ON SOME OF OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN HEAVILY IMMIGRANT STATES THOSE STUDENTS WHO MARCH AND CALL FOR MULTICULTURALISM SEE NO CONTRADICTION IN THEIR REQUESTING SEPARATE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES.

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IN THE MC WARS THE FRONT IS WIDE AND SKIRMISHES MANY, AND YET THERE ARE PLACES WHERE REASONABLE MINDS HAVE A CHANCE TO TRY TO COMPROMISE OR CREATE COMMON GROUND. BUT THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH ANY ACCOMMODATION OF ONE SIDE BY THE OTHER HAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE. THESE INVOLVE ACCESS TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER. IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WE FAVOR AND ESTABLISH THE RIGHTS TO BOTH PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND ELECTED GOVERNMENT WITH DISTINCT FUNCTIONS FOR EACH BRANCH.

THESE ARE THE DOMINANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MARXISM AND THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION THAT HAS OPPOSED AND THWARTED ITS ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND SOCIALISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AS DEMOCRACY AND THE INSTITUTIONS NEEDED TO SUPPORT IT HAVE NOT ACHIEVED GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE EITHER, THESE TWO VERY DIFFERENT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES SEEM DESTINED TO CONTINUE THEIR RELATIONSHIP OF CONFRONTATION AND OPPOSITION.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE IS ONE OF STATISM — HOW MUCH POWER AND CONTROL SHOULD THE STATE EXERCISE OVER ITS PEOPLE AND, OF COURSE, ALSO THE REVERSE. THIS MATTER OF AUTHORITY IS MOST FIERCELY CONTESTED AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS, BUT IT EXTENDS DOWNWARD INTO MANY OTHER MUNDANE AREAS OF OUR LIVES AS WE HAVE INDICATED ABOVE.

THERE, THIS CONSTANT FRICTION CAN BUILD UP HEAT AND PRESSURE WHICH IS RELEASED BY LOCAL AGITATION AND THE CYCLE CAN RECOMMENCE, FOR THE BATTLE AT THE TOP MUST

BE ABLE TO CLAIM SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE BELOW. THE HARD LINE, REVOLUTION-IN-WAITING SOCIALISM OF MARX AND LENIN WAS ABLE TO OUTLIVE THE MONARCHIES AND FASCIST REGIMES THAT IT ENCOUNTERED IN EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY EUROPE, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISLodge OR DO AWAY WITH TRADITIONAL DEMOCRACY.

IT HAS BEEN “THE QUIET REVOLUTION”, THAT EXPRESSION OF SOCIALIST THOUGHT AND INTENTION THAT WAS DIVERTED TO ACADEMIA AND THE MEDIA, THAT HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE GROWTH OF THE NEW, LIBERAL LEFT OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

. . . THE ABIDING CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FREEDOM.

EVERY POLITICAL MOVEMENT CONTAINS WITHIN ITSELF A CONTINUING ARGUMENT BETWEEN POWER AND PRINCIPLE. MARXISM IS NO EXCEPTION AND HAS INCREASINGLY FAVORED THE FORMER. IN THE US, ESPECIALLY, ITS MESSAGE AND METHODS HAVE BEEN MISMANAGED, MOSTLY NOTABLY IN ITS FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE ABIDING CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FREEDOM.

BECAUSE OF THE EMERGENCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) FROM REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TO A FORM OF POLITICAL UNION AND BUREAUCRACY, THE LIBERAL POLITICAL PRESENCE IN EUROPE HAS GAINED FAR MORE POWER THAN COULD HAVE BEEN FORESEEN AT THE END OF WWII. EUROPE REMAINS AN UNFINISHED STORY. WILL THE EU’S MEMBER COUNTRIES BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT BY THE ELECTORAL PROCESS? OR WILL THE ENORMOUS BUREAUCRACY IN BRUSSELS PROVE STRONG AND DENSE ENOUGH TO OVERRULE ITS MEMBERS AND ESTABLISH A DE FACTO MANAGERIAL AUTHORITY OF ITS OWN?

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TIMING IS A MATTER OF REAL IMPORTANCE IN ALL THINGS CULTURAL. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE HAD A RECENT AND VERY EMOTIONAL ARGUMENT ABOUT OUR USE OF TORTURE IN IRAQ, GUANTANAMO BAY AND IN CIA INTERROGATION CENTERS THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. AS A NATION, WE HAVE OPPOSED THE USE OF TORTURE BY OTHERS AND OURSELVES BY SPEECH AND TREATY. IT HAS SEEMED SO INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR STANDARDS AND VALUES THAT IT CAME TO BE SEEN AS PART OF OUR CULTURE.

THEN IT BECAME THE BASIS OF A PAINFUL CONTRADICTION. IN 2006, IN RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN OUR ABU GHRAIB DETENTION FACILITIES, PRESIDENT BUSH UNEQUIVOCALLY DENIED THAT WE USED TORTURE:

“THE U.S. DOES NOT TORTURE. IT IS AGAINST OUR LAWS, AND IT IS AGAINST OUR VALUES. I HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED IT — AND I WILL NOT AUTHORIZE IT.”⁸

THIS IS INTERESTING FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST IS THAT IT WAS A LIE, AS BUSH HAD AUTHORIZED THE USE OF “ENHANCED INTERROGATION”, INCLUDING WATER BOARDING, IN ’02, ’03 AND ’04.

