

The Delray Democrat

Disunity¹

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The Biden administration is calling for a return to unity and an end to the divisiveness that we have witnessed over the last four years. He is appealing for bipartisanship. The appeal runs counter to the interests and desires of powerful elements and individuals within the United States. To understand why the nation is so disunited we have to identify those who benefit from the division and will endeavor to maintain it.

The richest one percent of the American people owned nine percent of the nation's wealth in the 1970s. Today the richest one percent own forty percent of the nation's wealth. The richest ten percent own eighty percent of the nation's wealth. Over the past forty years working class incomes have declined twenty five percent in actual buying power. The disparity continues to grow. It seems unlikely that the one percent could convince the ninety-nine percent that they deserve receiving forty percent of the nation's wealth. It seems unlikely that the one percent could convince the ninety nine percent that they are inherently superior, work harder, or are more intelligent. The ninety nine percent might come to the conclusion that the rich acquired their wealth by rigging the system in their favor. They might conclude that the one percent have used a position as a gate keeper to divert wealth to them and did not get the wealth by hard work. They did not get the wealth fairly.

It is in the interest of the one percent that the ninety nine percent never form a united front demanding an end to the growing disparity of wealth. It is in the interest of the one percent that the ninety nine percent be divided against itself. The richest one percent use their wealth to play on the people's fears, hates, racism, ethnic prejudices, religious hates, and sexual hates. It is in their interest to invent conspiracy theories that turn people against each other and distract them from the issue of disparity. The rich use their so-called think tanks, PACs, and campaign contributions, to sow disunity. They endeavor to divide and conquer. Disunity is good for business. The strategy is particularly effective in the American multi-ethnic multi- cultural society with all of its inherent divisions.

To manipulate the divisions within the ninety nine percent the one percent needs a means of communication. The far-right media serves that purpose. The far-right media, particularly Fox media, was embraced by the one percent and in some ways created by it. The far-right media doesn't consist of news organizations because they make no effort to tell the truth. They do not deal in facts but propaganda. They lie to incite the hates, fears, prejudices, and particularly the racism of their listeners. They attempt to deflect the ninety nine percent from seeing the strategies of the one percent and turn the ninety-nine percent against each other and towards imagined nonexistent enemies. They create an echo chamber that upwards of a third of the American people

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live in dividing the ninety nine percent against itself.

By appealing to people's worst emotions, the far right media get progressively higher ratings and therefore makes more money from advertisers. Disunity is good for business.

The far-right media could not exist without the support of the one percent. The one percent sustains the ministry of lies through advertising and direct contributions.

To turn the political manipulation into action or inaction the one percent needs a political party and that party is the Republican Party. The Republican Party is the natural conduit of a divisive ideology since it was already leaning in that direction.

The Republican Party for generations has been moving towards an extremely conservative - libertarian ideology which is not supported by the majority of Americans. The ideology demonizes government alleging government is the problem not the solution. Government is the negation of liberty and should be made much smaller than it is now. Ideally the size and function of government should be what it was in the 19th century reflecting the will of the founding fathers.

The problem that the Republican Party has is that this is against the wishes of the American People. If you ask the Average American do you want less government and less taxes they will agree. On the other hand if you go one step further and ask whether in order to make government small we should abolish Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security (fifty percent of federal spending) they will say no. If you ask the average American whether we should abolish the military establishment (fifteen percent of federal spending) they would say no. If you ask the average American whether we should abolish Pell Grants and the student loan programs they will say no. The program that the Republican party would like to carry out has no popular support. The party therefore has to appeal to people's hates, fears, and racism to get their votes. By appealing to people's worst emotions the party can win elections even though its basic program does not have majoritarian support. Disunity is good for their business as well.

The Republican Party is therefore a natural conduit for the one percent's agenda. The Party always was pro business. It was already bought and paid for by corporate America. All that was needed was a little more money and a little more push to move more to the right.

These are the forces in American society which have a vested interest in disunity. They have good economic reasons not to respond to President's Biden's call for unity. They are created and sustained by an echo chamber that turns Americans against each other for their own profit.