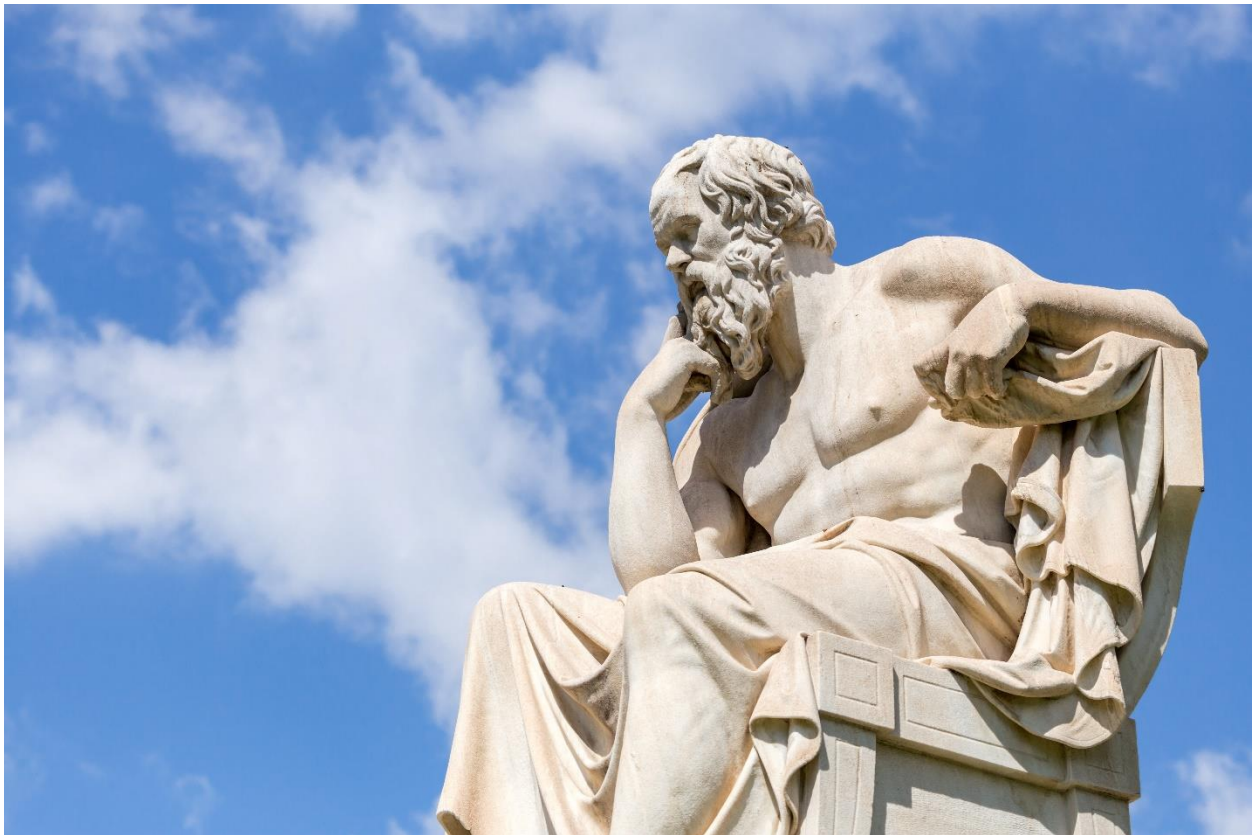




ROGER'S RANT

SO MANY RANTS, SO LITTLE TIME!



Socrates (469–399 B.C.)

“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households.”

Wow! It's amazing that 2,500 years ago a renowned philosopher expressed similar opinions to those of many Baby Boomers today. So, I guess some things never change! As the EDM community's self-appointed curmudgeon, I'd like to expound on my concerns for today's "progressive government" and permissive society and my fears for their implications for our children and grandchildren.

Is “Progressive” Progress?

