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The Old Civility Versus the New

The left's list of nondebatable 'civil' positions is almost endless.

WILLIAM BROOKS

More and more people are claiming that something has gone wrong with the civil tone in Western societies.

Elites in the United States blame President Donald Trump's supporters, whom they consider to be crude, ill-mannered bulls in the U.S. china shop. To one degree or another, the same animus exists in Canada and other Western countries such as the UK.

The tony disdain for so-called "populists" is shared by a wide range of established politicians, media pundits, high-ranking civil servants, academics, entertainers, and business leaders. All contend that "civility" must be restored in order to right the ship of state and bring people back together.

'Calls for Civility Are Rarely Innocent'

Others see things differently. Writing in the March 2019 edition of U.S.-based magazine First Things, R.R. Reno had some insightful observations about the growing calls for more civility. "Civility is an admirable quality," he writes. Elites, he suggests, have always regarded civility as a stabilizing force that can serve to encourage trust and cooperation among diverse elements in society.

While it can be very useful to leaders who seek to maintain peace and comity in their realm, Reno also points out that civility is for the most part "an establishment virtue" and says "calls for civility are rarely innocent."

In fact, Reno argues that civility also has an adversarial, outward-facing function. "Correct manners set apart the well-bred few from the demonic many," he writes. "They are tools for ruling out challengers as ill-bred, crude, and vulgar, which is to say illegitimate." As a result, ordinary citizens in Western democracies can't help noticing that hardly a week goes by without some member of the elite denouncing some popular outsider's speech and demeanor as being beyond the pale.

Definition of Civility Has Changed

British historian John Gillingham, professor emeritus at the London School of Economics and Political Science, has pointed out that the meaning of civility has evolved from its origins in medieval and early modern English society. It has become less of a moral framework and more of a political code that judges the acceptability of people's behavior according to their ideological preferences.

Up to the late 1950s and early 1960s, civil behavior was still grounded in rules of conduct influenced by traditional religious virtues. Most ordinary men and women believed that work was superior to idleness, forgiveness was better than sustained anger, admiration was healthier than envy, and humility was preferable to pride. Trust and reciprocity formed the basis of social capital. People of all castes, faiths, and convictions aspired, however imperfectly, to live by virtues that were fundamental to the maintenance of a civil, productive, and well-ordered society.

BROOKE/TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

People attend the Epsom Derby in Surrey in 1924.

Post-war elites appear to have concluded that the religious virtue, formal civility, and orderly habits of their parents were just too burdensome to carry on.

Demonstrators protest Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh near the Capitol on Oct. 4, 2018.

Some of us, myself included, are old enough to remember a childhood in which being civil generally meant being courteous, polite, and demonstrating respect for others, especially those in positions of authority. This was considered particularly useful when you ran into people you didn't know well or, for one reason or another, may have some disagreement with. You could still have a civil conversation.

A New Normal

But roughly half a century ago, during the dawning of the age of Aquarius, things began to change. Post-war elites appear to have concluded that the religious virtue, formal civility, and orderly habits of their parents were just too burdensome to carry on.

Armed with the clever rhetoric of a long-established intellectual left, young people took to the streets of Western democracies to create a new normal in almost every form of human conduct. Angry protests against the perceived evils of capitalism, consumerism, Western imperialism, normative values, religious hypocrisy, and traditional order consumed their attention in the West's finest universities. Clarion–but ultimately, insincere–calls for equality, diversity, social justice, and inclusiveness rang through the parlors, bistros, theatres, and concert halls of the beau monde. As one might expect, it didn't take long for ambitious members of the lower ranks, who were often the first in their families to attend university, to begin imitating their betters.

So from the late 1960s on, the road has been open for succeeding generations of liberal elites to establish an enormously politicized and self-serving standard of civility. Today, being "civil" literally means supporting the politically correct agenda of our progressive establishment.

Many American Republicans and Canadian Conservatives share these views and tactics with their high-class amigos on the left. Today, being civil means being "woke." Keeping a civil tongue in your head means staying silent if you have any disagreement with the current conventional wisdom.

Shutting Down Dissenting Voices

Our elites also don't hesitate to punch down, should a misguided member of the fly-over classes take issue with their agenda. If they can't actually lock you up, they will ignore you or embarrass you, and make your life and career as miserable as possible.

Raise questions about your country's capacity to absorb increasing levels of immigration and you will be summarily labeled as a racist, bigot, and xenophobe–or in the wake of a human tragedy such the one that just occurred in El Paso, Texas–an accessory to murder. Question the accuracy of climate research models or doomsday warming predictions and you will be branded a "denier." Express any doubt about the merits of almost any sexual harassment charge and you will be characterized as an enabling member of a predatory patriarchy. The left's list of nondebatable "civil" positions is almost endless.

As the North Atlantic Triangle of nations heads into another election cycle–Canada this October, the United States in 2020, and the UK sometime between now and 2022–fierce measures to delegitimize and tune out political outsiders will present an enormous challenge for party leaders such as Trump.

