

The Political Evolution of a Thinking and Feeling American

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A thinking person is always observing and evaluating the world, with a willingness to look at things from different perspectives and to modify his or her opinions based on new experiences and newly perceived realities. Admittedly, emotional responses to experiences also play a role in changing views. Thinking and feeling people evolve. I'm almost 60 years old, and I have gone through substantial political evolution during my life. I would like to tell you about my evolution, which may share some similarities with the evolution of more than a few other Americans. This American evolution has been bound to events in American history.

Liberal to Socialist to Republican to Libertarian . . .

I began to be interested in national and world events and politics during my early teen years. I started out, like many young idealistic people in the Chicago area, as a liberal (though the lower-middle-class, all-white neighborhood in which I grew up in the southwest suburb of Burbank was pretty conservative). I still have the autographed photo of Senator Ted Kennedy that I received in 1975 (when I was 15) after I sent him a letter telling him how much I admired him and his slain brothers, John and Robert. I also still have the signed letter I received from Democrat presidential candidate Jimmy Carter in 1976 after I wrote him to express my support.

When I was in my 20s, during the 1980s and the Reagan era, I moved further left as I naively bought into the leftist propaganda I heard in college: "Reagan was a crazy racist trigger-happy old cowboy." I joined the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)—the group that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) would later make well-known. I used to go to sparsely attended meetings on the north side of Chicago, where I heard speeches by people like the leftist African-American Chicago alderman Danny Davis, and the socialist author of *The Other America*, Michael Harrington. (I bet those meetings are a lot better attended today.) And I participated in leftist rallies and marches downtown, such as a big "nuclear freeze" rally on Mother's Day 1982. (I recall that my mother was really pissed off at me because I didn't spend that special day with her. I later realized that my behavior at the time was typical of the essentially selfish, self-absorbed behavior of leftists.)

By the early 1990s (in my early 30s), I had my own house in far southwest suburban Lockport (near Joliet), and I was taking the train to downtown Chicago for my editor job at a publishing company. I had bills to pay, I was living in the "real world," and I found myself shifting my political perspective to the right. This shift was partly inspired by reading and learning the truth about Ronald Reagan. I found out that he was quite a good president after all, as well as a rather decent fellow. My rightward shift was also a negative reaction to liberal policies of President Bill Clinton that I didn't like (despite the fact that I voted for him in 1992). It seemed to me that Clinton primarily catered to racial minorities, gays, and other segments of the population with which I could not identify. (By the standards of today's radical socialist Democrat Party, however, Clinton has to be viewed in retrospect as a rather reasonable political moderate.)

So I started voting, by default, for Republicans in 1996—though my stomach was turned by the warmongers and country-club elite of that party. The 2000s arrived with George W. Bush, whom I initially hoped would be an inspirational conservative leader like Reagan. But he let the neocons drag him into war in Iraq, which proved to be a disaster that destabilized the Middle East, leading to the further spread of radical, violent Islam throughout the region. Even worse, W continued the Democrat trend of promoting identity politics, giving special attention to particular demographic groups whose grievances were officially acknowledged by the leftist political/media/academic/pop-culture establishment. Once again, it seemed that no one in the government acknowledged the existence of regular middle-class working Americans like me.

I came to hate Bush and the whole Republican Party establishment. I turned to independent political figures—and to libertarianism as a general political philosophy. I was attracted to political outsiders like Jesse Ventura, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Ron Paul (and later his son Rand). I liked these personalities because they seemed to be independent thinkers, not firmly wed to the propaganda of either major political party. I was an independent-minded person, too. I had begun working for myself as a freelance writer and editor (specializing in science, medicine, current events, and history), and I wanted to chart my own course—professionally, personally, and politically. Unfortunately, Ventura and Schwarzenegger proved to be big phonies and disappointments. But the Pauls and their libertarian ideas continue to appeal to me, because at least they form a coherent, logical platform that recognizes the value of individual liberty.

Trump Standing Up For Truth

I now realize, however, that pure libertarianism is a weak, flawed, and unrealistic ideology. It allows people with ill intent to walk all over you. For example, if you allow the Internet corporate giants (Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to do whatever they want, as the libertarians contend, what is the result? It is the frustrating result that we are dealing with today. These cynically “woke” companies ban or restrict the free speech of conservatives (from Alex Jones to Milo Yiannopoulos), and they so warp the information that is made available to the public. This is censorship from the “private sector” that is as bad and stifling as that promulgated by any totalitarian government regime. This is not acceptable to me.