Government Sanctioned Drug Use

It’s amazing how quickly this happened. We went from a “war” on drugs to the expunging of drug convictions and government sanctioned retail drug outlets owned by convicted criminals in the name of “equity.” So now we have convicted drug dealers who have become valued entrepreneurs (often financed by public funds) purveying drugs and drug-lace edibles to our youth. Yet the sale of “illegal,” i.e., untaxed drugs, have proliferated. The legalization of marijuana was supposed to liberate the oppressed minority population, yet now that same population is being targeted because they are eating into tax revenue for the state, selling drugs at unlicensed bodegas. All the while, our impressionable youth have learned that it is now OK to partake of what was once deemed (and still is) self-destructive behaviors.

Coddling of Criminals

We now have politicians proudly announcing reduced prison populations and the closing of prisons. That is the natural consequence of the adoption of “progressive” justice exemplified, but not limited, to the following:

Bail Reform: Many criminals are now released within hours of capture without bail. In Hartford, Connecticut police apprehended a youthful car thief after his third car theft of the day, having been arrested and released for two prior offenses.

Do Not Pursue: In many jurisdictions, police are not allowed to pursue criminals from the scene of the crime in all but violent felony situations in the name of “public” safety. There are an untold number of situations where criminals literally “flip off” police officers and calmly leave the scene of the crime. Some deterrent, huh?

Removal of Police Immunity: In many jurisdictions, police can be sued by criminals for merely doing their job. This means that all their personal and family assets are fair game for clever attorneys bringing baseless complaints to civil courts. Worse yet, their departments won’t often cover their legal expenses. Remember that disincentive to perform police duties the next time you need to call a cop. In Connecticut, traffic stops by state police are a fraction of what they were before qualified immunity was removed. Why risk your family’s future over a speeding violation?

Placement of Traffic Cameras: Did you know that the cities are not allowed, due to DEI provisions, to put red light or speed cameras in “underserved” communities, even though the majority of violations and accidents occur at intersections ruled out because of DEI policies?

Unmitigated Immigration

The more that twelve million illegal immigrants who have inundated this country in recent years, all with tacit government approval, will permanently adversely affect our future. Throughout its history, the U.S. Congress has legislated legal immigration quotas. Yet, via a

questionable executive order, a U.S. president has opened the floodgates to illegal (also known by the politically correct term, “undocumented”) immigrants.

I believe the emphasis on increases in crime and the costs of caring for them are the least of our worries.

In fact, the most significant worry, and the one that is politically incorrect to discuss, is the effect that this mass, uncontrolled, *illegal* immigration is having on our culture. Don't just look at communities in the southwest. Look at communities from Minnesota to Maine that have been transformed into islands of Central American or African culture to the exasperation of generations of residents. If you want to see the longer term results, look to Germany which decades ago had mass Turkish immigration and has found that, after multiple generations, the immigrants still haven't adopted or conformed to the German language or culture at all. Take a walk on the Champs-Elysees in Paris and you sometimes wonder if you are even in France!

Did you know that English is not the official language of the United States? (French is the only official language of France, German in the only official language of Germany, Italian is the only official language of Italy.) In fact, seventy-seven countries have one official language, but not the U.S.

Think that'll ever happen here? Don't hold your breath. In fact, if you are over fifty and have lived here for more than twenty years, you can become a citizen even if you don't speak a word of English, and in most states you don't have to read or speak English to obtain a driver's license, even though traffic signs are in English.

I'm not saying that diversity is bad, but national identity is better.

An Expanding Culture of Low Expectations

This is not merely a government issue but, more importantly, a societal issue.

The societies in many Asian cultures have extremely high expectations of their youth. That is a likely explanation for the high success rates for Asians in both education and business. (Staid institutions like Yale and Harvard actually discriminate against Asian students in their admissions process to keep their numbers down to create a more diverse student body.)

Here in the U.S., not so much. We have become a nation of excuses for poor results rather than a nation that rewards achievements for both adults and children. You know, everybody on the team gets a trophy. The kid that stole a car didn't get a Walkman when he was little. The convicted murderer is depicted in his high school graduation cap and gown and was probably hassled by the racist, evil police.

This is not to say that an exceptional young person cannot succeed in the low expectation environment, but the rest of youth are less likely to achieve their potential in a low expectation environment.

As a mid-septuagenarian, even though I'm upset by this turn of events, I am not deeply affected by it. However, I feel for my children and grandchildren, who will face an America devoid of exceptionalism, culture and the rule of law.

Roger