

The Domestic Enemy

2019 0916

Thomas R. Cuba

In 1973, I took an oath to our nation. The oath contained the promise to “...*defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.*” Within that oath, the same promise was made to the people of the nation, my children, and my grandchildren. In my experience, I find that most people overlook the last word in that sentence: domestic. Many people limit their understanding of the oath to the military defense of the nation from the armies, navies, and air forces of other nations. And yet, history teaches us that great nations fall from within. The domestic enemy is, by far, the more dangerous of the two mentioned in the oath.

The domestic enemy is not a person. It is not an organization. It is not a political party. It is not a political philosophy, nor a different form of government. Some of those listed may be the result of the domestic enemy, but to defeat the threat to America, the enemy within must be identified and conquered. Unfortunately, the enemy is not but one; it is an army of combatants destined to destroy America unless we, the People, defeat them.

The enemies wear no uniforms, but they can still be identified.

First among these is *The Collapse of Accountability*. Accountability is almost a thing of the past. In the upper echelons of power, the residents are unable to hold their peers accountable for their indiscretions, lest they be subjected to the same standard. In many cases, accountability is being replaced with a false accountability being used as a tool to discredit opponents. The people, having fallen to the enemies of a less than adequate education regarding government and a hatred of politics, are ill equipped to hold anyone accountable.

The Collapse of Education:

The education system is inadequate. Too many of our children are not prepared for life as an adult and have no foundation in the logic of our history as a nation, making it less likely that they too will be able to take the oath and understand its meaning.

The Collapse of Individual Honor:

Too many of us can no longer define individual honor, much less live up to the standards of conduct that it sets.

The Collapse of the value of the vote:

This is the commando among the enemies. It hides behind frail excuses and is disguised as early voting and discretionary absentee voting. In the end, it becomes the disregard for the honor of voting, as a nation, and on a day set aside solely so that we may exercise that honor. It hides beneath the camouflage of relatively trivial activities such as school or work or convenience. There is no greater honor than to come together as a community at a set time and place and determine who will guide the nation or the city during the following term of office. That honor is becoming subservient to personal convenience.

The Collapse of Sense of Duty:

Being born into a community such as America, its states, counties, and cities, carries with it the duty to assure that it survives so that our children may experience the same benefits of liberty that we do.

The Collapse of Engagement:

A large part of the duty mentioned above is to become engaged with the government. That government cannot be a government *By the People* if the people allow their hatred of politics to drive them into submission to the politics of others.

The Collapse of Morals and Standards of Conduct:

Expectations of what is proper behavior have been changing such that few standards of proper behavior remain.

The Collapse of Individual Responsibility:

Superficially similar to the Collapse of Accountability, Individual Responsibility arises from individual accountability.

The Collapse of Respect:

On the street, in social media, and most prevalent, in campaigns, simple respect for the opinions of others has diminished to the point of being a fading memory. Logic has fallen to derision as the main tool of the debate.

The Collapse of The Constitution:

The first casualty of the attack from the domestic enemy is the constitution itself. Bearing in mind that a casualty includes the wounded, our Constitution is wounded, but not dead. The wounds come in many forms, from erroneous judgements to laws

passed and upheld by courts without respect to the limitations of either the Constitution or the Philosophy of Freedom upon which it, and America, was built.

The Collapse of Liberty:

The final threat is the collapse of liberty and freedom itself. Despite the assurances of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, our freedoms and liberties are becoming more and more limited.

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This paper is not the time or place to present examples of specific actions or weapons that these enemies of America have employed. Herein we only identify the threats. Those listed above represent the losses to the American culture that we are suffering. The list below enumerates the insurgent elements which would replace America with chaos and eventual destruction.

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The Rise of Aggregated Power:

Contrary to the fabric of the Constitution, that of an America structured so that no one person or group of people can amass enough power to be immune to the wishes of the people, the aggregation of power has been a creeping shift in America for more than a hundred years. The effects are now quite evident as the few clusters of oligarchy continue to merge into what will eventually become a dictatorship, whether it be a dictatorship of one or of a few, it is inevitable if not reversed.

The Rise of Expediency over Constitution:

Many of the wounds to the Constitution have arisen from the placement of expediency or convenience over the limitations of that document. The evidence can be made no more clear than by quoting a recent proponent of a bill under consideration in the House of Representatives: "This may not be constitutional, but it's the right thing to do."

The Rise of Self-Interest:

Exchanging a standard of what is good for America for what is good for the legislator, the lobbyist, the party, and the donor as the driving force for legislation has become almost universal in our elected representatives. The same can be said of many of those casting electoral votes: those who demand that the government solve their individual problems, eschewing personal responsibility.

The Rise of Federal Police Forces; FBI, DEA, ICE, ATF, TSA:

The greatest aggregation of power that is possible is to create a national force capable of arresting and incarcerating the population. The Founders dispersed this power, even to the extent that a standing army was deemed a threat to individual freedom and prohibited by the Constitution. Through the years, the listed national law enforcement agencies were created to address isolated concerns, and then merged into the Department of Homeland Security creating a standing army of law enforcement officers.

The Rise of Disinformation

Along with the Collapse of Education, is the rise of false and misleading information about candidates, conditions, threats, and solutions. The chaos rampant in the formal media and the social media only serves as proof that "*A well-instructed people alone can be a permanently free people*" -- James Madison

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