

Open Season

Iron Fists

It's open season on Freedom. We can only hope for a purple wave.

We are living in a police state.

Recorded on July 25th, 2020, in downtown Portland, this is what is happening in the United States.

Navy vets, like Chris David, are beaten on the street for asking why fascists are being fascists.

Vietnam veterans, like Mike Hastie, are being pepper-sprayed for providing valuable free history lessons.

There are hundreds of blatant attacks like this being posted by concerned citizens on Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms.

We are witnessing fascism unfold before our very eyes. The talking heads at Fox News are giving airtime to the "acting" homeland security head Chad Wolf, who insists he is protecting a federal building and nothing more. Statements like these are lies and continue to fan division amongst U.S. citizens.

Things

Vandalism is not terrorism; killing black people with a boot on their neck is terrorism. Inanimate objects are not so important that people need to be gassed and beaten to understand how important they are. People are dead everywhere in the United States, thanks to police brutality. The answer to more police brutality is not more police brutality. The answer is police reform and making law enforcement officers accountable for killing people on purpose.

The Purple Wave

We are seeing several Republican and Conservative groups come out in support of Joe Biden.

Republicans need to listen to this Conservative.

Republicans need to listen to this Republican.

Donald Trump is a wretched human being. If someone supports him, they are saying they don't care about anyone. If they support Trump, they are endorsing hate, chaos, and division. Our current discourse is about ethics, not politics. The 2020 election is not political; it is an election that will determine the moral compass of the country for decades to come if we can even make it another decade.

A vote for Donald Trump is a vote against freedom and a vote against moral constitution.

Not Convinced?

- Fascist goons are beating women.
- Fascist goons are shooting mothers in the face that are peacefully protesting.
- Fascist goons are tear-gassing city mayors.
- Fascist goons put people in unmarked cars and are taking them to undisclosed locations
- White supremacists are inciting riots
- New York Plainclothes Cops Force Woman Into Unmarked Van
- More Fascist goons are coming soon



Fascism, a warning

Citizens of the United States are living in a time where reason has taken a back seat, and facts have become the enemy. Luckily, other countries are fighting the good fight by sticking to the facts.

I wish the figurehead in The Whitehouse in 2020 had a capacity for reason. Unfortunately, narcissists cannot employ logic in their daily lives. If a person likens himself with Abraham Lincoln, who also had skeletons in his closet, it's clear that their ego has inflated beyond repair.

Unreasonable

The figurehead has a history of praising dictators. He would prefer to have free reign to do anything he wants for fun and profit. Luckily, a constitutional republic has a fighting chance against aspiring dictators like the figurehead. The United States is stress testing its constitutional framework in extraordinary ways. Hopefully, it will come out of this test, ready to fight another day.

Imbalance

Protesters have filled the streets in the United States for a good reason. Black people die at the hands of police officers 3.5 times more than white people. People can look at those stats and say a multitude of small-minded statements, but those statements don't save lives.

Historically black people have been dealt a horrible hand of cards. Let's not forget that race does not exist, and people that treat people differently based on their skin have lost their ability to reason.

Political leaders **must** address the systemic attacks on black people to end the protest and riots. These leaders do not do enough to curb the behavior, and law enforcement representatives are not held accountable. The treatments of black people and white people are imbalanced, full stop.

Insurrection

Portland, Oregon, is overrun with a fascist group of people intent on winning political points for the figurehead. If you are reading this and alarm bells are not going off, it's time to educate yourself; this is a life or death matter. Many people will die, way more than COVID19 has killed, if we do not combat the propaganda spread by the figurehead's administration.

Misinformation

The figurehead's administration has neutered the CDC. It makes zero sense to stop the flow of information about the virus, especially during a pandemic. Data has been removed from the CDC website because of this action by the administration. If alarm bells are going off in your head, then please get your alarms checked. It won't be long before more information is neutered in the name of *efficiency*.

Warning Signs

Dictators tactics include the following.

- **Ignoring the law**
- **Cult of personality**
- **Suspension of civil liberties**
- **Repression of political opponents**
- **Proclamation of a state of emergency**
- **Rule by decree**

It's difficult to detect fascism; we must prepare ourselves for a fight or go down in history as a second cautionary tale. People flash white power signs in the form of an OK expression regularly. White nationalists have co-opted the OK sign to express solidarity with each other in the public. Questionable symbols are used by the Trump campaign with *America First* as the chosen catchphrase.



