

Anne Ferber response to The Great Experiment

This is a most difficult response to write because it appears that we (the citizens of the United States) have stepped over the line of humanitarian recognition that provides the guardrails of mutually supportive communication, compromise and a vision of striving for a “more perfect union.”

We proudly call the development of our nation The Great Experiment: It certainly was, with all the flaws and hypocrisy; at least there was an attempt to create a new nation built on ideas and aspirations, inclusive, and broad, ever-expanding the frontier. We were lucky that the land was plentiful with resources and secure, protected by huge bodies of water East and West. We were also blessed with brilliant founders gifted with the ability to persuade the original 13 states to approve the Constitution and Bill of Rights and begin our journey as an independent nation eventually becoming the target of worldwide emigration. **The people were the sovereign! What a concept!**

There was the tragic flaw: Slavery was a global concept that white, capitalistic cultures had no problem embracing. The indigenous natives living here at the time of discovery were not of the temperament to allow their tribes and communities to succumb to such abominations, so the early colonists got what they needed from Africa. And so it went

Once the Constitution became the law of the land, there was never losing sight of the “more perfect union” that expanded rights of the citizens, without exception, and on paper, we seemed to actually produce a country of equality for all genders, races, ethnicities, etc. Even a bloody civil war did not stop the forward progress of our expansion, physically and spiritually. **Until now!**

The sovereign is divided 50-50. One half wants the continued expansion of voting and education rights as well as self actualization, identification, and the extending of personal decisions about our own bodies and families. The other half wants the government to dictate who can vote, what we read, how to form and expand your family, and generally forgo our hard fought efforts to become a “more perfect union” with liberty and justice for all. **We are being tested and found wanting.**

All the academic books and papers presented by Mr. Mounk, Mr. Drutman and plenty of others will not move the needle of agreement because it is not clever argument that will win the day. What is **needed is the will to stay together and come up with remedies that keep us on purpose.** There were plenty of times in our history, when things that seemed irreconcilable were somehow smoothed out and compromised over to the dissatisfaction of all. And that was considered a good working agreement.

President Biden’s speech last night made clear that the election next week will have only one question answered: Will we continue as a democratic nation, or will this be our final democratic election! Are we more interested in who is voting, or who is counting the votes?

Anne Ferber

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