

RedState.com

[Thinking the Unthinkable about Democrats and the Left](#)

Posted by [vassar](#) ([Profile](#))

Tuesday, January 12th at 7:27AM EST

29 Comments

Recommenders: [penguin2](#), [JadedByPolitics](#), [Black River Wolf](#), [Marcus Traianus](#), [makemyday](#), [nessa](#), [Beaglescout](#), [TheYeomanFarmer](#), [Achance](#), [AceInTX](#), [ColdWarrior](#), [dwarfmama](#), [Third Street](#), [vrwcnut](#), [E Pluribus Unum](#), [EvanWeeks](#), [Kenny Solomon](#), [fpete13527](#), [mootzu](#), [Brian Hibbert](#)

In the Let's-Never-Let-This-Happen-Again-When-We-Win category, I try to imagine the good-natured Ronald Reagan addressing a joint session of Congress. Looking over the assembly, I wonder if he could imagine, or allow himself to believe, that as many as a quarter of the people seated there were dedicated to the overthrow of the form of government we've come to know under the Constitution.

In truth, I doubt it.

Ronald Reagan first addressed Congress in 1982, and what he little believed could be true then actually had been true for over 70 years.

National Review, in its Dec 31 issue, published a four-part article entitled "The Four Horsemen of Progressivism". It is a must read, the sort of thing you will want to revisit often. I asked Jonah Goldberg to make the article available on-line, and asked NR to publish it in pamphlet form, like the little Cato Institute booklet I carry around, as it's just one of those pieces one needs to always have at the ready.

It describes in easy-to-read detail how progressivism found its early roots in the Church of England in America, and the High Church belief in a class of betters who could best guide government toward a more perfect society. (British Imperialism was anointed in as similar fashion.) But remove the church element and you really could find very little difference between this religio-academic approach to governance and the atheo-academic approach the Marxists had devised. Indeed, it was a type of socialism, only with God holding up one leg of the stool instead of a bulldozer. (Over time, as we've seen, it was easy to get rid of that god-leg, which in hindsight bares naked the shortsighted human understanding of the designers of progressivism in the first place.)

(I'm trying to work up a companion piece on Thomas Sowell's new book on intellectuals and intellectualism (also a must read) which deals with this subject in a different aspect. Later)

You want an answer as to why the GOP and Mitch McConnell today, George W Bush, Bill Frist, Trent Lott, yesterday, and on back to Calvin Coolidge, could only chuckle, or shuffle their feet uncomfortably when assaulted by the most bodacious of accusations by the other side? Racism. Bigotry, Homophobia. Protection for the wealthy. Hatred for the poor. Parking in Handicapped Zones. It is because they cannot allow themselves to follow the logic of those accusations out to their only honest conclusion....and think the unthinkable....that we are no longer (and haven't for the longest time) even been playing this "game" on the same field as the other side.

One of us is in a separate reality. Rush Limbaugh says it is them, “the universe of lies”, but I say that’s a sorting-out only God gets to do. Which universe we are in depends on who wins. If we win, then we can return the game to the original playing field and rule book.

A person recently asked me what I considered to be political victory in this war with the Left. It took a day to get back to him. But as I see it, “political victory” means that the Constitution shall once again be the centerpiece of governance in America, and that the playing field, the rules, the goals and ambitions of all political parties shall be carried out within the four corners of the constitutional promises and protections as envisioned by the Founders.

Bernie Chumm has advised radio talk show hosts, and other people who get a shot at an open mic in front of a politician, i.e., how to throw the politician off by making him reveal a piece of himself he’d just as soon as keep quiet. He calls it the “Awkward Question.” Not really a “gotcha question”, it’s one simply designed to go a level or two deeper than the current issue of the day, so as to force the politician to reveal his secret beliefs about government, liberty and people. Obviously, today, one such awkward question, to Harry Reid, would be “Just what does a Negro dialect sound like, Senator?” One he devised for John Kerry: “Sen Kerry, you often speak of the middle class as if you are not among them. Just how do you define “middle class”, and how do you characterize your own class by comparison? (Since Kerry married his wealth, and ain’t none too bright when you cut away the booshway, his answer would be very revealing, i think, especially since it would not be one for which he prepared.) Awkward questions are fun. Make your own list.

