

E Pluribus Unum – Still? Really?

George Rebane – 27 July 2020 (V31jul20)

‘There are more things that unite Americans than drive them apart.’ This shibboleth, or one in a similar vein, is often heard when conversation-lite turns to the polarization now visible everywhere in our land. Unfortunately, these conversations don’t go much deeper than the participants sagely nodding their heads before abandoning the topic and hurriedly shifting to more comfortable topics. Such tactics have always been eschewed in these pages, so let’s take an inventory of the things that unite and separate us. Readers, as always, are invited to augment my inventory with edits and additions of their own.

The things that unite us –

1. We’re all Homo sapiens;
2. We co-habit within the same borders;
3. We drive mostly same kind of cars;
4. We eat mostly same foods;
5. We breathe the same air;
6. We dress similarly;
7. We enjoy same sports (mostly);
8. We vote in the same elections;
9. We use the same currency.

The things that divide us –

1. Language

- 1.1. The Left has prostituted the English language in their public schools, the news media, and entertainment industry. Words have disappeared from allowed usage, and more have been redefined beyond recognition. Additions to the lexicon have been made that are undefined and defy definition. The aim is an Orwellian Newspeak that is under the authoritarian dictates of a Lewis Carroll Humpty Dumpty. Today when you stray from the ever-narrowing semantic boundaries of the Left, you can lose your job, career, and reputation. One of the first casualties of their K-12 education was English grammar.
- 1.2. The linguistic goal of the Right is to expand language with the addition of new words, especially in technology and its borrowings, instead of requiring existing words to carry additional reams of semantic baggage that makes their use in communications an invitation to cacophony.

2. History

- 2.1. The Left’s history a la Zinn (*A People’s History of the United States*) is a Stalinistic air brushing of all aspects of America’s story that does not support their narrative of the United States as being the world’s paramount evil on the global scene, let alone recounting the transgressions it has visited upon its own citizens.
- 2.2. The Right’s history remains the academic history as it was before Zinn and his offal launched their leftwing revisionist history intended to serve and confirm their *raison d’etre* for destroying western culture.

- 3. Organization of society/economy (capitalist, collectivist, elitist, ...)**
 - 3.1. The first principle of Left's governance is that the people are too stupid to determine what is good for them in the long run. For their own sake they must be managed by elite technicians who determine and impose both their needs and wants. Those recalcitrant must be re-educated or eliminated from society.
 - 3.2. The Right believes that rights based on liberty, property, and security of the individual are the basic structure underpinning ALL rights granted by government. This maximizes harmonious diversity in all aspects of human affairs. Government's role to be minimized.
- 4. Governance (role of nation-state, democracy, ...)**
 - 4.1. The Left believes the need for nation-states has passed. Such entities should join as provinces to form a single global government. Pure democracy works at all scales of governance. All social planning and control, especially of the economy, should be centralized for the common good to reflect social justice and equitable distribution of wealth. Public policies should be made by a central body of technocrat elites and enforced by a ubiquitous police establishment with constant and comprehensive knowledge of citizens' activities.
 - 4.2. The Right knows that pure democracy has never worked on a large scale, and sees government as a necessary evil for organizing society. Competition is the cure for incompetence at all levels. Distributed meritocracies provide for the highest attainable QoL for people of all capabilities and levels of aspiration. Minimally regulated capitalism and open markets will yield the most productive economy achievable. A community of peaceful, culturally cohesive and sovereign nation-states in close commercial relationships is the best structure for global governance.
- 5. Rights and Privileges (the armed citizen, Bastiat triangle of rights, voting, ...)**
 - 5.1. The Left advertises a legion of inconsequential 'rights' for everybody, but opposes all substantive rights that give citizens the legal and material basis for opposing their government. They denigrate the status of 'citizen' and see all people within a region as having the same 'rights'. Citizenship should be easily obtained by anyone, and not be required for voting or receiving government benefits. Most certainly the state should not be the guarantor of the Bastiat Triangle of Rights (q.v.). All people in the state's jurisdiction are essentially seen as a homogenous mass of compliant and landless vassals.
 - 5.2. The Right holds our Declaration of Independence and Constitution to be enduring and sacrosanct foundational documents to be interpreted in a manner ranging somewhere between constructionist and originalist. Citizen is a special and privileged class of the nation's residents, a status to be achieved through demonstrated effort by aliens wishing to become naturalized. Citizens have the most comprehensive set of state guaranteed rights (e.g. voting, government benefits, military service, ...) not available to all resident aliens. The number of illegal aliens is to be minimized first and foremost with secure borders, then through laws and regulations that specify their discovery, residence status, ability to work, path to citizenship, and deportation.
- 6. Free speech**
 - 6.1. The Left does not believe in free speech. Speech, especially in the public domain, should be restricted to correctly expressed correct thoughts which conform to various forms *du jour* of collective ideologies. Examples of leftwing proscribed speech abound