FAR MORE INTERESTING, HOWEVER, IS THAT HE

REJECTS THE USE OF TORTURE AS BEING “AGAINST OUR LAWS AND . . . OUR VALUES”. THIS SETS IT APART AS BEING OUTSIDE OUR CULTURE AND CONTRARY TO OUR IDENTITY. AND IDENTITY IS ONE OF THE THREE ASPECTS OF NATIONALITY, ALONG WITH CULTURE AND CURRENCY, THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO ORDERLY LIFE AND, THEREFORE, PRIME TARGETS FOR SUBVERSION.

OUR IDENTITY HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS WHEN THE COLONISTS ESTABLISHED VALUES FOR THEIR NEW SOCIETY BASED ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

NATIONAL IDENTITIES CAN CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY IN SOME WAYS OVER TIME, BUT CORE VALUES ARE USUALLY RETAINED BY SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES. WE STARTED AS A PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL/RURAL SOCIETY, THEN TRANSFORMED OURSELVES INTO AN INDUSTRIAL/URBAN ECONOMY AND ARE NOW CHANGING AGAIN INTO AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT ECONOMY.

THESE MASSIVE SHIFTS ARE NOT ACHIEVED WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL DISLOCATION AND DISCOMFORT MUCH OF WHICH IS DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF RECOGNIZING AND ACCEPTING THE INVOLUNTARY CHANGE IN OUR IDENTITY THAT THEY IMPOSE. TODAY WE ARE LIVING IN JUST SUCH A TURBULENT PERIOD WHICH IS MADE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE HAVE PURPOSELY DISMANTLED OUR PRODUCTION CAPABILITY IN WAYS THAT MOSTLY BENEFIT A VERY SMALL SECTOR OF OUR SOCIETY, NOT THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

ALL NATIONS OR EMPIRES CHANGE OVER TIME, AND WE HAVE BEEN “IN PLAY” FOR ONLY A BRIEF TIME. IN THE COURSE OF THIS CHANGE PROCESS, THERE IS USUALLY A PERIOD OF SUCCESS OR EQUILIBRIUM FOLLOWED BY A MORE RAPID DECLINE. THE LATTER CAN BE THE RESULT OF HUMAN FAILURE SUCH AS GREED, CORRUPTION, POWER FIXATION, MILITARISM, ETC. OF WHICH THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE READY SUPPLY.

. . . DECADENCE INVARIABLY INVOLVES A FAILURE OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MECHANISM.

SOMETIMES JUST ONE OF THESE FAULTS IS REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT A FAILED STATE RATHER QUICKLY, BUT MORE COMMONLY THEY COMBINE TO CREATE A GRADUAL DECLINE OVER A LONGER PERIOD. IN SUCH A DECLINE DECADENCE OFTEN PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART, AND DECADENCE INVARIABLY INVOLVES A FAILURE OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MECHANISM.

WE SHOW MANY OF THE CLASSIC SIGNS OF DECADENCE IN OUR CULTURE TODAY THAT BROUGHT DOWN GREAT EMPIRES OF THE PAST — ENORMOUS WEALTH, SUPERIOR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY AND POWER, EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION IN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS LACK OF ANY EFFECTIVE ETHICAL REGULATION, THE EROSION OF OUR MIDDLE CLASS LEAVING A WIDE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR, AN EXPANDING BUREAUCRACY, A FAILING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM WITHOUT CONTROLS AND OTHERS. THE LIST GOES ON , AND EVERYONE CAN MAKE THEIR OWN.

BUT NOW THERE IS A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE. WE ARE THE USA IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. AS THE RESULT OF OUR COMPUTER AGE TECHNOLOGY, WE HAVE WAYS TO ANALYZE,

TO PREDICT, TO REVIEW THE PAST, TO MAKE COMPARISONS — IN OTHER WORDS, TO COMMAND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FORCES THAT ARE ACTING UPON US IN A WAY THAT PRIOR SOCIETIES LACKED.

WE HAVE CITED BEFORE JARED DIAMOND’S FASCINATING BOOK, COLLAPSE⁹, IN WHICH HE ANALYZES THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED THE COLLAPSE OF SOME WELL KNOWN SOCIETIES IN THE PAST. THEY, OF COURSE, DID NOT KNOW THEN WHAT WE KNOW NOW ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THEIR DEMISE. BUT THE SAME CAPABILITY THAT ALLOWS US TO DETERMINE THE FORCES THAT LED TO THEIR DISAPPEARANCE IS AVAILABLE TO US TO APPLY THE TRUTH OF OUR TIME TO CHOICES FOR OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE.

THIS LATTER IS CRUCIAL. EARLIER SOCIETIES HAD LITTLE TECHNOLOGY WHICH THEY COULD USE TO PLAN OR IMAGINE THEIR FUTURE. FOR THE MOST PART, THEY WERE CREATURES OF THEIR PRESENT. NOT SO TODAY, WHEN WE REACH INTO OUTER SPACE AND, LIKE JANUS, CAN LOOK AHEAD OR BEHIND MILLIONS OF YEARS.