Right now, all we know are two things: 1) Progressivism is, and always has been (when considered logically) in direct opposition to the purposes of the Constitution, namely the freedom and liberty of the individual. If anyone wants to debate this, tell them to hire a hall and bring their experts and television crews, and we’ll bring ours. 2) No one, Republican, conservative, you name it, including Ronald Reagan, has fully recognized this fact, or, has simply refused to believe it.

This then, is one of our first hurdles, getting the right people to know and admit this...if only to themselves in the mirror. Once done, they can begin asking the awkward questions themselves. Then we won’t have to hire a hall. The MTM will take care of the rest for us.

The Constitution, are you for it or against it?

If you are for the Constitution, then why...? (fill in the blank).

Category: [anti-constitution](#), [Conservatism](#), [Constitution](#)

29 Comments

Vassar, "freedom and liberty of the individual."

[penguin2](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 10:04AM EST ([link](#))

This is what the regular folk, all of us, must understand about the fight: that everything the Progressives–Leftists want to do destroys the Constitution, the magnificent blueprint that gave us “freedom and liberty as individuals.”

Vassar, the more you write and explain these things, the more understanding and challenge I have to

learn more, and for the first time, I really am beginning to see not only the connection, but the incredible danger we are in as a people. I think for so long it has been rhetoric alarms sounding...and then sort of, "oh, just a false alarm, we're fine." We are not fine, and the blaze is calling for all fire engines, 3 alarm fire!

Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God.
Benjamin Franklin

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

Thanks, Dear Heart...

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 10:48AM EST ([link](#))

...it's always nice to hear from you and to know I'm doin' good. Cheers

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

"Progressivism" Too Kind a Term

ronlsb Tuesday, January 12th at 11:40AM EST ([link](#))

I appreciate the thrust of your atricle and agree with it. However, I think your use of the word "progressivism" to difine the enemy is too vague and not strong enough. I happen to have a strong preference for Mark Levin's description of whom we are fighting against as "Statists". It more accurately describes them in a short word and does not bear the possibly positive connotations as the word "progressivej". Hope you'll consider changing.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

McGovern called himself a Liberal...it was only after people realized what he was talking about that the term took on a derisive tone

AceInTX Tuesday, January 12th at 12:44PM EST ([link](#))

Progressivism...liberalism....it's all the same...

I remember in the late 90s when leftists started calling themselves progressive telling my best friend at work...(who happened to be the Chairman of the Bexar County Democrat Party at the time) that Liberal wasn't always a negative term after he objected to me using it and telling me he was a progressive....

I told him what I just said about McGovern and followed up by telling him it's just a matter of time before people catch on the what you mean and what you believe when you call yourself progressive and it takes on the same negative tone...

I'm surprised it's taken a decade...but here we are...and after Obama is done with it...the Dems will go back to objecting to being labeled and trying to tell everyone they are "independents" or "free thinkers"

and they'll run from the term Progressive the way they do liberal today!



The **“Big Tent”** analogy isn't the correct one...the correct one is a **MAGNET**...we need to be a **MAGNET** that draws these independents in who are sick and tired of what's going on in Washington—**Fred Thompson**

[Senate Conservatives Fund](#)
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[Marco 2010](#)
[Toomey US Senate](#)
[SarahPAC](#)

REPLY TO THIS

Ace..

[Neil Stevens](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 12:45PM EST ([link](#))

When your title runs three lines, you're doing it wrong.

Want to run for conservatives? [Give](#).
[There Is No Crisis](#)

I'd rather everyone get along, but I'll settle for everyone united in hating me for being a jerky moderator.

REPLY TO THIS

sorry...I start typing and don't realize how long it's getting

[AceInTX](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 12:52PM EST ([link](#))

Which brings up a question...is there a way by adjusting the order of the comment boxes and even the title box so it stays on top and we know how long it is...and can edit for spelling?

maybe wrap the text in the title somehow?

Additionally...When we get into long threads what we type is disappearing behind the blue background making it impossible to edit



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[REPLY TO THIS](#)

Last issue is known

[Neil Stevens](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 1:02PM EST ([link](#))

Reordering sidebar won't happen. Editing comments highly unlikely.

Want to run for conservatives? [Give](#).

