

Something Amiss in America

“A little stimulus, a little Cap and Trade, a little healthcare reform, a little community service, a little regulation, a little change... what are those Conservatives so worried about? So President Obama has broken a few campaign promises. What president in recent memory hasn't? Our Democracy is fine, our Freedoms are safe, and America is still the greatest country in the world. What's the big deal? As long as George Bush is in Texas, and not in Washington, America must be on the right track. Right?”

Wrong.

The current administration is not merely going about “politics as usual.” Fighting to establish federal monopolies on banking and healthcare, asking for emergency control over the internet, cavorting with dictators, dramatically weakening national defenses, implementing teamster-style stimulus packages, buying car companies with taxpayer money, passing unread legislation, making lists of Americans that disagree with the government, manipulating private industry by imposing ludicrous taxes on carbon emissions, attempting to silence talk-radio and other privately owned media outlets, colluding with multinational corporations like General Electric, redistributing income, making public service mandatory and systematically destroying state sovereignty are definitely not traditional Liberal platforms. In fact, the shocking nature of these proposals has many Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike, deeply concerned for their Liberty.

But if the public is so uncertain, why are our politicians so resolute? In a properly-functioning Republic shouldn't the disposition of the masses be mirrored by their representatives? Why are the most dramatic changes in United States history being forced upon its citizens without so much as a meaningful debate?

Something is sorely amiss in America.

In his article “Trendy Idealism: Barack Obama's Commercial Presidency,” Tom Bortnyk writes “The [Obama] campaign promised ‘Change’, but the administration has yet to come up with anything new. Instead it relies on the policies of the past.” Tom is exactly right. By repackaging the populist rhetoric used to destroy the economies of Germany, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba and North Korea, the Obama Administration is able to likewise socialize America; doing so in a way that appears to the populace as a completely innocent and novel method of action.

I know what you're thinking: “Socialism? That won't happen to us, we're a democracy!” Unfortunately so are Pakistan, Ethiopia, North Korea, China, and Congo. That's right. All of those countries, hosts to many of the most egregious human rights abuses in recorded history, are actually listed as “democratic-republics” just like the United States. Clearly Democracies are easy to register on paper, but practicing Democracy is not as simple as many Americans plainly assume.

No political leader in history has ever blatantly declared “Elect me and I'll take away your FREEDOM!” Still many countries around the world, like those listed above, are run by authoritative and repressive regimes. Are we to assume tyrannical reign was the will of the people? There is a much more rational explanation...

The loss of one's freedom is not an event, it is a process. A little bit here, a little bit there, freedom is not usually taken by force, but given away through complacency. In either case, once freedom is gone, nothing short of a bloody revolution can bring it back.

So, what separates Americans from the people of Pakistan, North Korea, China, Congo and Ethiopia? Nothing. If it can happen to them it can happen to us. And it is.

I'm sure at this point I'm coming across as something of a conspiracy theorist. Thankfully, as our President would say, "this isn't about me." Here are some very simple, rational, lucid questions that *all* Americans should be asking:

- Why in the world would any government "run by the people" limit its citizens' gun rights, even though those rights are specifically protected by its Constitution?
- Americans did not tolerate vagueness and dishonesty from the Nixon, Carter, Clinton or Bush administrations. Why are we accepting it from Barack Obama, Rahm Emanuel, Eric Holder, Timothy Geithner and Kathleen Sebelius?
- Since when does America elect Czars? (Oh, that's right. We don't.) Given that they are unelected and unregulated, why are these individuals given so much power over the lives of average citizens?
- Why are tax-cheats, former KKK members, recipients of bribe money, convicted felons and other lawbreakers STILL in Congress, writing the same laws they have no problem breaking? Would we let these people run our small businesses, much less our Country?
- Why is the average tenure in the Senate twice as long as the maximum Presidential term? Why have some members been serving for over FIFTY years?
- Why is Congress not even reading the paradigm-shifting bills they pass? Why do they have to be passed with such urgency?
- Why would our trusted bureaucrats fight so hard to put into place policies that have failed so regularly in other countries around the world? (Here's a clue: Because they haven't failed... for the political elite.)
- Is Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid funding still a concern? We are still planning on paying for them, right?
- If 99.9% of employers are small businesses, why did the stimulus package only bolster government jobs? Are they trying to create dependencies where there previously were none?

Are We the People so easily deceived? So easily bought? So easily sweet-talked into inaction? We all develop political affinities; but are we letting our "brand-loyalty" get in the way of our common sense? When do we draw the line between supporting specific parties and supporting America? Are we already too far divided?

I know it is hard to accept that our political leaders might not genuinely have America's best interests at heart, but we all believed it when George Bush was president, didn't we? The incentive to engage in corruption is too high and the consequences are too low. It doesn't take an economics professor to identify this as a recipe for disaster.

America needs to start challenging its leaders, even those that are well-liked. There is nothing wrong with informed dissent and nothing wrong with asking questions. After all, good intentions do not always form good ideas. We are not far away from getting our paychecks, healthcare, cars, houses and education all straight from the federal government; essentially cradle to the grave, womb to the tomb entitlement that will cripple the robust spirit of America. Surrendering that much power to the megalomaniacal and unfeeling bureaucrats in Washington is not something I'm personally prepared to do.

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