GIVEN THIS ABILITY TO SEE OURSELVES AS WE ACT OUT OUR DESTINY, THE QUESTION THAT MUST BE ASKED OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS — WILL WE TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION AND CARE TO REMAIN TRUE TO OUR ORIGINAL IDENTITY? MORE SPECIFICALLY, WILL WE BE ABLE TO REAFFIRM OUR EARLY AMERICAN IDEALISM OVER PRESENT DAY IDEOLOGY IN THE ELECTION AND THE FUNCTIONING OF OUR GOVERNMENT? THESE ARE BIG, AND NOT EASY QUESTIONS, AND THEY MUST BE ANSWERED.

THERE IS ANOTHER AREA OF OUR IDENTITY THAT BEARS EXAMINATION. IT IS OUR STATUS AS SOLE SUPERPOWER. WHILE THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT THIS POSITION IS CHANGING AS CHINA’S AND RUSSIA’S ECONOMICS EXPAND, WE STILL SEEM TO RELISH THE ROLE AND TITLE WE HAVE HELD SINCE THE IMPLOSION OF THE USSR.

IT IS A DANGEROUS AND EXPENSIVE ROLE, AND PERHAPS SOMEONE HAS TO FILL IT IN SPITE OF THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THE UN. IT IS THE FAILURE OF THE LATTER TO FUNCTION FAIRLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY AS A LEADER THAT MAKES ROOM FOR OTHER POWER FIGURES. IN FAIRNESS TO THE UN, HOWEVER, WE AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE HESITANT TO GIVE IT THE AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO ASSUME AND COMMAND LEADERSHIP. THIS IS A CHICKEN/EGG PROBLEM WITH AN OMELET SOLUTION.

WE HAVE NOT LIVED WITH ANY SOLE SUPERPOWER OTHER THAN OURSELVES, AND WE WOULD HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT OPINION OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY IF IT WERE IN OTHER HANDS. TO SOME DEGREE, WE SEEM TO ENJOY OUR INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY AND READING OUR OWN PRESS RELEASES. BUT BATHING IN AND REFLECTING THE WARM GLOW OF CONSTANT PUBLICITY IS NOT THE BEST BASIS FOR SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICY EVEN WHEN, AS IN IRAQ, WE ARE ABLE TO COW OTHERS INTO APPROVING OUR NEOCON ADVENTURE ON THE BASIS OF FLIMSY EVIDENCE.

IN OUR COUNTRY, CROWDS FREQUENTLY OBSESS WITH SPORTS LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR EVEN AT NON-SPORTS EVENTS. IN DOING SO, THEY OFTEN BREAK INTO CHANTS OF “USA” OR “WE’RE #1” AT A CUE THAT ONLY THEY RECOGNIZE.

IT'S MIDNIGHT AND TIME TO REMOVE OUR MASK

THEIR NEED TO BE HEARD HAS SPREAD AND BECOME A PART OF OUR CULTURE, BUT NOT A NECESSARY ONE. HOWEVER, AS WITH OUR SUPERPOWER STATUS, ONCE ESTABLISHED, IT WILL REQUIRE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO REMOVE.

PART OF BEING A SOLE SUPERPOWER IS THE SENSE THAT WE ARE INDISPENSABLE TO SOLVING THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS. THIS IS A HEADY FRAGRANCE TO THOSE AT THE CENTER OF POWER AND OFTEN CARRIES THEM OFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION WHERE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT ACHIEVABLE.

CONSIDER THE NUCLEAR TRIGGERS NOW IN PLACE IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THEIR CONFLICT WAS ORIGINALLY A RELIGIOUS ONE OF HINDU VS MUSLIM ENMITY WHICH WAS UPGRADED TO NATIONAL AND POLITICAL WITH THE BRITISH PARTITION IN 1947. TODAY, BOTH OF THESE HISTORICAL FOES POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN OUR APPROVAL, MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY IN SPITE OF OUR PROFESSED OPPOSITION TO THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS.

WE FIND OURSELVES IN A QUANDARY OF OUR OWN MAKING, BUT NOT, PERHAPS, DESIGN. REGIONAL CONFLICTS HAVE A WAY OF PRODUCING LARGER ONES, AND RELIGIOUS SPARKS CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE SOURCE OF IGNITION. IN THE ASIAN SUBCONTINENT WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT OUR INVESTMENTS AND RELATIONS THERE, USUALLY DESCRIBED AS "TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS", WILL NOT RESULT IN HOSTILITIES, NUCLEAR OR OTHERWISE.

AGAIN, IDENTITY IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HOW WE GOVERN OURSELVES — AND OTHERS! WE WOULD BENEFIT FROM NOT HAVING TO SERVE AS THE WORLD'S SOLE SUPERPOWER IF SUCH A CHANGE COULD BE MADE PEACEFULLY, AS WE COULD EXAMINE OUR POLICIES AND INTENTIONS UNBURDENED BY THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY.

