

At Least Two Parties Are Required

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Our American Democracy requires that there are at least two political parties in order to enable the electorate to exercise discipline on its elected representatives. The reality is that elected representatives frequently care more about their power than the appropriate representation of the interests of those whom they purport to represent.

The failure of the Trumpian led the minority party to cooperate in the creation of an independent bipartisan commission to investigate insurrection of January 6, 2021, an insurrection that attacked, the joint session of Congress in the Capitol building, does not really indicate an interest in moving ahead for the benefit of the electorate. Rather, it is an effort to prevent the legislators and the public from understanding the conditions that are undermining our democratic processes. It is obvious that the Trumpian leadership is in pursuit of power at the expense of TRUTH and the legitimate interests of the electorate.

This op-ed type presentation is partially drawn from a selection of excerpts from the article titled *Restructuring Our Democracy*. The article is on the Motivated Learner Platform of the DEEP website.

The actions and/or inactions by return of Congress during the week of June 7, 2021 (and shortly thereafter) will provide significant clues whether the Trumpian led majority of the minority party in the Senate will realistically engage in a bipartisan effort to negotiate the bill dealing with infrastructure issues that significantly impact quality of life of the electorate, or whether the focus will be on the power hoped to be obtained in the 2022 midterm election. Certainly, there are some Republican Senators who would accept a compromise, but breaking with the leadership is politically costly because the leadership is prioritizing regaining legislative control in the short term at the expense of what may be realistically seen as survival of the Republican Party over the long term. That survival is in danger when Donald Trump and his supporters are looking to develop an autocracy in which only one party will control the future by whatever means possible, without regard to truth or representative government.

Here are a few excerpts from an article titled ***Restructuring American Democracy***

- It appears that the Republican Party leadership and the majority of Republican legislators are so heavily focused on that two-year inflection point that they are putting at risk the long-term survival of the Republican Party in order to gain short-term power. Additionally, they are undermining democratic practices and endangering the future of *The Great Experiment*, American Democracy.
- The majority control by the Democrats in both the House and the Senate is very thin. Furthermore, the majority of the minority party is still Trumpian with little regard for truth and fairness in the election process. That is an existential threat to American Democracy. The unfolding events have shifted the educational mission from simply fostering a Declaration of Reform to an ongoing narrative providing analytics integrating nascent disciplines into a paradigm under development supported by the concepts of an emerging discipline ...
- At the time of this writing, the House of Representatives has passed the legislation [regarding the murder of George Floyd]; but even one year later [after the murder] the legislation passed in the House of Representatives has not been finalized by the Senate; although it appears that some compromise may be reached.

The compromise that is finally reached, assuming that is accomplished, will be a clue about across the aisle bipartisanship. That clue will be followed by what happens to the proposed infrastructure legislation. Compromises are emerging in size and coverage, but paying for it may be to straw that broke the camel's back.

- Although we are individualistic as a people, we have bonded together for our common interest, living in a free society. That starts with the avoidance of tyranny with a price; our agreement to constrain our behavior for the common good. The absence of **truth** is corrosive to the structure and the erodes the **trust** essential for successful operation. Those conditions have seriously contributed to our crises.
- The conservative perspective in American politics is rooted in the Enlightenment era... rooted in the work of Edmund Burke (1729-1797)... a reformer in the era of the Enlightenment, using what we would call today the *Minimax Strategy*, a preference for a low downside risk.... "We must reform in order to preserve" existing institutions..., he declared, not transform or replace them. To Burke society was ... the outcome of organic, cumulative process... of...

The situation is astounding complex in that one may use linear reasoning in connecting two dots, such as what will it take for Senator Joe Manchin (a Democrat from West Virginia) to accept the reality that a bipartisan bill on infrastructure will not materialize, if indeed that is the case? However, connecting those two dots depends upon connecting lots of other dots.

