

BY SAM MITTELSTAEDT

## Unity vs. **Uniformity**

**A**fter President Biden's inaugural address, the Left in America began echoing his call for "unity." That sounds wonderful. Who doesn't want a unified country where we all get along? However, the phrase "I don't think that word means what you think it means" comes to mind.

Despite being a diverse tapestry of people and culture, the United States was formed on some core values and principles. In times of difficulty, we have coalesced around those principles to pull in the same direction to defeat an enemy or face a challenge.

Sometimes that direction seems clear. For example, entering World War II became necessary when the attack on Pearl Harbor made staying out of the war unreasonable.

At other points in history that direction was set by leaders who saw a potential threat, but focused America's energy on something inspiring, such as the "Space Race" of the 1960s. As the Soviet Union was making progress in space exploration, it seemed reasonable to believe that allowing our enemy to control the highest "ground" was potentially threatening. However, John F. Kennedy framed it as an inspiring national effort to be the first on the moon.

The root of our unity was not a common threat or enemy, it was our values and principles. Americans valued their freedom, thus threats to that freedom were the enemy.

Americans' shared core values and principles included:

- The right to speak or believe as we wish without fear of government persecution.
- The right to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and innocent people around us from violent attack.
- The right to keep what we earn and to not have our property taken by the government.
- The right to privacy from a prying government without just cause for investigation.
- The idea that no person is above the law and that the law should be equally applied to everyone.
- The belief that we should judge people by their character and actions, and not on how they were born.

These used to be universally held principles, but recently we've seen all these core values suppressed or denied completely. Voices that do not adhere to the approved narrative are silenced and deplatformed.

The government desires to have a monopoly on the use of force, despite overwhelming evidence from 2020 that it is not willing or



able to protect law-abiding citizens from violence. Confiscatory taxes, regulatory fees, and government restrictions have hindered our ability to save and invest in our futures. Big Tech is in collusion with government to mine our personal data on demand.

Groups are targeted for special treatment and selective enforcement by the government, while vandals and criminals are free to destroy the property and lives of others. Meanwhile, law-abiding citizens are often attacked by the government for attempt-

ing to protect themselves. We have gone from the pursuit of a color-blind society back to a process of discrimination and bigotry where we assign advantages or disadvantages to groups based on the shallow criteria of their skin color or gender.

Seeking unity is a mutual effort to find common ground and focus on those things in which we have a shared interest or goal. Unfortunately, those on the left calling for unity are also speaking about a need to "reprogram Trump supporters." It seems as if their understanding of "unity" is being confused with "uniformity" and compliance with their worldview.

But why should we unify behind a leader and ruling class that are committed to violating our principles? People who believe they know what is best for everyone else and thereby have the right to dominate and control others have inspired their followers to do horrible things. Americans have previously made mistakes in this area, and our ancestors have innocent blood on their hands.

The Democratic Party seems to have adopted the Chinese communist definition of unity, where it forces people to comply with its structure, no matter how oppressive. In China, citizens are constantly monitored and then given a social-credit score, which affects their futures. People with views disagreeable to the party are "disadvantaged," and their social-credit score falls. Worse, if a person belongs to the wrong group or espouses unacceptable views, he is often "disappeared."

Forced compliance, capitulation, and uniformity is not the same as unity. To skeptics, I ask, "What ideals, values, and principles are we unifying behind?" There is no unity or room for negotiation when one side is committed to the other side's destruction. I do not plan on joining liberals in their effort to dismantle what is left of the framework of America.

However, they are welcome to join me where I stand, on the values and principles that made this country great. ■

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