I want a stronger, tougher political approach to counter the abuses of the Left—especially after more than a decade of race obsession, victimization, white guilt, and America-shaming promoted first by the Obama Administration and now by the radical socialist Democrats. Back in 2016, I looked around at the options, and I saw more of the same useless, spineless, lying, pandering cast of characters—except for one guy. Like many other frustrated Americans who loved their country but saw it rapidly slipping away, I turned to a highly unlikely potential political savior named Donald J. Trump.

Trump was a political outsider and a unique character who seemed to come along at just the right time—just as both parties had become so obviously detached from, and contemptuous of, ordinary Americans that ordinary Americans had nothing but contempt for them. Trump has a history of questionable personal ethics, blatant BS tendencies, over-the-top braggadocious claims, and brash and crude ways of communicating. Nevertheless, he has had the guts to

publicly stand up for certain things that are unquestionably true but politically incorrect—truthful things that lots of regular people are thinking, but few in the political class have the courage to defend these days. I can cite these 12 examples:

- 1) the superiority of traditional American and Western values
- 2) the exceptionalism of the United States compared to other countries
- 3) pride in American history, including the right to honor Southern heroes
- 4) the dangers of illegal immigration and unchecked Muslim immigration
- 5) emphasis on the economic well-being of the middle class
- 6) concerns about threats against conservatives' free speech
- 7) consistent defense of law and order
- 8) calling out the corruption and cowardice of the political establishment in both major parties
- 9) calling out the hypocrisy, lies, and America-hating of the Left, including politicians and the "fake news" media
- 10) defending the rights of gun owners, Christians, and other commonly condemned conservative people
- 11) wariness regarding foreign interventions
- 12) mistrust of international organizations and international treaties.

Can you imagine Jeb Bush standing up for any of these positions? Well, maybe one or two, provided that focus groups could guarantee that no key demographic group would be offended.

Of course, Trump is far from perfect. He has failed to deliver on some major promises, he has exaggerated certain accomplishments, and he sometimes unnecessarily makes things worse with his impulsive tweets (though I usually like his tweets). Nevertheless, he has at least tried to address some of the worst problems that we face today, and he has boldly dived into some of the most controversial issues. Recall, for example, his reasonable, balanced response to that Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally in 2017. Needless to say, the race-obsessed national media had to characterize as "racist" Trump's logical suggestion that some Southerners may have been righteously upset with the toppling of Confederate statues and the rewriting of their history. Everything that the "progressives" disagree with has to be condemned and marginalized as "racist," "sexist," or "homophobic."

This sick obsession with superficial identity is contrary to Martin Luther King's dream of a color-blind society. The progressives, socialists, and Democrats (all one and the same these days) see only skin color (or gender or sexual identity) when they look at people. If you are white, you are bad. If you are white and male, you are worse. If you are white, male, and straight, you are the worst possible stain on society, and you just need to shut up and stay in your cave. It is difficult to escape from that insulting message—whether you are watching the news or trying to enjoy a movie or a sports competition. Years ago, the message used to be subtle, with snide digs at traditional, conservative values, such as in movie dialogue. But the white-bashing, America-hating message is increasingly blatant as rich, privileged "woke" actors, singers, sports stars, and other celebrities preach their new puritanism to regular Americans. And when this message gets reinforced by the biased media, the educational establishment, and omnipresent preachy corporations (which have turned leftist propaganda into financial profits), the frustration and

anger grow among Americans who still have respect and reverence for the values that once made this nation great.

Such Americans had no prominent voice—until Trump expressed their feelings with a simple slogan, “Make America Great Again.” He converted these feelings into an electoral victory in 2016. The political establishment will never accept that victory, and they will do their damndest to make sure it doesn’t happen again in 2020. They seek to destroy Trump by shouting that he is a racist, a law-breaker, and even a treasonous agent of Russia. Such outrageous claims are how they seek to destroy everyone with whom they disagree. It’s BS and they know it, but in our current culture of mass ignorance and brainwashing, the tactic often works. Nevertheless, I think that they overplayed their hand with the impeachment nonsense—and they actually may have guaranteed Trump’s reelection. So, they will probably impeach him again in his second term. They will never give up.

“White Nationalism”?

