

In his 1835 book *Democracy in America*, the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville imagined a future America in which our voluntary associations had died:

“I see an innumerable crowd of like and equal men.... Each of them, withdrawn and apart, is like a stranger to the destiny of all the others; his children and his particular friends form the whole human species for him; as for dwelling with his fellow citizens, he is beside them, but he does not see them; he touches them and does not feel them; he exists only in himself and for himself alone....

“Above these an immense tutelary power is elevated, which alone takes charge of assuring their enjoyments and watching over their fate. It is absolute, detailed, regular, far-seeing, and mild.

“It would resemble paternal power if, like that, it had for its object to prepare men for manhood; but on the contrary, it seeks only to keep them fixed irrevocably in childhood....

“Thus...the sovereign extends its arms over society as a whole; it covers its surface with a network of small, complicated, painstaking, uniform rules through which the most original minds and the most vigorous souls cannot clear a way to surpass the crowd;

“It does not break wills, but it softens them, bends them, and directs them; it rarely forces one to act, but it constantly opposes itself to one’s acting; it does not destroy, it prevents things from being born; it does not tyrannize, it hinders, compromises, enervates, extinguishes, dazes, and finally reduces each nation to being nothing more than a herd of timid and industrious animals of which government is the shepherd.”[1]

Introduction

by Craig R. Smith

I came to see the end of the world!”

– German tourist
in today’s Detroit [2]

Two dreams could be dying in the bankrupt city of Detroit, Michigan, and in the rest of America and the Western world.

One is an American dream of freedom that this Motor City in its heyday put on wheels and decked out in chrome, a dream that inspired the world.

The other is the collectivist dream variously known as liberalism, socialism or Progressivism. Leftists expected that their dominance in Detroit would demonstrate to the world collectivism’s success. Instead, Detroit has become a scientific test proving that Progressivism’s utopian ideas produce terrible results and are unworkable. In the end there can be only one.

Either we successfully reboot the original operating system of individual freedom, free enterprise and small government that America’s Framers built into the U.S. Constitution, or the Progressives will by manipulation and force continue to impose their failed collectivist ideas on humankind’s future.

More than 100 years ago, these collectivist ideas began to dominate Western civilization. In 1913 they took control of the United States Government and began a “fundamental transformation” of our economy, politics, culture and beliefs that continues today.

Progressives believed that government could, and should, re-make not only the world but also the very nature and society of human beings.

They aimed to replace Capitalism, private property, “selfish” individualism and God with a human-made Eden, a utopian humanist society where an all-powerful State would equally redistribute the world’s wealth and power to the working class.

Detroit became the embodied symbol of this Leftist utopian dream in the United States. Through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, labor unions seized control of Detroit's industry, and later its politics, supposedly putting the workers in the driver's seat of history.

For a brief moment following World War II, when factories in most of the world's other industrial nations lay in ruins, Detroit workers had the highest per capita income and rate of home ownership in America – and perhaps in the world.

More than three of every 10 civilian American workers during that moment were members of labor unions. The model for this was the command economy of the war, Detroit as the Arsenal of Democracy. A Cold War with the Soviet Union kept alive the spirit of unity and sacrifice Americans felt in facing a common foe.

Six decades later, much has changed.

Detroit's wheels fell off, and this Workers' Paradise of organized labor and ever-bigger government is now bankrupt and in ruins....a disaster largely caused by the same entitlement state socialist economics Progressives today keep trying to impose on the rest of America.

The Soviet Union was brought down by its internal contradictions and the failures of its own socialist economics. The Cold War is now in history's rear view mirror.

One scholar has argued that history "ended" with the permanent triumph of Western liberal democracy and free enterprise – basically capitalism with a Welfare State attached...yet which today seems to be mutating into a Welfare State with an increasingly-overtaxed Capitalist economy attached. [3]

In American private industry, scarcely more than 6 percent of blue collar workers are now union members, but more than 30 percent of white collar government workers now belong to unions.

Yet today, when public employees are given a chance to leave without penalty, a third or more are quitting unions in the very centers of the Progressive movement such as Wisconsin. Even here, a Great Withdrawal from the Left is underway.

It is no wonder that Progressive politicians are almost desperate to cut off the paths of escape for the people they tax, fleece and control.

At their peak during the 20th Century, the various akin collectivist movements – Communism, Naziism (a contraction of the German words for National Socialism), fascism, Marxism, Maoism, Fidelismo, Chavismo, socialism, the Third Way, liberal welfare statism, European Social Democracy or Progressivism – became, for millions of people, pseudo-religious cult substitutes for their lost Judeo-Christian faith.

All are now recognized by their de-hypnotized former acolytes as false gods that failed, as dead ends on the washed out road to a mirage that once looked like utopia.

The Progressive collectivist vision today is dying, and its death will cause huge changes in our world.

Today, rival groups – from Islamist terrorists to leftist ideologues – are fighting to take control of humankind's future through a power struggle whose outcome could bring either a new Dark Age or a new Golden Age.

Listen carefully and you can hear the collectivist cults' long, withdrawing roar as their high tide ebbs and people around the world lose faith in them.

The various collectivisms may still pose a military, political or economic threat as their power wanes – but fewer and fewer people take the Left seriously as an ideology anymore. History has thoroughly discredited the Left as both a moral and practical failure.

“By year 2050 there will be only two True Believer Marxists left on planet Earth,” said international economist Sir Peter Bauer, “and they will be two nuns in Brazil.”

The trouble is, many have likewise lost faith in the values that once made the West great – Judeo-Christian values and belief, free enterprise and the individual rights of the Enlightenment.

A century of collectivist dominance failed to create utopia – but the Great Debasement it created has undermined our moral foundations, work ethic, science, self-confidence, economy and the U.S. Dollar.

A century of Progressivism has done to the United States what British opium in the 1800s did to China – turn millions of citizens into addicts. Millions of Americans have become hooked, dependent on the entitlement state and on paper money conjured out of thin air.

America has lived for most of a century in a false economy, a hallucination conjured by this easy-money drug that gave Progressives a way to rule the United States as their own version of Aldous Huxley's Brave New World.

Brain scientists are now beginning to understand just how such mind manipulation works, and how powerfully it bypasses the rational mind to turn us into, in Tocqueville's words, "a herd of timid and industrious animals of which government is the shepherd."

We now must face the Great Withdrawal from the addiction of Progressivism and the illusory world and economy it has conjured. Detoxing from its poison could be as painful and difficult as quitting heroin cold turkey.

In the process, we will discover just how much Progressivism has warped our brains, distorted our sense of reality and impaired our rational thought and moral fiber.

The lesson Detroit teaches is that we should never depend on government alone for our healthcare, our retirement, our well-being or our safety. Detroit shows that you and your family should instead secure resources in the hands of someone you can always depend on – you.

This book in your hands is such a resource – a guide to show you and your family ways to recognize reality, survive, thrive and help restore America and its honest values amid the turbulence now descending.

We recommend that you buckle up before turning the page.

Craig R. Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CRS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.