BUT THE WORLD IS NOT THAT WAY AND, IN SPITE OF OUR AND OTHERS' EFFORTS TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THERE ARE NOW EIGHT NATIONS WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND NORTH KOREA, IRAN AND PERHAPS SOUTH AFRICA BANGING ON THE DOOR FOR ADMITTANCE. LIBYA HAS FORTUNATELY ABANDONED ITS PURSUIT. OTHERS THERE MAY BE WHO SECRETLY BOUGHT INFORMATION FROM THE HEAD OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND MAY NOW BE TRYING TO ASSEMBLE WEAPONS AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

A SMALL "DIRTY BOMB" ASSEMBLED AND DETONATED HERE? A BIOLOGICAL BOMB ON A SHIP OFFSHORE OR IN A HARBOR SET OFF BY REMOTE CONTROL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ON-SHORE PREVAILING WINDS. WHO KNOWS? THE ONLY THING WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WILL CONTINUE AND THAT IN THE PROCESS, AS TECHNOLOGY SPREADS, IT WILL FALL INTO LESS, NOT MORE, RESPONSIBLE HANDS.

AND YET MANY OF OUR CHEMICAL PLANTS, PORTS, RAILWAY HUBS AND URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, NUCLEAR STORAGE SITES, ETC. HAVE NOT REACHED THEIR SCHEDULED SECURITY LEVELS. THE CAUSES FOR THIS FAILURE SEEM TO BE SHARED BY CONGRESS, THE CORPORATE SECTOR, REGULATORY BODIES AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE CAN DO BETTER.

AMERICA, OUR WONDERFUL HOME-GROWN EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, NOW FACES SERIOUS AND URGENT PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE CREATED IF THEY ARE NOT ACTED UPON FORCEFULLY.

DISCUSSION AND COMPROMISE, WHICH HAVE BEEN AT THE CENTER OF OUR SYSTEM SINCE ITS FOUNDING, HAVE RECENTLY COME TO BE USED TO DELAY OR AVOID DIFFICULT ACTION WITH THE RESULT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME WEAKER AND LESS EFFECTIVE. THIS DEFERMENT OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DEFILES OUR CONSTITUTION AND ITS PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE.

PERHAPS THE MOST TRAGIC ASPECT OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT IT GOES UNRECOGNIZED BY THOSE WHO CONTROL MOST OF OUR GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS. HERE, FOR THEM, IS A PRIMER OF WHAT MUST BE CONSIDERED IN ANY VIEW OR PLAN FOR OUR LONG OR SHORT TERM FUTURE.

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THE THREATS WE FACE CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO BASIC GROUPS OF ISSUES, THE FIRST OF WHICH REVOLVES AROUND OUR SENSE OF INTEGRITY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THIS INCLUDES THE WARNING OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ETHICAL FAILURES THAT OUR NATION WAITING TO BE BORN MADE TO ITS OFFSPRING IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTITUTION.

IT INCLUDES OUR DEEP CRISIS OF IDENTITY THAT GIVES RISE TO TROUBLED ARGUMENTS OVER TORTURE, SELECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT, UNILATERAL MILITARISM, RELIGION, RACE, HOMOSEXUALITY, EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE AND OTHERS. A WIDE VARIETY, TO SAY THE LEAST, AND MANY OF WHICH WERE NON-ISSUES WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS FORMED.

BUT, AS TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE HAVE CHANGED, THEY HAVE APPEARED — AT FIRST WITH LITTLE NOTICE AND THEN, IN THE GLARE OF OUR MODERN MEDIA, ACQUIRING FIRST INCREASING POLITICAL ATTENTION AND THEN "RIGHTS". IN OUR POST WAR, EGALITARIAN WORLD THE ASSERTION OF "RIGHT", WHETHER LEGAL, HUMAN, ELECTORAL OR OTHER, BECAME THE FIRST STEP TO LAYING CLAIM TO A NEW, MORE POWERFUL AND ADVANTAGED STATUS.

HOWEVER, FROM A GOVERNMENTAL VIEWPOINT THE PROCESS OF DIVIDING OUR POPULATION INTO AN EVER EXPANDING NUMBER OF GROUPS WITH DIFFERENT, OR EVEN SIMILAR, RIGHTS RESULTS IN A WIDELY FRACTURED SOCIETY WHICH IS IDEALLY SUITED TO EXPLOITATION BY THOSE WHO PREFER TO USE, RATHER THAN TO SHARE, OUR VALUES AND INTENTIONS.

WE HAVE MANAGED TO RETURN TO MC, PC AND OUR TITLE QUESTION — CAN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE SURVIVE OUR CULTURAL POLITICS? MC, PC AND OTHER IDENTITY RELATED INTERACTIONS ARE MOSTLY USED TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS

OF GROUPS WITHIN OUR SOCIETY. AS SUCH, THEY ARE SUBSETS OF OUR NATIONAL INTEGRITY. OF THE LATTER WE HAVE A DECLINING SUPPLY OF “CAPITAL” WHICH OUR RECENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REGENERATE. A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR SOCIETY IS NOT ENCOURAGING. WE SEE WIDE-SCALE ECONOMIC MALFEASANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS MADOFF AND STANFORD TO THE MOST PROMINENT WALL STREET FIRMS. IN BETWEEN, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF JUST PLAIN, GOOD OLD CORPORATE FRAUD AT ENRON, COMCAST, HEALTH SOUTH, ETC.

WE HAVE SPAWNED FROM OUR PRE-TV RADIO, NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE MEDIA AN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY DEDICATED TO 24-HOUR PROMOTION OF SEX, PREGNANCY AND BODY PARTS IN ALL OF ITS PROGRAMMING FROM SMUT HUMOR TO TALK SHOWS.

