

Karen Wexler Response

Thank you for finding and disseminating these provocative articles. I will humbly present my reactions.

My reaction to one part of the article by Haidt is a very personal—the conversation on the left. In many of my liberal circles, I do not feel comfortable expressing my views on black lives matter, immigration, critical race theory, wokeness, white fragility, and Zionism (to name a few). Even as I write this, I feel compelled to quickly add that I am a stand for our country coming to grips with the horror of slavery, I also champion exploring and implementing solutions for a livable life for all (schooling, housing, employment,...). Today, many times I am categorized as part of the problem if I am not called to examine my, sometimes unconscious, racial biases. This moral high ground is not a context that will enroll the perhaps 45% of people who don't believe that elections and court decisions are valid.

Another article suggests that to ensure democracy in the future, kids need to learn how to interact, connect and negotiate by playing with other kids. Point well made—for adults as well. On a personal level, the ability to be able to discuss and perhaps persuade or just to communicate with people we don't agree with seems to be a vitally critical cornerstone of democracy.

And lastly, the article by James Madison who makes a case for a Republic rather than a Democracy seems to be less defensible today given our present technology. In fact, I think one could make the argument that money has an even greater influence on elections because of the internet than in the past. It is my opinion, a democracy without the electoral college would be a more effective safeguard to personal rights than our present republic model.