

Ballots instead of Bullets

Our past election Day was the start of our modern-day “Civil War” as our divided country fights, with ballots instead of bullets, to set our future course as a democracy. There will be no major historic battles for history to analyze, and no military giants to lead the way through the battlefields.

Instead, an incredibly sinking feeling how each citizen feels it is he who has become a soldier in an army of one. Recalling *The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.* (Kennedy) then realizing *Democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of the minority.* (Camus). It becomes a personal battle to determine which side will eventually prevail. Exasperated, charging up the hill but feeling none follow.

Lacking “Gettysburg” and “Fort Sumter,” we will meet the enemy at such locations as “Fort Voter Suppression” and “Gerrymandering Hill.”

The Blue and the Gray will not be the uniform of the day, replaced by Blue and Red philosophies that polarize us from QAnon through antifa, from conspiracy theorists to white supremacists, from mask wearers to non-mask-wearers, and coronavirus alarmists to coronavirus deniers. We might even see a few climate-change skirmishes along the way. Perhaps we will be granted some leeway to find some common ground. Hard to describe something lost that you never had or realized to have

Historically, disputes, ownership and political motivations were settled by violence. It was man's early nature. Bred by time since the cave when clubs were used until Ge Hong invented gun powder. Problem back then was the settlement used more brawn than mental agility. Brute force. Group think was also a passing silly thought. Way back when leaders were leaders because they were physically the most powerful. Then things morphed to encompass mental gymnastics with physical strength as leaders amassed obedient enforcers. Thus, the rudimentary elements of the Governor and the Governed.

Slowly uprisings become the last resort as discussion and disobedience failed. Then the most interesting turn of events occurred. Ancient Greece implemented the earliest form of democracy and with it, the trappings of politics. They invented the "negative" election -- male landowners voted for the candidates they most wanted to be exiled. Three take-a ways; vote, male and landowner. Thirteen hundred years later Medieval Venice flipped the negative concept to positive or approval. During that same time period gun power and the "fire lance" had already been developed.

The Middle East matured with the Mongols winning their first argument (war) with cannons (guns). Interesting, guns were only being used to defeat other people (countries) and their things. Settlement between neighbors was common when it came to land ownership but rare to intervene into internal political strife, not to be confused with the Governor enforcing his laws against male landowners.

While all that was happening, King Henry was forced to sign the Magna Carta because his laws were being rebelled against. Most interesting, the first successful attempt of the people (powerful Barons who had guns and small armies) to have a say on how they were to be governed, and the birth of due process. Even when Church and State were indistinguishable, the people won. That document, and its enforcement by the people, was the initial replacement of bullets, by the will (votes) of the people. The consent of the people to be governed as a maturing democracy.

Thus we turn a page in history and look what has become of that great experiment. Generally, the power given by the people was by consensus, later votes. But only male landowners. The apogee of that institution was reached in 1776. The United States Constitution. The most assured road-map that documented the relationship between the Government and the Governed, and gave reason to put the guns down and pick up the pen and vote.