ANOTHER FOCUS OF OUR ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR IS THE EDITORIAL CELEBRATION OF DRUGS AND VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER WHICH PLAYS OUT ALL TOO PREDICTABLY IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH — BOTH THOSE WHO ARE TRAPPED IN OUR CITIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO THE HIGHLY COMPENSATED, CONTINUING VIOLENCE OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.

FROM OUR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FAILURES, WHAT DO WE PROJECT AS LEADERSHIP TO OUR OWN PEOPLE? OR TO THE REST OF THE WORLD? DO WE IMAGINE THAT WE OCCUPY SOME HIGH GROUND WHICH OTHERS CANNOT REACH? SADLY, THE ANSWER SEEMS TO BE “YES”, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IS PROVIDED BY OUR CONGRESS WHICH HAS FOUND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KEEP FAITH WITH OUR HERITAGE. PRESENTLY, IT NO LONGER TRIES.

THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE BOTH THE PRODUCT AND PROTECTORS OF OUR TWO-PARTY SYSTEM WHICH HAS SUFFERED A STEADY LOSS OF ETHICS AND EFFICIENCY SINCE THE CENTURY OF ITS GREATEST SUCCESS FROM 1860 TO 1960. STILL, FOR ANYONE CONTEMPLATING A POLITICAL CAREER IT SITS JUST BELOW THE PRESIDENCY ON OUR POLITICAL PYRAMID AND BECKONS WITH THE LURE OF FEDERAL PENSIONS, HIGHLY PAID POST-CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH CARE AND THE CONSTANT FLOW OF MONEY FROM WASHINGTON’S RESIDENT LOBBYISTS.

OUR ASPIRING POLITICIANS MUST USUALLY GAIN SOME LOWER LEVEL EXPERIENCE WHICH CAN BE HAD FROM SERVING ON APPOINTIVE BOARDS OR FROM LOCAL ELECTORAL OFFICE. AT THESE LEVELS, LIKE THOSE ABOVE, MONEY IS DELIVERED AND RESULTS ARE OBTAINED. THIS IS A BASIC INSTRUCTION WHICH APPLIES EQUALLY TO POLITICAL ETHICS AND EFFICIENCY. IT GOES UNCHALLENGED AS THE POLITICAL NOVICE RISES TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL AND THEN TO HIGHER OFFICE IN CONGRESS OR, PERHAPS, AS STATE GOVERNOR.

THERE IS ANOTHER LESSON THAT IS TAUGHT AT OUR ENTRY LEVEL POLITICAL OFFICES, FOR IN ADDITION TO REVEALING THE ENTWINED STRANDS OF MONEY AND POWER WHICH FORM OUR POLITICAL DNA, POLITICS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BEGINS THE PROCESS OF FORMING THE NEOPHYTE IN A WAY THAT IS FLATTERING AND EGO-BUILDING, BUT THAT SEPARATES HIM FROM HIS FELLOW CITIZENS. THIS IS A CHARACTER AND VALUE PROCESS MADE UP OF MANY SMALL AND SILENT PARTS

IN THE MEDIA, THE POLITICAL PARTIES, AND LOCAL, REGIONAL OR STATE INTERESTS THAT COMBINE TO GIVE THE YOUNG POLITICIAN THE SENSE THAT HE IS SPECIAL, DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, IMPORTANT AND DESERVING OF NOTICE — I.E., A LARGE FISH IN A SMALL POND. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE THE POLITICAL MACHINERY IS ABLE TO SMOOTHLY MESH WITH THE PUBLIC MEDIA THIS TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE AND A SUCCESSFUL CAREER USUALLY FOLLOWS.

NOW WE ARE AT THAT CRITICAL DIVIDE THAT HAS MARKED THE FAILURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY. THE CONGRESSIONAL “NEWBIE”, RIDING A WAVE OF LOCAL POLITICAL PUBLICITY AND POWER ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON. THE DINNERS, PHOTO-OPS, PRESS CONFERENCES AND RELEASES ALL CONTINUE, ALBEIT WITH A NEW CAST THAT NOW INCLUDES LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING EVERY CONCEIVABLE SPECIAL INTEREST.

BUT THERE IS ONE ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE. HE/SHE IS NO LONGER A BIG FISH IN A SMALL POND, BUT JUST THE OPPOSITE — ONE OF 535 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MOST OF WHOM ARE WELL ENTRENCHED BY SENIORITY AND INCUMBENCY AND WHO CAME TO WASHINGTON BY PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ROUTE AND CARRYING THE SAME BAGGAGE AS OUR NOVICE.

OUR KEY QUESTION, AS INHERITORS OF OUR POLITICAL CULTURE, IS HOW DO WE TRANSFORM OUR ELECTED MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TO SEE THEMSELVES AS SMALL FISH IN THE BIG POND THAT IS OUR NATIONAL INTEREST? HOW DO WE BRING THEM ACROSS THIS DEEP AND DANGEROUS DIVIDE?