Condescension from the cultural high ground serves a strategic purpose–it's designed to discourage bottom-up resistance and brand opponents as deplorable and illegitimate, and has worked very effectively for some 50 years.

Only time will tell whether we are ready for a truly Copernican "civil" revolution.

William Brooks is a writer and educator based in Montreal. He currently serves as editor of "The Civil Conversation" for Canada's Civitas Society.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Two Potential Strikes Against the Second Amendment

ELAD HAKIM

Commentary

The recent tragedies in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, have once again brought the Second Amendment and gun laws into the spotlight.

It's clear that something must be done to try to prevent, to the extent possible, such tragedies from occurring.

Republicans and Democrats, as expected, have different opinions about how to best accomplish this. While they continue to debate how to best reduce (and hopefully eliminate) gun violence, the Second Amendment faces two potential "strikes" against it. The first is President Donald Trump's proposed "red flag" laws, while the second is a case that the Supreme Court has been asked to consider.

Red Flag Laws

After the recent and horrific shootings in El Paso and Dayton, Trump indicated that he would consider red flag laws with regard to firearms (some states also have such laws).

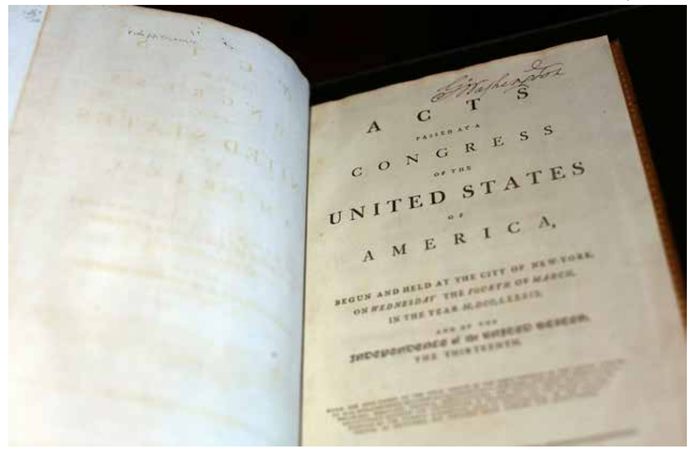
As reported by The New York Times: Red flag laws "are state laws that authorize courts to issue a special type of protection order, allowing the police to temporarily confiscate firearms from people who are deemed by a judge to be a danger to themselves or to others.

"Often, the request for the order will come from relatives or friends concerned about a loved one who owns one or more guns and has expressed suicidal thoughts or discussed shooting people. The authorities may also request an order."

While the purpose behind such laws should be supported by everyone, the obvious and glaring problem arises from its implementation and enforcement. More particularly, red flag laws can be abused, thereby curtailing a person's Second Amendment rights. For example, as set forth in The Washington Times, some red flag proposals "allow for individuals to report family members deemed mentally unfit, and for local authorities to hold the power to assess and decide–and confiscate."

Who determines whether someone is mentally unfit to own a firearm? What happens if a person can't afford to defend a bogus allegation? These laws often force those who are accused to defend themselves in court before the facts are even heard (i.e., see Florida Statute 790.401–Risk Protection Orders).

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



A copy of President George Washington's personal copy of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, in New York on June 15, 2012 .

Who determines whether someone is mentally unfit to own a firearm?

It goes without saying that each and every person should support the underlying goal behind such laws, which is to prevent potentially dangerous people from buying or owning firearms. This is a fantastic idea! However, given the possibility of abuse, red flag laws raise some serious concerns relative to the Second Amendment, which is why some Republicans have voiced misgivings about such laws in their current (or proposed) forms.

In addition to the potential Second Amendment concerns posed by red flag laws, the Supreme Court has also been asked to consider a case involving gun-maker Remington, the results of which could also indirectly affect the Second Amendment.

Remington Case

Remington Arms Co. was sued by several families of the Sandy Hook massacre over the way the company marketed the weapon that was used in the shooting. Remington appealed the Connecticut Supreme Court's decision, arguing, in part, that the lawsuit was improper in light of a 2005 law–the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act–which immunizes gun manufacturers and dealers "from the vast majority of lawsuits that could be brought as a result of crimes committed with their firearms," according to Politico.

However, the act contains six exceptions, one of which "permits civil actions alleging that 'a manufacturer or seller of a [firearm] knowingly violated a State or Federal statute applicable to the sale or marketing of the [firearm], and the violation was a proximate cause of the harm for which relief is sought ... .' 15 U.S.C. Section 7903(5) (A) (iii) (2012)."

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled against Remington and ruled that the estates of the people who were killed could sue Remington because it violated a state law by advertising "its product in a way that could promote mass shootings," according to Politico. For example, it promoted the use of the XM15-E2S for offensive, assaultive purposes–specifically, for "waging war and killing human beings"; it advertised the AR-15 as a weapon that allows a single individual to force his multiple opponents to "bow down."