in today's media, workplaces, and institutions. Wrong speech, no matter how dated, is today grounds for the ruin of reputations, jobs, and careers.

6.2. The Right believes that free speech, as construed in the Constitution, is a fundamental and necessary right for the maintenance of all our liberties and our democratic republic.

7. State of the nation (racist, imperialist, shining city on a hill, ...)

7.1. The Left believes that America is an inherently imperialist, racist, ergo evil nation that must be fundamentally transformed in all its institutions in order to become an acceptably compliant and equitable member of the global community of nations. The required starting point of this transformation is the elimination of America's European heritage as reflected by its traditional culture and religion (Christianity). Their faux history '1619 project', now being injected into the nation's public schools, says it all.

7.2. The Right believes in American exceptionalism – we are the shining city on a hill. Over the course of its history America has demonstrated the art of the possible in liberal social organization that has embraced people of all origins and cultures who share in that belief. In governance as in commerce, competition to develop best practices is paramount for improving the QoL of its citizens.

8. Role of government (guarantor of freedoms, national security, economic security, ...)

8.1. The Left believes that government is the *sine qua non* of an organized society. It is the source of all things good, font of all wisdom, true owner of all things, producer and provider of all life's necessities, and the ultimate object of people's fealty. It represents and is the collective which is the paramount unit of society to which the individual is subservient. Opposition is treason.

8.2. The Right believes that the role of government is to provide the minimal collective functions for the common good that cannot efficiently or sufficiently be provided by the private sector. Government is the servant of the people who must always retain the power through ballots, bullets, or boots to reform it or remove themselves from its grip.

9. Role of education (trained/competitive workforce, common history and traditions, social contract, ...)

9.1. The Left believes education to be a centrally controlled and funded public function. Its societal role is to produce a steady stream of coherently compliant collective of workers who hold steadfast to the most recently deemed correct views politically and historically. Today the Left's public schools' prime focus is the revision and/or erasure of western culture and history, and its replacement with an ontology that sees collectivism as the morally correct organization of society.

9.2. The Right holds dear the history of the West, barnacles and all, and seeks to educate its students in the feats and foibles of its forebears - peoples, pundits, and princes – in the manner and place determined by the students' parents. The focus is to develop individuals' ability to think critically and provide them with an extensive knowledge base from which to draw such thoughts. It is from the ideas and industry of free individuals that comes all that is good and beneficial to humankind.

10. Role of media (news, sports, entertainment, maintain common culture and currency, ...)

10.1. The Left believes the media should be an extension of the government's propaganda arm that communicate a steady stream of selected information and entertainment products which interpret the correct collective view of history, happenings, and hopes.

10.2. The Right believes media should communicate the ideas and inspirations of its content contributors in formats which are sufficiently transparent to permit the interested consumers to vet their verity and provenance. Sourcing should be uninhibited (save for privacy and national security considerations), presentation uncensored, and government influence/participation clearly indicated.

11. America's future (sovereignty, globalism)

11.1. The Left works for a fundamentally transformed America, reduced from its hegemony, to become a compliant and cooperative participant in a new socialist world order.

11.2. The Right works to maintain America as global hegemon and sovereign nation-state within a community of peer sovereign nations of various sizes, cultures, and governances ranging from open market capitalist to the various forms of collectivism.

12. Nature of Man (sexual diversity, gender identification, ...)

12.1. The Left views people as minimally diverse and maximally homogeneous members of various economic, political, and ethnic classes, deriving their individual value from the acknowledged value of their class in the greater collective. Permitting politically inconsequential diversity of sexual preference, gender identification, and racial membership provides a sufficient proxy for class-independent individuality. Meritocracy is minimized since it is the collective that enables all individuals – ‘You didn’t build that company ...’.

