

Socialist Vanguard

January 2020 Newsletter

Issue # 112

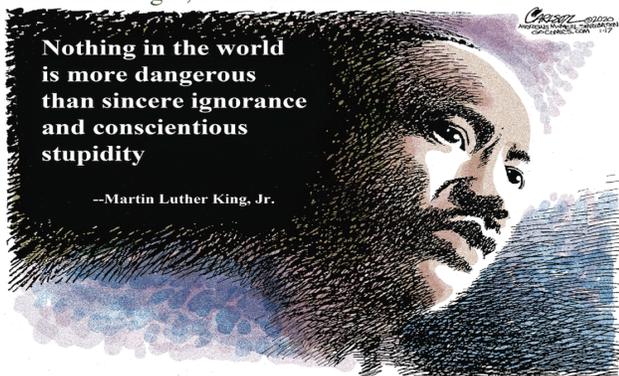
Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Identity Politics and/or Economic Classes

What leadership qualities are exemplified by one's racial background? One's gender? One's sexual preferences? These identities may suggest some background experiences which may influence one's thought process and values. Or maybe not.

Identity politics bring out racism and bigotry, as it often elicits responses based on fear and negative images created in the human psyche as one grows up. Racial differences relate to some mix of genes that produces different skin colors or facial shapes. Identity politics relate to sexual preferences, religious differences, or some other difference based on thought, behaviors and values.



Scientifically, it would appear that race is obviously a genetic difference based on a mix of chromosomes passed on the children by their parents (or occasionally through a mutation of a gene). Sounds good, and it is a good reason to pass laws prohibiting discrimination based on the accident of birth. It is morally right to guarantee that everyone has equal rights and not deprived of any based on the accident of birth.

Identity politics are based on cultural attitudes and beliefs. Identity politics are more subjective, as they are reflect values and beliefs that may not be shared by others and may be easily discard by a change in attitudes. How do we know if someone is Christian (Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, to name a few options) or Jewish, or Muslim, or Hindu, Shinto, atheist, agnostic? Can one be sure when identifying someone as homosexual or heterosexual? Some individual may choose to wear some clothes, jewelry or make-up that symbolizes a belief. Some may display

sexual affection in public or quickly declare their sexual preference. Other than choosing a romantic interest, most of us do not need to know. Our world is becoming multi-cultural and multi-ethnic. Our societies are changing their values and beliefs, often merging with other groups.

Laws can provide legal protection against unfair discrimination, but are often difficult to enforce, if laws are contrary to local views (or even contrary to a one's personal ideas) the laws can be difficult to enforce. Some common ideals are in conflict with written laws or that seek fairness for all. In the USA we idealize living in a small community and practicing self-governance. With many small communities we face many different opportunities to discriminate. Add to this a belief that parents should be able to send their children to schools that teach a specific religion or have different goals/objectives.

Too many choices create problems as choices encourage segregation and separation. Our world is slowly integrating people and an over-riding need is to learn how to work together and share ideas. The Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60s made many gains, especially aimed at eliminating racial segregation of public education. Problems existed, as there were many parochial schools offering some form of religious education. We also lived in a segregated society, so the local public schools were often segregated, not through any government edict, but through economic, cultural and social factors. When many large city school systems tried to integrate their school systems, problems of "white-flight (the movement into other municipalities or movement into private schools) increased. To try to counteract the escape from large city public school systems, special education programs were established by identify schools with specialties. School vouchers and charter schools were established. These furthered segregations. As wealthier citizens moved to better schools, many communities found their taxable assets reduced, which often reduced the resources for public education and other public services.