Remington has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to read the act more broadly and to reverse the Connecticut Supreme Court's ruling. If the Supreme Court agrees to hear this case, and if the court agrees with the Connecticut Supreme Court, there will likely be a slew of lawsuits filed against gun manufacturers. If this happens, gun manufacturers will also have to spend a great deal of money defending themselves in various legal battles. Given this enormous financial strain and the potential legal exposure, gun manufacturers could very well stop producing certain firearms, which will, ultimately, impact consumers' Second Amendment rights to purchase and use firearms for lawful purposes.

When viewed together, the red flag laws and the potential impact of the Remington case could significantly affect the rights that people enjoy under the Second Amendment. While everyone wants to prevent tragedies from occurring, any proposed legislation or law should not directly, indirectly, or arbitrarily hinder or eliminate someone's Second Amendment rights.

Obviously, some type of gun reform is necessary. This is abundantly clear. However, it must be carefully crafted so as protect the rights that are afforded to the people under the Constitution.

Elad Hakim is a writer, commentator, and practicing attorney.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES

The Capitol Building in Washington on June 30, 2018.

Marxists Work to Reinforce 'The Squad' in 2020

TREVOR LOUDON

Commentary

Not content with Reps. Rashida Tlaib, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez , Ilhan Omar, and Ayanna Pressley–the far-left congresswomen collectively known as "The Squad"–the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and allied Marxist groups are targeting multiple congressional seats with far-left candidates in 2020.

No one is safe. The DSA and its pro-China allies the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and Liberation Road (formerly Freedom Road Socialist Organization, or FRSO) are targeting dozens of seats currently held by Republicans, moderate Democrats, and even by insufficiently Marxist members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Most will not make it past the primaries, but some have at least a reasonable chance of being elected.

Here are four serious far-left contenders who could be reinforcing "The Squad" in January 2021.

Cori Bush

Cori Bush is targeting Missouri's 1st Congressional District, which encompasses St. Louis, Florissant, and Ferguson. Her Democratic primary opponent is William Lacy Clay Jr., a veteran of both the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus, who has represented the district since 2001, succeeding his father William Lacy Clay Sr. In 2018, Bush stood against Clay Jr., losing by about 20 percentage points.

A native of St. Louis, Bush is a registered nurse, an ordained pastor, an activist, and a "community organizer." She first came to prominence during the Ferguson anti-police protests of 2014, where she played a significant, if largely covert, role.

During a BlogTalkRadio show broadcast in August 2015, Bush was reporting "on the ground" as she described the scene days after "shots rang out" in Ferguson: "I'm right on the ground. I'm right here in the middle of it, so there's chanting behind me. As a matter of fact, I was riding in a car ... circling the neighborhood with flags and with our masks on."

Prominent in the activist community, Bush was a recipient of the 2015 "Woman of Courage" Award from the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation and the 2016 Delux Magazine "Power 100" Award, according to her website. She was named one of the 'Top 50 Women of St. Louis" by Gazelle Magazine, and an "Unsung Human Rights Hero" by the St. Louis Coalition for Human Rights in 2017. She also received the 2018 "Community Activist" award from the Missouri Association of Black Ministers. In 2017, she was elected the first vice-chairperson of the Missouri Democratic Party Progressive Caucus.

District 1 is heavily Democratic, so if Bush can manage to beat Clay Jr., she will almost certainly win the seat.

Working in her favor is her close connection to two of Missouri's most influential Marxist groups: St. Louis DSA and the local CPUSA. These groups can muster nearly 1,000 activists and have already elected many local officials, including several state representatives. Early this year, St. Louis Communist Party leader Tony Pecinovsky (supported by Bush and running as a Democrat) lost a race for St. Louis Board of Aldermen Ward 14 with a respectable 48 percent of the vote.

Bush is a regular at the local Communist Party HQ–the St. Louis Workers Educational Society. During her 2018 campaign, Bush celebrated her birthday at an event in St Louis. Guest speakers included DSA member congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

In July 2017, Bush joined a Sit-In to Save Health Care at Republican Sen. Roy Blunt's office in Clayton, Missouri. Bush was joined by members of the St. Louis DSA, Socialist Alternative, and the St. Louis Workers' Education Society.

Bush already has the endorsement of Justice Democrats–famous for selecting and electing Ocasio-Cortez in 2016.

> The Democrats have been edging left since the 1960s. The socialist shift accelerated dramatically under Obama and went into overdrive with the Bernie Sanders campaign of 2016.

> While many American voters have been shocked by the antics of 'The Squad' and the Democrats' increasingly obvious shift to the hard left—we ain't seen nothing yet.

HOLLY KELLUM/NTD

(L–R) Reps. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), and Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol on July 15, 2019.

JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) arrives for a rally to kick off his 2020 presidential campaign in Brooklyn, New York, on March 2, 2019.