12.2. The Right views people as individuals who seek to stand out to the best of their widely ranging abilities. Homogeneity is eschewed, and individual meritocracy, especially demonstrated in a competitive environment is valued. S/he achieved the most that could be with the hand s/he was dealt is celebrated. Humankind is best served when individuals are given their head and encouraged to distinguish themselves. And people live the most happy and productive lives within cohesive cultures of their choice.

13. Values (family, parenting, traditions, risk tolerance, ...)

13.1. The Left advocates the visible attempts to remove risk from all permitted human endeavors – if real/imagined risk cannot be removed, the activity is prohibited. The family is no longer the fundamental social unit; it is replaced by the collective that will correctly form and shape the child whose permitted care is given to any kind or group of adults. In the final form “it takes a village to raise a child.” Since the nuclear family is nothing special, then traditions that families used to share must be eliminated from young minds, and foreign ones substituted – in the name of diversity and inclusion - that will not become permanent. A child’s heroic figures will no longer be parents, siblings, or relatives, but are then replaced by the designated icons and heroes of the collective (i.e. the state).

13.2. **The Right holds firm that the fundamental social unit is the nuclear family,** preferably composed of a female mother, male father, and siblings. The transmission of a society’s values, ethics, traditions, language, history, ... begins for a child within and through the nuclear family. Repetitive risk taking is encouraged – celebrated if with success, succored if with failure. Identifying and maximizing your potential is the perennial objective of development.

14. Ethics (racism, discrimination, equality, prejudice, ...)

- 14.1. The Left avoids explicit definition of the terms it uses to prescribe and enforce proper public behavior – e.g. ‘racist’, ‘discrimination’. Their approach is how Lewis Carroll’s Humpty Dumpty defines words, thereby never having to recant or apologize.
- 14.2. The Right labors, sometimes excessively, to correctly use precisely defined terms. I am an example of that with my fetish for semantics (see also *RR*’s Glossary). The Right believes language should be expanded to embrace new semantics, the Left believes the obverse.

15. Individual Responsibility

- 15.1. The Left’s favored classes bear no burden of individual responsibility since they are perennial victims of prejudice, discrimination, and oppression which excuses their every action and deficit. Only individuals of unfavored classes bear responsibility not only for their actions and deficits, but also those of the favored classes.
- 15.2. The Right burdens its adherents with the notion that individuals first and foremost are responsible agents with little leeway provided only for those with clinical deficits and Kafkaesque conundra imposed by the state’s system of jurisprudence.

16. National Sovereignty

- 16.1. The Left sees the sovereignty of nations, especially that of the United States, as a perversion of governance to be eliminated on the road to globalism.
- 16.2. The Right sees the sovereign nation-state as the *sine qua non* of a successful world order that will continue to provide a competitive environment for best practices in everything from governance through commerce to human knowledge (science).

17. Religion

- 17.1. The Left sees religion (especially Christianity) as did Lenin – “the opiate of the masses” – to be denigrated and suppressed wherever it is practiced.
- 17.2. The Right sees religion as a collection of comforting creeds that describe a reality which science can neither corroborate nor confute. The Right holds no religion can coopt government to enforce its beliefs and practices on others, which include non-believers of all hues. However, an overwhelmingly dominant religion in a jurisdiction may also be free to use public facilities for its observances as long as there is no implication of government support of evangelizing.

18. Understanding of science

- 18.1. The Left is inherently unscientific and sees ‘science’ as a malleable tool of governance a la USSR’s experience with agronomist Lysenko. It seeks to promote favored public policies with ‘consensus science’ made up of bespoke cohorts of ‘scientists’ that easily impress its innumerate constituents.
- 18.2. The Right views science from the perspective of the ‘scientific method’ – embracing falsifiability and Occam - that gives no favorable consideration to the source of scientific knowledge, but only its recognizably frangible propositions.

19. Awareness of current events

- 19.1. The Left believes in tailoring the reporting of current events to be in concordance with its current ideological and policy goals. Before achieving complete government control of the media, this requires support of corporatist outlets that will appropriately ‘self-censor’. The First Amendment must be amended or at least understood in a new light.
- 19.2. The Right believes in the First Amendment as is.

