

RETIREMENT PLANS THAT “CLEARLY” WORK FOR YOU.



Prizant Group

THAT DOG WON'T HUNT: That idea will not work; that is an inadequate explanation or proposition.





That Dog Won't Hunt

Old-fashioned: Primarily heard in US.

1. *That claim, argument, or explanation is inaccurate or unfounded.*

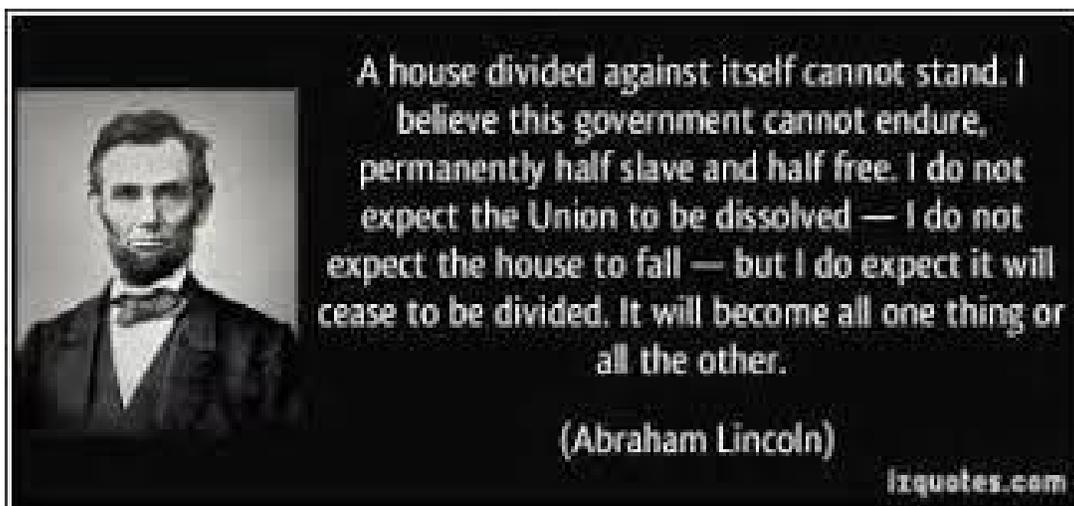
My opponent claims that my administration has hurt the economy, but you only have to glance at the statistics to know that dog won't hunt.

A: "Our company could have really been successful if you hadn't held us back like that!" B: "Come off it, Jack, that dog won't hunt. I've done all I could to make this company a success, and you know it."

2. *That idea or proposal is not viable or has no chance of succeeding; that won't work.*

A: "Why don't we try lowering the price?" B: "Nah, that dog won't hunt. We need something that grabs people's attention, not just a cheaper product."

Tom wants to sue them, but that dog won't hunt if you ask me. They've got enough money to hire the best legal team in the country.



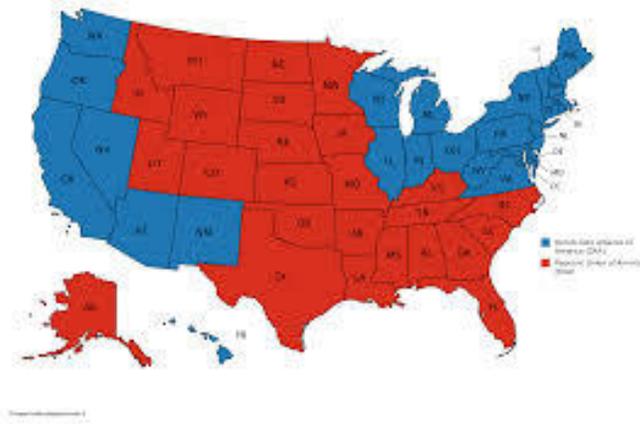
Gettysburg Speech

As I watch the 2020 Presidential election returns, one has to ponder if the extreme divisiveness in this country is curable? Unfortunately, I have heard the term "Civil War" used way too often in the past few years. As a proud holder of

a B.A. in History from the Northwestern University, I am well versed in the factors that led to the Southern Secession and I do not believe those are present today. Furthermore, who could even begin to consider such an action with the horrible toll that the Civil War took in casualties [Civil War Deaths](#), wounded, loss of property, economic collapse, and the moral psyche of America? The Founding Fathers did not expect such a conflict would erupt between the Northern/Southern colonies primarily over the institution of slavery. Lincoln's ultimate goal was always to "Save the Union" and he certainly did that!