Albert Lee

Albert Lee is targeting Oregon's 3rd Congressional District, which encompasses all of deep blue Portland. The very safe Democrat district has been held since 1996 by Earl Blumenauer, a long-time member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Blumenauer beat his last Republican opponent 73 percent to 20 percent, so if Lee can win the primary, he's almost guaranteed a seat in Congress.

Lee is currently the Dean for Business and Computing at the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College.

He is active in TriMet's Transit Equity Advisory Committee, the City of Portland's Citizen Review Committee, the executive board of the Giving Tree NW, Health Care for All Oregon, the NAACP, Korean American Coalition of Oregon, and the Democratic Party of Oregon. He is a member of Portland DSA and the DSA front BerniePDX/Our Revolution, and on the board of directors of the far-left Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon–all groups with considerable electoral experience.

Currently, Lee is seeking Portland DSA's endorsement. If he gets both local and national DSA endorsement, Lee will have an army of small donors and several hundred free doorknockers and phone-bankers on his team.

While the incumbent Blumenauer has ties to some DSA veterans, that may not do him much good. The DSA is likely to throw the old Jewish white "progressive" under the bus in favor of the young Korean/black socialist.

Lee is supporting Paige Kreisman in her run for Oregon Assembly District 42. Kreisman is a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist and member of both the DSA and CPUSA.

Lee is also supporting Doyle Canning, who is running for Congress in Oregon's 4th District against Congressional Progressive Caucus co-founder Peter DeFazio. Canning has long been associated with FRSO/Liberation Road activists.

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) at the U.S. Capitol on Feb. 7, 2019.

Mike Siegel

Mike Siegel is contesting Texas's 10th Congressional District, which stretches from just north of Austin almost to Houston, against incumbent Republican Michael McCaul. In 2018, Siegel lost to McCaul by only four points in what is normally a safe Republican district, so the second time around, he may be even more of a threat.

Siegel is an assistant city attorney in Austin. He has worked as a public school teacher with Teach for America and co-founded two nonprofit education organizations.

Siegel's far-left credentials are impeccable. He's the son of Oakland, California-based activist/attorney Dan Siegel, once the West Coast leader of the Communist Workers Party, a group known for its blind loyalty to China and North Korea.

At Cornell University, Mike Siegel was president of the far-left National Lawyers Guild student chapter. He also served as an intern at the equally radical Center for Constitutional Rights, researching issues such as civil liability for military contractors. He also worked as legal coordinator for the "Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan" conference presented by the FRSO front group Iraq Veterans Against the War.

In 2018, Mike Siegel was heavily supported by several DSA-controlled groups including Our Revolution–Central Texas, Left Up to US, and Texas Alliance for Retired Americans. Austin DSA membership coordinator Jacob Aronowitz also served on Mike Siegel's 2018 staff.

By July 2019, the Siegel campaign had garnered a number of key national and local endorsements, such as: far-left California congressman Ted Lieu; DSA front organization Progressive Democrats of America; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; National Union of Healthcare Workers; and leftist Mike Floyd of the Pearland ISD school board.

Austin DSA and neighboring Williamson County DSA can muster over 1,000 members between them. Austin DSA is currently supporting one of its own comrades, Heidi Sloan, against Republican Roger Williams in District 25. However, they will almost certainly support Siegel as well if they think he has any chance of defeating McCaul.

Eva Putzova

Eva Putzova is contesting the Democratic primary in Arizona's District 1, which encompasses all of the northern and eastern part of the state. Her opponent is incumbent "moderate" Democrat Tom O'Halleran, who in 2018 defeated his Republican opponent by about 8 points.

Putzova, a Slovakian immigrant, has been very active in public life in Flagstaff. She was elected to the Flagstaff City Council in November 2014 to a four-year term. She also served on the Board of Directors of Flagstaff Arts Council, the Audit Committee, the Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona, and the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority.

In 2016, she led a successful local citizen initiative, "raising Flagstaff's minimum wage to $15 by 2021, implementing one fair wage by 2026, and establishing local labor standards enforcement," according to her former councilmember bio.

Putzova was also a "board member of Friends of Flagstaff's Future–a multi-issue organization that advocates for a socially and environmentally just Flagstaff." She has also "contributed to the goals of local commissions and committees, including the Regional Plan Citizen Advisory Committee, Coconino Community College Citizen Review Panel, Citizen Review Commission for Flagstaff Regional Five-Year and Long-Range Transit Plan, and the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council."

Currently, Putzova works as the director of communications for Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, a far-left labor organization with ties to FRSO/Liberation Road.

For several years, Putzova has been active in the Flagstaff branch of Progressive Democrats of America, a national organization closely affiliated with the DSA. The national organization is supporting Putzova, one of their earliest endorsements of the 2020 election cycle. She is also close to Our Revolution–Flagstaff Progressives, which on a national scale is also heavily dominated by DSA members.

Putzova is also very close to Flagstaff DSA, which will likely support her in her upcoming battles with O'Halleran and any Republican challenger.

