



RACIST !

Presented by The Westlake 9/12 Project

- “Great spirits have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtlessly submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence.”

~ Albert Einstein

OVERVIEW AND OUTLINE

- Some definitions.
- The use of “racist” as either a defensive term or an attack term.
- How is it that the term “racist” has such a strong social impact?
- What are the forces that are attacking existing social norms on so many fronts?
- What is the outlook for the future?

SOME DEFINITIONS

- Cultural conservatism
- Social conservatism
- Classical liberalism
- Cultural liberalism
- Social liberalism
- Social constructionism

CULTURAL CONSERVATISM

- Cultural conservatism is described as the preservation of the heritage of one nation, or of a shared culture that is not defined by national boundaries.
- The shared culture may be as broadly defined as “Western culture” or “Chinese culture”.

SOCIAL CONSERVATISM

- Social conservatism is the belief that society is built upon a fragile network of relationships which need to be upheld through duty, traditional values and established institutions.
- This can include moral issues.
- Social conservatism is generally skeptical of social change, and believes in maintaining the status quo concerning social issues such as family life, sexual relations, and patriotism.

SOCIAL CONSERVATISM

- Social conservatives also value the influence of religion in the public square, supporting religious freedom, while opposing secularism and state atheism.

CLASSICAL LIBERALISM

- Classical liberalism is a political ideology and a branch of liberalism which advocates civil liberties under the rule of law with an emphasis on economic freedom.
- Closely related to economic liberalism, it developed in the early 19th century, building on ideas from the previous century as a response to urbanization and to the Industrial Revolution in Europe and the United States.

CLASSICAL LIBERALISM

- Notable individuals whose ideas contributed to classical liberalism include John Locke, Jean-Baptiste Say, Thomas Robert Malthus and David Ricardo.
- It drew on the classical economic ideas espoused by Adam Smith in Book One of The Wealth of Nations and on a belief in natural law, utilitarianism and progress.

CULTURAL LIBERALISM

- Cultural liberalism is a view of society that stresses the freedom of individuals from cultural norms.
- Cultural liberals believe that society should not impose any specific code of behavior and they see themselves as defending the moral rights of nonconformists to express their own identity however they see fit.
- Cultural liberals believe that as long as one does no harm to others, no lifestyle is inherently better than any other.

SOCIAL LIBERALISM

- Social liberalism is a variety of liberalism that endorses a regulated market economy and the expansion of civil and political rights.
- A social liberal government is expected to address economic and social issues such as poverty, health care, education and the climate using government intervention while also emphasizing the rights and autonomy of the individual.

SOCIAL LIBERALISM

- Under social liberalism, the common good is viewed as harmonious with the freedom of the individual.
- In the United States, the current political usage of the term social liberalism is more closely affiliated with progressivism or cultural liberalism than it is with classical liberalism.

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM

- Social constructionism is a theory that examines shared assumptions about the world and how that forms the basis for reality.
- The theory centers on the notion that meanings are developed in coordination with others rather than separately within each individual.
- Social constructionism questions what reality is. Social constructs can be different based on the society and the events surrounding the time period in which they exist.

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM

- There are weak and strong social constructs.
 - Weak social constructs rely on brute facts (which may be fundamental facts that are difficult to explain or understand) or institutional facts (which are formed from social conventions).
 - Strong social constructs rely on perspectives and knowledge that does not just exist, but is rather constructed by society
- An example of a strong social construct is the concept of self / self-identity.
 - I am not who you think I am;
I am not who I think I am;
I am who I think you think I am.

“RACIST” USED TO DEFEND FAILURE



“RACIST” USED AS AN ATTACK AGAINST CIVIL DISCOURSE

- A group of students at a California college’s “Annual Whiteness Forum” labeled the Christian children’s cartoon “Veggie Tales” as “dangerous” and promoting racial stereotypes for making the villains colored.
- Rage seems to be “all the rage” with liberals these days. Every time you turn around there’s another march for this or protest against that, because of one simple fact: emotion overrides logic.
- To hear liberals tell it, this country is fundamentally racist and killing the planet. They, however, are the gatekeepers of fixing it all.

