

# MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

ISSUE No. 50

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## VII

### WHO ARE WE?

### AND WHY ARE WE NOT WHO WE WERE?

#### CULTURAL CONFUSION IN AMERICA — PART 2

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT

DIFFERENCES  
FRICTION  
TENSION  
ISSUES  
DISCUSSION  
POLICY  
ENGAGEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION

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FRICTION  
TENSION  
ISSUES  
DISCUSSION  
POLICY  
ENGAGEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION  
RESOLUTION

THIS EIGHT STEP PROCESS IS ONE THAT, IF PROPERLY PURSUED, CAN EQUALIZE OR ELIMINATE MOST DIFFERENCES ENCOUNTERED IN HUMAN INTERACTION BUT, UNFORTUNATELY IN OUR TIME, NOT RELIGIOUS ONES, AS WE FIND OURSELVES INCREASINGLY DRAWN INTO CONTACT AND CONFLICT WITH MILITANT ISLAM. BUT ISLAM IS NOT THE ONLY FAITH THAT CANNOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS CAUSE AND EFFECT (C/E) PROCESS. HINDUS, CHRISTIANS, BUDDHISTS AND OTHERS ARE EVENTUALLY DISQUALIFIED BY THE COMMON REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR FAITHS TO ESTABLISH THEIR EXCLUSIVE SPIRITUAL TRUTH AND IDENTITY. THAT IS WHAT RELIGIONS DO AND WHAT DISTINGUISHES THEM FROM LESSER FORMS OF BELIEF AND ACTION.

OUR PRIMARY CONCERN HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, WITH GOVERNMENT, AND HOW OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR NATION'S MOST PRESSING ISSUES — POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SPECIES LOSS, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND RESOURCE DEPLETION — CAN BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT WILL PRODUCE A MORE COHERENT AND EFFECTIVE, RATHER THAN DYSFUNCTIONAL, FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT AMERICA HAS AT ANY TIME IN ITS BRIEF HISTORY EXPERIENCED AS MANY CONTRADICTIONS OF ITS ORIGINS AND INTENTIONS AS IT DOES NOW. OUR DEMOCRATIC MODEL IS BETTER DESIGNED THAN OTHERS TO DEAL WITH CONTRADICTIONS, DEFECTIONS, COMPETING ARGUMENTS AND THE

**IN THIS ISSUE,** our 50th, we continue our concern with cultural contradictions and the ways in which they impact our society. We also reprise the seemingly permanent contradictions that mark our efforts to resolve major issues that as Americans, and especially as a superpower, we must face and resolve

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE** we will identify the ultimate cultural conflicts facing our country and other lesser ones which contribute to our cultural incoherence.

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MULTIPLE DANGERS THAT ATTACH TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PLURAL VALUES. BUT THAT MODEL HAS TO BE FUELED BY BOTH A COMMON VISION AND OUR INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS — NOT A MACHINE SET TO PROVIDE A STEADY STREAM OF BENEFITS TO CONGRESS, THE DC BUREAUCRACY AND ANYONE WHOSE INTERESTS ARE SERVED BY THEM OR BY WASHINGTON’S NUMEROUS LOBBYISTS.

IT HAS LONG BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, WHILE GOVERNMENT IS OUR CAPITAL’S LARGEST ECONOMIC ELEMENT, IN RECENT YEARS POLITICAL LOBBYISTS HAVE GROWN IN NUMBER, WEALTH AND POWER AND MAY NOW OCCUPY SECOND PLACE. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK IN PREPARING AND PASSING LEGISLATION THEY TEND TO PLY THEIR TRADE OUT OF THE DAILY GLARE OF PUBLICITY. THEY ARE NOW CONSIDERED AN ESSENTIAL PRESENCE IN DC BY THOSE WHO “NEED AN EDGE” IN OUR COMMERCIAL, MEDIA, POLITICAL AND DEFENSE SECTORS. PREFERABLY AND MOSTLY UNNOTICED, THEY CAN BE LIKENED TO THE FUNCTION OF SMALL TUG BOATS THAT DEFTLY GUIDE MUCH LARGER SHIPS INTO VERY TIGHT BERTHS. WHILE SOMETIMES, BUT NOT ALWAYS, THEY ARE JOKINGLY REFERRED TO AS OUR “FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT”, THEIR RISE IN POWER AND IMPORTANCE IS UNDENIABLE AND SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE OUTRANKED ONLY BY THE VAST GOVERNMENT MACHINE, ITSELF. THIS HAS TO BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT IS — AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN OUR CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT WHICH, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, CONTRADICTS OUR PRIOR METHODS.

MONEY IN OUR POLITICS IS NOT NEW. IT APPEARED IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AS WESTERN STATES EMERGED FROM TERRITORIES AND AS WE DESIGNATED INDUSTRIALIZATION AS THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR OUR FUTURE. IN THOSE EARLY AND WEALTHY TIMES OF INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM, IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE RICH TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OR SENATORS ON THEIR PAYROLLS, BUT THE SCALE OF THIS ABUSE OF DEMOCRACY WAS SMALL, INDIVIDUAL, RETAIL. NOT SO TODAY; WHEN LOBBYIST PAYMENTS TO THOSE “UNDER THE DOME” ARE WIDESPREAD AND GENEROUS, WHEN THE LOBBYIST PRESENCE IS A CONSTANT IN CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES AND WHEN, UPON RETIREMENT, LEGISLATORS CAN SEAMLESSLY SHIFT TO A CUSHY JOB IN THE INDUSTRY THEY HAD REPRESENTED OR REGULATED IN CONGRESS.

THIS DEGREE OF COLLUSION IS NOT SMALL, INDIVIDUAL AND RETAIL; IT IS LARGE, BROAD AND WHOLESALE. IT IS A FORM OF CORRUPTION THAT ERODES THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR THREE HISTORIC BRANCHES; IT VIOLATES OUR STATED VALUES AND IS JUST AS MUCH A THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY AS THE BLATANT THIRD WORLD TECHNIQUES THAT WE CRITICIZE. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REPAIR OUR DEMOCRACY AND CLAIM THE FUTURE THAT WE ENVISION FOR OURSELVES UNLESS WE CAN RETURN THE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF OUR LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES TO WAYS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS.

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FOR MANY, IF OR WHEN THEY THINK OF CULTURE, IT IS USUALLY IN THE PAST TENSE. BUT THIS IS WRONG, AS CULTURE IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS WHICH AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT IS LACED WITH CONTRADICTIONS. IN THE RUSH, VARIETY AND COMMERCE OF OUR DAILY LIVES THESE ARE MOSTLY IGNORED EVEN THOUGH THEY CALL OUT FOR OUR ATTENTION.

ONE THAT WARRANTS MENTION BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSION IT GENERATED COMES FROM A COMMENT BY DR. BEN CARSON LAST FALL IN THE COURSE OF THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATING PROCESS.

DR. CARSON STATED THAT HE THINKS A MUSLIM SHOULD NOT BE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. AND HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF SEVERE CRITICISM FROM PRO-MUSLIM GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA (MSM) BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT CARSON’S OPINION DENIES OUR CONSTITUTIONALLY GRANTED FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THEIR COUNTRY’S FUTURE PATH ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES IN THE VOTING BOOTH. DR. CARSON’S COMMENTS SEEM MORE BASED ON THE ISSUE OF ALLEGIANCE THAN PERSONAL RELIGIOUS FAITH BECAUSE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ISLAM’S VALUES THERE ARE SOME THAT CLEARLY CONTRADICT OUR CONSTITUTION.

ALL OF ISLAM IS REVEALED IN THE QURAN WHICH COMMANDS BELIEFS AND BEHAVIOR THAT ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH OURS. ONE MUST READ THE QURAN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT DEMANDS OF MUSLIMS. IT IS QUITE SPECIFIC IN ITS LANGUAGE AND TONE. MANY PRO-MUSLIM READERS DISMISS ITS EXTREME REQUIREMENTS

WITH COMMENTS SUCH AS, “WELL THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO” OR “WE SHOULDN’T TAKE THAT LITERALLY”, BUT MUSLIMS START READING AND MEMORIZING THE QURAN IN THEIR FIRST SCHOOL YEAR, IF NOT BEFORE. IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS AND WHAT IT SAYS IS STORED IN THE DEEPEST AND EARLIEST AREAS OF MUSLIMS’ MEMORY.

AS THIS ISSUE HAS NOW “GONE PUBLIC”, WE CAN EXPECT IT WILL RECEIVE FURTHER ATTENTION DURING OUR NOMINATING PROCESS. DR. CARSON’S COMMENT SEEMS TO REASONABLY POINT OUT THAT THE OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE REQUIRED BY THE QURAN AND AN ELECTED PRESIDENT ARE INCOMPATIBLE.

THE MEDIA AND THE CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE FRAMED DR. CARSON’S COMMENT AS A RELIGIOUS ISSUE WHICH SEEMS TO BE A FALSE PREMISE TO US. THE MATTER OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR FAITH IS A PERSONAL ONE, AND IT IS THAT EXERCISE OF PERSONAL FREEDOM THAT IS GUARANTEED BY OUR CONSTITUTION IN RELATION TO RELIGIOUS PRACTICE AND ELECTION TO OFFICE. IT DOES NOT EXTEND ONE PERSON’S FREEDOM IN WAYS OR CHOICE TO OTHERS.

ISLAM IS UNIQUE AMONG WORLD RELIGIONS IN THAT IT COMES WITH ITS OWN LEGAL SYSTEM, SHARIA, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO VARYING INTERPRETATIONS. WHILE WE CLAIM TO BE “A NATION OF LAWS”, SHARIA IS NOT ONE OF THEM, ALTHOUGH EFFORTS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY TO EXTEND ITS APPLICATION AND AUTHORITY TO OUR CIVIL COURTS.

AT ITS HEART, AND CENTRAL TO DR. CARSON’S STATEMENT, IS SHARIA’S ADHERENCE TO MULTIPLE BEHAVIORS THAT ARE PROHIBITED BY OUR SOCIAL AND/OR LEGAL CODES — FEMALE CIRCUMCISION, ARRANGED MARRIAGE, HIGH FERTILITY AND A WIDE RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REGULATION THAT FAILS TO MEET OUR GENDER EQUALITY OR HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS.

THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE A LEGITIMATE,  
BUT NOT A RELIGIOUS, CONCERN.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO DOWNPLAY THESE DIFFERENCES AND CALL FOR DR. CARSON’S POLITICAL SCALP. WE LIVE IN A TIME WHEN WE HAVE SEEN “EXECUTIVE ORDERS” USED TO BOTH CREATE AND TO CONTRADICT EXISTING LAW, AND WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW THEIR USE THROUGHOUT THE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS OF OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO FAVOR MUSLIM INTERESTS MIGHT DELIVER A DEATH SENTENCE TO THE EFFORTS THAT WILL BE NEEDED TO RESTORE OUR ADMITTEDLY “BROKEN” GOVERNMENT TO FUNCTIONALITY. THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE A LEGITIMATE, BUT NOT A RELIGIOUS, CONCERN.

THERE IS ANOTHER LEGAL DIMENSION THAT IS RAISED BY DR. CARSON. FOR OVER A CENTURY WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED A BODY OF IMMIGRATION LAW THAT HAS SERVED THE COUNTRY WELL; AND ITS MOST CONSISTENT SUCCESS HAS BEEN THE ABILITY TO ASSIMILATE THE IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO ADMIT.

ASSIMILATION, WHILE A GOAL EMBRACED BY MOST

IMMIGRANT GROUPS, IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY ISLAMIC HISTORY AND MANY INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QURAN. THE PROSPECT OF AN ISLAMIC PRESIDENT FACED WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF CHOOSING BETWEEN OUR IMMIGRATION LAW AND SHARIA IS ALSO SUGGESTED BY DR. CARSON’S COMMENT.

IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT ISLAM’S UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE REVISITED IN LATER DEBATES. IF SO, WE HOPE THE ARGUMENT WILL BE PROPERLY FRAMED SO THAT IT INCLUDES PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT, NOT JUST POLITICALLY CORRECT (PC) IDEOLOGY. BACK WHEN JFK FIRST RAN FOR OFFICE THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE TO THE IDEA OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BEING PRESIDENT BECAUSE OF A POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF ALLEGIANCE WITH ROME WHICH HE RULED OUT. ISLAM AND THE RCC ARE SEPARATED IN MANY WAYS AND OUR TIME HAS GROWN MORE DANGEROUS IN FIFTY YEARS. SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION MAY APPEAR, BUT IT WOULD TAKE A MOST INTREPID MUSLIM CANDIDATE TO EVEN TRY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE US AND ISLAM AT OUR PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE, AS IN THE OVAL OFFICE “TRIAL AND ERROR” IS NOT A PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED OPTION.