[There Is No Crisis](#)

I'd rather everyone get along, but I'll settle for everyone united in hating me for being a jerky moderator.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

No..I know we can't reedit comments...and it

[AceInTX](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 1:51PM EST ([link](#))

makes sense not to...I meant if the comment box was always above the blue field we can see our errors that need fixed before posting....

I don't know what affect that would have on the ads and comments column...its just a suggestion

and I'll try to limit myself on titles...it really is uninentional



The "Big Tent" analogy isn't the correct one...the correct one is a **MAGNET**...we need to be a **MAGNET** that draws these independents in who are sick and tired of what's going on in Washington—**Fred Thompson**

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[REPLY TO THIS](#)

When the threads get narrow and my text starts disappearing behind the background

[Third Street](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 1:06PM EST ([link](#))

I just open up WordPad and write my comment there, then copy-paste it into the comment field.

Yeah, I'm hard core. 😊

REPLY TO THIS

Ronib, actually I agree...

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 1:29PM EST ([link](#))

...but I was tying it in with the NR article.

I have issues with the word “progressive” just like a I do/did “liberal”, because a lot of people wore those tags without knowing they meant something deeper. I called myself “liberal” because of civil rights, but quit when, at 32 I realized government can’t fix anything, which in was part of the regular maturation process, getting a job, feeding a family, etc. I was never a democrat. Both McGovern and Humphrey were liberals, but nothing like this brood.

In 1900 being some people’s “better” meant little more than holding oneself out as a role model, such as up-east Yankees felt about themselves (TR, Pierpont Morgan) models for the community. That wasn’t such a bad a thing. Liberalism in the 1960s was the same....just wishing everyone could have the same chance they did.

Problem is, I don’t think of a single soul who wants to be like John Kerry, or for that matter, any Leftie. Name one.

Behind the scenes stood people pushing out-and-out socialism, or statism, and eugenics and things they’d never dream of. Master Race-light.

That’s why the Left is so quick to change their brand from time to time. These days, “statist” works, but so does “socialist”, “fascist” (actually more accurate for this mob), authoritarian and aristocrat.

Names only matter if they hit a hot button on the person being called out, and/or a third party listening in. Ever since Buckley called Gore Vidal a “little queer” in 1964, I don’t think it’s mattered how accurate the name-calling is, since, if you hit the name on the head, you may get sued.

REPLY TO THIS

Another

Black River Wolf Tuesday, January 12th at 10:07AM EST ([link](#))

excellent post Vassar

“In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.”—John Adams

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

Thanks, BRW...

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 10:50AM EST ([link](#))

...I usually do this as way to fill in holes in my own thinking, and to have them safely written down so I can recall them, sometime.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

You know, vassar, thanks to your presence here,

janis Tuesday, January 12th at 11:33AM EST ([link](#))

we don't just see all the disparate details, we have the big picture. I've listened to my parents, both in their 80's, being so confused about why the country has lurched as far off course as it has. While they are appalled to learn that it's all deliberate, at least it makes some kind of sense to them now.

What doesn't make sense is that our side has allowed it to happen and so often has enabled it out of guilt, political correctness, or just good old backroom deals. Wow, we've really got a lot of mental underbrush to clear out before we can even get to the tall timber, don't we?

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

You bet we do, Janis, ...

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 1:34PM EST ([link](#))

...that's why we're pushing for a new kind of combined cultural and institutional leadership to augment the political. We can no longer be laissez faire about a single aspect of American life.

Unlike the Left, we have to do it with moral suasion and true leadership, not regulations and coercion.

The Left has been unbuilding America in just this way the past 40 years...now we have to reverse engineer everything they've been doing.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

You've done it again Vasser great post and Recommended...nt

AceInTX Tuesday, January 12th at 12:47PM EST ([link](#))



The “**Big Tent**” analogy isn’t the correct one...the correct one is a **MAGNET**...we need to be a **MAGNET** that draws these independents in who are sick and tired of what’s going on in Washington—**Fred Thompson**

Senate Conservatives Fund	Marco 2010
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REPLY TO THIS	

Jon Kyl and the Constitution -- oh my!

