



What Leftists Don't Understand

It may be a simple observation, but there is a very real danger lost on many people – and dangerously lost on dedicated Leftists. The goal of modern Socialist/ Progressive philosophy is a utopia run by an all powerful state.

Now, those who know their American history understand that the biggest fear that kept many patriots from supporting passage of the Constitution was the fear of a too powerful central authority. At its core the argument came down to Liberty.

In June of 1788 during the Virginia Ratification Convention, Patrick Henry had his finest moment, a fine moment in a long and illustrious career filled with fine moments. He confronted the architect of big government, James Madison; each man poised on opposite sides of the room, separated by a table with a copy of “The Paper” on it. The poignancy of Henry’s remarks that day surpassed his speech at St. John’s Church in March 1775 when he proclaimed “*Liberty or death.*” And, while Henry lost the immediate fight over ratification, ultimately, he, in

conjunction with other Anti-Federalists, won the debate over Liberty by extracting a promise for a Bill of Rights to be added to the Constitution.

“When the American spirit was in its youth, the language of America was different: liberty, sir, was then the primary object. But now, sir, the American spirit, assisted by the ropes and chains of consolidation, is about to convert this country into a powerful and mighty empire. If you make the citizens of this country agree to become the subjects of one great consolidated empire of America, your government will not have sufficient energy to keep them together. ...Such a government is incompatible with the genius of republicanism.”

Those who want utopia are searching for it in the wrong place. Utopia can only be found by each individual within themselves. We can improve our relationship with others only when we do the best for ourselves that we can. In its essence, it is free individuals that allow for a free discourse of ideas and an open and amenable, healthy political system.

Most of us want mostly the same things - some comfort, some security, and some happiness. It was no different for the Founders, those who are now demeaned by some as tired old White men.

Regardless of what name some may call those justifiably venerated men, those men understood what government could and could not do for the individual, What government should not do for the individual – lest his liberty be sacrificed on the alter of state power.

At the 1776 founding, the Declaration proclaimed that among the rights that men had were, *“life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”* Ostensibly, to protect those rights, the new government was established with an eye on ‘establishing Justice, insuring domestic Tranquility, providing for the common defence, promoting the general Welfare, and securing the Blessings of Liberty.’ The Constitution was to establish a structure that protected the rights first proclaimed in 1776.

The addition of the Bill of Rights raised a shield against the central authority encroaching on the rights of Americans. While those rights have taken nearly two centuries to secure for all Americans, the framework was strong enough to bring the changes forward. The founders gave

us a potentially enduring structure, something which has set the stage for many other successful governmental systems that have followed.

Back in 1776, 56 men faced the most powerful force on the face of the Earth and did what had never been done before – they had the temerity to put on paper the proposition that power should emanate from the people to the government. As simple a declaration as that was – it was more monumental than any other previous political declaration.

The Declaration set the stage for an American struggle that continues to this day – the push and pull of strong centralized government, and how to protect individual liberty from it. It is why Elbridge Gerry and George Mason refused to sign the Constitution. Before the Bill of Rights was amended to the Constitution, a shield against the Central Government encroaching on individual rights did not exist

The essence of Americanism was repeated in a short statement by Abraham Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War. Lincoln, rightly or wrongly, believed the American experiment was something that could only be continued with a united America, regardless of the cost – by a Government “*of, by and for the people.*” It is that last phrase – “*for the people*” that Leftists have contorted, and around which they have wrapped their animus. For Leftists “for the people” is big brother, the Central Government providing material things for the people.

The Founders looked at the central government as a secure unobtrusive framework that would allow each individual to find happiness in their own way. For the Founders the government was not a parent, but an ally. For Leftists the government is God, Santa Claus, mom and dad and big brother all rolled into one.

To the Founders, even those who supported an un-amended Constitution, the power of an overly strong, omnipotent central authority was something to be feared. For the Founders, it was the individual who would, in concert with other individuals, guarantee their own liberty.

Regardless of a general agreement for a more energetic government in 1788, it was only when promises were given to amend the Constitution by adding a Bill of Rights that protected the

citizen and the states from central government encroachment on individual liberty did support for the Constitution grow sufficiently to allow a unanimous ratification.

For Leftists, the Bill of Rights is anathema. It is in their way. An unencumbered central authority is the mechanism to a Socialist / Progressive utopia.

While we all might want a utopia of sorts, most Americans understand that living a utopian dream in the real world is dangerous – even more so when a central authority is given the responsibility and power to bring it about.