AFTER ALL THE POLITICS, “GOTCHA” RHETORIC AND MEDIA MANIPULATION ARE REMOVED THIS MATTER CAN BE SEEN AS WHAT IT IS — A CULTURAL CLASH WITH THE POTENTIAL TO PUT OUR SECURITY, POLITICAL AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS AT RISK.

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THROUGHOUT OUR CULTURE WE ARE ADVISED BY EXPERTS OF ALL KINDS — PSYCHOLOGISTS, COACHES, FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, BEHAVIORAL ADVISORS AND THE MANY GURUS THAT POPULATE TV — TO “LIVE IN THE MOMENT”. OUR FOCUS ON THIS SLENDER SPAN THAT WE CALL “THE PRESENT” LEADS US INTO THE NARROWEST OF PLACES AND THE BRIEFEST OF TIMES, AS EVIDENCED BY OUR INCREASING IDENTIFICATION BY “SELFIES”.

BUT THE WAY AND WEIGHT OF THE MOMENT IS, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, OVERSHADOWED BY THE JOURNEY THAT PRECEDES IT. THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE OF AMERICA’S JOURNEY AS WE NOW STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN, LET ALONE ADVANCE, OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY.

WE ARE NOW JUST SHORT OF FOUR HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THE PILGRIMS LANDED IN PLYMOUTH, MA AND FOUNDED THE FIRST PERMANENT COLONY IN THE US. THEY WERE PURITANS, DRESSED IN SEVERE BLACK AND WHITE, FLEEING FIRST THE CORRUPTION AND EXCESSES OF THE ROMAN CHURCH AND THEN THE MAYHEM OF THE PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC CONFLICT IN ENGLAND THAT FOLLOWED. THEY STOOD FOR STRICT RULES AND STRAIGHT WAYS WHICH THEY APPLIED TO THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERE. THEY ARE CONSIDERED A QUAIN ANACHRONISM NOW, BUT IN 17TH CENTURY AMERICA THE IMPRINT OF THEIR CUSTOMS, LANGUAGE, LAWS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE, RELIGION AND POLITICS SET THE TONE FOR OUR EARLY CULTURE, TRACES OF WHICH CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY.

BY 1970, THREE AND A HALF CENTURIES AFTER

PLYMOUTH ROCK, THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN THE NEW WORLD HAD TAKEN US FROM A SMALL, ENDANGERED COLONY TO BEING THE WORLD'S SOLE SUPERPOWER — AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY BY ANY VIEW OF HISTORY OR CULTURE. TODAY, LESS THAN HALF A CENTURY LATER, WE CAN RECALL ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY WHO WE WERE THEN, LET ALONE MAINTAIN THE VALUES, IDENTITY OR HISTORY OF THAT POSTWAR TIME WHEN THE WORLD HAD TO REARRANGE ITSELF.

HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN OR UNDERSTAND THIS? IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR POLITICS OR TECHNOLOGY TO UNDERGO SUCH RAPID CHANGE, BUT CULTURE MOSTLY FOLLOWS AT A SLOWER PACE. THERE IS NO EASY, ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL ANSWER. MONEY, POWER AND TECHNOLOGY IN SEEMINGLY UNLIMITED, AND PREVIOUSLY UNAVAILABLE, AMOUNTS ALTERED OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS, NATIONAL POLITICS AND CHARACTER.

IN THE TRADITIONAL CULTURAL REALMS OF MUSIC, LITERATURE, DRAMA AND THE VISUAL ARTS, CONFUSING NEW FORMS AND WAYS INCREASED OUR EXPOSURE TO CHANGE. SOME OF THEM WERE ACTUAL ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A BETTER VISION AND ORDER FOR OUR ALL-POWERFUL 20TH CENTURY SOCIETY; OTHERS OF A LESSER VIEW PROPOSED NEWNESS FOR ITS OWN SAKE. NEVER WAS IT MORE TRUE THAT “THE FALCON CANNOT HEAR THE FALCONER/THINGS FALL APART; THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD;/MERE ANARCHY IS LOOSED UPON THE WORLD.”<sup>1</sup>

THE SUDDEN ACCELERATION OF TECHNOLOGY, WEALTH AND POWER OF OUR POSTWAR WORLD COULD NOT HELP BUT HAVE AN ECHO EFFECT IN OUR CULTURE THE MOST NOTABLE OF WHICH WAS THE RISE IN NUMBER AND REACH OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY RECAST OUR EXPERIENCE OF PEOPLE, EVENTS AND KNOWLEDGE, AND OF THE THOUGHT AND BEHAVIOR THAT DERIVES FROM THEM.

THERE CAN BE “SAFETY IN NUMBERS”  
AND ALSO IN IGNORANCE.

CULTURE IS BOTH A SNAPSHOT AND HISTORICAL RECORD — A BRIEF MOMENT, AN ENDLESS PROCESS; TAKE YOUR PICK. ITS IMAGE MAY BE CLEAR OR BLURRED, OR BOTH; ITS IMPACT BENIGN OR PAINFUL OR, AGAIN, BOTH. CONTRADICTIONS ABOUND AND ALWAYS HAVE THE ABILITY TO IMPROVE OUR VISION OF OURSELVES, BUT AS A SOCIETY WE TEND TO DETERMINEDLY AVOID ANY SUCH INTROSPECTION. THERE CAN BE “SAFETY IN NUMBERS” AND ALSO IN IGNORANCE.

ONE OF OUR EARLIEST SELF-IMAGES WAS THAT OF THE FAIR, SPARE, FRUGAL, TACITURN YANKEE TRADER CAPABLE OF MAKING OR REPAIRING ANY TOOL OR MACHINE. HE WAS THE SURVIVOR OF UNTOLD VERMONT WINTERS, AND RECOGNIZED BOTH FOR HIS SKILL AT BARGAINING AND HIS PERSONAL INTEGRITY.

NOTE HOW SOME OF OUR EARLY YANKEE PHYSICAL IMAGE WAS TRANSFERRED TO OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL OF UNCLE SAM WHEN HE WAS POPULARIZED IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY; AND ALSO IN OUR WIDELY PROMOTED REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTHERN PLANTATION OWNER AS TALL, LEAN AND ELEGANTLY

DRESSED IN SPOTLESS WHITE FORMAL CLOTHING. BOTH “SAM” AND “THE COLONEL” HAVE WHITE HAIR SUGGESTING THAT LATE-IN-LIFE COMMUNITY OF SENIORITY AND WISDOM TOWARDS WHICH WE MAKE OUR HOPEFUL, BUT OFTEN FALTERING, WAY.

THESE IMAGES HAVE BECOME SO POPULAR AND USEFUL THAT THEY ENJOY WHAT SEEMS LIKE CULTURAL PERMANENCE WHICH THEY SHARE WITH OTHER ICONS SUCH AS THE FARMER, THE OFF-SHORE FISHERMAN, THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER, THE HOUSEWIFE. PERMANENCE, OF COURSE, IS TIME-RELATIVE AND ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT THESE SELF-PORTRAITS WILL ENDURE UNLESS DISLODGED AND REPLACED BY AN AGGRESSOR CULTURE, EITHER POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS, THEY ARE NOW UNDER ATTACK FROM INTERNAL SOURCES AND FORCES.

OUR CURRENT TRENDS AND PRACTICES PREDICT THAT BY MID-CENTURY OUR HISTORIC NORTHERN EUROPEAN CULTURE'S NUMBERS WILL SHRINK TO MINORITY STATUS AND BE SURPASSED BY THE GROWING PRESENCE OF ASIANS, LATINOS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

WE TEND TO THINK OF CULTURAL CHANGES, UNLESS IMPOSED BY CONQUEST, AS TAKING PLACE GRADUALLY OVER GENERATIONS OR CENTURIES, BUT OUR PRESENT TRANSFORMATION, WHICH IS ROOTED IN THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1965, KICKED IN AND ACCELERATED WITH PRES. REAGAN'S FIRST AMNESTY IN 1986. IN THE GENERATION SINCE, AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY OF FREQUENT AMNESTIES AND MINIMAL RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRANT ADMISSIONS HAS BEEN THE PURPOSEFUL RESULT OF THE ACTIONS AND CONTROL OF A COMBINATION OF POWERFUL SPECIAL INTERESTS. THEY HAVE HAD THEIR WAY WITH THE NATION'S POLITICAL, BUDGETARY AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES WITHOUT EFFECTIVE RESTRAINT.

ALTHOUGH CULTURE IS REFLECTIVE AND CHANGE IS A CONSTANT, DO WE REALLY WANT TO ABANDON OURS IN FAVOR OF ASIAN, LATIN AND AFRICAN MODELS AS A FORM OF PC ?

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LET'S CONSIDER ANOTHER ASPECT OF CULTURAL CONTRADICTION — OUR APPEARANCE WHICH HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST CENTURY AND A HALF OF OUR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF UNCLE SAM AND “THE COLONEL”. THEN, OUR IMAGE WAS MOSTLY LEAN, WHEREAS TODAY THE CDC<sup>2</sup> REPORTS THAT 34.9%, OR 76.8 MILLION AMERICANS ARE CONSIDERED OBESE, NOT MERELY OVERWEIGHT, AND FURTHER BREAKS THIS DOWN BY RACE/ETHNICITY TO LEVELS OF 38.1% FOR NON-HISPANIC BLACKS, 31.3% FOR HISPANICS AND 27.1% NON-HISPANIC WHITES.

WERE POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION TO CONTINUE AT THEIR PRESENT RATES OF INCREASE, BY THE TURN OF THE NEXT CENTURY (IN ONLY THREE GENERATIONS) AMERICA WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT LOOK — SHORTER, DARKER AND FATTER. “THE COLONEL”, VIEWED BY MANY AS A RACIST IMAGE, WOULD BE LONG GONE, AND UNCLE SAM WOULD BE MODIFIED TO A POLITICALLY CORRECT FORM THAT WOULD REFLECT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE

INCLUSION OF LATINOS, BLACKS, ASIANS AND OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS ADMITTED UNDER OUR OPEN BORDERS POLICIES.

IN THIS PROCESS OUR GENETIC PROFILE WILL BE ALTERED AS WE MOVE TOWARD MORE EYES BEING BROWN AND OUR HISTORIC NORTHERN SHADES OF BLUE, GREEN, GRAY, HAZEL, ETC. ARE PHASED OUT. WILL THE MARIACHI BANDS WITH THEIR SIMPLE TUNES AND LYRICS REPLACE THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE BROADWAY MUSICAL'S GOLDEN HALF-CENTURY FROM 1930 TO 1980 ?

CULTURES CAN BE CHANGED BY HUMAN EFFORT AND PARTICIPATION, AND THEY CAN BE PROTECTED, BUT PEOPLE HAVE TO CARE, SPEAK OUT AND PARTICIPATE. LOOKING BACK TO OUR 19TH CENTURY, THE ABOLITIONISTS AND THE SUFFRAGISTS WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH TWO OF OUR GREATEST SOCIAL ACTIONS, ENDING SLAVERY AND ENFRANCHISING WOMEN, BY THE PRESSURE OF POPULAR PROTEST. THE "ARMIES" THEY FORMED WERE COMMANDED BY LEADERS WHOSE MESSAGES WERE NOT DELIVERED BY MASS MEDIA; RATHER, IN THE STREETS, IN JAILS OR IN THEIR STATE CAPITOLS THEY PUSHED FOR THE PROGRESS THAT OUR VALUES DEMANDED.

BOTH OF THESE MOVEMENTS WERE DOMINATED BY WOMEN AT A TIME WHEN THE MALE POWER STRUCTURE DID NOT "TAKE THEIR CALLS", BUT THEY WERE NOT DETERRED. THEY PERSEVERED AND SUCCEEDED; THE NATION WAS CHANGED AND OUR CONSCIENCE CLEARED.

OUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF CULTURAL SHIFT IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA, AND IS IMPORTANT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE TWO MEGA-FORCES — POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION — WHICH WILL PRODUCE IT. WE WILL EXPLORE OTHERS, BUT THE KEY QUESTION FACING AMERICAN CULTURE TODAY IS, "WILL THE AMERICAN PUBLIC MAKE AN EFFORT, BY INDIVIDUAL AND/OR GOVERNMENT ACTION, TO PREVENT ITS FURTHER DETERIORATION ?".