The other dots include, would the Democrats go to reconciliation route? If so, could they squeeze a second one in for the current year, or do they have to wait for the next fiscal year that starts in October? And if they do go to reconciliation route, will it be with the opportunity to be used for revisions to the December 2017 so-called tax reform? Or, what will it take for a Republican Senator to break from party ranks because the compromise that is available, if one is available, but not acceptable to the Republicans? That could be the case if what started off as a \$2.3 trillion that was lowballed with a counter of about a fourth of the proposal. And then the reduction from the \$2.3 went to \$1.7 trillion with a Republican counter in the neighborhood of \$1 trillion. Then President Biden was getting close by dropping about \$1 trillion from the original proposal to about \$1.3 billion. But size is not the only issue; the question is how to pay for it. The Republicans suggested user fees with the revision of the December 2017 tax cuts as a nonstarter, to which President Biden offered a 15% minimum tax rate for the nation's largest companies (those reporting at least \$2 billion as profits in their financial statements), and maybe only less than fifty of the 180 companies would be impacted.

One could construct an agent-based model with a multiplicity of dots and plot a variety of paths that seem likely, but probabilities do not exist for complex adaptive systems that evolve with changing relationships. It is not as though one is dealing with closed systems. One may use qualitative judgments as to expectations of paths. The critical thinking starts with the minimax strategy.

The minimax strategy sets the level of downside that is tolerable, and attempts to maximize benefits within that constraint. However, the downside might be in the dollars at risk for the consequences of the loss. Consider a gambler at the tables in Vegas. The gambler would be more likely to go for broke if there wasn't much to lose, but it would depend on consequences in the dimensions of the most important variables.

For the Democrats there are three and one-half more years in the presidency and an uncertain time for the House and Senate, and it is in great measure dependent upon the transformation being pursued to deal with a multiplicity of crises confronting the populace; an outstanding challenge that goes beyond a simple transition in leadership to a transformation design bold our nation back on the path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. There will be a commission to determine what led to the insurrection and to help in a reform with a bipartisan support from the population, even if not from the legislators in the House and the Senate. It is likely to be from select committees in the House of Representatives or presidentially created commission.

For the Democrats, there is less toleration for a deep downside risk because time is on its side, and the presidency has three and one-half more years. For the Republicans, it looks as though they are going for broke, because they are betting the future of their party in order to achieve short-term gains in the midterm elections at the expense of the future of the party and potentially American Democracy.

On the matter of the commission investigation, the Republicans are going for broke because bipartisan or not, the evidence will be damaging wherever it points, and the truth will emerge so that the crimes will be exposed and the government can take proper action to prevent its recurrence.

As to the infrastructure legislation, the size and timing are uncertain, but before the end of the year there will be a program that will create jobs in providing the infrastructure and a substantial improvement in a long-neglected arena of governmental responsibility. If there is a legislative bipartisan bill that passes, the legislation will be a start, but only a start. The reality is that the administration is going to develop its bipartisanship with the American public, and serve the population based upon quality-of-life priorities not political expedience.

The website will be addressing a multiplicity of crises and tracking progress as it evolves. By serving all Americans, not simply a political base, the Democrats are likely to fare better in the midterm elections than the Republicans, and continue the transformation towards a restructuring in pursuit of democratic ideals. If the Republicans win control of the legislature, one can reasonably expect an obstructionism designed to obtain power of the presidency in the 2024 presidential election, even at the expense of the welfare of its constituency. If that turns out to be the case, the minority of the minority party had best start with its platforms dealing with opportunity for the millennials and the Z generation because it is going to take a long time to return to the ideals that launched conservatism. The Trumpian Republican Party is going to get exposed for what is, an autocratic populace party that will not survive the electorates discipline even by cheating in the election process by reducing voter accessibility. Our democracy requires two political parties disciplining representatives with peaceful transfers of power.

This motivated learner enterprise is dedicated to education that in the current situation is fostering a better representation of conservative voters who have an understanding of the requirements of a free society. Edmund Burke, the founder of conservatism, was fearful of the tyranny of the masses, and rightly so. The founding fathers of American Democracy, really a republic, created a bicameral legislation to protect from the tyranny of the masses. It calls for leadership from the Senate for the protection, but the current Senate is not doing its job; it goes beyond the filibuster, it goes to supporting the trend towards an autocracy. Republicans arise, consider the last half-century and give your four revolutions going the wrong way, a new direction. Now is the time for a fifth Republican Revolution. Learn about your first hundred years and protect your freedom; but you need to understand the responsibilities.