

The other interesting point came at 76:40 in Cato's video, where an audience member made the following comment:

You mentioned that the Arizona law came about as a public, popular public response to federal inadequacies, and we can argue about whether the federal government has been doing their job or not. But something that caught my attention was that idea that we should rely, we should shape public policy based on the majority, or majority opinion, and in large measure an uninformed majority, because I'm willing to be that a lot of those people don't understand and are not well-informed on the intricacies of immigration reform. Now, some of the lowest points in our country's history have come based on these sorts of actions. Recall for example, there's many examples, but recall for one example Japanese detention camps after World War II.

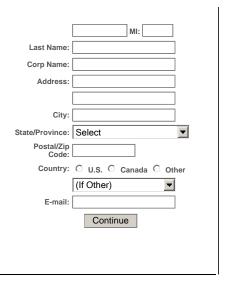
Now, Cato's not responsible for every nitwit who attends their events. But this woman was more candid than any leftist I've seen (and I'll eat my hat if she wasn't a leftwinger) that the people are simply unworthy to rule. That's certainly a plausible point of view; Franklin, after all, rightly observed that "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." But if the Left thinks that we have, indeed, ceased to be a virtuous people (or never were), and our corruption and vice necessitate undemocratic rule by, say, wellinformed judges and bureaucrats (and confiscation of guns, which can really only be justified on these grounds), then I wish they'd be honest and just admit it, like this woman did.

I'm afraid those are the poles of the immigration debate - the post-American right and the post-democratic left. But I'm happy to be stuck in the middle with the American people.

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