THIS IS NO SMALL STEP; IT WILL REQUIRE AWARENESS, CONCERN AND A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT METHODS AND LEVELS OF ACTION. AND ANY EFFORT TO REINSTATE OUR TRADITIONAL CULTURAL VALUES WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME TWO FORMIDABLE BARRIERS. THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INERTIA BASED ON EITHER INDIFFERENCE, LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, OR BOTH. AS DAUNTING AS THIS MAY APPEAR, WE DO HAVE AVAILABLE TO US IN OUR TIME THE MSM'S CAPABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.

THAT SAID, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE MSM IS NOT LIKELY TO BE A SOURCE OF COOPERATION, AS IT IS HOME TO MANY OF THE POLITICAL ELITES THAT HAVE SPONSORED OUR RECENT EMBRACE OF PC AS A MOTIVATING POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THEIR FAVORITE TACTIC, WHEN SOMEONE OPPOSES PC, IS TO LABEL HIM/HER A RACIST, A TERM THAT HAS COME TO CARRY HEAVY POLITICAL BAGGAGE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE. POLITICIANS QUAIL AT ITS USE AND WILL TAKE ANY ACTION TO AVOID BEING BRANDED WITH IT. IT HAS, ACCORDINGLY, BECOME THE WEAPON OF CHOICE OF THE POLITICAL LEFT, AND IS SO EMOTIONALLY CHARGED THAT ITS MERE ACCUSATION CAN OFTEN ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSE WITHOUT OFFERING PROOF.

AMERICA'S PRESENT GENERATION HAS GROWN UP IN THE AGE OF PC AND IS MORE LIKELY TO BE COWED BY THE CHARGE OF RACISM. IT WILL TAKE OPEN DISCUSSION AND CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO DEFUSE THIS LABEL AND TO VIEW OUR CULTURE WITHOUT ITS PERNICIOUS DISTORTION, ALWAYS BEING AWARE THAT FOR PC'S BACKERS THE "RACIST" AND "HATE SPEECH" LABELS ARE USED TO DISMISS OPPOSING OPINION RATHER THAN OPENLY DISCUSS THE UNDERLYING ISSUE.

## BYE-BYE BURGER?

APPEARANCE SUCH AS OBESITY AND DRESS ARE SIGNIFICANT IN MANY CULTURES AND ARE USUALLY INTERTWINED WITH OTHERS, ONE OF WHICH IS DIET. ALL THREE COMBINE IN VARIOUS WAYS TO MARK NON-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY CULTURES SUCH AS THOSE OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND ARCTIC ESKIMOS. AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE REST OF THIS CENTURY, WE CAN ANTICIPATE SOME SEVERE SELF-MADE C/E PATTERNS FOR OUR AMERICAN CULTURE. WHAT ARE THE FORCES AT WORK AND WILL OUR SOCIETY BE ABLE TO ADJUST AND RESPOND TO THEM ?

OUR 19TH CENTURY WESTWARD EXPANSION WAS A UNIQUE HISTORICAL EVENT — AN EXTENDED TRIAL AND ERROR PROCESS IN WHICH THE RELIGIOUS, TECHNOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ENERGY OF THE PAST COULD BE PUT TO USE WITHOUT THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM BY THEIR EUROPEAN ORIGINS. INDEED, OUR CONTINENTAL EXTENSION SERVED AS A PRACTICAL LABORATORY IN WHICH THE ADVANCED POLITICAL PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED IN OUR EAST COAST URBAN CENTERS, PRIMARILY BOSTON, NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, COULD BE TESTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF FRONTIER FREEDOM.

IN THIS DANGEROUS AND OFTEN PAINFUL JOURNEY, WHERE THE STRUCTURES OF GOVERNMENT WERE NOT AVAILABLE AND RULES FOR LIVING WERE BASED ON COOPERATION, THE WORDS AND MEANING OF OUR CONSTITUTION UNDERWENT AND PASSED A VERY THOROUGH EXAMINATION. IT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT BY THE END OF THE CENTURY AMERICA COULD LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE UPON ITS PIONEERS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND HOPE TO EXTEND THEM TO THE LARGER WORLD AS OUR "MANIFEST DESTINY"<sup>3</sup>.

CULTURE AND TERRITORY, WHILE BOTH ARE MOVING PARTS OF HISTORY'S PROCESS, DIFFER IN THEIR WAYS AND PACES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLINTY YANKEE TRADER IMAGE DID NOT FIT AS WELL WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI WHERE THE VAST, OPEN SPACES WERE IDEALLY SUITED TO CATTLE RAISING AND THE CONTINUAL CONSUMPTION OF NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIETARY STAPLES SUCH AS BEEF, LAMB, PORK AND CHEESE. WITH CRITICAL HELP FROM SCOTTISH VENTURE INVESTORS OUR MEAT PACKING INDUSTRY WAS ABLE TO "SCALE UP" TO INTERNATIONAL STATUS AND BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST IN OUR ECONOMY,

AS OUR NATIONAL MIXTURE OF POPULATION, WEALTH AND CULTURE MOVED WEST, OUR REPLACEMENT FOR THE NEW ENGLAND PROTOTYPE IMAGE APPEARED IN THE FORM OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY — STILL WITH FAIR, BUT SUN-BRONZED

SKIN, LEAN, SPARE IN WORDS SPOKEN WITH A DRAWL, FIRM, STRONG, WEARING A WIDE-BRIMMED HAT, LEVIS, PLAID SHIRT, RED BANDANA AND, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IN THOSE TIMES, A REVOLVER AND CARTRIDGE BELT.

IMAGES CAN COME AND GO, AND THAT OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY MAY HAVE BEEN SLIPPING FROM OUR CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER WW II, BUT IT WAS RESCUED BY MARLBORO CIGARETTES FOR THEIR PRINT AND MEDIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS WHICH REACHED INTO MILLIONS OF AMERICAN HOMES. AS CIGARETTE SMOKING HAS DECLINED BECAUSE OF ITS HEALTH ISSUES, WE CAN ONLY WONDER WHETHER THE ICONIC AMERICAN COWBOY WILL BE REVIVED IN YET ANOTHER LIFE.

BUT REGARDLESS OF ITS FINAL FATE, THE CULTURAL COHERENCE SHOWN IN THE EMERGENCE OF THESE TWO IMAGES SEPARATED BY TIME AND PLACE REVEALS THE STRENGTH AND IDENTITY THAT MARKED AMERICA'S VIEW OF ITS CULTURE IN THE PAST. MAKE NO MISTAKE; ENDEMIC CULTURAL COHERENCE, WHEN EXTENDED EITHER BY TERRITORY OR HEREDITY, IS A POSITIVE ELEMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF WHICH IT IS A PART, AND IS THE ANTITHESIS OF CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS THAT WEAKEN THEIR HOST.

COINCIDENTALLY, AS THE PAST IMAGES OF OUR CULTURE ARE FADING, THEY ARE BEING REPLACED BY THOSE DEMANDED BY PC WHICH CONTRADICT CULTURAL COHERENCE IN MANY WAYS, THE MOST OBVIOUS BEING THAT THEY ARE NOT BROADLY SPONTANEOUS BUT ARE IMPOSED BY THE NATION'S POLITICAL ELITES. EACH ADDED CULTURAL CONTRADICTION WILL DO MORE DAMAGE AS OUR TIES TO OUR ORIGINS ARE LOOSENED AND THEN ABANDONED.

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AS CULTURES MUST RESPOND TO THE FUTURE AS WELL AS HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR PASTS, WE MUST INQUIRE INTO SOME OF THE POWERFUL FORCES NOW IN MOTION THAT WILL ACT UPON US IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

ONE ASPECT OF CULTURE NOT EMPHASIZED AS MUCH AS THE ARTS IS DIET. EVERY CULTURE HAS ONE THAT IS MOSTLY DETERMINED BY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF VITAL NATURAL RESOURCES. THERE ARE DIETS BASED ON FISH, MEAT, DAIRY, GAME, GRAIN, FOWL, RICE, BEANS, ETC. OUR OWN DIET IS ONE OF ABUNDANCE BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE ENOUGH TO FEED OURSELVES AND TO ALSO BUY FOOD FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT WITH THE TWIN DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MEAT PACKING AND RANCHING INDUSTRIES FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, OUR NATIONAL DIET GREW TO BE INCREASINGLY BASED ON MEAT. ORIGINALLY VIEWED AS A PLUS, OUR PAST RELIANCE UPON BEEF AS THE KEY ELEMENT IN OUR DIET IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED ON MANY GROUNDS.

UNLIKE SOME GRAZING SPECIES, MAN CAN OBTAIN ONLY SOME OF HIS NUTRITIONAL NEEDS FROM PLANT SOURCES. THIS LACK HAS BEEN MADE UP BY A DIET THAT FAVORS ANIMAL PROTEIN WHEREBY THE ANIMAL SERVES AS A CONVERTER AND DELIVERS PROTEINS (ENERGY) IN FORMS THAT HUMANS CAN DIGEST IN

SMALLER AND STRONGER AMOUNTS THAN AN ALL-PLANT DIET WOULD ENTAIL.

BEEF IS EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF TIME, MONEY, RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION AND PROCESSING; CATTLE MUST BE BRED, FED, SHIPPED, BUTCHERED AND DELIVERED IN A PROCESS DURING WHICH BOTH NATURAL AND HUMAN RISK IS ALWAYS PRESENT. IT IS ALSO EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF THE WATER AND LAND IT REQUIRES TO PRODUCE STOVE-READY FOOD FOR OUR CONSUMPTION.

THE AMOUNT OF WATER REQUIRED TO RAISE ONE POUND OF BEEF IS 1,800 GALS; AND THE PASTURE LAND NECESSARY COMES TO ABOUT 2 ACRES<sup>4</sup>, ALTHOUGH THIS CAN VARY ACCORDING TO THE TYPE, CLIMATE AND FORAGE OF THE LAND. IN OUR TIME OF DIMINISHING WATER RESOURCES AND ARABLE LAND, COMBINED WITH SHARPLY INCREASING POPULATION, OUR PREVIOUS AND PRESENT RATE OF USAGE CAN APPEAR TO BE EXTRAVAGANT.

THERE ARE MAJOR FORCES AT WORK UPON OUR SOCIETY, OUR ECONOMY AND OUR CULTURE THAT IN THE PAST WE EXPERIENCED AS GRADUAL AND COMFORTABLE, BUT WHICH NOW ARE INTENSIFYING AND/OR ACCELERATING. THESE INCLUDE DROUGHT, VIOLENT WEATHER PATTERNS, POPULATION GROWTH, LOSS OF WATER RESOURCES AND ARABLE LAND, RISING TEMPERATURES AND SEA LEVELS, VANISHING ICE CAPS AND THE STEADY INCREASE OF CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. FROM TIME TO TIME AND PLACE TO PLACE, THESE ARE INTERRELATED BY NATURAL AND HUMAN FACTORS. IN THE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THREE GENERATIONS REMAINING IN THIS CENTURY, LET'S LOOK AT HOW THESE TRENDS WILL IMPACT OUR CULTURE.

FIRST, POPULATION, AS IT IS THE MECHANISM THAT WILL DRIVE OTHERS. U.S. POPULATION, BARRING ANY PURPOSEFUL PROCESS OF CONTROL, IS EXPECTED TO REACH A HALF BILLION BY MID-CENTURY AND CLOSE TO A BILLION BY 2100. THE NEED TO FEED, HOUSE AND EMPLOY SUCH LARGER NUMBERS WILL MEAN THAT LESS LAND WILL HAVE TO SUPPORT MORE PEOPLE. LAND PRICES ARE BOUND TO RISE AND, WITH THEM, THE COST OF RAISING CATTLE AND CROPS — AND THEIR END PRODUCT, EDIBLE BEEF.

BUT, TO BORROW A PHRASE FROM SPACE EXPLORATION, "WE ARE NOT ALONE". THERE IS CHINA, OUR PRIME BANKER, WITH FARM AND FERTILITY PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN ON A MASSIVE SCALE. IT HAS JUST TERMINATED ITS ONE-CHILD PER FAMILY FERTILITY POLICY IN PLACE SINCE 1980 AND WILL NOW ALLOW AN INCREASE TO TWO.

THE PROSPECT OF THE WORLD'S PRESENTLY MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY DOUBLING ITS FERTILITY RATE IS NOT A HAPPY ONE FOR MANY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT MODELS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THERE ARE ALWAYS WINNERS AND LOSERS WHEN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC/POLITICAL RULES CHANGE; AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES ARE MAGNIFIED WHEN THE MAJOR POWERS ARE THE MOVERS.

