

Chapter One

This political cold war has its roots going back to the 1960s and the John F. Kennedy (JFK) administration. America was probably at its height if you consider all aspects of what America had accomplished. After World War II, America was the dominant economic and political power. We were the country that every other nation on the planet looked toward either as an example to emulate, or a country to admire.

Our industries were making everything the world needed. We were generating wealth and had no peer economically. Our standard of living was number one, and our political system and Constitution were the envy of the world.

Kennedy was clearly a moderate whose political allegiance was not to any agenda other than to make America the best it could be. The ideals of the Constitution still rang true, where freedom and opportunity were foundational anchors.

Yes, it's true that full freedom only applied to white men at that time, but Kennedy understood this problem needed to be resolved. He was clearly for civil rights and equality. If he had been given eight years in office, followed by another eight years by his brother Bobby, the ideal of freedom might have had a chance to survive. But his murder, along with the murder of his brother, ended any hope that the American ideal of freedom and equality would manifest for the entire population.

After Kennedy was killed, America slowly began to break down. Instead of focusing on America and its problems (many of which were being ignored), we went to war in Vietnam. A stupid war that cost many lives and led America astray. One thing it did was instill a military-oriented U.S. government that has remained to this day. Biden's 2023 budget recommends over \$800 billion in military spending, with an increase to this year's military budget.

It hasn't mattered which party is in office – the military budget has been increasing since Kennedy was assassinated, and we have become the global policeman. One anomaly was Bill Clinton, who was trying to balance the budget in the 1990s. But after 9/11, big, ever-increasing military budgets have become the norm. Instead of focusing on America, we have continued to focus externally, almost exclusively for economic reasons.

While most Americans think the U.S. military is used to keep global peace and is defensive in nature, that has not been its true role since Vietnam. Instead, the military is used for economic reasons to ensure that America wields economic power throughout the world. While this might be a legitimate political strategy, it prevents a focus on our true problems. This has allowed our problems to become so large, so ingrained, that both parties no longer have a solution.

In my opinion, Kennedy was our last hope. He didn't want to go to war in Vietnam and start these endless wars. He wanted to focus on America's internal problems. Since then, the

nation has steadily drifted apart from the moderate middle into extremes on the left and right. Ironically, neither extreme cares about freedom, not the full freedom that is necessary to create harmony in a nation. The liberals on the left, who are not the majority of the Democratic Party but have the loudest voice, seem to be intent on reducing freedom as fast as they can. Their agenda is quite apparent, which is to make the government as big and powerful as possible. It has become clear that their agenda is to remove freedom from individuals and give it to the government. They even label those who support Republicans as being anti-government.

The liberals want to have laws for everything that impinges on their agenda. They want high taxes for wealthy individuals (and corporations) to induce more equity, regardless if this hurts the economy. I read recently that Bernie Sanders, who I consider the father of the leftist-socialist movement, proposed a progressive tax on corporations up to 95%. This is insanity from an economic standpoint and stymies incentive to generate wealth. Instead of raising tax rates, we should create minimum tax levels based on gross income (all forms of income) for the super-rich. If an individual has a gross income above \$1 million, then the minimum income tax would be 25% of the gross. With that in place, no one with a high income gets a free ride.

For corporations, we could also create a 15% minimum tax on operating cash flow, exempting those with less than 100 employees. If a large company is generating cash, then it should be paying taxes. If they are not generating cash, then we don't want to put them out of business, struggling to pay their taxes.

In addition to higher taxes, the liberals want to create a myriad of new laws to govern how we treat each other, how businesses can operate, how information is distributed, how vaccinations are required, how children are educated, how crime is punished, how guns are regulated, and many other categories. They want to become the arbiters of how we live our lives and run our businesses.

Each of these categories that liberals want to control could have its own chapter in this book. Incredibly, many of these were not even substantial issues a decade ago; for instance, how we educate our children. Today, school districts across the nation are teaching critical race theory (CRT). Amazingly, this theory presupposes that all white people are racists, and that racism is prevalent in America. The irony is that most white people are not racists.

CRT theory has inflamed ideas in the educational system about how America originated. The founding fathers, and the paternal white male-dominated society that followed, are now being ridiculed as being racists. Subsequently, what they built and created is being subjugated into irrelevance, with many liberals believing it needs to be replaced (our founding values). It is a very stealthy revolution to replace ideas of what the Constitution and Declaration of Independence mean.

Many liberals support defunding the police. When this started occurring, many in the country were startled. I was not. This is right out of their playbook of breaking down America and giving it a new identity. This is part of their war on America. They want a new America, and the police are viewed as tools of the status quo.