[House Divided](#) Unfortunately, with the assassination of Lincoln, Reconstruction did not turn out as he had planned. [Reconstruction](#) It was supposed to be a way to "Heal the Nation," but really turned out to be an occupation of the Southern States by the Union Army and their "Carpetbaggers." [Carpetbagger](#) Besides the white Southern citizens travails, the newly freed slave population endured targeted killings, physical violence and continued humiliation. The "freedmen" had no money, little (if any) land ownership, few marketable skills, and a rudimentary education at best. It took another 100 years of Jim Crow laws, [Jim Crow](#) Plessy vs. Ferguson [Plessy](#), De facto Segregation [De Facto](#) Brown vs. Board of Education [Brown](#) for true legal equality with the Civil Rights Act Of 1964 [1964](#) and it can be rightly stated that racial discrimination for American Black population continues unabated until this day.





Though an actual "Civil War" is unlikely, there have been many who believe that these United States of America should no longer be considered one country. When you consider that California itself has the 5th Largest economy in the world, [California](#) the idea of a "Blue and Red" split is not so outrageous. Might "Two Americas" work better than one bitterly divided America? The author of the below article provides "food for thought" on this relevant topic.

All week I've been haunted by a brief few seconds of video posted on Twitter late Sunday night by a student journalist in Eugene, Oregon. Two men face off at a protest — the one standing on the left is demonstrating for Black Lives Matter; the one on the right, sitting in a pickup truck, is a counter-protester. Each is pointing a handgun at the other's face at point blank range. That's us. That's America during the long, hot summer of 2020.

I often catch myself pondering exactly what it is that keeps our country together. What do we hold in common? What do we share? The word "republic" comes from the Latin *res publica* — literally "public thing." What is the single "thing" that is our public, political self? What binds us? Our national motto is *E pluribus unum* — out of many, one. What is this "one"? Is it just the totality of the clashing, conflicted individuals and groups? Or is the collectivity something substantial in its own right that orders the parts and unites them?

I see so much anger around me — at the grocery store, while driving, on television, online. I feel so much of it myself: Rage that a congressman from Texas caught COVID-19 after discouraging his staff on Capitol Hill from wearing masks during the worst pandemic in a century. Rage that our reality-show-conman president would rather publicize absurd conspiracy theories, spread civic poison throughout the nation, and undermine confidence in our capacity to hold free and fair elections than fulfill the most elemental duties of his office. Rage that, although this president is down in the polls, two out of every five Americans continue to approve of how he's doing his job.

Who are these people? What do I share with them? Aristotle suggests that at its best, citizenship can be a form of friendship. But America is nowhere near its best right now. These people may be my fellow citizens, but they aren't my friends. Sometimes they feel like my enemies.

How has it come to this? The right feels like it's fighting for its very life against a left that's waging a scorched-earth campaign against it. As far as the right is concerned, progressives don't just want to win. They want to grind conservatives into the dust, humiliate them, force them to jump through public hoops, and confess their sins before the world. And the list of sins grows ever longer — on race, on religion, on sex, on gender. The goalposts always shift further. Each triumph for the left is followed by the opening of another front in a rolling cultural revolution. The right feels desperate — and understands every one of its own moves as an equal and opposite reaction to a prior offensive on the part of its political and cultural antagonists.

The left, meanwhile, views things exactly in reverse. The story of the country is one characterized by unjust domination by a narrow class of white, male, heterosexual, cisgendered oppressors, and then a slow, grinding fight toward greater liberty and equality for every identity. Yet instead of giving up its exclusive privileges and conceding the justice of continuing with progress toward ever-greater democracy, the right has mounted a counter-assault that aims to reverse the progress America has made, with the ultimate goal of propping up its remaining power and then actively narrowing the circle of citizenship in the hopes of turning back the clock to a time when white, heterosexual, cisgendered men were in charge of everything. That poses an existential threat to all that's worthwhile about the country and fully justifies uncompromising acts to thwart its realization.