CHINA'S ONE-CHILD POLICY CAME ABOUT BECAUSE ITS LEADERS RECOGNIZED THAT WITHOUT RESTRICTION THE GROWTH OF CHINA'S ALREADY LARGE POPULATION WOULD OUTSTRIP THE CAPACITY OF ITS AGRICULTURAL BASE. THIS HAS REMAINED

A VALID CONCERN AND CHINA HAS BECOME A LEADING, IF NOT DOMINANT, IMPORTER OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

SOYBEANS OFFER AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE. THE EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR THEM IS DUE TO THE DISCOVERY AFTER WW II THAT COMBINING ONE PART OF SOYBEAN MEAL WITH FOUR PARTS OF GRAIN (USUALLY CORN) WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY IN CONVERTING GRAIN INTO ANIMAL PROTEIN.

FOLLOWING THE GREAT FAMINE OF 1959-61 IN WHICH 30 MILLION CHINESE DIED OF STARVATION, THE GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO CONCENTRATE ITS AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS ON GRAIN PRODUCTION BY SUBSIDIES AND OTHER METHODS THAT PRODUCED MIXED RESULTS INCLUDING OVERPUMPED AQUIFERS AND DESERTIFICATION IN ITS NORTHWEST REGION. SOYBEAN PRODUCTION, FOR INSTANCE, REMAINED MOSTLY LEVEL FROM 1994 TO 2011 AT 14 MILLION TONS, WHEREAS ITS CONSUMPTION ROSE TO 70 MILLION TONS WITH THE DIFFERENCE BEING OBTAINED BY IMPORTS.

... EXPANDING POPULATION MUST INCREASE  
FOOD PRICES HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

TODAY CHINA RANKS AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF SOYBEANS. WITH ITS POPULATION-DRIVEN DEMAND SET TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AND THE PROSPECT OF FLAT OR EVEN REDUCED ACREAGE AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCTION, THE QUESTION ARISES, "HOW WILL CHINA FEED ITSELF ?" THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD, THE AMOUNT OF LAND, ESPECIALLY ARABLE LAND, IS MOSTLY A FIXED QUANTITY WITH THE RESULT THAT EXPANDING POPULATION MUST INCREASE FOOD PRICES HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

BUT, LOOKING AHEAD, THERE ARE OTHER FORCES, SOME NATURAL AND SOME HUMAN, THAT ARE BOUND TO AFFECT FOOD SUPPLIES AND PRICES; AND ONE OF THE MOST DEVASTATING IS DROUGHT, CAUSED BY BOTH NATURE AND MAN. OVER THE PAST CENTURY THE EXPERIENCE OF DROUGHT IN AMERICA HAS BEEN MOSTLY LIMITED IN TIME, PLACE AND FREQUENCY WITH THE TWO MAJOR EXCEPTIONS OF THE 1930'S DUST BOWL AND THE PRESENT PROLONGED SCARCITY IN CA.

IN THE LATTER, INEQUITIES THAT APPEAR THROUGHOUT THE STRICKEN AREA ARE OFTEN PROTECTED BY ARCHAIC WATER OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS LAWS THAT DATE BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY. SOME CROPS REQUIRE AND RECEIVE MUCH MORE WATER THAN OTHERS, AND WATER RESOURCES CAN BE USED TO KEEP BUILDINGS COOL OR POOLS FILLED IN DISTANT CITIES WHILE LOCAL COMMUNITIES STRUGGLE TO HAVE ENOUGH OR ARE SUBJECT TO RATIONING LIMITATIONS.

BUT THE GREATEST DISCREPANCIES ARE FOUND IN OUR ANIMAL FOOD CHAIN. WE OBTAIN MOST OF OUR DIETARY ENERGY FROM ANIMAL PROTEINS FOUND IN THE LAMB, PORK, CHICKEN, BEEF AND FISH THAT WE EAT. THESE SPECIES SERVE AS A CONVERSION MECHANISM THAT PROCESSES GRAINS AND GRASSES WHICH WE CANNOT DIGEST AND PRODUCES HIGHER ENERGY ANIMAL PROTEINS WITH FAT THAT WE CAN TOLERATE.

WITHOUT THIS TRANSFORMING INTERMEDIATE STEP WE WOULD HAVE MAINTAINED THE FOUR-LEGGED POSTURE AND MOTION OF ALL GRAZING ANIMALS.

THE RANGE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPECIES OF THE AMOUNT OF WATER REQUIRED FOR THEIR GROWTH IS QUITE SURPRISING. FOR ONE WALNUT, 2 GALLONS IS NEEDED; FOR ONE EGG, 53 GALLONS; FOR A POUND OF CHICKEN, 468 GALLONS. A POUND OF BEEF REQUIRES 1,800 GALLONS AND A HAMBURGER ABOUT 450 GALLONS.<sup>5</sup>

IN CA, AS 80% OF ITS WATER USE GOES TO THE FARMING AND RANCHING OPERATIONS THAT FEED THE NATION<sup>6</sup>, ALL EFFORTS TO SAVE WATER CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR FOOD SUPPLY — ITS AVAILABILITY, QUALITY, PRICE, ETC.

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DROUGHT IS NOT THE ONLY FORM IN WHICH HEAT WILL CAUSE GREAT CHANGE BEFORE THE CENTURY ENDS. RISING TEMPERATURES, WHICH ARE SEEN AS A KEY ELEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE, WILL ALTER OUR LIVES IN OTHER WAYS THAN REDUCING THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF OUR WATER SUPPLY.

AS WAS SEEN IN THE RECENT GLOBAL SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN PARIS IN DECEMBER, CLIMATE CHANGE IS A CONCEPT THAT HAS GAINED SUPPORT IN THE LAST DECADE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE STILL STRONG DIFFERENCES EXPRESSED AS TO THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH IT. BUT, IF WE ONLY ASSUME IT WILL PROCEED AT ITS PRESENT PACE FOR THE REST OF THE CENTURY, OUR TEMPERATE ZONE LIFE AND LAND WILL BE GREATLY CHANGED.

HIGHER TEMPERATURES WILL REDUCE AVAILABLE WATER AND WILL ALTER OR DESTROY THE LIFE CYCLES OF MANY OF THE LIFE FORMS THAT SUPPORT US.

MANY SCIENTISTS VIEW CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING (CC/GW) AS A GLOBAL ROLLING UP AND MOVING TOWARD THE POLES OF OUR PRESENT CLIMATE ZONES. THE RESULTING CHANGES COULD BE WIDESPREAD THROUGH OUR TERRESTRIAL PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, AND PRESENT FISHERIES COULD DIE OFF AS THE RESULT OF EVEN SLIGHTLY HIGHER WATER TEMPERATURES. ALSO, MAINSTAY CROPS SUCH AS WHEAT COULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GERMINATE AND GROW IN ONCE, BUT NO LONGER, FERTILE FIELDS DESERTED BY THEIR PREVIOUS POLLINATORS.

HOW WOULD A DRIFT FROM TEMPERATE TO TROPICAL AFFECT THE CITIES OF OUR SOUTHWEST? DALLAS, HOUSTON, TULSA, PHOENIX, TUCSON ? THEIR POPULATIONS ALL DEPEND ON A MODEL OF 24/7 REFRIGERATION/AC. AS WATER AND FOOD BECOME MORE SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE, BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE WILL FACE DIFFICULT CHOICES.

IN CAPITALIST AMERICA, THE ANSWER IS OFTEN "THE MARKET WILL DECIDE". IF SO, HOW ? WIDESPREAD CLIMATE CHANGE WILL INEVITABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY CULTURE CHANGE. FOR INSTANCE, THE CAPITALIST MODEL WOULD STATE THAT A TEMPERATE ZONE COMPANY AND ITS EMPLOYEES MOVING NORTH TO CANADA WOULD BE REPLACED BY AN EQUATORIAL ZONE

ENTITY AND EMPLOYEES ALSO MOVING NORTH TO ESCAPE RISING TEMPERATURES.

FROM AN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE THE ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE THAT THE EXCHANGE IS AN EVEN ONE. THE REVENUES, JOBS, EMPLOYEES, HOMES OF THOSE DEPARTING CAN BE FILLED BY THE NEW ARRIVALS. BUT OUR CONCERN IS ABOUT CULTURE AND CULTURALLY THIS IS NOT AN EVEN TRADE. DIET FOR THE NEWLY TROPICAL LAND WILL BE BASED ON BEANS OR WHAT OTHER EDIBLE, TROPICAL PLANTS CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY GROWN AND SOLD. AND THE PEOPLE THAT TEND AND CONSUME THEM WILL BE DIFFERENT, TOO — LESS EDUCATED, SHORTER, WITH DARKER SKIN AND EYES, MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN INDIAN BY DESCENT AND SPEAKERS OF SPANISH OR THE MULTIPLE LATIN AMERICAN DIALECTS. THEY WILL HAVE DIFFERENT HEALTH/DISEASE PROFILES AND HIGH FERTILITY RATES, AND POSSIBLY TRIBAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS RELIGION, MARRIAGE, ANIMALS, HONOR ETC.

WE DO NOT TEND TO THINK OF CC/GW AS A CULTURAL GAME-CHANGER, BUT WE SHOULD. ALL THESE MAJOR FORCES INVOLVING FOOD, WATER, MONEY, LAND AND PEOPLE WILL BE INTERACTING IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF WHICH WE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE AWARE. THEY WILL CHANGE OUR CULTURE IN BOTH SUBTLE AND EVIDENT WAYS, SOMETIMES GRADUALLY AND SOMETIMES INSTANTLY WHEN POLITICIANS SENSE ADVANTAGE AND DECLARE THEMSELVES AS PARTICIPANTS. HOWEVER, JUDGING BY OUR RECENT PAST, OUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL ADD LITTLE OF VALUE AND MAY MAKE THINGS WORSE. THE END RESULT MAY WELL BE THAT WHAT IS BASICALLY A MATTER OF SCIENCE MAY PRESENT US WITH AN ENORMOUS CULTURAL CONFLICT AND CONTRADICTION. LIKE IT OR NOT, CC/GW WILL BRING PERVASIVE CHANGE TO ALL PARTS AND CULTURES OF OUR PLANET. TO BE ACCURATE, WE SHOULD PROBABLY REVISE OUR TERMINOLOGY TO “TOTAL CHANGE/ GLOBAL WARMING” AND BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SMALLER BUT MORE EXPENSIVE BURGERS THAN THOSE WE PRESENTLY ENJOY.

## **POLICE MILITARIZATION AND WAR SURPLUS MATERIAL**

FOLLOWING WW II OUR ARMED FORCES FOUND THEMSELVES HOLDING VAST AMOUNTS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES THAT WOULD NOT BE USED AGAIN AND WOULD BE EXPENSIVE TO STORE AND MAINTAIN. ACCORDINGLY, GOVERNMENT EMBARKED UPON A RAPID DISPOSAL PROGRAM TO MOVE THIS MATERIAL TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP VIA IRRESISTIBLY LOW PRICES. ITS SUCCESS WAS IMMEDIATE, AS MOST ITEMS WERE SUITED TO SECOND LIVES IN FARMING, INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION OR HOME USE.

GROWING UP IN NEW YORK CITY, WE OFTEN USED ITS MAMMOTH CENTRAL PARK TO PLAY GAMES, CREATE MISCHIEF, OR BOTH, AND WE STILL HAVE A CLEAR RECOLLECTION OF THE CITY’S POLICE PRESENCE IN THE AREA WE USED. HE WAS A WHITE-HAIRED, KINDLY, RED-FACED, SOMEWHAT OVERWEIGHT COP ON THE BEAT NAMED “SUGAR”. HIS ASSIGNED EQUIPMENT FOR ENFORCING THE LAW AND KEEPING THE PEACE CONSISTED

OF A PAIR OF METAL HANDCUFFS, A NIGHTSTICK AND A SHINY, NICKEL-PLATED REVOLVER — NO MORE THAN A .38 CALIBER AND PERHAPS A .32. THERE WERE POLICE CALL BOXES CONNECTED TO A CENTRAL STATION THROUGHOUT THE PARK SO THAT IF MORE FORCE WAS NEEDED, IT WAS READILY AVAILABLE TO ASSIST “SUGAR”.

CRIME IN CENTRAL PARK IN THE 1930S WAS MOSTLY ON THE SCALE OF PURSE SNATCHING, PICKPOCKETING, FIST FIGHTS, MINOR ROBBERIES, ETC. MURDER, RAPE, DRUG DEALING AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR WERE RARE. THAT WAS THE CULTURE OF THE TIME AND, LIKE MOST CULTURES, IT ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN A VARIETY OF COMPETING INTERESTS.

FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT WHEN OUR NATIONAL CULTURE HAS BEEN STRETCHED TO INCLUDE THE MILITARIZATION OF OUR POLICE FORCES BY THE USE OF POWERFUL MILITARY WEAPONS FOR CROWD CONTROL AND IN THE SQUAD CARS THAT PROTECT THE COMMUNITY LIFE THAT FLOWS THROUGH OUR STREETS, STORES, HOMES AND SCHOOLS. WHAT HAS CHANGED THESE CULTURAL IMAGES? WHAT HAS TRANSFORMED “SUGAR” WITH HIS MINIMAL EQUIPMENT INTO TODAY’S HEAVILY ARMED OFFICER WHO, IN THE COURSE OF NORMAL DUTY, CARRIES HALF A DOZEN WEAPONS AND A VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHICH PROBABLY TOTAL CLOSE TO 50 LBS. OF WEIGHT?

THIS IS A SHORT QUESTION WITHOUT SHORT ANSWERS. THERE ARE REASONS, AND EVEN EXPLANATIONS, BUT AFTER WE SIFT THROUGH THEM WE ARE LEFT WITH ONE OF THE CLEAREST CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS TO EMERGE FROM OUR SOCIETY. WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY?

FIRST, AMERICA SINCE ITS EARLIEST DAYS HAS BEEN MODEST IN ITS PRACTICE OR CELEBRATIONS OF MILITARISM. IN THE CONSTITUTION’S SECOND AMENDMENT WE ENVISION OUR COUNTRY AS RELYING FOR ITS PROTECTION UPON A CITIZEN MILITIA TO BE ACTIVATED, WHEN NECESSARY, AS IT WAS FOR OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR. AND WE HAVE LARGELY ESCHEWED A STANDING ARMY OF SIZE IN FAVOR OF A VOLUNTEER FORCE EXCEPT FOR THE FOUR WARS OF THE LAST CENTURY<sup>7</sup> WHEN NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION WAS LEGISLATED BY CONGRESS. OUR MORE RECENT CONFLICTS THAT HAVE REQUIRED TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ AND LIBYA HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY OUR REORGANIZED VOLUNTEER ARMY.

BUT THE PROBLEM OF OUR POLICE FORCES’ MILITARIZATION BEGAN DURING THE 1960S IN OUR CIVILIAN, NOT OUR MILITARY, CULTURE. THEN, THE OFFSPRING OF WARTIME AND POSTWAR MARRIAGES HAD REACHED THE AGE OF PARTICIPATION WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO DRIVE, DRINK, VOTE, MARRY AND PROTEST. THE WAR IN VIETNAM OFFERED A READY TARGET FOR THE LATTER, BUT THERE WERE OTHER FORCES AT WORK.

IN MANY OF OUR WORLD’S CULTURES, ESPECIALLY TRIBAL ONES, THE SENIOR STATUS OF OLDER CITIZENS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS IS ACCORDED SPECIAL ATTENTION AND RESPECT. THIS IS NOT SO IN OUR COUNTRY WHERE OUR “THROW AWAY” MENTALITY PROVIDES A CLEAR TRACK FOR THE “YOUTH EXPRESS”, AND THE TENSIONS BETWEEN DEPARTING

AND ARRIVING GENERATIONS ARE MORE PRONOUNCED. THE 1960S GAVE RISE TO A KIND OF “PERFECT STORM” IN WHICH GROWING NUMBERS OF STUDENTS EMPLOYING NEW AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNOLOGIES COULD GAIN ATTENTION AND AUDIENCES BY OPPOSING TRADITIONAL CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE REAL “KICKER”, HOWEVER, THAT DISTINGUISHED THE 1960S PROTESTS FROM PREVIOUS ONES WAS THAT THEY WERE FREQUENTLY AND WIDELY FUELED BY DRUGS — FIRST MARIJUANA AND THEN LSD, HEROIN, ETC. — WHICH WIDENED THE SPACE BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD. NOT ONLY DID YOUTH DISPUTE THE ESTABLISHED ORDER; IT DISMISSED IT, AND OFTEN WITH THE SAME RANCOR WHICH IT ATTRIBUTED TO ITS OPPONENTS.

THE 1960S, FOR THOSE WHO HAD REACHED THE AGE OF PARTICIPATION, WAS AN ERA OF IDENTITY, PROTEST AND DISRUPTION. “HIPPIES”, YOUNG OR OLD, DRUG USER OR DRUG FREE, WENT BEYOND THE USUAL LEGAL/POLITICAL BOUNDARIES OF ARGUMENT AND CLAIMED THAT THEY POSSESSED, AND SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS HAVING, A SPECIAL AND SUPERIOR SENSE OF AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL ISSUES, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. WHETHER DUE TO THEIR AGE OR DRUG USE, THIS RATIONALE OF HAVING, AND BEING ENTITLED TO, THEIR OWN “TRUTH” WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN THEIR RESPONSE TO AND REJECTION OF THE EARLIER AUTHORITY THEY INHERITED.

DRUG USE WAS TRULY COUNTER CULTURE. IT INDUCED FORMS OF BEHAVIOR WHICH CONTRADICTED IMAGES AND VALUES WE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT TO OUR IDENTITY. IT WAS NOT ONLY DISRESPECTFUL; IT WAS FUN, INEXPENSIVE, ADDICTIVE, SYMBOLIC AND ILLEGAL. AS ITS POPULARITY SPREAD BEYOND THE LIMITS OF OUR LOCAL LAWS AND OUR JAILS FILLED, DRUG USE BECAME A NATIONAL ISSUE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO DRAW ATTENTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE. PRES. NIXON DECLARED OUR “WAR ON DRUGS”, FOLLOWED BY NANCY REAGAN’S ADVICE TO “JUST SAY NO”. IN THE DECADE BETWEEN THE TWO, DRUG USE SPREAD, THE PRODUCT LINE EXPANDED AND ITS SUPPLY/MARKETING FUNCTION WAS TAKEN OVER BY ORGANIZED CRIME WITH THE RESULT THAT AMERICA HAD TO BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE THAT DRUGS HAD BECOME A POPULAR AND POWERFUL NATIONAL ADDICTION. WE WILL DISCUSS THIS MAJOR CULTURAL SHIFT FURTHER IN OUR NEXT ISSUE. IN 1981 CONGRESS PASSED THE MILITARY COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT (MCLEA)<sup>8</sup> WHICH PERMITTED THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE (DOD) TO PROVIDE TRAINING, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO LOCAL POLICE FORCES.

WITHIN A YEAR, 59% OF THE NATION’S COMMUNITIES HAD PUT IN PLACE POLICE PARAMILITARY UNITS (PPUs) AND BY 1995 THAT NUMBER HAD REACHED 89%<sup>9</sup>. THIS FLOW OF MILITARY RESOURCES TO CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES KICKED UP SHARPLY AFTER 9/11 WHEN ALL LAW FORCES, LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL, WERE DIRECTED TO JOIN IN THE “WAR ON TERROR”. IN 2010 THE DOD’S EQUIPMENT SALES TO LOCALITIES REACHED \$212 MILLION WHICH THEN INCREASED TO \$450 MILLION IN 2013, ALL AT BARGAIN PRICES.

WITH THIS NEW EQUIPMENT AND MILITARY TRAINING, THE ATTITUDES OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED IT AND WERE CHARGED WITH

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES COULD NOT HELP BUT CHANGE. AND MSM COVERAGE EMPHASIZED THE “US VS. THEM” ELEMENT SUFFICIENTLY TO DISPEL THE CONCERNS RAISED BY IMAGES OF HEAVILY ARMED POLICE CONFRONTING CIVILIAN POPULATIONS ENGAGED IN ASSEMBLY OR PROTEST ACTIVITIES.

WHILE THE TENOR OF OUR TIME REFLECTS SUCH BITTER ISSUES AS RACE, EMPLOYMENT, THE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND, AS THE SPACE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT IS VIEWED AS ONE THAT SEPARATES, RATHER THAN JOINS, THEM, THE REPEATED IMAGES OF BATTLE-READY, HEAVILY ARMED PPU’S BEHIND MILITARY VEHICLES FURTHERS A SENSE OF ALIENATION AND UNEQUAL STRENGTH.

THIS IS NOT AN ATTACK ON OUR LAW ENFORCERS, AS BOTH SIDES BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR TENDING THE SPACE THAT DIVIDES THEM WHICH, WITHOUT THE HARD WORK OF COMMON CARE, CAN EASILY DETERIORATE AND BECOME AN URBAN “NO MAN’S LAND”. THE DISTANCE BETWEEN “SUGAR”, THE WHITE HAired COP IN CENTRAL PARK IN THE 1930S, AND OUR MILITARIZED POLICE TODAY CAN BE MEASURED IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIGHT YEARS; AS CAN ALSO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS DEMANDED AND WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED BY THOSE WHO PROTEST.

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS YIELD NOTHING UNTIL FORCED TO, AND THEN ARE GONE. POPULAR GOVERNMENTS ARE PUSHED BY THEIR NATURE TO YIELD MORE THAN THEY WOULD LIKE, WHILE GIVING THE PUBLIC LESS THAN IT DEMANDS AND, THEREBY, SURVIVE.

THE MILITARIZATION OF LOCAL LAW AGENCIES CONSTITUTES A CULTURAL CONFLICT THAT IS BOTH DEEP AND WIDE.

OUR DEMOCRACY IS AMBITIOUS IN ITS ETHICS AND INTENT, AND OUR FOUNDING FATHERS COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED THE TRIALS WE’VE PUT IT THROUGH, NOR WHERE WE ARE TODAY. GIVEN THEIR FIRM BELIEF IN AN UNPAID CITIZEN MILITIA’S FUNCTION TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY’S PEOPLE AND PROPERTY, THE MILITARIZATION OF LOCAL LAW AGENCIES CONSTITUTES A CULTURAL CONFLICT THAT IS BOTH DEEP AND WIDE.

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BUT TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING! A VALID POINT CAN BE MADE THAT OF ALL THE FORCES THAT HAVE ACTED UPON MANKIND IN ITS JOURNEY THE THREE MOST DURABLE, AND ARGUABLY IMPORTANT, HAVE BEEN THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE, TO FEED ITSELF AND TO WAGE WAR. IN THE CONTINUUM OF HUMAN PROGRESS THOSE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PRESENT AND NECESSARY

THEY COMMAND OUR ATTENTION AND ENERGY, AND HAVE DOMINATED THE TECHNOLOGICAL EXPLOSION OF OUR POSTWAR ERA. WE WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND OTHER SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY THAT EXHIBIT TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AS GREAT AS THOSE OF WARFARE/MUNITIONS, AGRICULTURE (FARMING, FISHING, CROP AND WEATHER SCIENCE) AND COMMUNICATIONS.

QUITE SIMPLY, WE FIGHT, FEED AND COMMUNICATE BY SIGHT/SOUND IN WAYS, AT SPEEDS AND WITH REACH THAT WERE NOT IMAGINED AT THE MID-POINT OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

THE PROGRESS OF TECHNOLOGY CHANGES PEOPLE, POLITICS AND CULTURES IN NOTABLE, BUT NOT ALWAYS EVIDENT, WAYS; AND IN DOING SO, CAN CREATE CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS WHICH, BECAUSE TECHNOLOGY'S TOUCH CAN BE SUDDEN AND DISRUPTIVE, ARE OFTEN SEVERE.

FOR INSTANCE, IN THE RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD SINCE WW II, TECHNOLOGY HAS ALTERED OUR SELF-IMAGES OF HOW WE FIGHT, FEED AND COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. THE MUSHROOM CLOUD HAS REPLACED THE GRAND ARMIES OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES AND THE "DOUGH BOY" AND "GI JOE" OF THE 20TH AS THE UNIVERSAL SYMBOL OF WAR.

THE AMERICAN FARMER IS NO LONGER MOSTLY A FAMILY UNIT OPERATING A FAMILY-SIZE FARM. LIKE OTHER SECTORS, AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN OVERLAID WITH CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING WITH THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF "CONSOLIDATION". IN THE PROCESS, THE IMAGE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER AS A RUGGED, WEATHER-MARKED MAN AND HIS HORSE, PLOWING HIS FIELD AND ACCOMPANIED BY A YOUNG BOY AND DOG, HAS BEEN UPDATED TO SHOW A LESS WEATHERED VERSION OPERATING IN THE AIR-CONDITIONED COMFORT OF THE CAB OF A VERY LARGE TRACTOR WITH A BROAD MULTI-ROW HARROW IN TOW. EQUIPMENT OF THIS KIND IS POSITIONED BY OUR NEW GPS TECHNOLOGY AND ITS COST CAN EASILY RUN TO A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS, OR MORE.

