

WHY I VOTE UNASHAMEDLY LIBERAL

Children in a cage

The chain-link that surrounds them

Can't contain my rage.

How is the current state of “conservative” politics changing the lives of our children? What kind of future does it offer them?

The present “conservative” party of “family values” considers abortion child murder, a violation of the “sanctity of life.” One would expect traditional compassionate conservatives to extend a nurturing attitude to living, breathing children. But these post-Reagan “conservatives” never fail to vote against any legislative measure that would benefit kids directly- and then take credit for the legislation that does pass despite their interference as if, from the kindness of their hearts, they had supported it all along.

They have been giving tax breaks to the ultra-rich and subsidizing their industries for over 40 years now, expecting private money to somehow “trickle down” to hard-working families who are struggling- a policy that has decimated the middle class and demoralized low-wage earners but produced almost 800 new billionaires since 1980. Thanks to their hypocrisy, 1 in 4 kids go hungry every day and 1 in 10 are uninsured- this in America, the strongest economic power on Earth.

“Conservatives” fear and despise socialism but fail to admit that they are the greatest beneficiaries of government support. Their complexions redden and their veins pop out of their heads at the mention of free breakfast and lunch in school, college debt forgiveness, public assistance and food stamps- but they lionize the system every month or so when another union-busting, subsidized billionaire is minted. “Conservatives” wonder what happened to the good old days of self-reliance when one would raise himself by his bootstraps- but they won't help put shoes on the feet of our poor and disadvantaged, the victims of their trickle-down approach. They expect hungry kids to concentrate on their lessons in school instead of their grumbling bellies. “Conservatives” are kinder to embryos than to living, breathing children.

Polio has made a comeback, but defeating it means vaccinations which they oppose on religious principles (as if there is a biblical mention of the needle; as if they fear that blessed Saint Polio might be offended) or alt-scientific sophistry. They misrepresent and demonize Dr. Fauci who deserves nothing but respect and admiration. How does this preserve our kids' health?

When children are massacred in their classrooms, “conservatives” offer their “thoughts and prayers” and nothing else except their admonition that emotional times like these are not appropriate for reasonable gun control legislation. With mass shootings occurring almost daily, our emotional times never seem to end, but “conservatives” march to the orders of their donors and the NRA, not to the screams and cries of the 1300 kids shot every year, many shredded beyond recognition, requiring DNA tests for their parents to identify them.

“Conservatives” glorify bloviating, criminal fascists. Polls show that they favor Putin over Biden by 16 to 22 percentage points. But if you are an LGBTQ-plus child, you are mentally deranged, worthy only of ostracism, bullying and quackery. And if you are a child of color insisting that Black Lives Matter, “conservatives” become upset and feel threatened; they respond neurotically that white lives matter too, as if they have never enjoyed the benefits of their white privilege. Mention CRT and they forget that the “C” in “Critical” suggests “critical thinking,” not criticism of them. Meanwhile, Math and English scores have fallen, so they burn books, attack school boards and the Department of Education, divert scant public education funds from hard-pressed public schools to charters and their for-profit operators.

“Conservatives” blame Democrats for the “rising” crime rate (which has been falling for the past 2 years) and ignore that most murders occur in red states. They claim to support the police but vilify the 5 cops who died as a consequence of their 6th of January insurrection. Instead, they endorse their martyr, the rioter Ashlii Babbitt. They complain that people can’t leave their homes unlocked anymore, then offer justifications when one of theirs breaks into a house and batters an 82-year-old’s head in with a hammer because his politics differs from theirs. Their ex-House leader, Kevin McCarthy couldn’t wait to hold Nancy Pelosi’s gavel and promised to do his best to restrain his urge to hammer her head the way her husband’s was. And, of course, the treasonous insurrection of January 6, 2021 is “legitimate public discourse.”

What are these examples teaching our children? How to be a good American? A good Christian?

Our children cannot expect the bright future that was promised my generation. “Conservatives” either deny climate change (a phrase banned in Florida) or refuse to prioritize the measures necessary to stabilize it over fear of declining fossil-fuel profits. Slow, careful change, they argue, is always the safest option. But was safety Mike Pence’s main concern as late as the early 2000’s, some 40 years after the Surgeon General’s warning, when he was claiming that cancer research on the effects of cigarette smoking was still unresolved? Was he thinking about our children then, or his tobacco lobby money? By the time “conservatives” stipulate that climate change is real, our children who have survived lung cancer will need to cope with an uninhabitable planet.

At least our kids fare better than the immigrant children who survive their life-threatening multi-1000-mile hegira so many of our ancestors traveled to find safety and a better life here in America. When they finally arrive, our party of “family values” has welcomed the tired and hungry strangers by breaking up their families- making no provisions for reuniting them- and depositing the children in cages. According to “conservatives,” children, as do puppies, like their cages. The latest “conservative” brainstorm is to fly them at taxpayer expense to blue states to score political points with the like-minded. They justify themselves by falsely stating that the devil Obama did the same thing but fail to see the irony of following in his fiendish footsteps.

Long extinct, liberal Republicans like Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt, John Lindsay and Nelson Rockefeller, once coexisted with their traditionally conservative counterparts. Nowadays, Lincoln and Roosevelt would be labeled “rinos,” and judged to be traitors as if subservience to a tyrannical autocrat supersedes loyalty to the Constitution. If our contemporary Republicans cannot even get along with one another, how can we expect them to live amicably alongside Black Lives and LGBTQ-plus communities, or with anyone else who doesn’t sip their Kool-Ade? Planet of the Apes fanaticism is the model “conservatives” offer our children, and then expect them to get along with one another.

The U.S. News and World Report rates America at #23 out of 195 nations to best raise children, just behind Greece, Portugal and Poland. All three countries offer free health care. Poland and Greece provide free higher education. Under disgraceful “conservative” obstructionism, American children’s hopefulness is slip-sliding away. In a civilized world, a super-power should be judged by the lavish welfare of its children, not by the predominance of its billionaires.

“Conservative” cultists are no longer the reasonable conservatives that once dominated the Republican party. They have become election-denying, voter suppressing reactionaries, as inflexible and heavy-handed as the would-be tyrant they worship, and as such constitute the gravest threat to our children and their future. The best we can do is vote Democrat on November 5th. I urge you to do so.

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