

Standing Rock: Divide and Conquer

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international / prose / post

“We must, indeed, all hang together, or [most] assuredly we shall all hang separately.” -- Benjamin Franklin.

Social unity of course is irresistible people power and that is why division is critical in controlling large populations. Self-evident are the divides of wealth, race, religion etc, all utilised adeptly by ruling elites to keep us -- ‘the mindless hordes’ -- fighting each other and from SUPPORTING each other, crowd management is easy using the tried and tested weapon of division.

But who is doing the managing? Self-interested minorities that pursue their own agendas while oppressing and enslaving the overwhelming mass of HUMANITY - the most (potentially) powerful social force on the planet.

The Lakota Indians at Standing Rock, currently under severe attack by government enforcers are protecting the environment against spoilage by avaricious corporate interests; therefore, they are NOT just a bunch of natives living in the past. Their cause is everyone’s cause as without a healthy environment we all die, yet they stand alone, unsupported, a tiny minority against the evil status quo and all its power apparatuses. I am demonstrating by this example how division/separation actually takes hold, please bear with me.

Why do we allow our brothers and sisters to stand alone when fighting a cause that must be fought if we are all to survive into the future as a species? You would note that the FIRST level of division is psychological, of the mind - thoughts like, just a bunch of hopeless Indians (‘savages’) fighting a lost cause against the powers that be; but that cause is not hopeless, on the contrary, if we ALL support the Lakota to save the environment. Surely a noble cause worth fighting for if ever there was one! So in fact we are all Lakota Indians in this instance if our (manipulated) psychology recognises the FACT. Whatever lame excuse you give yourself for not supporting the Lakota and a noble cause, it is just that, LAME.

Hopefully we now see how division takes root in the mind, the very first stage is the psychological, as all actions and non-actions issue from thought, which also explains why the corporate mass media is always on over-drive pumping ‘consumers’ with fake news, lies, distortions, distractions and GROSS MISREPRESENTATIONS - the fact is the mainstream media is not worth a croc, it has no credibility whatsoever yet millions succumb to its influence daily without understanding it as a psychological management apparatus owned exclusively in the west by nefarious elite interests that MUST keep us divided and therefore manageable. What would unrepresentative elite minorities do if humanity embraced each other to fight the REAL enemy of the masses and planet, the nefarious, mass murdering, global ruling elites?

Do you really hate Jews, Catholics, Muslims, gypsies, or whoever, because a great deal of time is spent sowing hate and division of scapegoat groups, something learned from the Nazi era, yet that despicable period of the 20th century is undergoing a renaissance in once democratic nations as I write? Most of Donald Trump’s rhetoric was and still is divisive, yet he has been elected president of

the United States, a very poor reflection on the NOSE-RINGED U.S. population.

What a thorough tragedy for America, notwithstanding that Clinton was by far the greater evil. So why do we tolerate elections between a vomit and a turd, which are traditionally (both) owned by elite interests - neither loathed candidate represents the masses, as will soon be proven by Trump, who will backflip on all his promises as Obama did before him - almost the entire world wants Clinton to serve time for her myriad KNOWN crimes, however, the elite rule, NOT Trump or any other president, and she will escape justice UNLESS WE DEMAND JUSTICE!

If we wake up to the fact -- REALITY -- we are all Lakota fighting for our lives, all oppressed humanity is ONE huge potential irresistible FORCE for good, that is, if we abandon ingrained, superimposed, LEARNED divisive tendencies and embrace and SUPPORT each other -- evil mass murdering minority rule would be relegated to history forever. Remember, the Truth of the matter is, WE ARE ONE.

[Article](#) by John W. Whitehead follows:

Divide and conquer is one of the oldest military strategies in the books, and it's proven to be the police state's most effective weapon for maintaining the status quo.

How do you conquer a nation?

Distract them with football games, political circuses and Black Friday sales. Keep them focused on their differences—economic, religious, environmental, political, racial—so they can never agree on anything. And then, when they're so divided that they are incapable of joining forces against a common threat, start picking them off one by one.