IN THE MEDIA WORLD THE SAME PROCESS OF COMBINATION, CONSOLIDATION AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE TOOK PLACE, AS RADIO/TV STATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS WERE FIRST JOINED INTO MEDIA SPECIFIC GROUPS AND THEN ENTERTAINMENT CONGLOMERATES. IN THE PROCESS WE EXCHANGED THE IMAGES OF THE YOUNG BOY ON HIS BIKE DELIVERING PAPERS AND THE URBAN NEWSSTAND OWNER HAWKING "EXTRA" EDITIONS FOR THE 24/7 COMMENTS FROM THE SMALL SCREEN IN OUR LIVING ROOMS.

HOW DO SUCH ENORMOUS CHANGES COME ABOUT? IS IT BECAUSE WE IGNORE OR EMBRACE THEIR POWER ? TO WHAT DEGREE DO WE ALLOW THEM TO CHANGE OUR BASIC IDENTITY AND, AS TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING, OUR CULTURE ? CULTURE AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT IS A CUMULATIVE TOTAL, NEVER A FINAL FIGURE OR WHAT OUR PRESENT VERNACULAR REFERS TO AS "THE BOTTOM LINE".

## IN THE WAKE OF THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

IN 1903, PRES. THEODORE ROOSEVELT SENT A POWERFUL SEGMENT OF OUR GROWING NAVY AROUND THE WORLD TO INTRODUCE THE U.S. AS A NEW AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL POWER WITH WHICH OLDER GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND ASIA WOULD HAVE TO ENGAGE. THIS, AFTER ALMOST A CENTURY OF PROTECTIVE FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON THE MONROE DOCTRINE (1823), WAS DESIGNED

TO CREATE A NEW WAY BY WHICH THE LARGER WORLD WOULD VIEW US. COLLATERALLY, IT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SHIFT IN THE WAY WE SAW OURSELVES.

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY AMERICA WAS A NATION INTENT UPON COMPLETING ITS POST CIVIL WAR INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND YET ONE IN WHICH THE PROCESS OF CONVERTING WESTERN TERRITORY TO STATES WAS NOT COMPLETE. STILL, OUR SENSE OF "MANIFEST DESTINY" WHICH WE HAD ORIGINALLY APPLIED TO OUR WESTWARD EXPANSION WAS READILY EXTENDED TO INCLUDE OUR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD. WE WERE A PROSPEROUS, CONFIDENT NATION WITH A STABLE MIDDLE CLASS AND AN EXUBERANT VIEW OF OUR FUTURE. WE WERE, IN EFFECT, UNITED ON MAJOR MATTERS, ALTHOUGH ON LESSER LOCAL OR NATIONAL ISSUES OUR POLITICS COULD BE BITTERLY DIVIDED.

THIS SENSE OF INNATE VALUE THAT COULD PREVAIL OVER WHATEVER WE FACED WAS STRENGTHENED AND CONFIRMED BY OUR EXPERIENCES AND VICTORY IN WW I. ON THE HOME FRONT, THE BOND DRIVES, MEN IN UNIFORM, PATRIOTIC SONGS AND MILITARY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ENHANCED OUR UNITY WHILE PRES. WILSON'S POSITION AS THE LEADER OF THE VERSAILLES PEACE NEGOTIATIONS GAVE THE U.S. A NEW INTERNATIONAL STATUS AND SET IT ON THE PATH TO SUPERPOWER.

. . . AS BAD AND AS PAINFUL AS THAT TIME WAS,  
WE WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.

IN THE 1920S AND 30S WE TRIED TO DISENGAGE FROM THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF "THE GREAT WAR" AND REVERT TO SEEING EUROPE AND ITS PROBLEMS AS THINGS THAT WE COULD AVOID. OUR NATIONAL CONFIDENCE WAS SEVERELY SHAKEN BY THE DECADE OF ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN THE '30S, BUT EVEN IN THAT EXTREMELY TESTING TIME A CRITICAL MEASURE OF UNITY WAS MAINTAINED BY THE REALIZATION THAT, AS BAD AND AS PAINFUL AS THAT TIME WAS, WE WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.

LOOKING BACK AT THE EMERGENCE OF FASCISM AND COMMUNISM IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE 1930S PROVIDES A GLIMPSE OF SOME CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND THEIR EFFECTS. THE COURSE OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN TWO AND A HALF GENERATIONS FROM THE END OF OUR CIVIL WAR TO THE BEGINNING OF WW II IN 1939 COULD NOT HELP BUT BE REFLECTED IN THE HUMAN VALUES AND NATURE OF OUR CULTURE. THERE, IN ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC, SCIENCE AND DRAMA A PARALLEL LIFE OF EXCEPTIONAL VARIETY AND QUALITY WAS BEING RECORDED.

WW II WAS TOTALLY UNLIKE THE ENTRENCHED STALEMATE OF WW I. THE TWO GREAT ORIENTAL POWERS BECAME INVOLVED ON OPPOSITE SIDES AND THE USE OF AIR POWER, BOTH STRATEGICALLY AND TACTICALLY, GAVE THIS WAR A TRULY GLOBAL REACH WHICH HASTENED THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY'S COLONIAL EMPIRES AND THEIR REARRANGEMENT FOLLOWING WW I.

BUT PERHAPS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE, AND CULTURALLY MOST CONSEQUENTIAL, WAS IN ITS TECHNOLOGY. IT USHERED IN AN AGE OF BOTH INSTANT ANNIHILATION AND COMMUNICATION. THE FORMER HAS NOT BEEN USED SINCE AUGUST, 1945; THE LATTER HAS CHANGED, IMPROVED AND EXPANDED FAR BEYOND ITS MILITARY ORIGINS AND IS NOW PROBABLY THE MOST WIDESPREAD AND ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF OUR MODERN WORLD.

THIS NEW ABILITY TO CONVEY AUDIO/VISUAL INFORMATION INSTANTLY AT ANY TIME TO ANY PLACE HAS BEEN A GAME CHANGER. IT HAS TRANSFORMED WITH MIXED RESULTS OUR POLITICS, OUR DIPLOMACY, OUR ECONOMY, OUR YOUTH AND OUR CULTURE. CLOTHED IN SUCCESS, CONFIDENCE, TECHNOLOGY, WEALTH AND POWER, AMERICA EMBARKED UPON THE POSTWAR ERA IN A CHANGED STATE — THAT OF SUPERPOWER — HARBORING THE ILLUSION OF A PAX AMERICANA MANAGED BY THE US WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE UN, THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE AND THOSE ARISING FROM THE AFTERMATH OF WW II.

BUT THIS HAPPY AND SIMPLISTIC VIEW OF THE FUTURE REQUIRED AN IMPOSSIBLE LEVEL OF COLLABORATION IN THE BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, TERRITORIAL AND MILITARY MATTERS THAT SOUGHT SOLUTIONS AT THE UN. MANY AMERICANS, INCLUDING THOSE IN OUR GOVERNMENT, ORIGINALLY VIEWED THIS LATEST ATTEMPT AT WORLD GOVERNMENT AS ONE BY WHICH A SMALL ALL-POWERFUL SECURITY COUNCIL COULD DOMINATE THE LARGER, BUT LESSER IN STATUS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THIS HARMONIOUS PROJECTION WAS CHALLENGED AND DISPROVED BY TWO UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS. THE FIRST, WHICH APPEARED EARLY, WAS THE DIFFERENCE AMONG THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE EXPECTATION OF HOW THE ONE-MEMBER VETO WOULD BE USED. MANY IN THE WEST SAW IT AS A MECHANISM THAT WOULD BE USED ONLY RARELY AND IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXCEPTIONAL COMMON IMPORTANCE; THE RUSSIANS HAD A VERY DIFFERENT CONCEPT THAT ALLOWED IT TO BE USED REGULARLY ON MATTERS LARGE AND SMALL AND ENABLED THEM TO AVOID BEING CONSISTENTLY OUTVOTED BY THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES.

THE SECOND DEPARTURE FROM THE UN'S ORIGINAL COMPOSITION, WHICH ALSO WAS NOT ANTICIPATED WAS THE GROWTH OF ITS ADMISSIONS TO MEMBERSHIP, AND REPRESENTATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS THE OLD COLONIAL HOLDINGS WERE DISSOLVED AND REPLACED BY MULTIPLE SMALL ENTITIES. THIS PROCESS EXTENDED FROM THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, AN AREA MARKED BY TRIBAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, HIGH FERTILITY AND MINIMAL EDUCATION. MUCH OF THIS AREA WAS INHABITED BY MUSLIMS WITH THE RESULT THAT, AS NEW NATIONS WERE FORMED AND ADMITTED, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BECAME DIVIDED ALONG LINES THAT COMMONALITY COULD NOT CROSS. ORIGINALLY SEEN AS A BROADLY BASED BODY THAT COULD DEBATE AND SHAPE THE UN'S PASSAGE OF ITS VARIOUS FORMS OF LEGISLATION, IT SEEMS NOW TO HAVE EVOLVED INTO A GROUP

OF VOTING BLOCKS REPRESENTING VERY SPECIFIC INTERESTS.

BUT REGARDLESS OF THE UN'S PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE FACT THAT WE AND OTHERS HAD COMMITTED PRESTIGE AND POWER TO IT BROUGHT ALL OF ITS MEMBERS AROUND TO A MORE COMMUNAL SENSE OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS AND HOW THEY MIGHT UNDERTAKE THEIR SOLUTION.

IN AMERICA, BY FAR THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE UN'S FUNDING, WHERE INDIVIDUALISM (AND ESPECIALLY THE "RUGGED" VARIETY) REIGNED, WORLD GOVERNMENT PROJECTED TWO VERY DIFFERENT IMAGES ON OUR CULTURAL SCREEN. THE FIRST, AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING WORLD PEACE, WAS AN EASY "FIT" WITH THE MESSAGE PRES. WILSON OFFERED IN DESCRIBING WW I AS "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS".

THE OTHER, NO MATTER HOW OR EVEN WHETHER IT WAS UNDERSTOOD, DERIVED FROM THE LEGENDARY INDIVIDUALISM OF ITINERATE YANKEE PEDDLERS; OR COWBOYS THAT RODE AND RULED THE OPEN RANGE AND, WHEN THAT FRONTIER WAS OVERTAKEN BY POPULATIONS SEEKING COMMUNITY RATHER THAN SOLITUDE, FROM THEIR COMMERCIAL SUCCESSORS WHO DISCOVERED MINES, BUILT RAILROADS AND STEEL MILLS, DRILLED FOR OIL AND PUBLISHED NEWSPAPERS.

THESE TWO IMAGES — PEACEMAKER AND INDIVIDUALIST — ARE DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN OUR CULTURE. WE PUT THEM THERE AND WE HAVE CELEBRATED THEM AND DRAWN NOURISHMENT FROM THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN TARNISHED BY EVENTS OF THE PAST FIFTY YEARS, AND YET WE CLING TO WHAT REMAINS OF THEIR ORIGINAL TRUTH. AFTER ALL, IT'S OUR CULTURE, "MADE IN AMERICA" BY US. BUT IS IT ? AND, IN THOSE WAYS AND PLACES WHERE OUR CULTURAL FACT AND FICTION BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE, WHAT WENT WRONG? WHERE DID WE FAIL?

## IN THE CROSSHAIRS OF TIME AND CHANGE

THE 1960S MARKED A LINE OF GENERATIONAL CHANGE AS THE CHILDREN BORN IMMEDIATELY AFTER WW II MOVED INTO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARS. THEY, OF COURSE, NEVER KNEW THE PRE-SUPERPOWER, PRE-UN AMERICA — THE AMERICA OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND TWO WORLD WARS, BUT, LIKE MOST YOUTHFUL GENERATIONS, THEY WANTED TO MAKE CHANGES IN OUR NATIONAL THOUGHT, BEHAVIOR AND APPEARANCE.

... THE YOUTH OF THE '60S MIGHT SEE WAR AS BECOMING A RITE OF PASSAGE IN THE US.

VIETNAM WAS THE DYE THAT TURNED THE '60S LINE OF GENERATIONAL CHANGE BLOOD-RED. IT WAS OUR FOURTH WAR IN A LITTLE MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS<sup>10</sup> AND OFFERED A SHOWCASE FOR OUR NEWEST NON-NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS NAPALM, AGENT ORANGE AND SATURATION BOMBING WHICH INEVITABLY CAUSED "COLLATERAL DAMAGE" TO CIVILIAN POPULATIONS. GIVEN THIS TIME FRAME, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE

YOUTH OF THE '60S MIGHT SEE WAR AS BECOMING A RITE OF PASSAGE IN THE U.S.