Ironically, once liberals obtain full control of government, they will embrace the police as their tool. They will take away everyone's guns and then militarize the police departments to maintain control. That is always the playbook of tyranny, which is what you get when governments become too powerful.

In addition to defunding the police, many liberals actually support crime. Why? Because it destabilized the status quo and gives them an opening to seize more power. In California, we have seen a series of laws that encourage crime. These laws have decreased penalties for petty theft and burglary. Is that by chance? No. They want anarchy, and we are seeing it.

Incredibly, the mainstream media (MSM) has supported their anarchy agenda. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was given a free pass by the media. The damage to cities and businesses was immense, yet very few people were arrested or had trials. The MSM was much more interested in covering the January 6th riot at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Was that riot really more violent than many of the BLM protests? No, but yet, it was compared to 9/11 and even Pearl Harbor. Conversely, the BLM protests were treated with kid gloves by the media. In fact, much of the coverage was actually supportive of the protestors, regardless of the damage to property and businesses.

The MSM is clearly backing the liberals. Why? This is very clear: they identify with their political goals of equity that the conservative and Republican Party refuse to acknowledge is a problem. The MSM thinks the conservatives are the real threat to America. However, the fact remains that it is both groups who are the threat.

The problem with the government (using a liberal agenda) trying to determine what is best for society is that it is a slippery slope. Once laws are implemented, they rarely are removed. So, laws become laws on top of laws, and the government becomes all-powerful, and tyranny is quick to follow. Ironically, those who agree that government is good and necessary are quick to support the removal of freedom in the name of the higher good.

Many famous writers, such as George Orwell, have warned us that big government will lead to a dystopian future where freedom is highly controlled. Those who support large government call people who bring up this argument "conspiracy theorists." Well, count me one.

California, which is leading the nation toward leftist-socialist ideas, will soon be voting on a law that makes it illegal to release misinformation, including on social media. How insane is that? Someone could state an opinion and end up getting fined because a judge agrees that it is misinformation. This is America? No, but that is what it could turn into as government overreach increases.

The CEO of Twitter stated publicly that his objective is not to support free speech but instead healthy speech. Basically, he is stating that free speech does not apply to the Twitter platform and that they will determine what is healthy speech and what is allowed. That is the epitome of censorship, and we have witnessed quite a bit of it as a myriad of people have been kicked-off that platform for infringing on their rules.

One solution is to remove Twitter (or any social media platform) as the censor and instead use a third party, whereby the third party can uphold their rules without using a political bias. Moreover, all people who are kicked-off social media platforms should have the ability to appeal to an independent arbitration panel. All of this should be public and transparent, including speech that is censored.

Ironically, the large social media companies and government officials have backdoor communications regarding censoring information. That has to stop. This is more government overreach, with most of it being done in secret.

As you can tell from reading this far, I'm not a fan of the liberals. I like their goals but not their solutions. What America (or any nation) needs is more freedom and not less. Solutions have to support freedom because those are the only solutions that will create harmony.

Okay, what about their political cold war opponent, the conservatives? They think all we have to do is maintain the rule of law and a free market, and all will be well. Plus, a few more things, such as a strong military, balanced budget, limited government, immigration enforcement, the 2nd amendment, and low taxes. That's not everything, but a general overview. Where they fail badly is they ignore equity and equality. They don't see these as problems. Or, they see any attempt to increase equity as a path toward socialism/communism. A path they would rather fight against than support. This is why the progressive socialists came on the scene. They finally tired of the conservative intransigence.

It was inevitable that the progressive socialists would arise in America. The reason why is because freedom and equality are not compatible. This is clearly obvious and a lesson we have recently learned. The more freedom you give to society, the more discrepant outcomes you will observe. Those with more resources and better schools will thrive. Those with higher IQs and better connections will thrive. Yet not everyone will thrive. Not only is free-market capitalism flawed, whereby monopolies tend to form, but freedom is also flawed.

Both of these must be addressed. The conservatives will agree to address monopolies to a certain extent, but even then, they will need to be dragged kicking and screaming. As for the flaw in freedom, most of them will disagree that such a flaw exists. In fact, they will claim any attempt to rectify that flaw is socialism, and some will label it communism.

Most conservatives are oblivious that this flaw is the downfall of their political philosophy. So, there is the basis of your political cold war. The liberals are trying to create a new society, whereby government knows what is best, and continuously implements laws where the government squeezes our freedom to where it no longer exists. And not only do

liberals support the reduction of freedom, but the opposite of freedom, whereby government dictates how we live our lives. Ironically, liberals know this will likely create a dystopian society, but they don't care. They would rather destroy the values and foundation of America than continue with its current form. They believe that white people are in a position of privilege, which has to end, regardless of the outcome.