What we're witnessing at Standing Rock, where activists have gathered to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline construction on Native American land, is just the latest incarnation of the government's battle plan for stamping out any sparks of resistance and keeping the populace under control: battlefield tactics, military weaponry and a complete suspension of the Constitution.

Militarized police. Riot and camouflage gear. Armored vehicles. Mass arrests. Pepper spray. Tear gas. Batons. Strip searches. Drones. Less-than-lethal weapons unleashed with deadly force. Rubber bullets. Water cannons. Concussion grenades. Arrests of journalists. Intimidation tactics. Brute force.

This is what martial law looks like, when a government disregards constitutional freedoms and imposes its will through military force.

Only this is martial law without any government body having to declare it.

This is martial law packaged as law and order and sold to the public as necessary for keeping the peace.

These overreaching, heavy-handed lessons in how to rule by force have become standard operating procedure for a government that communicates with its citizenry primarily through the language of brutality, intimidation and fear.

What Americans have failed to comprehend is that the police state doesn't differentiate.

In the eyes of the government—whether that government is helmed by Barack Obama or Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton—there is no difference between Republicans and Democrats, between blacks and whites and every shade in the middle, between Native Americans and a nation of immigrants (no matter how long we’ve been here), between the lower class and the middle and upper classes, between religious and non-religious Americans, between those who march in lockstep with the police state and those who oppose its tactics.

This is all part and parcel of the government’s plan for dealing with widespread domestic unrest, no matter the source.

A 2008 Army War College [report](#) revealed that “widespread civil violence inside the United States would force the defense establishment to reorient priorities in extremis to defend basic domestic order and human security.” The 44-page report goes on to warn that potential causes for such civil unrest could include another terrorist attack, “unforeseen economic collapse, loss of functioning political and legal order, purposeful domestic resistance or insurgency, pervasive public health emergencies, and catastrophic natural and human disasters.”

Subsequent reports by the Department of Homeland Security call on the government to identify, monitor and label right-wing and left-wing activists, military veterans and sovereign citizens as extremists (the words extremist and terrorist are used interchangeably in the reports).

These reports indicate that for the government, anyone seen as opposing the government—whether they’re Left, Right or somewhere in between—is labeled an extremist.

Divide and conquer.

What the government has figured out is that as long as its oppression is focused on one particular group at a time—inner city blacks, gun-toting ranchers, environmental activists, etc.—there will be no outcry from the public at large.

The liberal left will not speak up for the conservative right.

The rightwing will not speak up for the leftwing.

The economic elite will not speak up for the economically disadvantaged and vice versa.

The ranchers will not speak up for the environmentalists, and the environmentalists will not speak up for the ranchers.

The Democrats will not criticize endless wars, drone killings, militarized police, private prisons, etc., when sanctioned by their candidate. Same goes for the Republicans.

Are you starting to get the picture?

What we’re dealing with is a full-blown case of national hypocrisy.

For too long now, the American people have allowed their personal prejudices and

politics to cloud their judgment and render them incapable of seeing that the treatment being doled out by the government's lethal enforcers has remained consistent, no matter the threat.

The government's oppressive tactics have not changed.

The same martial law maneuvers and intimidation tactics used to put down protests and muzzle journalists two years ago in Ferguson and Baltimore are being used to flat-line protesters and journalists at Standing Rock this year.

The same infiltration and surveillance of ranch activists opposing the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon and Nevada over the past several years were used against nonviolent anti-war protesters more than a decade ago. That same mindset was embodied in the use of surveillance against those who gathered for Barack Obama's inauguration eight years ago.

The same brutality that was in full force 20-plus years ago when the government raided the Branch Davidian religious compound near Waco, Texas—targeting residents with loud music, bright lights, bulldozers, flash-bang grenades, tear gas, tanks and gunfire, and leaving 80 individuals, including two dozen children, dead—were on full display more than 50 years ago when government agents unleashed fire hoses and police dogs on civil rights protesters, children included.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

The sticking point is not whether Americans must see eye-to-eye on these varied issues but whether they can agree that no one should be treated in such a fashion by their own government.