SOCIAL CHANGE IS CONSTANT AND OVER HISTORY MOST GENERATIONAL CHANGE HAS BEEN RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE '60S FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS: THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX HAD BEEN IN ENFORCED RETIREMENT SINCE WW II AND WAS "WARMING UP IN THE WINGS"; NEW TECHNOLOGY IN WEAPONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION WERE PRESENTED AS ELEMENTS THAT WOULD SANITIZE THE WAR EXPERIENCE AND, PERHAPS MOST CRITICALLY, OUR GOVERNMENT REINSTITUTED NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION (I.E., THE DRAFT) TO FIGHT A WAR THAT LACKED BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT.

IN ADDITION TO ALL THESE WAR-SPECIFIC ERRORS, THE 1960S PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF GENERATIONAL CHANGE. IN SHORT, THE '60S YOUTH, ARMED WITH THEIR OWN DRESS, DRUG AND BEHAVIOR CODES AND EXPOSURE TO A WIDER WORLD MARKED BY THE BEGINNINGS OF INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONAL GROUP-THINK, FOUND THEMSELVES TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF, OR COMMON CAUSE WITH, PEOPLE IN OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WHO HAD BEEN RAISED IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT AMERICA. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEIR EXCHANGES WERE BRIEF, THEIR EFFORTS SPORADIC OR CLUMSY AND THEIR SUCCESSES FEW.

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IN THE '60S AND THE REMAINDER OF THE CENTURY OUR POLITICS AND POPULATION FELT THE PRESSURE OF CHANGING NUMBERS AS WE ADDED MORE PEOPLE, MORE DEBT AND MORE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS TO WHAT WE THOUGHT LIFE IN AMERICA CALLED FOR. BUT THERE WAS LITTLE AGREEMENT TO BE FOUND. LAWS WERE UNENFORCED, BUDGETS UNPASSED; WE GREW "RICHER" BY BORROWING MORE; WE SET OURSELVES ON A NEW PATH IN THE MID-EAST BY AN HISTORIC "TWO-FER", THE CIA'S ASSASSINATION OF MOSSADEGH AND INSTALLATION OF THE PAHLEVI SHAH. AND IN LATIN AMERICA PRES. CARTER GIFTED OUR TRIUMPHANT SYMBOL OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE, THE PANAMA CANAL, BACK TO THE LAND OF ITS ORIGIN BECAUSE ITS COLONIAL IMAGE CLASHED WITH THAT OF THE NEW AMERICA WE HOPED TO PROJECT INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

MOST PERVASIVE IN ITS INVASION OF OUR CULTURE WAS THE COMBINED POISON OF MULTICULTURALISM (MC) AND POLITICAL CORRECTNESS (PC). THE LATTER'S FIRST MENTION OCCURRED IN A 1921 SPEECH BY RUSSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY FOUNDER AND REVOLUTION LEADER VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXPORTED TO THE U.S. WHERE, IN THE POSTWAR YEARS, IT WAS NURTURED IN OUR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THEN MOVED UP TO OUR POLITICAL FRONT LINES.

THERE, WITH MC, IT LAUNCHED AN UNRELENTING ASSAULT UPON OUR NATIONAL AND CIVILIZATIONAL HISTORY, VALUES AND CULTURE. THIS ATTACK INCLUDED, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE RATIONALE THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS" CREATED BY

UN CHARTER OR LEGISLATION SUPERSEDED NATIONAL LAW AND EVEN CENTURIES OF PRIOR PRACTICE. IT HAS CAUGHT AMERICANS OFF-GUARD, CONFUSED OUR SELF-IMAGE AND LEFT A PAINFUL CONTRADICTION IN OUR CULTURE. IN EARLIER TIMES, WE WOULD HAVE JOINED IN DISCUSSION AND COME TO AGREEMENT, BUT TODAY'S BITTER DIVISIONS SEEM TO RULE THAT OUT, AS THE MONEY, POWER, POLITICAL, ETHNIC, RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS FACTORS HAVE GAINED IN STRENGTH AND NUMBERS.

WHAT OF OUR PAST WILL WE HAVE TO GIVE UP TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR NEW IMAGE ? TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR LINE OF DESCENT FROM PLYMOUTH TO PHILADELPHIA TO APPOMATTOX TO HIROSHIMA ? OR WILL WE SURRENDER TO YET ANOTHER ADDICTION ?

## "O PIONEERS"<sup>11</sup>

OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH INDIVIDUALISM HAS A LONG AND MEANINGFUL HISTORY THAT INCLUDES THE YANKEE PEDDLER, THE ITINERANT PREACHER, THE COWBOY, THE TRAVELING SALESMAN, THE INVENTOR AND THE INDUSTRIALIST ALL OF WHOM WE CELEBRATE IN DIFFERENT TIMES AND CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ARE OLD FRIENDS, PART OF OUR PAST AND READY TO RESPOND WHEN NEEDED.

BUT IN TODAY'S PRESSURE FROM PC AND MC OUR TRADITIONAL INDIVIDUALISM TENDS TO BE OBSCURED, IGNORED OR EVEN ATTACKED BECAUSE IT FAILS TO FIT THEIR MANDATED TEMPLATE OF UNIFORMITY. THE MOST NOTABLE EXAMPLE OF THIS CULTURAL SHIFT CAN BE FOUND IN THE REPORTS/INTERVIEWS OF OUR MSM WHERE BOTH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE SO OFTEN QUALIFIED THAT THEY PROVIDE LITTLE REAL INFORMATION. WE DO NOT INCLUDE THOSE COURAGEOUS JOURNALISTS WHO EMBED THEMSELVES WITH OUR MILITARY FORCES OR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS WHO ACCEPT BEHIND-THE-LINES AND BATTLE ZONE RISKS IN PURSUIT OF WAR'S ELUSIVE TRUTHS.

EVERY NIGHT DURING THE 1940 NAZI BLITZ BOMBING OF ENGLAND EDWARD R. MURROW WENT TO THE ROOF OF THE BBC BUILDING, OPENED HIS BROADCAST TO AMERICA WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT "THIS IS LONDON CALLING" AND THEN DESCRIBED THE DESTRUCTION HE WITNESSED, AS WELL AS PROVIDING RELEVANT COMMENT/OPINION.

AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS STILL CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ISOLATIONIST POSITION IN THIS COUNTRY, MURROW REPEATEDLY REMINDED HIS AMERICAN LISTENERS OF THE EXTREME AND IMMINENT PERIL ENGLAND FACED, AND URGED FDR AND CONGRESS TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL AID IN THE FORM OF MONEY, SHIPS, ARMS AND FOOD. WITH THE HELP OF SPECIAL U.S. ENVOY AVERELL HARRIMAN, AMBASSADOR JOHN WINANT AND THE NY HERALD TRIBUNE'S WHITELAW REID, BOTH PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REALIZATION THAT HITLER POSED A GLOBAL THREAT AND THAT OUR AND ENGLAND'S FUTURES WERE FIRMLY JOINED.

NEWS REPORTING IN OUR AGE OF INSTANT AUDIO/VISUAL COMMUNICATION HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE 1940, BUT IN NO WAY MORE IMPORTANTLY THAN CABLE TV'S

CONSTANT NEWS BROADCASTS, NIGHT AND DAY, IN WHICH THE PREFERRED FORMAT IS TO HAVE A STUDIO PERSON INTRODUCE TOPICS AND THEN INTERVIEW A REPORTER NEAR OR AT THE SCENE TO PROVIDE AUTHENTIC BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION. AS THE ENTERTAINMENT FUNCTION OF OUR MSM HAS ECLIPSED ITS NEWS REPORTING, FUNDING FOR THE LATTER HAS BEEN DIMINISHED WITH THE RESULT THAT CABLE'S COVERAGE MODEL HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO NETWORKS, PUBLIC CHANNELS/STATIONS AND INDEPENDENTS.

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE LANGUAGE USED BY QUESTIONERS AND RESPONDERS AND IT WILL BE CLEAR HOW REGULARLY QUESTIONS/ANSWERS ARE QUALIFIED AND FIRM OPINION AVOIDED. FOR INSTANCE, TRACK HOW MANY TIMES YOU HEAR THE PHRASE "A LITTLE BIT" USED TO INDICATE DEGREE OR EXTENT. WITH THIS PHRASE A DOUBLE QUALIFIER IS ACHIEVED BY THE USE OF "LITTLE" AND "BIT" TO AVOID SPECIFICITY. WHY? WELL, THE AWFUL TRUTH IS THAT TODAY PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC VIEW, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN POLITICS AND THE MSM, DO NOT WANT TO MAKE STATEMENTS OF FACT OR OPINION (ESPECIALLY THE LATTER) FOR WHICH THEY MIGHT LATER BE PROVEN WRONG. ACCORDINGLY, ANSWERS MUST BE QUALIFIED, NEVER CERTAIN, AND ALWAYS HAVE AN "EXIT SIGN".

THIS PRACTICE IS NOT LIMITED TO THE ON-SITE INTERVIEWEE, AS THE STUDIO PERSON ASKING QUESTIONS HAS BECOME EXPERT AT OFFERING "SOFT" QUESTIONS THAT CAN EASILY BE DISMISSED OR DEFLECTED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A SITUATION WHERE TWO KINDS OF RESULTS ARE SEEN AS POSSIBLE AND THE STUDIO PERSON ASKS WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE, THE ANSWER IS INEVITABLY "A LITTLE, OR A BIT, OF BOTH". NOTE AGAIN THE DOUBLE QUALIFIER; THE WORDS "MIXTURE" OR "COMBINATION" MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED, BUT "LITTLE" OR "A BIT" SERVE THE PURPOSE OF SHEDDING MORE RESPONSIBILITY.

THERE IS ANOTHER TECHNIQUE OF DOING AWAY WITH GENUINE OPINION OF THE ED MURROW TYPE AND REPLACING IT WITH A "NO FAULT" PROCESS. IT USED TO BE THAT ON-THE-SCENE REPORTERS WERE ASKED "FOR THEIR OPINION" OR "WHAT THEY THOUGHT" ABOUT THE INCIDENT BEING COVERED WHICH LEFT THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING PROVEN WRONG. AS ERROR IS NOT READILY ACCEPTED WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE MSM, THE QUESTIONING PROCESS WAS CHANGED TO ASKING THE REPORTER "TO DESCRIBE THE SCENE" OR FOR HIS/HER "SENSE" OF WHAT WAS BEING COVERED — TWO FAR MORE NEUTRAL, PASSIVE AND LESS INDIVIDUALISTIC ASSESSMENTS.

LOOK ALSO, FOR THE CONTINUALLY INCREASING USAGE OF QUALIFYING WORDS SUCH AS "PERHAPS" AND "MAYBE" IN MSM LANGUAGE — ESPECIALLY IF IT REFERS TO THE FUTURE. THESE WORDS, ALONG WITH "LITTLE" AND "A BIT", ARE SO LOCKED INTO OUR MSM LEXICON THAT THEY COULD EASILY ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF CULTURAL ACCEPTANCE.

LANGUAGE IS INSEPARABLE FROM CIVILIZATION, AS ITS DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT HAS BEEN KEY IN DISTINGUISHING OUR HUMAN SPECIES FROM OTHERS. IT CAN BE BOTH THE COMMON ELEMENT THAT BINDS CULTURES TOGETHER AND A UNIQUELY POWERFUL AND CONSTANT EXPRESSION OF

SOVEREIGNTY. THOSE NATIONS THAT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ACCOMMODATE DUAL LANGUAGE CULTURES SUCH AS CANADA AND BELGIUM HAVE FOUND THAT THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COSTS EXCEED THE BENEFITS OF MC.

AND THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN DIFFERENT CULTURES CAN VARY AS WIDELY AS THE ACCENTS WITH WHICH IT IS SPOKEN. GREEK, ITALIAN, SPANISH, FRENCH, AND ENGLISH WERE SPREAD BEYOND THEIR CURRENT BORDERS BY CONQUEST AND COLONIALISM, BUT THE CLOSEST OUR PLANET HAS COME TO HAVING A LANGUAGE THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED UNIVERSAL — I.E., SPOKEN THROUGH MOST OF THE KNOWN WORLD — IS LATIN OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ENGLISH OF OUR PRESENT ERA BEGINNING IN THE 17TH CENTURY AND BLOSSOMING IN THE 19TH.

