

MEMO FROM THE MAYOR

SUBJECT: Are We Czechoslovakia? Part 1

At a Glance:

- “Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” British War-time Prime Minister and statesman, Sir Winston Churchill
- “History never repeats itself, but it does rhyme.” Mark Twain
- What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

Is It Time for A National Divorce?

Commentator Tom Woods, recently writing on the Lew Rockwell blogsite, suggested it's time for a divorce among the American people inhabiting “completely different moral universes from their neighbors.” Frankly, Tom is annoyed by Leftists who lecture about how Bible-believing, Constitution-loving American shouldn't impose their morality on them; yet, they think nothing of imposing their views on children while demonizing half of America, namely those accused of imposing a biblical, constitutionally-based morality on them.

Making things worse, the propagandist-legacy media happily feeds our frustration with each another, or, as Woods puts it, “[happily fans] the flames of social conflict.” Woods observes that as a nation, we continue on as though things will get better, noting “any fool can see things are only going to get worse.” Indeed, Woods draws on the authority of no less an apothecic Founder than Thomas Jefferson.

Following our Civil War, Americans have been taught to believe that our country must prevail at all costs—if for no other reason than the bloodiest war this country ever fought was fought for that very purpose: preservation of the Union. But, as Woods asks in his piece, what if there is no “union”? More to the point, what happens when the differences causing the currently unbreachable chasm among the population are irreconcilable? Woods' answer is as simple as it is profound. He reads Jefferson as holding that our Union (e.g., the Republic) is merely the *means* to an end—it is not the end itself. If the Union does not promote liberty, Woods proclaims, it should be discarded and we should put a new experiment into play. Is that really Jeffersonian? If

we can believe what the Sage of Monticello said in the Declaration of Independence, the answer is an emphatic, yes!

Our Insurrectionist Founders Were Keen Students of Human Nature and History

As Thomas Jefferson proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence: “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

From this Declaration, we learn a couple of things. First, our Founders determined it was necessary to separate from “Mother England”, in other words, get a divorce. In doing so, they viewed the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God as entitling the new nation they created by their unilateral action, to a separate and equal station in the eyes of the world, provided, of course, the new nation met a correct metric when it declared the cause of “divorce” in the first instance, common decency being considered.

Notice how our Founders continue to say more about their worldview: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

Carefully consider Jefferson’s words. First, governments derive their “just” powers from the consent of the governed. To what end? To secure the God-given rights of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Second, whenever any government becomes destructive to such ends, e.g., it becomes “unjust”, the people—the very people from whom “just” powers emanate—these same people have the right to alter or abolish such government and create a new “means” (government) deemed most likely to deliver “Safety and Happiness”.

Some Recent Divorces

Too many married couples divorce these days because marriage is “too hard” otherwise. Nothing exists to keep them together—no common vision, no common beliefs, no common love.

Similarly, Czechoslovakia divorced in 1993, becoming the independent states of the Czech Republic and Slovakia after almost 75-years together. Britain left the European Union in 2020. Scotland tried divorcing the UK, but Edinburgh and Aberdeen saved the Queen by their votes. Were they seeking their own utopias in these divorces or attempt?

Power-hungry politicians often promise utopias. Ironically, “utopia” was coined by Sir Thomas More from the Greek *ou-topos* meaning “no place” or “nowhere”; hence, an imaginary world. I’m reminded of the Beatles hit Nowhere Man when I hear the term utopia. “He's a real nowhere man, sitting in his nowhere land, making all his nowhere plans for nobody.”

Utopian promises most often combine propaganda, power grabs and now, with the assistance of Big Tech Brown Shirts, cancellation of dissident voices. Sound familiar? So, is it time for the United States to consider a national divorce? And if so, what might that look like? We’ll explore that topic next month.