Our greatest defense against home-grown tyranny has always been our strength in numbers as a citizenry.

America's founders hinted at it again and again. The Declaration of Independence refers to "one people." The preamble to the Constitution opens with those three powerful words: "We the People." Years later, the Gettysburg Address declared that we are a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Despite these stark reminders that the government exists for our benefit and was intended to serve our needs, "We the People" have yet to marshal our greatest weapon against oppression: our strength lies in our numbers.

Had 318 million Americans taken to the streets to protest the government's SWAT team raids that left innocent children like Aiyana Jones or Baby Bou Bou dead or scarred, there would be no 80,000 SWAT team raids a year.

Had 318 million Americans raised their voices against police shootings of unarmed citizens such as Alton Sterling and Walter Scott, there would be far less use of excessive force by the police.

Had 318 million Americans stood shoulder-to-shoulder and rejected the ruling oligarchy, pork barrel legislation, profit-driven prisons, endless wars and asset forfeiture schemes,

government corruption would be the exception rather than the rule.

Had 318 million Americans told the government to stop drilling through sacred Native American lands, stop spraying protesters with water cannons in below-freezing temperatures, stop using its military might to intimidate and shut down First Amendment activity, and to stop allowing Corporate America to dictate how the battle lines are drawn, there would be no Standing Rock.

Unfortunately, 318 million Americans have yet to agree on anything, especially the source of their oppression.

This is how tyrants come to power and stay in power.

Authoritarian regimes begin with incremental steps. Overcriminalization, surveillance of innocent citizens, imprisonment for nonviolent—victimless—crimes, etc. Slowly, bit by bit, the citizenry finds its freedoms being curtailed and undermined for the sake of national security.

No one speaks up for those being targeted. No one resists these minor acts of oppression. No one recognizes the indoctrination into tyranny for what it is.

As I point out in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, historically this failure to speak truth to power has resulted in whole populations being conditioned to tolerate unspoken cruelty toward their fellow human beings, a bystander syndrome in which people remain silent and disengaged—mere onlookers—in the face of abject horrors and injustice.

Time has insulated us from the violence perpetrated by past regimes in their pursuit of power: the crucifixion and slaughter of innocents by the Romans, the torture of the Inquisition, the atrocities of the Nazis, the butchery of the Fascists, the bloodshed by the Communists, and the cold-blooded war machines run by the military industrial complex.

We can disassociate from such violence. We can convince ourselves that we are somehow different from the victims of government abuse. We can treat news coverage of protests such as Standing Rock and the like as just another channel to flip in our search for better entertainment. We can continue to spout empty campaign rhetoric about how great America is, despite the evidence to the contrary. We can avoid responsibility for holding the government accountable. We can zip our lips and bind our hands and shut our eyes.

In other words, we can continue to exist in a state of denial.

Whatever we do or don't do, it won't change the facts: the police state is here.

"There comes a time," concluded Martin Luther King Jr., "when silence is betrayal."

The people of Nazi Germany learned this lesson the hard way.

A German pastor who openly opposed Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in a concentration camp, Martin Niemöller warned:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

The people of the American Police State will never have any hope of fighting government tyranny if we're busy fighting each other.

When all is said and done, the only thing we really need to agree on is that we are all Americans.

So if this isn't your fight—if you believe that authority is more important than liberty—if you don't agree with a particular group's position on an issue and by your silence tacitly support the treatment meted out to them—if you think you're a better citizen or a more patriotic American—if you want to play it safe—and if don't want to risk getting shot, tased, pepper-sprayed, struck with a baton, thrown to the ground, arrested and/or labeled an extremist—then by all means, remain silent. Stand down. Cower in the face of the police. Turn your eyes away from injustice. Find any excuse to suggest that the so-called victims of the police state deserved what they got.

But remember, when that rifle (or taser, or water cannon, or bully stick) finally gets pointed in your direction—and it will—when there's no one left to stand up for you or speak up for you, remember that you were warned.

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