THE COURSE THAT WE ARE ON IS A FATAL ONE. CONGRESS ROUTINELY INVOKES “THE AMERICAN PEOPLE” AT EVERY PUBLIC MOMENT AND YET IN THE PRIVACY OF DRAFTING LEGISLATION IT DIVIDES AND PACKAGES ITS VOTES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF SPECIAL INTERESTS’ LOBBYISTS. IN RECENT YEARS THE “EAR MARK” HAS BECOME THE PREFERRED MEANS OF APPLYING ANONYMOUS INFLUENCE TO LEGISLATION IN THE MAKING AND THEREBY PROTECTING ONESELF FROM PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

MANY FIRST OFFICE POLITICIANS SEE THE CORRUPTION OF OUR PROCESS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND DECIDE THEY WILL “GO ALONG TO GET ALONG” FOR A WHILE AND THEN TRY TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM FROM WITHIN. ONE LOOK AT CONGRESS INDICATES THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY.

IN MAKING THESE BROAD CRITICISMS OF CONGRESS WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN MOTIVATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS. SOME ARE OUTHRIGHT MANIPULATORS OF THE SYSTEM WHO MAKE NO PRETENSE THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THEIR SELF-INTEREST DETERMINES THEIR ACTION. THE OTHERS ARE SIMPLY TRAPPED BY THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF WHICH THEY ARE PART AND CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE A SYSTEM IN WHICH THE NATIONAL INTEREST WOULD DEFINE THE STANDARD FOR SERVICE.

WHETHER THIS INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND BE GUIDED BY IT IS INTENTIONAL OR NOT SEEMS TO MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE. THE END RESULT IS, UNFORTUNATELY, THE SAME. RECENTLY, WE HAVE COME TO FACE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS TO OUR NATION AND OUR PLANET THAT WILL DEMAND MORE IN THE WAY OF VISION AND UNDERSTANDING FROM OUR GOVERNMENT.

THIS PROSPECT IS NOT ENCOURAGING.

ONE OF THE MOST PERNICIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR TWO-PARTY SYSTEM IN WHICH ACCESS TO THE BALLOT IS DOMINATED BY THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES IS THAT IT CREATES AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONTINUING POLITICAL WARFARE. IT'S "WIN OR LOSE", "WE VERSUS THEM" AND OTHER EXTREME POSITIONS.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING A MEMBER OF THE WINNING OR LOSING PARTY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING A JOB, A PAYCHECK, A PENSION, A FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT, EVEN A FUTURE, OR NOT. THESE DIFFERENCES DRIVE POLITICIANS, HAUNT THEIR DREAMS AND SATURATE THEIR AND THEIR FAMILIES EXISTENCE. THEY ARE REAL.

AS POLITICAL OFFICE IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY HAS BECOME RICHER AND MORE POWERFUL, THE INTENSITY OF EFFORT NECESSARY TO GAIN OR RETAIN IT HAS ALSO INCREASED. THIS HAS GIVEN US THE EXTREMELY POLARIZED POLITICS AT ALL LEVELS WHERE MUCH OF OUR POLITICAL TIME AND ENERGY BY BOTH PARTIES IS DEVOTED TO MOSTLY MINOR, SENSELESS, SELF-SERVING INTERNECINE ATTACKS BY ONE UPON THE OTHER.

IN THE END, WE ARE LEFT WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE, THAT CIRCUMSTANCE WHEN IDEOLOGY FOR IDEOLOGY'S SAKE BECOMES THE KEY MOVER OF OUR POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLICIES. OUR WHOLE CONGRESS OPERATING UNDER THIS CULTURE OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION PRECLUDES ANY REALIZABLE NATIONAL INTEREST.

IF WE VIEW THIS REALISTICALLY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT TOMORROW'S DESTINY CAN BE NO BETTER THAN TODAY'S METHODS. FOR THE AMERICA THAT COMES FROM WHERE WE DID AND HAS BEEN WHAT WE WERE, THAT IS A PAINFUL ADMISSION. IT IS ALSO A POLITICAL PROPHECY AND NOTICE OF DECLINE THAT WE CANNOT IGNORE. IT WILL REQUIRE US ALL — POLITICIANS, CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS — TO PLAY A DIFFERENT ROLE IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE.

THIS CAN BE DONE, BUT IT WILL DEMAND GREAT CHANGE BY BRAVE AND OBJECTIVE PEOPLE. RESISTANCE WILL BE STRONG, BUT CAN BE OVERCOME. THINK BACK, THINK BACK TO PHILADELPHIA, 1776 AND THE WAY THAT VISION AND VALUES PRODUCED GOVERNMENT AND THEN CONTINUED AS ITS GUIDE. TODAY, NOTHING LESS THAN A REVOLUTION IS REQUIRED — A REVOLUTION IN HOW WE HAVE COME TO VIEW AND VALUE OUR GOVERNMENT. THERE COULD BE NO GREATER PROOF OF OUR DEMOCRACY THAN SUCH A PEACEFUL REVOLUTION.

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THE SECOND AREA OF FAILED THOUGHT AND UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S LEADERSHIP IS THAT OF TIMING. WE DO NOT REFER TO INTERNAL QUALITIES OF CHARACTER, BUT RATHER TO THE ABILITY TO COMPREHEND AND ACT UPON THE EXTERNAL NATURAL FORCES THAT ARE INSEPARABLE FROM LIFE ON EARTH.

