

OPINION & EDITORIALS



The CENTRAL NEWSPAPER

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When "Hate" Becomes a Form of Imperialism

By Collin May

For more than a decade, Western political discourse has been dominated by a single all-purpose accusation: hate. Those who question prevailing orthodoxies on identity, gender, nationhood or merit are not merely wrong; they are hateful. This reflexive charge has become one of the most powerful weapons in our public life.

The irony is stark. The same woke leaders, activists and bureaucrats who sermonize endlessly about inclusion and empathy devote extraordinary energy to uncovering and condemning hatred. But they often define it so broadly that patriotism, religious conviction, merit, scientific rigour and even equality itself – things that for centuries nearly everyone thought of as good – are swept into the net. In this environment, equality has been displaced by amorphous "equity", objectivity by "lived experience", and debate by denunciation.

We are told there is "no room for hate." Yet increasingly there is no room for disagreement either.

Even the late Pope Francis – hardly a culture warrior of the right – warned in a 2022 address to diplomats that a "divisive" mindset had taken hold in public institutions, driven by a movement that rejects "the natural foundations of humanity" and amounts to a form of "ideological colonization". The Roman Catholic pontiff explicitly linked this to "cancel culture", a key tactic of a movement that "leaves no room for freedom of expression."

That phrase "leaves no room" is revealing. Cancellation does not argue; it excludes. It does not persuade; it silences. It does so in the name of diversity while enforcing a rigid uniformity of thought.

This impulse has deep roots. For centuries Western philosophy wrestled with the tension between universal truths and particular goals and passions. The Greek philosophers sought to balance competing visions of the good within the city-state. Medieval Christianity distinguished between spiritual and temporal authority – recall Jesus's famous dictum "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." This distinction, unknown in other religions, ultimately opened space for modern political rights and pluralism.

But even as these ideas were becoming embedded in the Western consciousness, modernity started to change this equilibrium. Beginning with Niccolò Machiavelli in 16th-century Florence, Italy, political thought shifted from contemplating what ought to be, to analyzing politics and power as they are. Conflict and domination moved to the centre of political theory. Taking their cue from Machiavelli, later thinkers from Marx to Nietzsche and their postmodern heirs recast history as a struggle between oppressor and oppressed.

This narrative hardened into dogma, bringing us today's progressive politics. It reduces all history to a narrative of oppression/ domination by the West; all dissent from this framework is evidence of moral failure. Perhaps worst of all, the primitive tribal idea of "identity" has been revived and repurposed to push aside the enlightened concept of individual equality.

Those who resist the new orthodoxy are labelled racist, transphobic or otherwise hateful. Hatred becomes not a moral category describing conduct, but an accusation deployed against disagreement.

The result is a paradox. While denouncing the old focus on "essentialism" and the past habits of imperialism, today's radical progressivism practises both. It advances an uncompromising theory of history and morality that admits no rival accounts. It seeks to impose this vision across institutions – universities, corporations, professional bodies and governments – through codes of conduct, speech restrictions and public shaming. In short, today's anti-colonial progressivism colonizes.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the growing obsession with "hate speech." The concept has expanded far beyond incitement to violence. It increasingly encompasses viewpoints that were, until yesterday, ordinary features of democratic debate. The cumulative effect is to chill speech and narrow permissible opinion. This ideological expansion is often accompanied by hostility toward the nation-state itself. Yet it was within the nation-state that liberal democracy developed, nurturing and balancing freedom, representation and the rule of law. Supranational institutions and global governance structures, by contrast, tend toward managerial rule insulated from democratic accountability. When paired with expansive "hate" doctrines, they risk transforming politics from persuasion into prosecution.

Canada has not been immune. Quite the opposite. From academics and professionals to school trustees and elected officials, individuals who question prevailing orthodoxies have faced investigation, sanction or social ostracism. One need not agree with every target to see the pattern: dissent is pathologized, disagreement becomes moral deviance.

None of this is to deny that real hatred exists. Violent bigotry and genuine malice remain evils. But when the term "hate" is inflated to encompass ordinary political disagreement, it loses moral clarity. Worse, it becomes a tool of coercion.

