

The rise of Right-Wing Conservatism in America: Anything new?

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Abstract: *“Perhaps the whole root of our trouble, the human trouble, is that we will sacrifice all the beauty of our lives, will imprison ourselves in totems, taboos, crosses, blood sacrifices, steeples, mosques, races, armies, flags, nations, in order to deny the fact of death, which is the only fact we have. It seems to me that one ought to rejoice in the fact of death—ought to decide, indeed, to earn one's death by confronting with passion the conundrum of life. One is responsible to life: It is the small beacon in that terrifying darkness from which we come and to which we shall return. One must negotiate this passage as nobly as possible, for the sake of those who are coming after us.” ~ James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time*

Right-wing conservatism is not new, but its attention is resulting from the rise of right-wing terrorism in the era of Trump. White supremacists feel empowered because President Donald Trump is virtually silent on the deaths in black churches, mosques and synagogues, and other venues where black, brown and other peoples of color control, support and congregate. Many argue that Trump stokes racist and encourages its growth. The current experience though must not be left on the feet of Trump alone because he reflects the voice of the silent Republican Party. The Democratic Party is not the voice of outrage either. Violence and terrorism have a long history which has targeted Afrikan peoples from their enslavement through Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Black Power and Black Lives Matter movements.

Some activists argue that right-wing violence is relatively ignored from Klu Klux Klan violence, past and present, to Timothy McVeigh in 1995. McVeigh, an anti-government terrorist, killed 168 people with the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. On September 11, 2001 the U.S. government did a so-called shift from domestic terrorism to Islamic linked terrorism. According to Daniel Byman's article Right-Wing Terrorism Could Get Even Worse After Trump, “over 70 percent of extremist attacks that resulted in fatalities from 2008–17 were committed by right-wing groups. In 2018, jihadis killed only one person on U.S. soil, while right-wing violence led to 16 deaths.”



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What must not be missed is domestic terrorists as anti-government views government as intrusive and the Republican Party arguing for less government view government as intrusive. Although their methodology differs in empowering their envisioned outcome, both share an ideology of white supremacy.

This argument should not be construed as meaning that the Democratic Party does not support white supremacy. They have adhered to Samuel Huntington's Crisis of Democracy strategy, "balance [needs] to be restored between governmental activity and governmental authority." This means you placate the masses to avert dissension to maintain power and control of the intimate relationship between corporations and government. Huntington is one of the principal writers of the Trilateral Commission position paper.

Conservatism and liberalism in America have always been contentious. Just as liberalism is not monolithic, conservatism is diverse as Christian protestants. Conservatism represents a broad system of political beliefs. They tend to characterize themselves as advocates of 'American traditions' without considering North American history and the united states development as a nation. They are republican, Christian, moral universalist, pro-business and anti-labor, anti-communist, and individualist. Social conservatism is pro-life, while consciously ignoring human rights of peoples of color, even that of poor 'white' people. White privilege, white supremacy and patriarchy are foundations of conservatism in America. (The political lines of conservatism have been blurred in the era of Trump primary because he has no clear ideology, just an adherence to a set of values which benefits him as he sees it, coupled with his racist views of persons who are phenotypically different than he). Liberals argue that they value equality and social justice, and that government has a responsibility to attain those social goals.

Republicanism has seemingly contradictory origins. It is an outgrowth of the classical liberal tradition of the 18th and 19th centuries. It rejected aristocratic and monarchical government. The Declaration of the Independence and the Constitution of the united states articulates in word fundamental freedoms although in practice the governments within the U.S. empire denies fundamental human rights as seen in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Who is the political left? According to political scientists the "left" include anarchists, communists, democratic socialists, social democrats, progressives and social liberals. Those movements who support racial equality and trade unionism is generally included. Politically there is a left-wing movement which support social equality, social equity and egalitarianism and opposes social hierarchy.

Who is the political right? Conservatives, Christian democrats and nationalists are part of the right-wing political spectrum. The far-right would include racists and fascists. (See Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright to understand fascism and its development). Social orders and hierarchies are viewed by the 'right' natural and inevitable, social Darwinism. Inequality, thus, is

considered a consequence of natural competition. The ‘left’ and the ‘right.’ These political terms were birthed during the French Revolution (1789-1799) where those representatives who opposed the monarchy and supported the revolution sat literally on the left side of the space in the French Estates General. Those seated on the right side supported the traditional institutions of the Old Regime.

Today, where is America, to the ‘right’ or the ‘left’ or somewhere in the ‘center’? Does it matter? Would a thorough examination and a deconstruction of all of the political landscape in America prove that only a self-determined strategy of all oppressed and exploited populations pursuing a human rights agenda would benefit the masses?

Do we remember Kathryn Johnston, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, Yvette Smith, Korryn Gaines, Sandra Bland, Romain Brisbon, Tamir Rice, Akai Gurley, Michael Brown, Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Stephon Clark, Laquan McDonald, Philando Castile, and so many more? According to Mapping Police Violence there were only 22 days in all of 2017 where police did not kill anyone, and in 2018 police killed 1,165 people. Moreover, considering black people are 12.6 percent of the U.S. population, they were 26.7 percent of the people killed by police.

Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hooks because our lives be threatened daily, because we want to live as decent human beings in America? ~ Fannie Lou Hamer

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