The Left’s shock at Trump’s win pushed them over the edge of the cliff into a pathological pit of certifiable insanity. Their “resistance” has led to the irrational rise of radical socialism (best represented by AOC, Ilhan Omar, and the rest of the “Squad”), vehement anti-Americanism and anti-whiteness, and endless attacks on and investigations of Trump. Unlike the modern race-obsessed Left, I have never thought of color or race when I look at people. I have always judged each person on an individual basis. And that’s the way I want to stay. However—as I have witnessed so much that is good and special about the United States coming under ignorant attack by the Left—I have felt the need to react. I have been forced to evolve further, and I am wondering why certain common-sense ideas that any proud American should embrace are now being condemned as “white nationalism.” White nationalism? That’s what CNN and MSNBC accuse Trump of promoting. Have I now become a “white nationalist”? A regular old mind-my-own-business guy like me? It can’t be!

The media spits out the term “white nationalism” with derision and contempt, because they equate it with hatred, intolerance of other races, and Nazis. Is that what the term really means? If so, I thoroughly reject it! But I’ve been pondering this—and I don’t necessarily think of the term that way. Couldn’t the concept of “white nationalism” simply mean being proud of the great accomplishments of white people throughout history, as well as taking extra pride in the exceptional nature of the United States as it was founded—as a unique nation where the principle of individual liberty was constitutionally applied?

That common-sense concept of “white nationalism” offers a useful perspective on major problems today, and it suggests effective solutions to these problems. Perhaps the most pressing problem is the current widespread lack of appreciation for, and understanding of, the core values and ideas that made the United States special and superior at its foundation in the late 1700s. No—sorry AOC and Omar—these core values and ideas were not based on racism! They were actually based on an American version of the Enlightenment. Constitutionally limited government. Checks on the power of government institutions. Individual liberty, initiative, and responsibility. Freedom of thought, speech, and action. Continual learning from the

developments of civilization and civil society. Technological innovation. Economic vitality. Artistic elevation rather than degradation.

These are essential concepts for a healthy, functioning, dynamic, civil society. And they sprang from white Western culture via thousands of years of the evolution of civilization. But after thousands of years of perfecting this civilization, these enlightened ideas are now under serious threat because of the growing influence of leftists who (sometimes overtly, other times covertly) preach hatred of America, Western culture, and white people. Many of these haters are self-haters, because they themselves are white. How warped is that?

It has been noted by others that the hateful Democrats require poor immigrants to swarm into the United States to replace the native middle-class population (the “deplorables”) whose support they have forever lost. The Dems know that most of these immigrants will vote for them, and many will become dependent on the government. That is the Dems’ main plan for hanging onto power. Immigrants—whether legal or illegal—who were raised in the corrupt socialistic countries south of the border come from places with no firm traditions of democracy or individual liberty. Thus, after they arrive here, they ironically advocate and vote for the same socialistic-type solutions that failed miserably in the countries they fled. That’s all they understand, so they are receptive to the ideas. The concept of constitutionally limited government is foreign to them. And, of course, the Dems will tell them that the concept is racist anyway.

In addition to immigration, I see two other major factors behind the present American decline: schools and corporations. Young Americans are being brainwashed by the leftist propaganda fed to them in the corrupted public school system, as well as in the high schools and universities. I know, because I used to write the propaganda—until I couldn’t stand it anymore. The lies that young people learn in school are reinforced by similar messages they hear from pop culture, social media, and their other faulty sources of information. I think it is amazing that most teenagers and 20-somethings apparently do not question the misinformation that they are fed by their teachers and professors and media idols. I’m old enough to remember when any self-respecting young rebel would question authority. I suppose that has now become a quaint old-fashioned concept. Nowadays, teenagers think they are being rebellious by wearing expensive clothes marketed to them by giant corporations that use cool-sounding slogans—and by mouthing simplistic clichés that everyone else is mimicking on social media.

Who would have thought decades ago that the big “evil” capitalistic corporations would one day—today—be led by executives who regularly promote left-wing causes and fund left-wing candidates? Big corporations have clearly evolved in their public messages—though not so much in their private greed. Most modern-day corporations see huge profits in commercially exploiting the dominant cultural stances of the Left in order to cynically appeal to an uncritical consumer population that has been brainwashed on the progressive tripe they hear from virtually all institutions of society. If profits can be made by promoting a rich spoiled black football player who has no talent beyond bashing the American flag and blaming white people for various perceived sins, then a greedy unethical corporation with no loyalty to anything but money will gladly do it. Now, let me be clear: I am not returning to my old socialist philosophy—but I am

also not going to blind myself to the reality and dangers of modern-day manipulative left-wing corporate executives who have the power to twist society to serve their own wants and needs.