As you can see, to circle back to a point I made earlier in this chapter, the deeply ingrained problems of America are internal. By not dealing with them back in the 1960s and onward, we created a political quagmire.

How can the conservatives address the problem of equity and equality when liberals have defined it in irrational terms? By calling white Americans racists and privileged, it's a non-starter for conservatives. That's not a discussion the conservatives want to have. Conversely, the conservatives are focusing their attention on preventing the liberals from achieving their agenda. By fighting against the liberal agenda, there is no space or urgency to address the problem of equity and equality.

Ironically, what the liberals want (equity, equality, and opportunity) is pushing the conservatives to be recalcitrant. They are making it impossible for the conservatives to see any change that is possible in these areas. Conservatives want to keep the current economic system in place and fight against any new ideas of generating equity, equality, and opportunity. The problem for liberals is they have terrible solutions, but their understanding of the problem (lack of equity, equality, and opportunity) is good.

I have ideas for liberals, but they are just about out of time. First, demand free online education for K-12 and college. If a family can't get a good education for their child, or afford college, then an online option should be available. These free online college courses should be available to everyone. This will level the playing field. Note that there are already many free online college courses. They need to make these accredited toward a degree. What difference does it make which online course you took?

Second, they should demand more low-interest business loans for the lower and middle class that are guaranteed by government. Small business is a good way for the lower and middle class to climb up.

Third, they should demand a flatter pay scale, which will create instant raises for the lower and middle class. Depending on the size of the firm, the scale should be around 10 to 1 from top to bottom. The key here is the bottom pay levels will be much higher than they are today, and the top levels will be much lower.

I have ideas for conservatives as well. They need to acknowledge that they are limiting the freedom of the middle and lower class by restricting opportunity. This is perpetrated by maintaining the status quo. The liberals are right when they say that equity does not exist on a societal level. That limitation of equity is the equivalent of limiting freedom. Those without equity are generally living paycheck to paycheck, watching the American Dream slip away.

Opportunities are not plentiful for the lower class. Throughout America, your zip code often determines your future. That is limited freedom, and that limitation is what the conservatives are often fighting to maintain. Ironically, conservatives do not realize that they are fighting the wrong battle. If they want to maintain their freedom, then they have to extend it to more Americans. If they limit others' freedom, then they will end up finding their freedom limited.

Ironically, the liberals are fighting for equity while at the same time fighting to curtail freedom via a more expansive government. What is the point of achieving equity if you don't have the freedom to enjoy it?

The conservatives are fighting to limit or stop the expansion of government, while at the same time attempting to achieve their objectives (stated earlier). Ironically, one of those objectives is to prevent any changes in how equity is obtained. It is this final agenda where the conservatives are failing badly and don't even realize it.

I hope I am being lucid enough for you to realize the predicament that America finds itself in today. The liberals are trying to achieve a better America when, in actuality, they are ruining it (by removing freedom). The conservatives are trying to maintain an American ideal that they think is working, when in fact, it is utterly failing. In fact, they are the reason the progressive socialists exist.

If we had had eight years of the Kennedys, the leftist-socialists likely would have never come into existence. Moreover, the conservatives would never have veered so far to the right as to ignore the necessity of social equity and social opportunity. It is ironic to me that the conservatives do not see that if you do not have social equity and social opportunity, that you are allowing a cancer to grow to such an extent as to destroy the life around you. Hasn't that yet become obvious?

Ironically, while the lower class begins to lash out at society with a plethora of crime and violence, the conservatives point their finger at them and say they are the problem. The conservatives are blind to the fact that their intransigence against social equity and social opportunity is the very cause of this outcome.

The argument I always hear is that you can't create a utopia, so why try? The second argument I hear is that you are always going to have social classes of rich and poor people. But these are straw man arguments that don't hold water. Moreover, if you don't wake up to this fact, you are going to wake up to an America that is a third-world country strewn with violence, corruption, and crime. You better start dealing with this problem, and soon, because the clock is ticking, and you are quickly running out of time.

Unfortunately, the problem of inequity and lack of opportunity can only be solved in the middle, whereby the liberals give up their insanity that the government has all the answers, and the conservatives give up their insanity that inequity is part of life, and opportunity either already exists or can't be fixed.

Do you see? Both sides in this political cold war have lost their way. As Einstein said so eloquently, you can't solve a problem by doing the same thing over and over. You have to try something different. Unfortunately, that's not how our political parties think today. In fact, both want to continue doing the same thing over and over, which is insanity personified.

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Let's look at where this insanity is leading us, and why both agendas are doomed. The conservatives want to prevent the lower and middle class from getting a hand up from government programs that can achieve social equity and social equality. They are content for both of these classes to struggle. The middle class has been shrinking for 50 years, and yet the conservatives don't care, or at least don't care enough to try something different.