There is more to each side of the story — with social, economic, regional, and class-based concerns intertwining with and amplifying each faction's list of grievances and providing ample material for endless rounds of self-justification and excuse-making. But the culture war is the motor driving it all, with high-octane fuel supplied by legions of cheerleading rabble-rousers and activists who enrich themselves, advance their careers, and derive spiritual satisfaction from revving up the outrage.

So what's the answer? Can a culture war be won decisively enough that the vanquished slink away, humbled and contrite in their defeat?

Or is the fight the point?

And if the fight is the point — as it increasingly seems to be — can the conflict

remain contained indefinitely?

Six months ago, I was largely persuaded by Ross Douthat's argument in his recent book *The Decadent Society*, according to which most of the animus and rancor of our political moment is a kind of pantomime enacted virtually. On Twitter and other social media platforms, on cable news, and on talk radio, Americans do battle with one another, fighting a digital civil war, like participants in a civic shooter-game. But in the real world, nothing much happens or changes, with most people too lethargic to rouse themselves from their couches and risk picking up a weapon. Instead, they blow off steam online, with our furious battles ending up as "sound and fury signifying relatively little."

As I said, this seemed right to me last winter. But now, with a pandemic raging, the economy in freefall, schools poised to remain closed into the fall, the worlds of business and media undergoing cultural convulsions, civil unrest roiling cities suddenly wracked by spikes of violent crime, and a president lobbing rhetorical incendiary bombs onto the pile of kindling every day of the week — well, now I'm not so sure.

So how does it play out? What if the next time opposing protesters point guns at each other's faces, one of them pulls the trigger? What if militias of the right and left step into the vacuum left by police officers no longer willing to keep the peace? What if our hapless president decides to repeat his Portland provocations elsewhere, sparking much greater violence? What if the election in November ends up being close enough that Trump can raise uncertainty about the results in half a dozen states, prompting 40 percent of the country to reject any outcome other than a Republican victory?

What then? Part of me gravitates to a fantasy of divorce. Maybe both sides would be happier if we just separated and went our separate ways, like unhappy spouses who call it quits after a few too many wounding arguments and rounds of couples therapy.

Could America Split Up?

My assumption is that the majority of Americans would emphatically say "**That Dog Won't Hunt!**" As a history major, I never question the possibility of the break-up or the demise of an empire. All great empires eventually collapse, so why should the U.S.A. be any different?

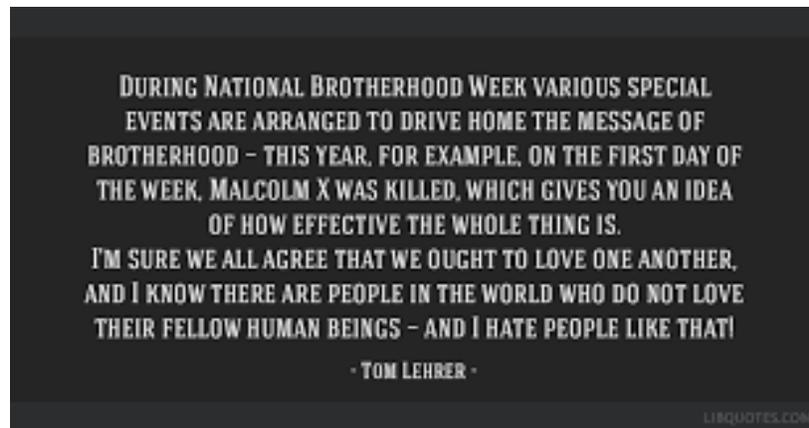
I am not saying that this experiment in Republican Democracy will cease anytime in the near future. Quite the opposite, I believe that we can come

together as we do during natural catastrophes, foreign invasion or declarations of war. Sadly, the COVID-19 epidemic has not been the story of a nation coming together for the greater good. Most remember the 1992 Rodney King quote "**Can't We All Just Get Along?**" [Rodney](#)

In that vain, I believe it is time to listen to the legendary (in my mind) satirist songwriter popular in the 1960's Tom Lehrer's song "**National Brotherhood Week.**"

[National Brotherhood Week](#)

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