ColdWarrior Tuesday, January 12th at 1:25PM EST ([link](#))

Yesterday I had the chance to ask Sen. Jon Kyl a question at a luncheon. It was something like, “Sen. Kyl, have you read Quin Hillyer’s recent article at The American Spectator about the lack of full employment of the Senate Standing Rules by you and the rest of the Republican senators [during the question he indicated he had not read the article (I had faxed it to him several days earlier)] or the letter Sen. Judd Gregg had sent on December 1 to all of his Republican colleagues in the Senate to essentially argue for the same thing and, since you did not follow this strategy thus far to slow down the debate on the pending health control legislation, can you tell us whether, when you get back to the Senate to resume debate, you will employ every possible Senate rule to drag out the debate as long as possible in hopes of killing it?”

Sen. Kyl did not seem to like the question and disagreed with its premise. Sen. Kyl gave us a long, drawn out explanation, arguing and stating that they DID employ every possible Senate rule (which is not true), all the while admitting, without overtly saying so, that they did not employ the rules for the reading of the bills, they did not filibuster (he said in an aside that the lack of filibustering was because the public “didn’t understand it and it has some negatives with the public” or something like that). So, they DID employ all the rules but they DIDN’T. I’m glad I got that cleared up. I didn’t argue with him as it was not the appropriate place to do so, and I assume he snowed many of the people in the audience.

Later, in response to a question about the individual mandate and the fact that the IRS will be the “enforcer” of the mandate, and that, ultimately, those who fight the imposition of the individual tax penalties and refuse to pay the fines would go to jail, he opined that he wasn’t sure whether the Constitution forbids Congress from requiring all Americans to buy a product. He thought it was an “interesting” question.

This is an example of the kind of thinking that has caused us to be losing the war of ideas.

Vassar has it exactly right: “But as I see it, ‘political victory’ means that the Constitution shall once again be the centerpiece of governance in America, and that the playing field, the rules, the goals and ambitions of all political parties shall be carried out within the four corners of the constitutional promises and protections as envisioned by the Founders.”

We have to read and study the Constitution so we can demand that our elected servants follow it.

You can read the Declaration and the Constitution here:

<http://archives.gov/exhibits/charters/>

I also like to re-read the Northwest Ordinance of 1787:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=8&page=transcript>

The Northwest Ordinance contains this gem in Art. 3: “Art. 3. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

I like the pocket-sized “Citizens Rule Book” published by a WWII Marine Corps vet. It contains the Decl. and the Constitution and can be purchased in bulk. It also contains many good quotes by our Founders and Framers and a guide for how to conduct yourself when called for jury duty. You can order here:

<http://www.knowledgehouse.info/whitten.html>

Thank you.
ColdWarrior
No More Scozzafavas!

American first, conservative second and Republican precinct committeeman by necessity.

<http://www.theprecinctproject.wordpress.com>, so you can say, “I became a precinct committeeman before it was cool.”

“Elections have consequences, my friends.” — John McCain

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

ColdWarrior, have you made a diary post

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 1:37PM EST ([link](#))

...on you question session with Kyl?

One of the reasons we post here is that it provides a permanent record. Think about it.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

There is also the Pocket Constitution from the Heritage Foundation

Raven Tuesday, January 12th at 3:30PM EST ([link](#))

Don't forget about that one. And it's free. I asked for as many as they were willing to send me and got 3

dozen. I recommend others do the same and hand them out.

“Unlike cruel liberty that requires you to stand and take responsibility for your choices, kind tyranny requires only that you kneel and surrender your choices.”

REPLY TO THIS

Vassar, I haven't. I will think about it. Thanks! n/t

ColdWarrior Tuesday, January 12th at 1:59PM EST ([link](#))

n/t

American first, conservative second and Republican precinct committeeman by necessity.

<http://www.theprecinctproject.wordpress.com>, so you can say, “I became a precinct committeeman before it was cool.”

“Elections have consequences, my friends.” — John McCain

REPLY TO THIS

MTM = main treason media?

E Pluribus Unum Tuesday, January 12th at 2:26PM EST ([link](#))

I mean, that fits.

Carthago delenda est

Do your conservative t-shirt shopping at [EPU Gear](#). Save the conservative muse, save the world.

REPLY TO THIS

Oops!..

vassar Tuesday, January 12th at 4:17PM EST ([link](#))

...only it does work, doesn't it?

REPLY TO THIS

I failed to mention, vassar

E Pluribus Unum Tuesday, January 12th at 4:46PM EST ([link](#))

You're saying lots of things that people scarcely want to say.