ATTACKING CIVIL DISCOURSE

- Racism still exists, but to pretend it is rampant and the foundation of the country is a blatant lie. But it sure is an effective tool to keep people angry and afraid.
- Conservative speech is under direct attack by ultra-left, radical activists who are methodically expunging conservative speech and conservative ideas from public discourse.

WHY THE IMPACT OF THE TERM?

Chamath Palihapitiya, Facebook's former vice-president for user growth:

- “The short-term, dopamine-driven feedback loops that we have created are destroying how society works,”
- “No civil discourse, no cooperation; misinformation, mistruth ... This is a global problem. It is eroding the core foundations of how people behave by and between each other.”
- Millions of Americans are now more concerned with their “online presence” than their real world one, firmly convinced that much of their self-worth is determined by the number of “likes” they receive from other Americans.

ORIGINS OF THE “RACIST” MYTH

- Social sciences, primarily theoretical, being taught in colleges and universities.
- Real and perceived social inequities
- Socialism under the guise of social liberalism.
- We perceive reality through the lens of our own life experience



CRITICAL THEORY

- Critical theory is a social theory oriented toward critiquing and changing society as a whole.
- Critical theories aim to uncover the assumptions that keep us from a full and true understanding of how the world works.
- "Traditional" social theorists produced works that failed to question power, domination, and the status quo.

CRITICAL THEORY

- A theory can only be considered a true critical theory if it explains what is wrong with current social reality, identifies the actors to change it, and provides both clear norms for criticism and achievable practical goals for social transformation.
- Critical theory emerged out of the Marxist tradition and it was developed by a group of sociologists at the University of Frankfurt in Germany who referred to themselves as The Frankfurt School (also see Fabian Socialism).

CRITICAL THEORY

- Hungarian György Lukács and Italian Antonio Gramsci focused on the ideologies, cultural, and social forces that prevent people from seeing and understanding the forms of power and domination that exist in society and create barriers to true freedom.
- The politics of the time greatly influenced the thoughts and writings of the authors, as they existed within the rise of National Socialism, including the rise of the Nazi regime and state capitalism.

CRITICAL THEORY

- Critical theories have emerged in connection with the many social movements that identify varied dimensions of the domination of human beings in modern societies.
- Philosophical approaches with similar practical aims include feminism, critical race theory, and some forms of post-colonial criticism.
- Critical Theory seeks to transform contemporary capitalism into a consensual form of society.

CRITICAL THEORY PROBLEMS

- Critical Theory is dependent upon the development of a suitable “norm” that is to be applied across all of society; this conflicts with the fundamental variability and competitiveness of human nature.
- Critical Theory presupposes that man is by nature good and desirous of self-sacrificial goodness, not that he is by nature sinful and desirous of self-gratification.

CRITICAL THEORY PROBLEMS

- Critical Theory assumes that social ills are the sole result of the oppression of an ill-defined victim by a perceived “privileged’ minority, with no accountability considered for the behaviors of the victim.

CRITICAL LEGAL STUDIES

- Critical legal studies challenges and seeks to overturn accepted norms and standards in legal theory and practice. CLS seeks to fundamentally alter Jurisprudence, exposing it as not a rational system of accumulated wisdom but an ideology that supports and makes possible an unjust political system.
- CLS scholars attempt to debunk the law's pretensions to determinacy, neutrality, and objectivity. The law, in CLS scholarship, is a tool used by the establishment to maintain its power and domination over an unequal status quo.

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Liberation theology uses critical theory to promote its agenda using theology as a tool.
- Liberation theology is a movement that attempts to interpret Scripture through the plight of the poor.
- True followers of Jesus, according to liberation theology, must work toward a just society, bring about social and political change, and align themselves with the working class.

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Jesus, who was poor Himself, focused on the poor and downtrodden, and any legitimate church will give preference to those who have historically been marginalized or deprived of their rights.
- All church doctrine should grow out of the perspective of the poor. Defending the rights of the poor is seen as the central aspect of the gospel.

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Liberation theologians also use Jesus' words in Matthew 10:34 to promote the idea that the church should be involved in activism: "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Jesus, according to liberation theology, pushed not for social stability but for social unrest.
- Liberation theology is a synthesis of Christian theology and Marxist socio-economic analyses that emphasizes social concern for the poor and the political liberation for oppressed peoples.