Using symbols that look like nazi symbols is not an expression of freedom, it is a clear expression of hate. America First, as a slogan, is ignorant since the figurehead is running for President of the United States and not president of a continent called America.

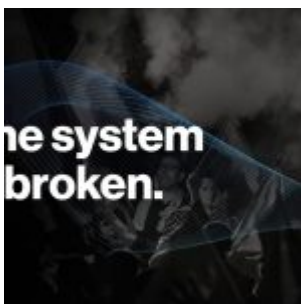
The figurehead is winning; if winning means, you're the most consistent liar with the most lies. He is winning with over eight hundred lies in a single month meant to stir up his cult and mobilize them to vote and fight for the aspiring dictator.

When people are fine with a Liar in Chief lying every single day to the republic but still support him, another red flag has raised. If figurehead supporters accept any lie from him, then they won't believe any of these words.



Conclusion

We are at a crossroads. If enough U.S. citizens decide to vote for a fascist, the entire world will suffer. It won't be pretty whether the figurehead loses or wins. We know what fascism looks like, and we know a flag is involved.



The System is Broken

The COVID-19 virus has exposed fundamental flaws in the winner take all Capitalism backed system in the United States. We are seeing a massive amount of deaths and are having fights about whether we should wear masks. The answer is yes; we should wear a mask when appropriate.

Here are a few of the problems U.S. citizens are facing thanks to the current system.

Exposure to the virus is forced

The expectation in many workplaces is that people who are sick **will** work. It's not written in employment contracts, but companies don't hire extra people so they can deal with schedule changes. Many businesses act like doing business is a life or death situation. These irresponsible businesses can't imagine missing a dollar because someone is sick.

Many people are working paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. No work means no money for rent, and no place to live unless friends or family step up to help. Unemployment checks are hard to come by, and they often pay a small fraction of what someone made before they became unemployed.

Science has taken a back seat

While trust in science is up the partisan politics refute and dismiss scientific evidence regularly. Policies shaped with scientific facts as the basis are far more effective than plans based on feelings.

We can't agree on moral codes

Compromise is a dirty word, and Democrats and Republicans are effectively at war with each other. It's an ideological war with no end in sight that's dividing U.S. citizens into tribes that cling to political dogma as if their lives depend upon being right.

Mutual respect has deteriorated, as evidenced by people that refuse to wear a mask to help slow the

spread of the virus. It's a minor inconvenience to wear a mask in public places, and it may stop infections from spreading. While the mask will not prevent all transmissions of the virus, it is better than nothing.

Honor, as a principle, is something people in the United States have struggled within the business world. In the U.S., it's fair game when businesses resort to nefarious business practices to crush the competition. It's the price of doing business from the perspective of capitalism hardliners. The behavior of companies is something many citizens emulate in their personal lives. Companies set the moral code for many, and that moral law is tenuous at best.

Let's fix it

Let's bring values back that are based on tried and true principles.

- Truth
- Justice
- Honor
- Respect
- Understanding
- Responsibility
- Collaboration
- Compromise

Let's start with respecting one another by not needlessly exposing each other to harm.

Let's compromise and listen to scientific experts and incorporate science into our daily political discourse.

Let's ground ourselves in fact-based discussions that will lead us to better outcomes.

Let's help each other get through these challenging times.

It starts with us, and it will end with us.

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The United States of ME

Hello, citizens of the United States and citizens of other countries that have lost the plot.

Why does a country exist if not to benefit the people that live in that country?

The citizens of a country must obey the rules of the country in which they reside. The social and codified contracts that exist between citizens of a country should benefit the whole and not the few.

The United States is so far behind the curve on understanding the practices that make a country great that it's absurd.

Let's delve into some of the absurdity, shall we?

Financial Disparity

The one percent continues to profit off the backs of the middle class and the poor alike. I'll spare you an enumeration of the big pharma, insurance, finance, and other industry insiders that continue to

rake us over the coals. It's a well-known fact that the wealthy, politicians, and other powerful people continue to fleece U.S. citizens regularly.

The primary reason financial disparity exists is a long-standing belief that anyone can be rich if they pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

"Maybe that says something about Americans and how they view themselves," he added. "That something that seems utterly ludicrous and impossible becomes a regular idiom for improving yourself."