20. Patriotism (role of sacrosanct national totems, willing to defend, ...)

- 20.1. The Left believes traditional patriotism to a homeland (see sovereign nation-state above) is a dated and hurtful relic used mainly to divide and hurt minorities, and continue to exhibit white privilege. Patriotic symbols and expressions should be minimized, opposed, removed, and disrespected whenever possible.
- 20.2. The Right holds sacrosanct the traditional practices, symbols, and totems of patriotism that echo Stephen Decatur's "Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong!" And that means you don't mix messages when we pay fealty to our nation.

21. Foreign Policy (world hegemon)

- 21.1. The Left's foreign policy prescriptions for America should conform to its globalist ideology as described above – i.e. revert to a compliant member of the globalist community that is happy to renounce its sovereignty in all spheres of international relations. Becoming a second rate country with open borders is the ideal.
- 21.2. The Right sees America's historical role as the 'white hat' hegemon that has been the prime force to create a world order beneficial to all humankind. While debating its role going forward, the Right does not see America relinquishing its role as at least a par hegemon with another developed/developing country, say, China or India. All productive diplomacy requires the ability to project power.

22. Logical thinking

- 22.1. The Left has no fealty to any recognized system of logic, and argues for its propositions in the same way as it 'flexibly' uses language. Its claims for logical support are effective only with the innumerate and those uninformed. Nevertheless, collective ideologies have never been encumbered by their ethics in how they form their public arguments.
- 22.2. The Right succumbs to the forms and norms of accepted logic - the kind you can code and which supports useful tasks like diagnosing a disease or landing an airplane. This is both a strength and also a weakness. The former with an ever-diminishing share of our electorate. The latter, since the Left's intellectual elites will be quick to point out any real or manufactured logical weaknesses in the Right's proposals.

23. National security (military, borders)

- 23.1. The Left sees this as part and parcel of its objective for removing America as a globally par hegemon and sovereign nation-state. In its fundamental transformation of America, the Left will always seek to minimize exercise and funding of national security in favor of more transfer payments to solicit ever more gimme votes.
- 23.2. The Right sees national security as the first responsibility of government for its citizens – it is the one thing that a distributed private sector cannot effectively provide, and that must be implemented as the country's fundamental collective activity.

24. Private property (ownership, disposition, heritage, housing, ...)

- 24.1. The Left holds all property to be owned by the collective for the 'common good'. Until that becomes a de jure realization, the progressives are content to let people remain as custodians of 'private property' as they nibble away at what can actually be owned by individuals.
- 24.2. The Right believes that all property that can be husbanded, created, and maintained by the private sector should belong in the private sector – preferably by

identifiable individuals. The Right holds that ownership is a graded right - you own something only to the extent that you can dispose of it as you wish.

25. Wealth and Income (taxes, merit, enforced equality, ...)

- 25.1. The Left believes in a maximally equal distribution of both wealth and income that is characterized by a Gini coefficient that is close to zero (more [here](#)). In socialist and communist countries the actual realized Gini coefficient is much higher as the country's wealth and income are peaked with the government elites. Taxes on income and assets are the main instruments of wealth redistribution. Individuals' merit in determining material benefits in society should be minimized in the name of non-discrimination, inclusion, and social justice. Here citizens are agents of the collective (state), and their earnings, wealth, and property comes from and goes to the collective which will 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his need'. Charity is then a moot concept.
- 25.2. The Right believes in earnings and wealth distributed according to a meritocracy that is inter-generational, meaning garnered wealth can be passed to progeny. All economic levels will benefit from the more all economic levels have and can spend to maintain/increase their QoL. Given the intrinsic religiosity of the Right, it believes in a broad spectrum of privately funded charities for the various kinds of needy in the population. Affirmative action through the collective is to be minimized. Overall, equal opportunity always trumps equal outcome.

The only way that I can see healing such a devastating ideological breach is through education. That requires the replacement of the legions of incompetent socialist union shills with qualified teachers. Even then it would take at least two generations to repair the damage. And that is not going to happen. So, given the Democrats' most recent Great Leftward Leap, there is no palpable or plausible means that this polarization will cease, and we again become a more cohesive and unified people.

Ergo, common ground between the two sides has long disappeared in the rearview mirror, and only two possible futures remain for Americans to determine their own path forward – the Left wins and forcefully subjugates the remaining Right (for we will not go quietly into that dark night), or the Right is able to convince the Left that we need to negotiate a Great Divide on the North American continent. What then remains to be seen is how/whether the people of Canada and/or Mexico want figure into the new North American order.