The liberals are so angry at the conservative intransigence that they don't care if they have to rip up the Constitution to create change. As far as they are concerned, the Constitution was written by a bunch of racists who don't care about equity and equality. This is why we are continually witnessing attempts to dismantle the Constitution via new laws. The vax mandates are a good example. Clearly, it is not constitutional to force an experimental vaccine onto the public. But that, in fact, is what happened. The liberals were 100% in favor of this approach, because they deemed it for the greater good, regardless of constitutional issues. The Constitution carried zero weight in their mind.

The vax mandates were not constitutional, so they were implemented via a workaround for worker safety. They can't force a citizen to take a vaccine, but they can force an employee by calling it a safety measure. All of the elected officials in Washington D.C. are employees of the government, yet they were exempt from these mandates. Irony? Yep. Big-time irony. Even employees at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) were exempt.

Exemptions abounded, but vax mandates went forward anyway. Biden tried to force large employers to have their employees vaccinated, but the Supreme Court said that was unconstitutional. Ironically, even after that ruling, the Administration considered it a political ruling and hailed it as incorrect, and they disagreed with it. Many liberals wanted to mandate the vaccine for everyone. Such is their mentality that the greater good is the number one driver of social policy and not freedom.

The vax mandates and the passion of the liberals to implement them correlated with another political issue they hold dearly, which is government control of information on social media and the MSM. This is another slippery slope into a dystopian world. Who can define what is misinformation with regard to an experimental vaccine when information is fluid? Nobody, and thus we have had a dearth of quality information regarding COVID-19.

As far as the liberals were concerned, the government was the arbiter of vaccine information, and anything contrary to this authentic source was misinformation. However, when has the government ever been a reliable source of information? The media's main job is to do reporting that confirms what the government is saying, and to question everything. Yet, the media were effectively banned from doing their job, except for reporting verbatim what the Biden Administration and government departments and agencies were releasing.

Doctors and researchers were releasing their own information regarding COVID-19 data and were getting labeled as releasing misinformation. Many doctors and researchers were losing their jobs for releasing information. It was as if there was complete censorship by the government. The liberals were 100% behind this war on misinformation. They were 100% behind the government. There were no calls for investigative reporting to double-check what the government was saying. It was all accepted verbatim.

This became a war on the first amendment between the liberals and the conservatives. In fact, the war rages today. The liberals want to tear up the Constitution and pretend the first amendment does not exist. They want to decide what can be said and what can't. Again, this is a very slippery slope where the government decides what is good for society. More importantly, the government gets to control what information is released by determining what is misinformation.

It seems like the media has now agreed to follow the government narratives, and anything that veers away from these narratives is labeled misinformation. That is a scary precedent and renders the media meaningless and unreliable. The media was never meant to be the voice of government. We learned that fact during the cold war when *Pravda* was the propaganda voice of the Soviet Union. We used to make fun of *Pravda*, and now we are doing the same thing. Again, another slippery slope we have created.

I recently read where the *New York Times* was calling free speech nonsensical. They want to destroy free speech in the same manner that they want to destroy the 2nd amendment. I'm not a gun lover and don't own one, but I do respect the Constitution. I do think that it is not yet time to get rid of everyone's guns, but I do think a time will come when it makes sense. Perhaps in a generation or two, when peace breaks out and government tyranny is no longer a threat. But the combination of destroying both the first and 2nd amendment is right at the heart of this political cold war. Those are two issues that both sides will not budge over.

We have reached an era where debates over conspiracy theories are threatened, and opinions are no longer allowed if they are viewed as misinformation. That's a scary development. The control of information seems to be viewed as necessary by liberals. They want to tell us how to live and not to ask questions. Dystopian? Sure. And it is also something that is generating this political cold war.

So, both sides are bringing out the worst in each other. America is at war with itself. It's not pretty, and it will not end in victory for either side. Instead, it will end in failure for both.

Neither wants to admit it, but both sides are bringing us down. The American era is over. Now we have to figure out what replaces it. You can support the left or the right, or you can find a solution. But you can't do both.

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I want to reiterate that when I use the term liberal or conservative, I am not referring to moderates. There are many moderates who disagree with the extreme views of the far-left or far-right. This book is intended to suggest that extreme elements of both parties have taken over the narratives/platforms of both parties. The moderates have been marginalized, and what they want is no longer a leading voice on most matters.

A good example is the 2nd Amendment. Most moderate liberals are okay with the 2nd Amendment and only want to see laws that make it more difficult for criminals to obtain guns. The far-left is much more intent on making all assault weapons illegal to own. If this type of law is passed and approved by a liberal Supreme Court (if we ever get one), it effectively shreds the 2nd Amendment.