Even regular tea party partiotis don't like to admit out loud (or even to themselves, methinks) that the "not evil, just wrong" statement is totally false. You're all over this and I salute you. The Democrats are wholly, thoroughly evil, corrupt, and anti-American.

I got a diary cooking right now (due out this week) called "The Naked Democrat" which will echo some of your themes. Some friends have seen the WIP. The idea behind the title is that now we've seen 12 months of their unfettered reign, there's no denying what they are now. Many of us knew. Now everybody does.

Carthago delenda est

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REPLY TO THIS

Spread it around and thanks...

[vassar](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 4:52PM EST ([link](#))

...maybe we can hang together.

REPLY TO THIS

Too many adults don't know the Constitution

[basson](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 4:31PM EST ([link](#))

When I went to school in the 60's we learned about our founding fathers and the reasons for the wording of our Constitution. Today there have been many generations who have been indoctrinated with Progressive (in name only) thinking that is far left liberal. Sure, there are those that quote the freedoms we Americans have, as if they will be forever! Most don't know who Carl Marx was and even believe some of his sayings make perfect sense! America has been 'dumbed down' over the past 50 years and today we are paying the price for that with our current administration. People cant differentiate between what is a right of birth and what the government says it can give us all as a right. People also are too busy to even want to contemplate on the subject as it seems just another 'task' that they have to fit into their already busy day. It is a sad commentary on the state of things in this country.

REPLY TO THIS

We have to undo that...

[vassar](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 4:55PM EST ([link](#))

...in whatever way we can,...however small...one town, one county at a time.

I do know this...when Good finally stands up and looks Evil in the eye...Evil blinks.
Cheers

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

OK, my two cents, adjusted for inflation, that makes it a nano-farthing.

[Kenny Solomon](#) Tuesday, January 12th at 5:45PM EST ([link](#))

Mr. B., thank you. You're of the stature where people will listen and it is well appreciated by me and many others, even though some of us have been shouting from the rooftops about something like this literally for years and being called insane, inciting, tin-foil-hat-wearers, etc.

I was going to comment here earlier today, however, I waited to see if Ms. Veronica Estrada would weigh in, as she is much further in than I am on researching the following entity: The International Coalition For The Responsibility To Protect (In The US, it's simply called "R2P.).

If you can find the time, please check into this organization and I'd also suggest contacting Ms. Estrada through her website as she has unearthed massive amounts of documentation on their work..

Cheers !

Kenny Solomon
Typical bitter Jewish God-clinging gun owner and barking-mad insane NASCAR fan

DC Works For Us
<http://www.dcworksforus.com>

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

Thanks KB...

[vassar](#) Wednesday, January 13th at 8:59AM EST ([link](#))

...I did just that.

I'm sort of saturated with facts...and the fact gathering here is very good, indeed.

It's the analysis and assessment and action plans we (us and the GOP) seem to be short on. I have some issues I've reported on in at least a half dozen different ways the past 2 years, just to see if any of it sticks.

You feel as I do, that the time for action is now. As voters we have to wait around for an event...such as Mass next week, or the mid-terms.

But the GOP and Congressional members, and quite frankly, many many media members (even Beck is spinning his wheels in a way) are holding back, waiting for what I don't know.

I have a bad feeling that time is not on our side.

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

Sorry, that should be KS..

vassar Wednesday, January 13th at 9:00AM EST ([link](#))

Ooops

[REPLY TO THIS](#)

The Constitution is a document outlining

aesthete Wednesday, January 13th at 12:53AM EST ([link](#))

the negative rights of its populace (particularly the Bill of Rights), as well as the functions of the various parts of our divided government.

Progressive philosophy, by and large, critiques negative rights and espouses [positive rights](#). Moreover, the statist desire to implement legislation quickly runs counter to the procedures outline by the Constitution, which are designed to facilitate deliberative legislation. Therefore, progressives find themselves at odds with the Constitution.

“The whole modern world has divided itself into Conservatives and Progressives. The business of Progressives is to go on making mistakes. The business of the Conservatives is to prevent the mistakes from being corrected.”

-G. K. Chesterton

“To be ‘cured’ against one’s will and cured of states which we may not regard as disease is to be put on a level of those who have not yet reached the age of reason or those who never will; to be classed with infants, imbeciles, and domestic animals.”

-C.S. Lewis

[REPLY TO THIS](#)