THESE ARE DETERMINED BY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, NOT BY LEGISLATION CREATED BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A MAN-MADE ELECTORAL DISTRICT. THE EVIDENT SELF-IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN HOW THEY TREAT THESE GLOBAL ISSUES IS STUNNING.

SPREADING THE LIE INSTEAD OF TRUTH ESTABLISHES
A CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNINFORMED

THE PRIME DANGER TO OUR COUNTRY IS THAT THEY CONTINUE AN ARGUMENT TO SUPPORT THEIR COURSE OF ACTION OR, MORE OFTEN, INACTION AND THEN CONVEY IT TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS AS A CORRECT AND RESPECTABLE GOVERNMENT POSITION. SPREADING THE LIE INSTEAD OF TRUTH ESTABLISHES A CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNINFORMED AND WEAKENS OUR COUNTRY. IT IS VERY MUCH PART OF OUR NATIONAL "DUMMING DOWN" PROCESS.

WHAT ARE THESE ISSUES WHOSE AGENDAS ARE SET BY NATIONAL OR NUMERICAL FORCES? THERE IS POPULATION, GLOBAL WARMING/CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE "END OF OIL". SUBSETS OF THESE ARE SPECIES LOSS, AQUIFER DEGRADATION, IMMIGRATION AND OTHERS. THIS IS A LIST THAT THREATENS EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES WITH NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, BUT FAILS TO ENGAGE ANY PROPORTIONAL RESPONSE IN CONGRESS.

THE FACT THAT WE CAN LOOK AT THE MATHEMATICS OF THESE ISSUES AND NOT BE STIRRED TO SERIOUS ENGAGEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT HEARS AND RESPONDS ONLY TO WHAT IT FINDS COMFORTABLE.

THIS INTRODUCES ANOTHER ENORMOUS DECEPTION WHICH HAS BEEN FOISTED UPON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FOR FAR TOO LONG, AND THAT IS THE PURSUIT OF ETERNAL GROWTH WHICH TRANSLATES INTO THE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS OF "MORE", REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES. EVERY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN FROM LOCAL TO PRESIDENTIAL AND EVERY CORPORATE BUDGET, BUSINESS PLAN OR ECONOMIC FORECAST IS BASED UPON THE DESIRABILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF CONTINUING GROWTH AND EXPANSION. THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS ESPECIALLY COMMITTED TO THESE PROJECTIONS. OUR POPULATION IS PRESENTLY INCREASING AT THE RATE OF ABOUT THREE MILLION A YEAR, OR ROUGHLY 1%. IF NOT ADJUSTED, THIS WILL ADD ANOTHER 100 MILLION PEOPLE TO OUR POPULATION BEFORE THE HALF CENTURY.

AS OUR POPULATION GROWS, SO DO THE MARKETS, MARKET SHARES, REVENUES AND PROFITS OF CORPORATE AMERICA. THIS TYPE OF MARKET EXPANSION COMES WITH NO COST TO OUR PRIVATE SECTOR. SOME OF IT IS A GIFT FROM OUR BEDROOMS TO OUR BOARDROOMS TO WHICH LOBBYISTS, THEIR CLIENTS AND THE CONGRESS ARE FIRMLY ADDICTED.

WE HAVE INVOKED BEFORE THE LAW OF LIMITS, WHICH STATES THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO ANY MATERIAL THAT CAN BE ADDED TO A CONFINED SPACE. WE CANNOT POUR TWO CUPS OF WATER INTO ONE CUP. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES OR WAYS WE ATTEMPT THIS, WE WILL END UP WITH ONE CUP OF WATER AND A WET COUNTER TOP.

THERE ARE POLITICIANS TODAY, HERE AND ABROAD, THAT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ARE CLOSE TO A BREAKTHROUGH MOMENT WHEN VAST CHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE, WHEN THE ERRORS AND CONFLICTS OF THE PAST WILL BE GONE AND WHEN WE WILL ALL LIVE IN A WORLD OF PEACE AND PLENTY MADE POSSIBLE BY NEW TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE.

SUCH UTOPIAN VIEWS IGNORE THE FACT THAT WE ALREADY FACE SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN SE ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA THAT ARE THE RESULT OF TOO MANY PEOPLE AND TOO FEW JOBS, WATER, FOOD, SCHOOLS, DOCTORS, ETC. SOME OF THESE POPULATIONS ARE ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO MIGRATE TO THE WEALTHIER, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT THEY SEE ON TELEVISION. UPON ARRIVAL, WHEN THEY PRESENT THEIR CLAIMS TO EMPLOYMENT, RETIREMENT BENEFITS, HOUSING, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION AND RELIGIOUS INCLUSION, THE NEWLY SELECTED HOST COUNTRY IS FACED WITH DIFFICULT SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A NEW TIME REGARDING THESE MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE FROM ONE COUNTRY OR CONTINENT TO ANOTHER. ASSIMILATION INVOLVES CULTURE AND IDENTITY WHICH IN THE PAST HAVE TENDED TO CHANGE ONLY SLOWLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME. SUCH TIME IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE, AS THE PRESS OF NUMBERS AND OUR INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACT AS POLITICAL AND EMOTIONAL ACCELERANTS.