NATIONS VALUE THEIR LANGUAGES DIFFERENTLY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN EUROPE WHERE THE TIDE OF MILITARY AND MARITAL COMBINATION UNDER ITS MONARCHIES PRODUCED A FLUID MIX OF LANGUAGES RATHER THAN PURE FORMS THAT COULD BE PASSED INTACT FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

AMONG THE GREAT EUROPEAN CULTURES TODAY FRANCE STANDS OUT AS HAVING MADE THE STRONGEST AND MOST CONSISTENT EFFORT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT ITS LANGUAGE FROM ADULTERATION OR INFECTION. AS NOBLE AS WERE HER INTENTIONS, THE TWO WORLD WARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY FOUGHT ON FRENCH SOIL AND THE ARRIVAL OF OUR AGE OF INSTANT COMMUNICATION SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL FOR CULTURAL SEPARATISM.

TODAY, WITH ALL WESTERN CIVILIZATION (WCIV) LANGUAGES UNDER ATTACK FROM MODERNITY AND MUSLIM MIGRANTS, FRANCE AND ENGLAND APPEAR TO BE LINGUISTICALLY THE MOST SECURE. A YEAR AGO GERMANY COULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED, BUT ITS STATUS AS THE CURRENT DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR MOST NEAR EASTERN AND AFRICAN MIGRANTS CANNOT HELP BUT CHANGE ITS, AND OTHER, EUROPEAN CULTURES IN THE FUTURE. BECAUSE ENGLAND SHARES ITS LANGUAGE WITH US, THE PROCESS OF AMERICANIZATION THERE HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR A CENTURY AND IS TREATED MOSTLY WITH RESIGNATION AND GOOD WILL, IF NOT ENTHUSIASM.

SADLY, ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC FEW PEOPLE, AND NONE AMONG OUR LEADERSHIP, GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO OUR LANGUAGE; AND THERE IS EVEN A DETERMINED ATTITUDE AMONG MULTICULTURALISTS THAT AMERICA'S ECONOMICS, POLITICS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE MUST BE TREATED WITH SIGNIFICANT DOSES OF THIRD WORLD POPULATION TO BE RELEVANT IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND TO MAKE UP FOR THE SINS OF THE PAST.

BECAUSE OF OUR UNIQUE POLITICAL ORIGINS WE HAVE TENDED TO BE MORE WELCOMING THAN OTHER WESTERN NATIONS, BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO EXCUSE US FROM MC DEMANDS FOR MORE. THE TRUTH IS THAT WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BECAUSE WE ARE THE MOST POWERFUL AND GENEROUS MEMBER OF WCIV AND THOSE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ENEMIES THAT ATTACK US DO SO IN THE BELIEF THAT, WERE WE TO BE DEFEATED, WCIV COULD NOT SURVIVE. WE AVOID THIS KIND OF THINKING OR DISCUSSION

BECAUSE IT IS SCARY, DISTASTEFUL, UNSETTLING; BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT LOGIC.

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WE CARRY CULTURAL DNA, AS WE DO BIOLOGICAL. IT IS FORMED OVER TIME OUT OF OUR COMMON VALUES AND HISTORY WHICH EMERGE FROM THE WEB OF CIRCUMSTANCE THROUGH WHICH WE, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A SOCIETY, MUST FIND OUR WAY.

AS WITH MOST GROUP CHARACTERISTICS, NUMBERS CAN PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY CAN DETERMINE THE DIRECTIONS AND BEHAVIOR OF THE GROUP. THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN TRUE IN AMERICA WHERE OUR ADDED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND MONEY HAVE CHALLENGED OUR FOUNDERS' CONCEPT OF POPULAR DEMOCRACY AND THE GOVERNMENT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN IT.

NUMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH THE POWER TO OVERWHELM, CAN DECIDE WHETHER OUR CULTURAL DNA SURVIVES AND HOW IT CHANGES. OUR DYSFUNCTIONAL GOVERNMENT IS OVERWHELMED BY NUMBERS SOME OF WHICH (I.E., OUR DEBT AND DEFICIT) IT HAS CREATED. OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FAIL TO SEE THE NEED FOR PREEMPTIVE ACTION, BUT ARE CONTENT TO DELAY AND DISSEMBLE UNTIL A TIPPING POINT HAS PASSED, RESULTS ARE KNOWN AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

NEW, LARGER NUMBERS, AND THE ISSUES THAT ARISE FROM THEM, WILL SOLIDIFY OUR DYSFUNCTION AND BE EXPRESSED IN OUR CULTURAL DNA. FOR PROOF, JUST CONSIDER THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY AMERICANS REGARDED OUR GOVERNMENT A CENTURY AGO AND TODAY. THIS, IN ITSELF, IS A MAJOR CULTURAL CONTRADICTION. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF OTHERS, AS THE MC ELEMENT OF OUR PRESENT GENERATION DEMANDS THAT HISTORY BE CONVERTED TO SUIT ITS TASTES.

TOWARDS THIS END, TWO HEROIC AMERICAN FIGURES FROM THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES THAT WERE DEEMED WORTHY OF OUR RESPECT FOR THEIR PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENTS ARE NOW BEING DISCREDITED FOR PERSONAL VIEWS THAT WERE COMMON THEN IN OUR SOCIETY, BUT HAVE SINCE BEEN RE-EVALUATED. WOODROW WILSON, OUR TWENTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENT, WAS A HEROIC WORLD LEADER DURING OUR PARTICIPATION IN WW I AND THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS THAT FOLLOWED IT. PRIOR TO HIS TWO TERMS IN THE WHITE HOUSE HE HAD SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF NJ AND AS PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY WHERE HE HAD RECEIVED HIS COLLEGE EDUCATION, AND WHERE BOTH A BUILDING AND AN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BEAR HIS NAME. SOME OF TODAY'S STUDENTS AT PRINCETON VIEW THIS AS MC "RED MEAT", HIGHLY OFFENSIVE AND THE MARK OF AN UNJUST SOCIETY WHICH MUST BE EXPUNGED LEST OUR GENERATION'S PURITY AND PURPOSE BE CHALLENGED.

SIMILARLY, AT YALE, ONE OF ITS RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES WAS NAMED, WHEN IT WAS BUILT IN THE 1930S, AFTER JOHN C. CALHOUN, A NOTED SENATOR FROM SC WHO SERVED AS OUR COUNTRY'S VICE-PRESIDENT FROM 1825-1833 UNDER

PRESIDENTS JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND ANDREW JACKSON. HERE, TOO, PRESSURE HAS BUILT AMONG SOME STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI TO RENAME CALHOUN COLLEGE BECAUSE THEY FIND MR. CALHOUN'S VIEWS ON SLAVERY TO BE PERSONALLY OFFENSIVE, RACIST AND UNSUITED TO OUR PRESENT CULTURE.

ALTHOUGH WE OCCASIONALLY FIND SEVERE, AND SOMETIMES VIOLENT, EVIDENCE OF RACISM IN OUR SOCIETY, MOST AMERICANS WOULD AGREE THAT ATTITUDES HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE WILSON'S AND CALHOUN'S TIMES, AND WE HAVE SO FAR ACCEPTED THESE AND OTHER FORMER LEADERS AS PRODUCTS OF THEIR TIME AND PART OF OUR HISTORY.

AND WITHOUT HISTORY, WHAT WOULD WE HAVE ? WHAT WOULD WE BE ?

WE CANNOT ERASE HISTORY; IT IS WHAT IT IS. WE CAN MOVE ON AND TRY, WITH THE NEW TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL, TO CONDUCT OURSELVES DIFFERENTLY AND TO DO BETTER, FOR OURSELVES, OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR COUNTRY. THESE ARE FULL-TIME GOALS THAT LEAVE LITTLE REASON FOR CHOPPING UP OUR HISTORY INTO PIECES AND DISCARDING THOSE THAT NO LONGER FIT OUR PRESENT MOOD OR PURPOSE. THAT'S A DEAD END, AS EVENTUALLY SO MUCH HISTORY WOULD BE REPUDIATED THAT LITTLE WOULD BE LEFT — ONLY REMNANTS OF WHAT WE WERE AND, THEREFORE, ARE. AND WITHOUT HISTORY, WHAT WOULD WE HAVE ? WHAT WOULD WE BE ? WHAT WOULD SERVE AS OUR COMPASS FOR CHARTING OUR FUTURE ?

THE MC/PC VICE THAT HAS BEEN APPLIED TO OUR CURRENT THINKING HAS DONE OUR SOCIETY, AND ESPECIALLY ITS YOUNGER MEMBERS, A GREAT DISSERVICE. IT HOLDS THEIR THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDE IN A TIGHT GRIP WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT EXPLORATION BEYOND THE CONFINES OF ITS PRESSURE. PROTEST, FOR EITHER RIGHT OR WRONG REASONS, IS OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE INTELLECTUAL/SOCIAL EXPLORATION THAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE VIEWED AS PART OF THEIR COMPACT TO EDUCATE. IT IS A CHEAP IMITATION, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS MOTIVATED BY OFFENSE RATHER THAN PRINCIPLE. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM NOW HAS A VARIETY OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO CONFRONT; SURELY THIS IS ONE OF THEM. IT IS ANOTHER IN OUR GROWING LIST OF CULTURAL CONTRADICTIONS THAT CALLS FOR OUR ATTENTION.

## ADDICTION AS CULTURE

HOWEVER WE CHOOSE TO DEFINE "ADDICTION", MOST WILL AGREE THAT IT IS A FORM OF BEHAVIOR THAT MAINTAINS OR ESCALATES ITS HOLD UPON US, USUALLY WITH SELF-DEFEATING CONSEQUENCES. IN THIS CHAPTER WE HAVE EXPLORED SEVERAL FORMS OF ADDICTION THAT CURRENTLY PLAGUE OUR COUNTRY — OBESITY, DRUGS, MSM ENTERTAINMENT, MILITARISM IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENTAL INTENT AND PRACTICE, RACISM, SUPERPOWER HUBRIS AND, PERHAPS THE MOST SINISTER OF ALL, THE STEALTHY AND ANTITHETICAL

APPLICATION OF MC/PC TO OUR LIVES AND CULTURE.

THERE ARE OTHERS — SOME NOW JUST FORMING THAT WE WILL ALLOW TO GROW AND CONTROL US, AS ADDICTIONS DO. AS CITIZENS AND INHERITORS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE QUESTION WE MUST ASK IS “HAVE WE NO DEFENSE?”, AND THE ANSWER, AS WITH ALL ADDICTION, IS “IN THE END, ONLY OURSELVES”.

SOME ADDICTIONS AND THEIR RESULTS ARE EASY TO SEE; OTHERS THAT HIDE AMONG OUR MISTAKEN VIEWS OF OUR HISTORY, DEMOCRACY AND SELVES ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY, BUT THEY ARE PRESENT IN FORCE AND, IF OUR NATION IS TO RECLAIM ITS TRADITIONAL VALUES, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE CONFRONTED.

THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR TWO MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES DISQUALIFIES THEM FOR THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT IS REQUIRED AND SHOULD RIGHTFULLY BE THEIRS TO EXERCISE. THIS LEAVES ONLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COME TO THEIR OWN AND THEIR GOVERNMENT’S RESCUE. THIS IS NO SMALL TASK ! RATHER, IT IS A MAMMOTH UNDERTAKING THAT WILL REQUIRE US TO TAKE NOTICE, TO SHAKE OFF THE ADDICTIONS THAT CONTROL OUR BEHAVIOR, OUR EDUCATION AND OUR POLITICS AND TO

REALLY THINK ABOUT WHO WE ARE NOW AND WHAT WE WANT AMERICA TO BECOME AS IT PASSES THROUGH THIS CENTURY. THIS IS HARD WORK! AND TIME IS SHORT, VERY SHORT!



## END NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> [THE SECOND COMING](#), WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS
- <sup>2</sup> CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION, ATLANTA, GA. BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM; PREVALENCE OF SELF-REPORTED OBESITY AMONG U.S. ADULTS . . . 2012-2014
- <sup>3</sup> “MANIFEST DESTINY” — THIS 19TH CENTURY PHRASE BECAME WIDELY POPULAR IN DESCRIBING AND PROVIDING MORAL SUPPORT FOR AMERICA’S EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL EXPANSION.
- <sup>4</sup> OUR WATER GUZZLING FOOD FACTORY BY NICHOLAS KRISTOF. NEW YORK TIMES 5/31/15
- <sup>5</sup> IBID
- <sup>6</sup> IBID
- <sup>7</sup> WORLD WARS I AND II; KOREA AND VIETNAM
- <sup>8</sup> HOW MIDDLE AMERICA POLICE TURNED INTO SOLDIERS BY CHRISTOPHER J. CAYNE AND ABIGAIL R. HALL, PALM BEACH POST 6/26/15
- <sup>9</sup> IBID
- <sup>10</sup> 1917 WWI TO OUR 1975 EXIT FROM SAIGON
- <sup>11</sup> TITLE OF NOVEL BY WILLA CATHER