Lexicographer Ben Zimmer

People believe, with all their heart & mind, that they will be rich one day, all while living in an apartment working from paycheck to paycheck. While this is a possibility, it's not happening to a lot of people, as evidenced by *the 1%* having hoarded the lion's share of the wealth.

These people keep voting for policies that redistribute the tax money they contributed to the military and the rich while voting against any policies that would help the masses.

God forbid the people pay into a system that gives them a return on their investment.

THE NERVE OF THESE PEOPLE THAT WANT A HANDOUT!

Self-Centered Assholes

When I lived in Europe, back in the late 2000s, I met a couple from the United States in a small local Austrian bar. I lived in a small town called Freistadt, where some people spoke English, but a significant percentage of the older population only spoke German.

While I was conversing with this couple visiting from the U.S., an older gentleman asked the three of us a question in German. In an unexpected turn of events, the man sitting next to me lashed out at this older gentleman. He said, "If you're going to speak to me, speak to me in English!". The older man looked confused but understood the tone, so he moved away from the table, and the American man continued talking as if nothing happened. This behavior disturbed me, so I departed, realizing it was time to disassociate myself with these people.

"If you're going to speak to me, speak to me in English!".

Self-Centered Asshole

While living in Austria, I dealt with my boss's crazy business partner from Florida. This business partner visited the Austrian office of the company and what a *fun time* that was. This guy went with me and a co-worker to get some lunch at the local grocery store. We walked up to the deli, and he started asking the locals for things he didn't know the name of, in English, without a care in the world. He expected them to *just speak English*, much like the other tool bag couple.

Mercifully, my co-worker translated for him, and we moved past the deli and finally ended up at checkout. While walking through the checkout, the asshat from Florida put his U.S. dollars on the counter. It was clear that he was expecting to pay with U.S. dollars while in a country that deals in Euros.

Later that evening, my co-workers and Florida boy went to dinner at a local restaurant. In Austria, it is not common for people to send food back even if something is wrong with it. Mr. America proceeded to send back his plate of chicken because, in his mind, he was buying chicken wings. The servers all looked confused, and my co-workers looked embarrassed by this behavior.

If this man had any shame, any sense of cultural nuances, or even a small amount of respect for the people of this small town, he would have asked questions about best behaviors. Instead, he railroaded people and acted like he owned the place.

These encounters with U.S. citizens happened on several occasions. Most U.S. citizens I encountered were rude, arrogant, and thoughtless of the people around them.

Long story short, several U.S. citizens are a nasty lot. It's a sad reality that people can see quite

clearly here in 2020. Make America Great Again, indeed.



No Respect

Rodney Dangerfield spoke for all of us when he said. "I don't get no respect!". Several U.S. citizens feel they can't wear a mask to help prevent killing someone with a virus; this says it all.

Tom Hanks on wearing masks:

“There’s really only three things we can do in order to get to tomorrow: Wear a mask, social distance, wash our hands,”

“Those things are so simple, so easy, if anybody cannot find it in themselves to practice those three very basic things - I just think shame on you. Don’t be a prick, get on with it, do your part. It’s very basic. If you’re driving a car, you don’t go too fast, you use your turn signal and you avoid hitting pedestrians. My Lord, it’s common sense,”

Tom Hanks

I couldn’t agree more. It would be peachy if more people would use their hidden commonsense superpowers.

It’s common sense to give fellow citizens respect. It’s the right thing to do, and people will reciprocate when it is given in most scenarios. It’s a numbers game, do unto others, and all that **old** stuff.

We’re disconnected

Individualism has its place, don’t get me wrong, but pretending we are separate from each other is a detriment to society. In a single day, there are millions of people claiming that they don’t need anything from anyone to live a good life. Some will take it further and say they don’t care about you at all. It’s madness to believe that when the actions we take as a collective can send one another to the grave. COVID-19 has proven that yet people still live in a fantasy land where they believe their actions have zero consequences.

What to do?

If we’re already applying common sense, if we’re already respecting one another, if we’re doing our best to not harm one another, we’re on the right track. Let’s stay on that track and avoid feeding the trolls that flood our daily lives.



Trollface, avoid at all costs

Feeding the real-life trolls, like the proud boys, will only make them grow in proportion to the feeding. It is not productive to engage with racists, fascists, and other trolls. It's best to ignore them and watch them disappear, shortly after November 15th, when they start to fade into a very embarrassing portion of modern U.S. history.