WE ARE IN A TRAP WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES. BEHIND US, AT EVERY LEVEL AND PART OF OUR SOCIETY, ARE THE DEMANDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE WHO DEPEND ON "MORE". AHEAD OF US, JUST BEYOND OUR VISION, IS THE REALIZATION THAT THERE IS NO "MORE", THAT WE HAVE ENGAGED IN A NATIONAL DELUSION.

THAT WE HAVE PERSUADED OURSELVES TO BE PART OF SUCH A CHIMERA IS ANOTHER CLUE TO OUR IDENTITY PROBLEMS, AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESTORE OUR INTEGRITY UNTIL WE AGAIN KNOW WHO AND WHAT WE ARE. ONENESS, OR UNITY, MAY SOUND SIMPLISTIC, BUT TO ARGUE AGAINST IT ONLY PROVES ITS VALUE.

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WE HAVE COVERED SOME WIDE GROUND IN THIS CHAPTER — FROM MARXISM AND MC/PC TO THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE AND NATIONAL INTEGRITY. MANY OF THESE TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT PERSONAL INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS. THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE WITH SOME KEYNESIAN ECONOMIC OR SHAVIAN SOCIAL GOALS WITHOUT SUBSCRIBING TO LENIN'S CALLS FOR REVOLUTION OR STALIN'S MASS EXTINCTIONS OF RUSSIAN LIFE.

M.O.C.'S POLITICAL FOCUS IS INDEPENDENT, NEITHER REPUBLICAN NOR DEMOCRAT; AND MODERATE, NEITHER CONSERVATIVE NOR LIBERAL. THE MONEY/POWER DNA, OUR CONSTANT IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE AND THE INABILITY OF OUR ELECTED GOVERNMENT TO SEE AND ACT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OFFER LITTLE ROOM FOR PARTICIPATION BY THOSE WHO SHARE OUR POLITICAL SPACE. INDEED, MOST AMERICANS HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT ANAESTHETIZED BY THE PRESENCE OF THESE CONCERNS AND HAVE COME TO ACCEPT THEM AS NORMAL AND, EVEN, PERMANENT. WE TAKE EXCEPTION TO THAT.

OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY WAS ONCE THE POLITICAL PEARL OF THE WORLD, BUT HAS BECOME CONTAMINATED BY EXCESSIVE CORRUPTION, IDEOLOGY, CONGRESSIONAL TENURE AND DEFERENCE TO SPECIAL INTERESTS. THESE HABITS NEED TO BE CHANGED, BUT SUCH REFORM CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE VOTING PUBLIC.

THIS IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE AMERICA'S VOTERS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY PASSIVE AND MOSTLY FOLLOW THE HOOPLA AND THE DIRECTIONS OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES. THEY ARE NOT PASSIVE WHEN AROUSED, BUT THEY NO LONGER SEEM TO INITIATE CHANGE. THEY NEED A GRAIN, A CENTER AROUND WHICH THEY CAN COALESCE.

IN OUR COLONIAL TIMES THE IDEA OF FREEDOM FROM BRITISH RULE AND FORMING AN INDEPENDENT NATION PROVIDED SUCH A CENTER AND, FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION, IT ENABLED OUR FOUNDERS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMPROMISES AND WRITE THE LAWS THAT TRANSFORMED THEIR VISION INTO REALITY, AND GOVERNMENT.

TODAY WE FACE THE SAME KIND OF PROBLEM. THE REALITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT WE THINK WE ARE OR WHAT WE WANT TO BE. WERE THE ENERGY OF AMERICAN VOTERS TO COALESCE AROUND THESE HISTORICAL VISIONS, THEY COULD LEAD US OUT OF THE POLITICAL SWAMP WE NOW INHABIT. THE CHOICE IS OURS.

THESE MATTERS ARE JOINED IN THAT THEY REFLECT A FAILURE AND LOSS OF OUR NATIONAL INTEGRITY. A RESTORED SENSE OF INTEGRITY WILL GREATLY FACILITATE OUR DEFINING THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND ELECTING TO NATIONAL OFFICE THOSE WHO SHARE THAT VISION. THIS WILL NOT BE QUICK NOR EASY, AND EVERYONE HAS A ROLE.

WE MUST START NOW. DO WE HAVE THE WILL? WILL WE MAKE THE TIME?



END NOTES

¹ THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL WAS THE RUSSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH SPREADING COMMUNISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

² THE WANDERER, 12/11/08 THE QUIET REVOLUTION ROLLS FORWARD BY TIMOTHY MATTHEWS

³ IBID

⁴ THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GREAT POWERS, BY PAUL KENNEDY. RANDOM HOUSE, INC., NYC, NY 1987 CH. 6, PG 278

⁵ THE CHANGE AGENTS BY ROBERT H. GOLDSBOROUGH, MIDDLE AMERICAN NEWS, JUNE 2009

⁶ MARXISM, MULTICULTURALISM AND FREE SPEECH BY FRANK ELLIS. PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES. THIS VOLUME HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN PROVIDING A BACKGROUND FOR PARTS OF THIS CHAPTER.

⁷ IBID. INTRO. BY DAVID D. MURPHY

⁸ PALM BEACH POST 10/22/08 "ANOTHER LIE, ANOTHER NAIL" BY LEONARD PITTS JR

⁹ VIKING PENGUIN, NYC, NY 2005

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