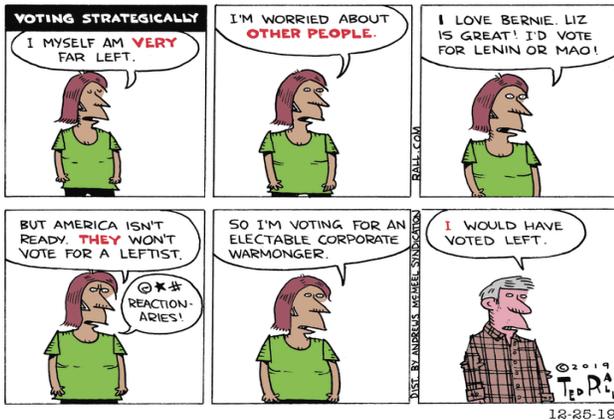
Many lower-income whites (and others) witnessed a deterioration of public services, often accompanied by an increase in taxes, resentment and hatred increased directed mostly at African American and Latino communities. Donald Trump is symbolic of the divide created by a poorly designed system encouraged by the economic and social elites of society. **As socialists we need to develop policies and programs to bring people together to have equal opportunities and experiences!**

Words for thought

"This note (US Constitution and Declaration of Independence) was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . . . This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

What Did the Democratic Presidential Debates Accomplish?

Well, the democratic presidential primary season is upon us. If history repeats itself, the primaries are a blemish on USA democracy. Primaries, which are expensive and usually suffer from very low voter turn outs, determine who the final candidates for office. The expenses of primaries usually are tests of monetary resources, which favor the economic-political- social elites. Personality politics will become more and more pronounced at the expense of issue-driven discussions.



This is a strange political year. Usually those on the left (or right) seek to vote for someone, who best represents our views (ignoring the top two parties). Voting for what we want is often the best way to communicate our desires to the political system. With such a reprehensible incumbent president, most,

of us will become “responsible” citizens and vote for the lesser of two evils, hoping to defeat the evil of two lessors!

The debates did allow those concerned to see who appears to be most committed to their issues and who is most likely to give lip service to issues, before surrendering to the corporate elites.

The primaries, for all their undemocratic aspects, especially those favoring the wealthiest Americans, are still the best opportunity to vote for what one wants. We should not be conned by arguments of electability. This is 2020, this nation (and the world) needs major investments in environmental protection, health care, reducing wealth inequality, education, ending bigotry and racism, along with many other needs. Trump has been able to capture a base of people who feel deprived of many or these options, but appear to be fueled by bigotry and hatred. History has taught us (studying the rise and fall of fascist regimes) that following a leader like Trump is dangerous and only leads to more misery. The world, as we know it cannot survive much longer guided by capitalist greed and disregard for people’s well-being. We need to adopt socialist principles and programs soon. The time for gradualism has passed!

Get out and vote in the primaries, we can not let them be affairs dominated by low-voter turnouts and lesser-of two evil politics, which favor the elites of society! Vote for what you want! In November, we can hold our noses when we cast our ballots to get rid of the evil that is TRUMP!

Beware Of The Road To Fascism. Try The Socialist Option!

Make America Stupid Again! Ignore Vietnam, the two Iraq invasions, many other incursions to protect us from communism or a terrorist threat. What about the danger presented by Grenada in 1984? These not only provided billions of dollars to the military-industrial complex, but they helped keep us in fear and willing to succumb to the whims of the economic and political elites. Where are the candidates calling for making the United Nations great? **Promote Democracy! We need a truly socialist solution!**



Leaders Needed!

At our January meeting, **Chairperson Myrtle Kastner**, stepped down. Myrtle has served as chair-person for many years and has spent her life promoting socialism. Prior to her membership in the SP-Wisconsin, she had been a member of the Socialist Workers’ Party and ran for political office numerous times in the 1960s and 1970s as a socialist. Myrtle joined our part of the movement about 20 years ago, continuing her support of the socialist movement. Phil Blank agreed to step up as chairperson at the January meeting, but citing his age has requested that we have a new election.

Dave Schall also announced that it was time for him to step down as Secretary. Dave was persuaded to continue as editor of the *Vanguard* for the foreseeable future. A new Secretary needs to be chosen at the February meeting. The secretary takes the minutes and has traditionally overseen the operations of the Party (this includes managing records, keeping flyers and brochures and other objects helping promote and explain the Party to the outside world.

Our meeting in February will be an important one in the continuation of the organization. **Please come to the meeting!**

SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

2025 N. Martin Luther King Dr #305– Milwaukee, WI 53212 – Phone: 414-332-0654
 Email: demsoevanguard@gmail.com Website: <http://www.socialistpartyofwisconsin.org>