A healthy liberal democracy depends on something more demanding than compulsory affirmation of every identity claim. It depends on freedom of expression, on the ability to dispute prevailing theories, and on the humility to accept that no faction possesses a monopoly on virtue.

When "hate" becomes an ideology, deployed to silence rather than to protect, it corrodes the very pluralism it claims to defend. The defence of liberal democracy therefore requires not only vigilance against genuine hatred, but also resistance to the imperial temptation to label all dissent as such.

MARCH 2026
SATURDAY NITE & SUNDAY AFTERNOON
BANDS THIS MONTH AT *Shamrockin' it!*
Legion
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SAT. MAR. 7 7:30 - 11:30	DELANEY DRIVE	SUN. MAR. 8 1:30 - 4:30
SAT. MAR. 14 7:30 - 11:30	BACK ALLEY PROPHET	SUN. MAR. 15 1:30 - 4:30
SAT. MAR. 21 7:30 - 11:30	RADIAL'S	
SAT. MAR. 28 7:30 - 11:30	KICK BACK	SUN. MAR. 29 1:30 - 4:30 MIKE HAYES

Letters To The Editor:

WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND? Send letters to newspaper@ocentral.com

Dear Editor:

Hi Editors at Oshawa/Durham Central Newspaper, I hope you're doing well! I wanted to reach out because I am currently competing in Colossal's Mr. Health & Fitness competition, a nationwide campaign raising funds and awareness for childhood cancer research via The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation.

As a Fraud Analyst at Wealthsimple and a currently serving Naval Reservist of the Royal Canadian Navy (Sailor 3rd Class), I'm passionate about fitness, health and holistic living. Through this competition, I have the opportunity to spread how fitness has changed my life—both physically & mentally, and raise money to support childhood cancer research.

This experience has been incredibly meaningful because ever since I was a kid, I was always the 'fat kid'. Bullied constantly, always feeling like I wasn't good enough. Never being able to reach my potential. I was lazy, weak and unmotivated.

Fitness gave me an ideal to aspire to. Initially, it was just to lose weight, but with each workout, I began to see if I could push the limits. One more rep, one more set. Testing to see what my body was capable of, and it was capable of so much more than I thought. Fitness helped me to become more disciplined in my way of life and my line of thinking

If I win, it would mean more than a prize. It would be a platform to spread health and fitness in a way that helps more people build lasting habits, and it would bring meaningful visibility and support to childhood cancer research. I'd use the recognition to rally my community, amplify fundraising efforts, and turn this opportunity into real impact for kids and families.

I'd love the opportunity to share my journey and highlight Mr. Health & Fitness' impact with your audience. I believe this story would resonate because so many young people believe they can't change their past, that they're forever burdened with the mistakes that they've made.

My story is a reflection of what you can do if you choose to ignore all the negativity, all the bullsh-t that's keeping you from reaching your true potential, so you can soar even further than what you thought possible.

Would you be open to a quick chat, an interview, or even an on-air segment? I'm happy to provide more details, photo and video assets, and can also connect you with the competition organizers if you'd like additional insights.

Looking forward to your thoughts!
Sean James | Mr. Health & Fitness
Best, Sean James

Dear Editor:

Hi Joe. Isn't this just ducky ?? By the way The Region of Durham has a snitch line as well where people can anonymously report if they are offended. When I spoke up against it during Covid saying everyone should have a right to face their accuser , or there could be a vendetta I got quite the letter pretty much accusing me of being a racist because this snitch line was meant for the vulnerable minorities but that is NOT how the policy reads. It says anyone can snitch on anyone anonymously.

Walk through the Region. Go there to pay a bill Joe. People are miserable and it's sad. When we worked under Roger people were happy.

Dear Editor:

Shootings, stabbings and drug related crimes are rampant. It is not safe to walk our Oshawa streets. I hope people will remember this and vote out all these council people that have done nothing for us if anything make things worst.

Darryl Chrystafonous, Oshawa.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

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