

RR Glossary & Semantics (v15sep12)

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This is the dated version, as indicated above, of a glossary of definitions and related notes on semantics that is useful for understanding the posts and accompanying discussions on *Rebane's Ruminations* (georgerebane.com). Its purpose was introduced in the post 'Introducing *RR* Glossary and Semantics'. A usage note – always consider getting a more complete understanding of my definitions/semantics by searching *RR* with the sought for term, or googling it with the term plus 'George Rebane' or 'Rebane's Ruminations' as the key words.

❖ **Algorithm, algorithmics**

- An algorithm is a step-by-step problem-solving procedure, especially an established, recursive computational procedure for solving a problem in a finite number of steps. Algorithmics is the field of developing and using algorithms. An algorist is a person who algorizes, i.e. develops algorithms. A more complete dissertation on algorithms is available from the link below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/files/Algo0712.pdf

❖ **Bastiat Triangle**

- This is the mutually supporting, minimal triangle of rights which was established by Frederic Bastiat in *The Law* as the basis for any extended set of rights and privileges (q.v.) maintained by a government. They are security of your person, liberty in your actions, and ownership of property. Weakening one weakens them all. More from the links below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/Bastiat_Triangle_Alliance.pdf
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/03/rights-and-privileges.html

❖ **Birther**

- A label, perhaps pejorative, given to those who are convinced that, according to our Constitution, factors related to Obama's birth disqualify him to be President of the United States. The label is often also attached to those of us who have lingering doubts about some documents presented to certify his legitimate qualifications for the presidency. Also the label for the entire issue of Obama being a "natural born" American citizen.

❖ **Communism/communist**

- A collectivist form of governance, usually achieved by a fundamental transformation that rapidly changes the "basic character of the state", in which the resulting state takes immediate ownership of all means of production and distribution, and, of course, does all the planning and control. A communist is a person who promotes policies that he knows will take a country toward/into communism. A more complete discussion of communism and socialism is found at the link below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/07/who-is-a-socialist.html

❖ **Conservetarian**

- A socio-political ideology cobbled together from the beliefs of conservatives and libertarians (classical liberals) that best represents my own socio-political credo. Foreign policy and the function/support of our military are the parts of the standard libertarian

beliefs that I excise. This definition is a work in process, however under 'Credo' (below) are more tenets that fit under my conservetarians label.

❖ **Credo**

- Latin for 'I believe', and most commonly used to denote a person's complete belief system or a set of beliefs pertaining to one specific area of human activity. A salient portion of my credo was introduced in the post 'I am not a journalist' linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2007/12/i-am-not-a-jour.html

❖ **Culture**

- A body of herited behaviors, beliefs, and traditions that unites a people and distinguishes it from people of other cultures. Cultures are not necessarily defined, constrained, or bounded by political borders or codicils. A more complete discussion can be had at 'Multikulti and people like me' linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/10/multikulti-and-people-like-me.html

❖ **Discriminate**

- To differentiate or identify as different or distinguishing on the basis of a set of attributes belonging to some things or people and not others. Its meaning has been bastardized by proponents of progressive political correctness, and is used only in the pejorative sense with no available substitute for the original meaning given here. Such illegitimate semantics reduce the information carrying capacity of a language. See also 'racist/racism'.

❖ **End-timer**

- A person who believes that human history will terminate through a prophesized future act of God. Christianity and Islam are two religions with belief systems that teach the 'end of times' in their scriptures. End-timers are almost always people who believe humans are transcendent (q.v.) beings, receiving their just deserts for earthly life in the hereafter.

❖ **Equal Opportunity**

- A socio-political condition of a people in which no one's opportunity to behave, achieve, or exercise his rights is based on politically motivated classifications. This is contrasted and often confused with 'equal achievement' in which this condition is said to obtain only when people achieve certain social and material ends pro rata to their class representations in a society. In the progressive liturgy, equal achievement is the accepted/imposed measure of equal opportunity.

❖ **Great Divide**

- The notion that America is no longer a nation unified enough so as to remain a productive single sovereign nation-state to the benefit of all its citizens. America showed such polarization in the years leading up to the War for Southern Independence (aka 'Civil War', although it wasn't). It is in such a polarized state again as argued by many commentators across the nation. Posts on GD are collected in *RR's* Great Divide category. To dig deeper, a good start is at 'Altered States – The Great Divide dialogue continues' linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/04/altered-states-the-great-divide-dialogue-continues.html

❖ **Hero**

- A person who has knowingly gone above and beyond the accepted norm of behavior to risk his life, limb, treasure, or honor. The semantics of this label have been bastardized

beyond recall in our society – everyone who puts out effort that is in some sense above average is soon hailed as a hero. There no longer is a unique term in our lexicon that discriminates between people as defined above, and the general population. More thoughts on such language bastardizations are found in ‘The Blue of the Grass’ linked below.

- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/04/kvmr-commentary-the-blue-of-the-grass.html

❖ **Liberal**

- n. The overarching label for anyone today who subscribes to any of a number of collectivist ideologies or their several tenets that human behavior is best controlled according to plans/policies made by distant elites and coercively enforced by large central governments.
- In a stronger version (according to Dr. Rossiter and *The Liberal Mind: The Psychological Causes of Political Madness*) that emphasized their public modus operandi, liberals operate through preying on weaknesses and feelings of inferiority in the population by:
 - creating and reinforcing perceptions of victimization;
 - satisfying infantile claims to entitlement, indulgence and compensation;
 - augmenting primitive feelings of envy;
 - rejecting the sovereignty of the individual, subordinating him to the will of the government.

❖ **Obamunism**

- The transitional form of preemptive and collective governance that President Obama has embarked upon in his promise to “fundamentally transform America.” A more complete definition is found in the *RR* post ‘The Advent of Obamunism’ linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2012/09/the-advent-of-obamunism.html

❖ **Racism/racist**

- Racism is the belief that race accounts for some differences in human character or ability. A racist is someone who evinces such a belief. In its obligatory pejorative, a racist is always someone who practices such beliefs to the detriment of an offended group of people, whether they be of a different race or simply a different culture. Its widespread and politically correct usage has removed all information carrying capacity from the label. More is discussed in ‘Who is a Racist?’ linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/07/who-is-a-racist.html

❖ **Raghead**

- Current place holder label for the various members of Muslim extremist groups and/or ideologies that are carrying out a global war against western civilization. They distinguish themselves by the ruthless murder and maiming of civilians from ambush in which they often sacrifice their own lives. Overwhelmingly they are devout end-timers (q.v.). A more complete understanding of my definition is found in ‘Of Ragheads and Racism’ linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/02/of-ragheads-and-racism.html

❖ **Rights, privileges**

- Types of permissions granted and guaranteed by the state for classes of inhabitants variously franchised. The notion of a ‘right’ now belongs to a meaningless class of label

that has been bastardized beyond recognition in the public forum, hence it serves only to confuse and enrage when used in debate. My essay 'Rights and Privileges', linked below, gives the operational definitions which go with my use of the terms.

- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/03/rights-and-privileges.html

❖ **Singularity**

- The beginning of the epoch in which Homo Sapiens is no longer the most overall intelligent creature on Earth, superseded by more intelligent and capable machines whose future capacities are not limited to the pace of biological evolution. Our ability to predict the state and progress of a post-Singularity world is nil. A fuller discussion is found in 'The Singularity – A Short Overview', linked below, and in related postings in the *RR* category 'Singularity'.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2007/12/the-singularity.html

❖ **Socialism, socialist**

- A collectivist form of governance that seeks as its endgame the state ownership of the means of production and distribution which it executes through a centralized process of planning and control. Socialism teaches that it can be achieved through a bit by piece transformation of capitalism, there need be no sudden overturn of the existing system or "basic character of the state". A socialist is defined in 'Who is a socialist?' a related piece linked below.
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2010/07/who-is-a-socialist.html
- http://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2011/11/the-liberal-mind-how-much-socialist-before-being-a-socialist.html#more

❖ **System**

- A system is a commonly agreed collection of attributes and 'working parts' the grouping of which serves communication, analysis of function, and prediction of behavior to achieve useful ends. This specifically includes common definitions of system state, observation, control, and environmental (uncontrollable exogenous) variables. In general, defined systems are abstracts of nature construed by intelligent beings used to structure and inform their cognitive environment.

❖ **System Science**

- The collection of theoretical and applied mathematical tools required to study, design, develop, and/or use systems of either human or 'natural' origin. An incomplete list of system science disciplines includes all of control theory, optimization theory, utility/decision theory, probabilistic reasoning, queing(sic) theory, machine intelligence, and computer science (which is subsumed in its entirety).

❖ **Transcendence**

- The condition of transcending or passing on to another (usually 'higher') level of existence beyond the existential observed in everyday life. Most religions teach that Man is a transcendent creature – i.e. capable of transcendence. A perhaps more sophisticated view teaches that Man is transcendent in that his total being transcends the 'x,y,z,t' world which he experiences; that his worldly being is but a projection of a higher dimensional critter that exists in a manifold of which our universe is but a subspace.