White Pride

I have had enough of this BS!

I feel that it is time to proudly stand up for and defend real American, Western, “white” values and ideas. They are what made the USA culturally, economically, technologically, and militarily superior to all other countries, continents, and cultures. We inherited these great traditions from Europe, but Europe has fallen into a state of hopeless decadence, and it will never recover. The countries of that continent have committed suicide by using the weapon of self-hatred and following the cult of multiculturalism. Like Monty Python great John Cleese (no fan of Trump) observed, London is “not really an English city anymore.” That is exactly what the Left wants the United States to copy. I don’t want that to happen. And no one who cherishes freedom should want it to happen either. You should not let the fear of being mislabelled as an intolerant racist prevent you from seeing and speaking truth.

It is worth keeping a few basic truths in mind. It was the white West that gave the world Beethoven and the Beatles (and my favorite band, Led Zeppelin); Notre Dame Cathedral and the Empire State Building; the automobile and the airplane; space flight and the Apollo moon landings; the telescope and the telephone; the radio and the television; electricity and electronics; the printing press and the computer; the concepts of democracy and individual freedom; the Magna Carta and the United States Constitution; justice based on Judeo-Christian ethics; the scientific method; modern medicine; and most of the other human developments that make life enjoyable and worthwhile for almost all people on the planet today. Yes, white people gave us these things—the greatest developments of the human species! And never forget that the white West abolished slavery, which is still practiced in black Africa.

There is nothing wrong with stating these facts—and stating them with pride. Just because you believe and say these things, that does not mean that you hate people of other races or cultures. Honest history is simply honest history, and facts are simply facts. Truth sometimes has to be verbalized and clearly articulated if it is to be protected and preserved. If truths are not spoken, they become forgotten and overtaken by lies. This is vitally important today—when leftist political dogma and fake news are erasing the past and poisoning the present!

It is abundantly obvious that non-white people and non-Western cultures have also contributed many amazing things to the world and to America. I admire and love many of the influences of other cultures, from the wonderful blues and jazz developed by African-American culture to the profound spirituality of American Indians to the great knowledge and accomplishments of China and India. And I respect all kinds of people from various cultures, including Hispanics, Muslims, and LGBT people. Hey, we all belong to the same human species, and we all have good, important, exciting, and special things to contribute to society. Furthermore, we must all be free to express ourselves honestly.

Although I welcome all of these diverse influences in my life, I will not let them distort my perspective. They will not make me forget that the greatest accomplishments of Western civilization are under daily attack by ignorant, misinformed, malicious, and devious people. That is why I feel compelled, at this point in history and in my life, to defend American, Western, “white” values. I welcome everyone to support these values—including non-white people. Anyone of any color, if they are thinking people, should be able to appreciate the demonstrated superiority of certain ideas. If you’re a black, Hispanic, or Arab American, for example, and you have built a good life for yourself by working hard, following the rules, and respecting the enlightened values on which the United States was built, you are my fellow American and I welcome you as my neighbor. But I do not welcome anyone as my neighbor if they preach and promote ignorance, lies, hatred, and purposeful confusion. I would not want a neighbor like AOC, Omar, Pelosi, or Schiff!

I don’t care if you’re white, black, brown, or rainbow. The ideas inside the head are what count—not the color on the outside of the head. I simply want to point out that most of the best ideas of civilization happened to originate in heads that were white. It goes without saying that some really stupid ideas also originated in white heads—like the U.S. wars in Vietnam and Iraq, as well as the careers of Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift. White people can be real irritating idiots, without a doubt. But that does not negate the positive points about white accomplishments that I have made in this essay.

Challenges Ahead

It will become increasingly difficult to support common-sense, pro-America, white-friendly ideas in our suicidal, self-hating, warped culture in which free speech and the honest exchange of views is being stamped out. After Trump is gone, the Republicans will surely return to their weak invertebrate ways. And the socialists/progressives will inevitably grow in power as the population becomes ever more ignorant and susceptible to their propaganda. That is the way societies de-evolve—government power grows while individual freedom shrinks. It has happened elsewhere before. It is happening here now. However, I’m not going to let that dissuade me from maintaining my own perspective on these matters, which has the advantage of having history, facts, and experience on its side.

So this is where my decades of personal and political evolution—together with my observation of current events and my study of history—have led me. It is the perspective of one thinking and feeling American as the year 2020 begins. My evolution will certainly continue, guided, as always, by my interpretation of the principles of freedom and truth.

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