WHAT IS CONSERVATISM AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH IT?

BY PHILIP E. AGRE, AUGUST 2004

NOTES

Q: What is conservatism?

A: Conservatism is the domination of society by an aristocracy (oligarchy).

It is the direct opposite of democracy.

Q: What is wrong with conservatism?

A: Conservatism is incompatible with democracy, prosperity, and civilization

in general. It is a destructive system of inequality and prejudice

that is founded on deception and has no place in the modern world.

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“Conservatives have been using the word "government" in a way that does not distinguish between legitimate democracy and totalitarianism.”

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“the emotional heart of conservatism: the notion that the conservative order is ordained by God and that anyone and anything that opposes the conservative order is infinitely evil.”

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“What most people know nowadays as conservatism is basically a public relations campaign aimed at persuading them to lay down their capacity for rational thought.”

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“Simply put, knowledge is best produced in a liberal culture. This is why the most prosperous and innovative regions of the United States are also the most politically liberal, and why the most conservative regions of the country are also the greatest beneficiaries of transfer payments. Liberals create wealth and government redistributes it to conservatives.”

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“The Wall Street Journal's opinion page is the most important conservative publication, and it is often described as a bulletin board for the conservatism. A better metaphor, however, would be a war room.”

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“The purpose of reason is not to petition the authorities but to help other citizens to cut through the darkness of conservative deception.”

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“in order to fight off democratic values, conservatism must simulate reason, and pretend that conservative deception is itself reason when it is not.”

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(Note: These last 3 quotes were written 12 years before Trump’s election)

“A main goal in life of all aristocrats, however, is to pass on their positions of privilege to their children, and many of the aspiring aristocrats of the United States are appointing their children to positions in government ....”

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“The democratic culture that Americans have built is truly one of the monuments of civilization. And American culture remains vibrant to this day despite centuries of conservative attack.”

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“Conservatism is almost gone.”

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That last quote proves that the author didn’t see Trump coming;

but then again ... who did?