June 29, 2019

New Democrats

For one who has any understanding of history, it's easy to understand why socialism is the choice of the millennials. Benjamin Franklin is reputed to have said, "When the people find that they can vote themselves money that will herald the end of the republic." Not only have people learned "they can vote themselves money," but congress has learned that they can keep winning re-election by voting the people money.

Although it was mentioned as far back as Plato, modern socialism came with the French Revolution, which began in 1789. It was in the midst of the Industrial Revolution, and the feudal system was being replaced by the middle class. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels wrote the Communist Manifesto in 1848. In England, it was thought that the word "communism" sounded too much like "communion", so they changed it to "socialism."

In 1899, Queensland, Australia elected the first communist government, and it lasted a week. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 brought the communist party to power in Russia. The Chinese party was formed in Shanghai in 1921, but it was not until 1949, after the end of WW II, that Mao Zedong was finally successful in installing the communist government in China.

There has long been a tension between man wanting to live free, and wanting to be taken care of. After the end of the Cold War in 1991, I was introduced to Edward Lozansky, a Russian dissident who was teaching at American University in Washington. I saw an opportunity to do business in the former Soviet Union, and at the same time have an adventure. In the next eighteen months I made many trips to Moscow. Edward was a hero in Russia, and he introduced me to many political leaders, academics, et al. My first day, on my first trip, I met Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov who gave me a card with his picture, just in case anyone questioned me. I always had a suite in the Octoberaskyu, the communist party hotel a block from the Kremlin.

Edward was a brilliant undergrad student, and he aspired to be a physicist. He had all the credentials to be accepted into Moscow University, but because he was a Jew, he had to apply many times to be accepted. After graduation, he was teaching in the best private secondary school in Moscow, and tutoring private students. One of his students was Tatiana Yershov, the daughter of an Army General. She was being tutored in order to be accepted into Moscow University. In spite of a ten-year age difference, they fell in love, and married in 1970. Edward was well known as a dissident, and KGB agents were following him everywhere. He became acquainted with several of the agents, and he had conversations with them. They would ask what he wanted — they said, "You shop in the best stores, including secret western stores. You fly in military aircraft to

your father-in-law's summer home on the Black Sea. You have everything. What more do you want." Edward answered, "I want to be free."

He hadn't been allowed to leave the country, but after six years of marriage, his father in law was the second in command of the military, and Edward was still making trouble. He was told he could emigrate to the US, and if he didn't make trouble for a year, Tatiana could join him. It was a false promise. In 1982, after six years of separation, and with the help of Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, and a hunger strike by Tatiana that almost killed her, they were finally reunited. The BBC did a special editorial news program on their love story, and Edward wrote a book "For Tatiana." Freedom is not compatible with socialism.

In 1987, President Reagan appointed Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. Ted Kennedy led a fight in the Senate, and he was not confirmed. It was so nasty, that "borked" is now used as a verb. An organization that I was a member of gave the Judge a cocktail party when I was working in Russia, and he made a short speech. He was talking about the newly-freed Eastern Europe. I only remember one thing that he said, and I will remember it as long as I live. He said, "there are US university professors all over Eastern Europe now, telling them that socialism is the right system, you just didn't do it right."

In Edward Lozansky's Soviet Union, the political elites did well, and he did well, because of his marriage. But he longed to be free. We have a class of permanent political elites in the US, and most are rich. Bernie Sanders is a self-described "democratic socialist," but he is a multi-millionaire, and before he became a member of the "permanent political class," he had insignificant jobs. Washington, DC is full of people who got rich from being members of the "permanent political class," and Donald Trump is not one of them. On the contrary, he's a threat to them.

The first step toward socialism is getting rid of Christianity, and it's well underway in the US now. David Horowitz's parents were members of the communist party, and he was a radical liberal. He is now a conservative, and a New York Times best-selling author. He describes himself as a "Jewish atheist," but he understands that Christianity is a necessary ingredient to keep us free. His latest book is: "DARK AGENDA: The War to Destroy Christian America," and he writes:

"In America, the war against Christians is not merely a war against an embattled religion. It is a war against an imperiled nation—a war against this nation and its founding principles: the equality of individuals and individual freedom. For these principles are indisputably Christian in origin. They are under siege because they are insurmountable obstacles to radicals' totalitarian ambition to create a new world in their image."

David Skeel is the S. Samuel Arsht Professor of Corporate Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is considered to be one of the foremost experts on bankruptcy law in the US, and he is an expert on law in respect to religion. He says, "government has extended its tentacles into all of American life ... the pivotal moment was Obamacare, and the healthcare law requiring businesses across the country to include, among other things, abortion drugs. That's what gave rise to the Hobby Lobby case." Obama was the most anti-Christian President in my lifetime, if not in the history of the US.

The Democratic Party is not the party of my Father and Mother. It has been left-leaning for years, and it is being driven further to the left by the democratic presidential candidates now. There is a competition among them for an advantage to see which of them can promise the most "free stuff," and anyone who disagrees with them is labeled a racist, or anti-semite, or homophobe, or islamophobe, or in President Trump's case, all of the above. In addition he's been accused of treason.

In the words of President Trump, or rather in the word of President Trump, the democratic debates this week were "boring," but they were full of good news. They were promising free college tuition, Medicare for all, slave reparations, the green new deal, in fact everything is going to be free, free pedicures for all, especially for the illegal aliens, because walking up from South America is hard on the feet.