We Ain't Seen Nothing Yet

While many U.S. voters have been shocked by the antics of "The Squad" and the Democrats' increasingly obvious shift to the hard left–we ain't seen nothing yet.

The Democrats have been edging left since the 1960s. The socialist shift accelerated dramatically under President Barack Obama and went into overdrive with the Bernie Sanders campaign of 2016.

Currently, the DSA, CPUSA, and FRSO/Liberation Road are contesting for ground in the Democratic Party at every level, from county commissions and education boards to the House of Representatives and even the U.S. Senate. It's only a matter of time until they completely dominate a once-great political party.

Whether Bush, Lee, Siegel, and Putzova win or not in 2020 is largely immaterial. There are hundreds more like them standing in line, waiting for their shot.

The Trump administration and the Republican Party are right to campaign against socialism and communism in 2020. Only by waking up millions of U.S. voters to the imminent Marxist threat can we have any hope of saving this great republic.

Trevor Loudon is an author, filmmaker, and public speaker from New Zealand. For more than 30 years, he has researched radical left, Marxist, and terrorist movements and their covert influence on mainstream politics.

The Rainbow Coalition Re-visited:

Why Kamala Harris Will Be the Democratic Presidential Nominee

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), with other candiates at the second Democratic primary debate of the 2020 presidential campaign season in Detroit on July 31, 2019.

TREVOR LOUDON

Commentary

It's over. The Democratic presidential primary was decided months, maybe even years ago.

President Donald Trump should refocus his energies away from Joe Biden and relegate Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders to the sidelines. The Democratic nominee will be California's junior senator, Kamala Harris–and she will be very hard to beat. Not because of her personal qualities, formidable though they are, but because of the machine backing her and the philosophy guiding her.

Harris is set to harvest the seeds sown by former President Barack Obama and Jesse Jackson before him. Like Jackson's presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988, which paved the way for Obama in 2008 and 2012, the 2020 Democratic campaign will be all about race.

When Jackson ran in 1988, he united enough white leftists and progressive "people of color" under his Rainbow Coalition banner to earn 7 million votes in the Democratic primary. Obama used the same formula 20 years later to win the presidency and then repeated the trick four years later.

In Jackson's day, about 12 percent of voters belonged to "minorities." Today, the figure is closer to 40 percent. Harris–a female, of black, Irish, and Asian Indian extraction, far-left but not publicly so–is the ideal modern Rainbow Coalition candidate.

The original Rainbow Coalition was led largely by pro-China communists–from Line of March, Communist Workers Party, and especially the 3,000-strong League of Revolutionary Struggle (LRS).

One LRS supporter, Stanford University law student Steve Phillips, was Jackson's West Coast student organizer in both the 1984 and 1988 campaigns.

According to a 2012 post on Phillips' blog "Political Intelligence":

"I've studied Marx, Mao, and Lenin. In college, I organized solidarity efforts for freedom struggles in South Africa and Nicaragua, and I palled around with folks who considered themselves communists and revolutionaries ..., and I did my research paper on the Black Panther Party. ... My political baptism was the Jesse Jackson 1984 Presidential campaign ..."

When Jackson abandoned the Rainbow Coalition after his 1988 loss, many LRS cadres stayed with the Democratic Party. In 1990, the LRS dissolved with the majority faction to form a Unity Organizing Committee (UOC), which was specifically created to further infiltrate the Democrats.

Phillips was a UOC leader and became a prominent Democrat in the Bay Area. In the early 1990s, he was elected to the San Francisco School Board. Phillips also married his Stanford University sweetheart Susan Sandler–the daughter of Golden West savings and loan billionaires Herb and Marion Sandler.

The Sandlers put almost half of their $2.4 billion profit from the sale of Golden West to Wachovia Bank into the left. They fund the Center for American Progress, ProPublica, and many candidates and ballot measures around the nation.

According to journalist Matt Bai, Progressive Insurance billionaire Peter Lewis, along with Democratic donors George Soros and the Sandlers, established America Votes "to coordinate various get-out-the-vote drives during the 2004 election." To consolidate this process, the Sandlers also sent their son-in-law Phillips as their representative in October 2005 to help found the "Democracy Alliance" at the Chateau Elan near Atlanta.

The Democracy Alliance has now grown to more than 150 members–all leftist billionaires and multimillionaires fixated on moving the United States permanently to the left.

> Like [Jesse] Jackson's presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988, which paved the way for Obama in 2008 and 2012, the 2020 Democratic campaign will be all about race.

Rainbow Coalition Rerun

In 2007 and 2008, Phillips organized an 18-state initiative, in mainly in the South and Southwest, called Vote Hope "that increased communities of color participation in state primaries and the federal general election in 2008."

This rerun of the Rainbow Coalition strategy was of great benefit to Phillips's friend and idol Barack Obama in his battle with Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 2008. Susan Sandler was Obama's earliest big donor.