BLACK LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- The Rev. James Cone is the founder of black liberation theology. Cone explains the movement, which has roots in 1960s civil-rights activism and draws inspiration from both the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, as "mainly a theology that sees God as concerned with the poor and the weak."
- The primary error in black liberation theology is its focus. Black liberation theology attempts to focus Christianity on liberation from social injustice in the here and now, rather than in the afterlife. Jesus taught the exact opposite: "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

BLACK LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Should one of the results of the gospel be the end of racism, discrimination, prejudice, and inequality? Yes (Galatians 3:28)
- Is deliverance from social injustice a core principle of the gospel? No.
- Because of its extreme over-emphasis of racial issues, a negative result of black liberation theology is that it tends to separate the black and white Christian communities, and this is completely unbiblical.

BLACK LIBERATION THEOLOGY

- Critics of liberation theology associate it with Marxism and see it as a religious form of failed socialist policies.
- It places social action on equal footing with the gospel message.
- Black Liberation Theology is Martin Luther King Jr.'s social gospel and Malcolm X's Black Nationalism in one. Black Liberation Theology exchanges the power of God for Black power. Black Liberation Theology is built on a foundation of bitterness and victimhood, with social justice as its chief cornerstone.

SOCIAL DRIVERS

- Lack of self-esteem
- Lack of moral compass
- Lack of self-discipline
- Victim mentality
- The social narrative

LACK OF SELF-ESTEEM

- While the movement over the last two generations has been all about building self-esteem, the reality is that self-esteem was promoted as something to give to children through artificial reward.
- True self-esteem is built through actual personal accomplishment, not through participation trophies.
- Self-significance has become more about belonging to the right group than about setting oneself apart by success.

LACK OF MORAL COMPASS

- Secular humanism has become the standard by which many measure the legitimacy of their beliefs.
- No longer is there a need to strive to meet a higher moral standard because of eternal consequences.
- All that matters is satisfaction in this life, and meeting some subjective standard for “virtue” that changes rapidly.
- Since nothing is seen as having permanent value, nihilism is a growing trend.

LACK OF SELF-DISCIPLINE

- To stand for something requires internal strength, particularly if it is out of the mainstream or unpopular.
- The power of social media is in the immediate and unrelenting application of social pressure that cannot be adequately answered.
- To stand behind one's beliefs requires the ability to formulate and apply responsive opposition to attacks. This is not possible with social media. The choice is to remove oneself from the situation or to cave in to the pressure.

THE VICTIM MENTALITY

- When women are told enough times that they're oppressed victims who need expansive government programs to address structural inequalities, they're likely to start believing it. According to a new Harris poll commissioned by Axios, 55% of women now say they'd be better off living in a socialist country than a capitalist one.
- Being a victim enables one to both belong to a group and to claim special privileges because of membership in that group.

THE VICTIM MENTALITY

- When group victimhood does not work, then intersectionality is used to enhance the value of one's victimhood.
- According to the various forms of critical theories, victimhood entitles one to special rights and privileges, and to use any means necessary to gain those right and privileges, even at the expense of others.

SOCIAL NARRATIVE

- Most of what is known and most of the knowing that is done is concerned with trying to make sense of what it is to be human, as opposed to scientific knowledge.
- Individuals or groups of individuals define their reality through the construction of social narratives; conversations about experiences.
- “Truth” is therefore subjective, and developed through consensus of experienced reality.

SOCIAL NARRATIVE

- By arguing that no objective truth exists and that all social constructions of the same phenomena are equally legitimate, no construct can be more legitimate than another.
- This is especially problematic in the context of scientific research. If an unscientific account about a phenomenon is considered as legitimate as empirical research about that phenomenon, there is no clear path forward for research to make a meaningful impact on society.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

- The decade of 2010 to 2019 has been one of turmoil, and it seems that it will continue as such for a short time.
- History seems to cycle in 3-decade periods, with decades of turmoil followed by decades of opportunity, where society stabilizes, and success is possible for those who seek it.
- Regardless of the current pressure for cultural change and conformity, the independent nature of the individual will triumph.

A HUMOROUS LOOK AT A SOLUTION

- Racial offset credits

This card entitles the bearer to the forgiveness of one real or perceived act of racism.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this card will be donated to the Black Lives Matter movement.

RESOURCES

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