In 2013, Phillips served on a panel at San Francisco's Chinese Historical Society in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 March on Washington–with former LRS comrades Francis Wong and Jon Jang.

Wrote Jang in a comment to Phillips's Facebook post about the event: "Steve, you and I were one of the few I know that share how the Jesse Jackson Rainbow Coalition had an impact on the election of President Obama."

In his New York Times best-seller "Brown is the New White" (endorsed by Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi), Phillips argues that Jackson's Rainbow Coalition strategy set the stage for Obama and is the road to permanent Democratic Party control of the United States:

"Before Obama went to law school ... a forty-two-year-old Black civil rights leader shook up the political system by running for president of the United States of America. To get from Martin in 1968 to Barack in 2008, we needed Jesse in 1984 and 1988.

"It was during the presidential elections of the 1980s that the seeds planted in the 1960s began to sprout and become visible in national politics. Jackson was fond of saying, 'When the old minorities come together, they form a new majority.' The potential of this prophecy came into sharp focus in the 1988 campaign as Jackson won the presidential primaries in eleven states, led the race for the Democratic nomination near the halfway point, and finished as the Democratic runner-up with the most votes in history up to that time.

"The key to Jackson's success–and Obama's electoral victories twenty years later–was the power of connecting the energy of people of color and progressive Whites seeking justice, equality, and social change to a political campaign for elected office."

A New American Majority

According to Phillips, the left already has a majority in this country. By his calculations, 23 percent of potential voters are what he terms "progressives of color" and 28 percent are white "progressives"–reliable locked-in Democratic voters. So, 23 percent plus 28 percent is 51 percent: the "New American Majority."

Phillips's message to the Democrats is clear. Stop wasting billions on "swing voters." Put that money into massive voter registration drives and Get Out the Vote efforts in Southern and Southwestern states. These states all have large minority populations that lean Democratic but vote in very low numbers. Get them registered and to the polls. Inspire them with "progressive candidates of color." Do this and you will destroy the Republican's Southern stronghold. Do that, and you rule the United States forever.

Through his organizations PowerPAC-plus, Democracy in Color, and the Sandler Phillips Foundation, Phillips and his Democracy Alliance comrades support a Southern network of voter registration organizations that have already seriously challenged Republican dominance in several states.

For several years, the Phillips-aligned New Virginia Majority has almost turned a once reliably Republican state blue through mass minority-voter registration. The organization is led by Jon Liss–a cadre with the pro-China Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO)–and uses sophisticated precinct maps generated out of the Geography Department of Wuhan University China to micro-target new Democratic voters.

In 2017, Phillips and Sandler put several million dollars into voter registration in Alabama to help Democrat Doug Jones beat scandal-damaged Republican Roy Moore in that year's U.S. Senate race.

In Florida in 2018, Phillips, Soros, and Tom Steyer of the Democracy Alliance put several million dollars behind Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum's race for the state governorship. Gillum, a longtime Phillips protege and former PowerPAC-plus board member, was also aided by the FRSO-led New Florida Majority, which helped him raise the Democratic vote by 40 percent–almost all new minority voters. Gillum lost by a tiny margin.

In Georgia, another Phillips protégé, Stacey Abrams, came within a whisker of winning the Georgia governorship with at least $10 million of Sandler and Democracy Alliance money and mass minority-voter registration drives.

In Texas, Beto O'Rourke came within 3 percentage points of beating Ted Cruz in the 2018 U.S. Senate race. Two Phillips-aligned and Democracy Alliance funded groups, Battleground Texas and Texas Organizing Project (formerly Texas ACORN), signed up hundreds of thousands of new minority Democrats from the poorer neighborhoods of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin.

> Expect to see Kamala Harris steadily rise to the top of the Democratic Party rankings.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) waves to guests after being interviewed by Rev. Jesse Jackson at Operation Rainbow Push in Chicago on March 12, 2016.

A Winning Coalition

Phillips and at least some factions of the Democracy Alliance and Democratic Party want to run the 2020 election along Rainbow Coalition lines. They want to ignore the "center" and focus entirely on building a winning coalition of "progressive" whites and "people of color."

Is Bernie Sanders the ideal candidate to motivate and mobilize millions of new mainly young "progressives of color"? How about Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden, or Pete Buttigieg?

Phillips doesn't seem to think so. He's had two horses in this race for some time.

At Stanford University, Phillips was very close to a young black football player–a radical, but not the most extreme on campus. Phillips nurtured this man's career. In 2013, PowerPac-plus committed between $1 million and $2 million to make Cory Booker the U.S. senator from New Jersey.

Phillips had high hopes for Booker in 2020, but so far things have not panned out. Perhaps, Attorney General Booker under the next Democratic president?

Maya Harris was a young student radical at Stanford in the early 1990s. The daughter of openly Marxist Stanford professor Donald Harris, she was close to many activists in Phillips's circle.

Maya Harris would go on to become a senior fellow at the Sandler-funded Center for American Progress. Phillips also helped Maya Harris's husband, Tony West (another Stanford alumni), get hired at the Obama Justice Department.

According to PowerPAC-plus: "We set up a D.C. office and worked closely with the administration's personnel staff to build a Diversity Talent Bank that the White House used to identify and hire more than 60 people, including Associate Attorney General Tony West."

Just before the 2016 election, Phillips said that Maya Harris would be a "social justice ally" in the Hillary Clinton White House.

After a stint in the leadership of Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, Maya Harris is now at the helm of her sister Kamala Harris's presidential effort.

Kamala Harris and the Phillips-Sandler family go way back.

From a PowerPAC-plus post on Political Intelligence:

"Once named the 'female Barack Obama,' Kamala ran for Attorney General of California in 2010 on a progressive platform. ...

"PowerPAC.org and PowerPAC+ have been Kamala supporters since 2010. In our efforts to support Kamala, PowerPAC.org produced a political ad outlining Kamala's promise to protect the most vulnerable working-class neighborhoods by holding California polluters accountable to their environmental crimes."

This short bio of Susan Sandler from the Sandler Phillips Center ties together several threads:

"Susan Sandler is a philanthropist and political donor. She was the first and largest donor behind the independent efforts to support Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. She was also the lead investor in the independent activities supporting Kamala Harris' 2010 campaign for California Attorney General and Cory Booker's 2013 election to the United States Senate. She has served as a board member of several progressive non-profit organizations including the Democracy Alliance."

When Kamala Harris announced her 2016 U.S. Senate bid, Aimee Allison, another former Stanford radical and Phillips's deputy at PowerPAC-plus and Democracy in Color, wrote:

"This Tuesday, California Attorney General Kamala Harris announced her U.S. Senate bid to replace Senator Barbara Boxer, who is retiring next year. We are thrilled at the opportunity to support a progressive that represents California and the nation.

"The PowerPAC+ family has supported Kamala Harris since before she ran for statewide office in 2010, and her record in leadership has been stellar. She took on banks responsible for the mortgage crisis, she stood up for marriage equality and she supported criminal justice reform. She is the right leader for the multiracial majority."

That's the key sentence. Kamala Harris is the "right leader for the multiracial majority."

The Phillips, Sandler, and Democracy Alliance helped to give us President Obama, Sen. Cory Booker, and Sen. Kamala Harris.

They've helped move several Southern and Southwestern states from deep red to purple or leaning blue.

Expect to see Kamala Harris steadily rise to the top of the Democratic Party rankings. Look to see much of Bernie Sanders's support base eventually fold into the Harris machine. Watch as the Hillary Clinton machine and money also gets behind Harris.

I predict that the Democrats will fight the 2020 election on an identity politics Rainbow Coalition platform–they will try to forge a "multi-racial majority" or a "New American Majority" that can never be beaten.

If they win, the United States as we now know it will likely be over.

I've wagered many steak dinners that Kamala Harris will be the new "Rainbow Coalition" candidate.

I hope I'm wrong, but I'm looking forward to trying the high protein diet that everybody's talking about.

Trevor Loudon is an author, filmmaker, and public speaker from New Zealand. For more than 30 years, he has researched radical left, Marxist, and terrorist movements and their covert influence on mainstream politics.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

The Threat of Communism: Then and Now

ALEXEY SAZONOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Soviet-era dissident Vladimir Bukovsky speaks at an opposition meeting in Moscow, in this file photo. Bukovsky is a harsh critic of both communist leaders and Western elites who foster socialism.

J.R. NYQUIST

Commentary

One of the most famous enemies of Soviet communism is Vladimir Bukovsky. He was tortured by Soviet authorities and spent many years in Soviet prisons. He was even declared "insane" and sent to a psychiatric prison. When Bukovsky was exiled to the West, people paid lip service to his courage; but few heeded his warnings about Gorbachev's Perestroika.

Bukovsky reminded everyone that all Soviet leaders were liars. Gorbachev, he said, was no exception—and was certainly no democrat. Like Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev, Gorbachev was a liar and a hangman. But hardly anyone listened. Everyone wanted to believe the Cold War was over.

But how could we have won the Cold War? This was the inconvenient question Bukovsky asked. Random House senior editor Jason Epstein rejected Bukovsky's question altogether. And so, Bukovsky's book on the equivocal "fall of communism" was not published in English—until now.

The book's title is "Judgment in Moscow." It was published in French and German editions two decades ago, and it has stood the test of time. I interviewed Bukovsky on Dec. 22, 2018, by telephone, asking how the French and German editions of the book were received all those years ago.

Communism Everywhere

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY: "There were some complimentary reviews in France, but few really paid it much attention. In Germany the reception was even more subdued."

J.R. NYQUIST: "And how will Bukovsky's tale of Western complicity in communist crimes, and Western obliviousness—and the bungled 'end of the Cold War'—be received in the English-speaking world?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "It is a lonely struggle I have conducted since the age of 16. And the struggle will continue to be lonely. The real problem is the elite in the West, the forces of 'peace and progress.' The Western elite is socialist. They were never serious about fighting Soviet power."

MR. NYQUIST: "And what about the conservatives? Weren't they serious about opposing communism?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "They wouldn't realize the truth. There was a mistaken idea behind them. Most of the conservatives believed it was not so bad in the West. The first to notice was Solzhenitsyn. He said communism is in front of everyone, yet no one understands what it is."

MR. NYQUIST: "If they did not understand communism, couldn't you have explained it to them?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Unfortunately there is no short way of doing it and, because the subject is complicated, people quickly lose interest. It bores them. They are lazy and prefer superficial answers."

MR. NYQUIST: "So the West never understood communism. Or perhaps they came to think that anti-communism was crazy."

MR. BUKOVSKY: "No, it's a question of losing the audience. People are lazy. They prefer superficial assessments. It is impossible for them to go deep. When you talk about communism, their eyes glaze over. They become bored."

MR. NYQUIST: "Could that be true?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Yes, I have delivered many lectures on the subject. People get up in the middle and leave. The concepts are too difficult for them. They want it to be easy."

MR. NYQUIST: "What is the hope for the future?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "There will be more suffering, more ruined lives."

MR. NYQUIST: "Are the communists in Russia putting the Soviet Union back together?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Yes, they are naive enough to think they can do this. But they will never succeed."

Hope in Ukraine?

MR. NYQUIST: "What about the orange revolution in Ukraine? Surely there is hope in Ukraine."

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Ukraine is on a razor's edge. The whole thing hangs in the balance. It could go either way."

MR. NYQUIST: "What about Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Poroshenko is just another apparatchik. He is typical. The problem in Ukraine, like in Russia—we don't have any leaders. It is the same old story, same old biographies. Their thinking is not that different from the Soviet past."

MR. NYQUIST: "We have a similar problem in the West."

MR. BUKOVSKY: "At the moment, you're right. The absence of leadership is frightening. Our so-called elites became rotten. In the past, in history, the elites would be periodically wiped out in revolutions. In our time, it does not happen. We are too civilized."

MR. NYQUIST: "Yet, could the ideal of freedom spread from Ukraine into Russia?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Yes, but not yet. Ukrainian nationalism arose from serious Russian mistakes. Moscow made tremendous blunders in Ukraine."

MR. NYQUIST: "Could these blunders be corrected after Putin leaves office?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "No, they cannot fix it. The Kremlin insulted the Ukrainians as junior brothers. 'You are too little to decide for yourself,' they said. 'Moscow has to decide for you.' This was the reason for the rise of Ukrainian nationalism."

MR. NYQUIST: "So the Kremlin made a big mistake?"

MR. BUKOVSKY: "Yes, they have a real problem. But so does the West."

People are lazy. They prefer superficial assessments. It is impossible for them to go deep. When you talk about communism their eyes glaze over. They become bored.

Rotten Elites

The problem, then, is not East versus West. The problem is that the elites in nearly every country have become rotten and socialist. As Bukovsky wrote in his book, "Even the ageless James Bond does not fight the KGB, but is most frequently in an alliance with the KGB, against some mythical super-corporation headed, as a rule, by a lunatic capitalist."

Bukovsky's book, "Judgment in Moscow," will be released in English in May. What does he say happened toward the supposed end of the Cold War? Bukovsky wrote, "This was a full debacle, a total surrender of its positions by the West at the most critical moment of our history."

The West rushed in to support the "hangman, Gorbachev." And despite all that help, when the Soviet Union "fell," the hangmen in their thousands were not made accountable. There was no trial of communism as a system, no "judgment in Moscow" as there had been a "judgment in Nuremberg."

Instead, a KGB general like Oleg Kalugin, who bragged about his murders, retired to live in the West. If there is no statute of limitations on murder, how can this happen? Bukovsky wrote that Glasnost and Perestroika were "diabolical inventions" that ratified what followed in its wake. "Out of hundreds of thousands of politicians, journalists and academics, only a tiny handful retained sufficient sobriety not to yield to temptation, and it was an even tinier one that had the courage to voice their doubts out loud."

Later in the book, Bukovsky characterized the American elite as "raised on lies and betrayal," damning them as the "natural ally of the USSR." And so it remains true as ever today.

Look at the resulting shift in the global balance of power decades later: Putin's regime links arms with the communist regime in China, with the communist regime in Cuba, with Nicaragua and South Africa, Vietnam and North Korea, Bukovsky's words come home. The communist bloc rises from the ashes, with new weapons, new technologies, and new economic clout. We believed the communist lies and invested our "peace dividend." Now we are threatened from within and from without.

"The whole thing hangs in the balance," said Bukovsky.

J.R. Nyquist is a columnist and the author of the books "Origins of the Fourth World War" and "The Fool and His Enemy," as well as co-author of "The New Tactics of Global War."

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