

Background and Beliefs

I grew up in rural New England in the small hill towns bordering the Connecticut River valley. My father's parents were a factory worker and a postmistress. My mother's parents were small-scale dairy farmers. My father worked mostly in the print business, for a newspaper and a book publishing company. For many years he was elected to both the town and then the regional school boards. From him I developed an interest in gardening (he was an organic gardener sixty-five years ago), community issues, and sports. My mother took the lead in raising seven children, solid citizens every one. From her I learned baking and basic cooking, responsibility for animals and a love of bird watching, reading, music, and flowers. From second through sixth grades I walked to elementary school, which featured two rooms for six grades. My junior/senior high school was a regional school with approximately 600 students in six grades from four towns. From 4th through 12th grades I had an array of teachers of such a high caliber as would seem today, judging from their released products, to be nearly as scarce as hen's teeth. I took advantage of that small school size to graduate first in my class of about eighty while also lettering in three sports. As a senior I was co-captain of the baseball team. After high school I spent thousands of hours over decades playing baseball, softball, basketball and golf, with the occasional touch football game too. Throw in skiing, hiking, canoeing, biking and camping, and I spent a lot of time in the great outdoors.

I spent two years at Northeastern University and two and one half years at the University of Massachusetts, graduating with a BA in Political Science. Ever since, I have maintained an interest in that field, though far more in its practical applications than in its theory. And having followed the American political scene on a continual basis since around the age of ten, having acquired that degree in Political Science, and having devoted ten thousand hours several times over to post-degree study of one sort or another, I long ago realized I was no longer mis-"educated", superficially informed, and flaccidly aware enough to continue being a liberal/leftist/ "progressive".

I'm more than normally educated, truthful, knowledgeable, courageous, understanding, and curious. I can speak intelligently about a very wide range of subjects, and in depth about several others. I'm occasionally witty, an OK talker, a good listener, with writer topping both. Though making no pretensions to scholarship [shudder] I'm more widely read than most in American history, Western Civilization, military history and classic literature. I smite my enemies and am generous to my friends, and the past twenty years has taught me more than anyone should ever have to know about how to tell them apart. I'm easy to get along with when allowed to be, yet resistant to being walked on, and of a naturally easy-going disposition, though again, recent years have steadily ripped away at that. I enjoy a glass or three of wine and some good laughs, bluegrass music, old hippy rock 'n roll, and golden retrievers. I believe that friendly women, particularly those with working brains, make the world go 'round.

Other interests, in no particular order include photography, bird watching, reading, wildflower propagation, meteorology/climatology, archaeology (with occasional forays into a number of other -ologies), sports, gardening, game creation, music, maps, baking, board games and meandering road trips through backroads America.

I've worked three of the four pillars of civilization, farming, mining, and pizza, and though missing out on the fourth, beer, I have at least contributed to the profitability of numerous breweries. I've had jobs in paper mills, a pickle cannery, an orchard, and the fishery off the coast of western Alaska. I've been a delivery truck driver, a typist, a boat inspector, an appraiser, a surveyor, a shovel-wielding laborer, a retail merchandiser, a CAD designer/draftsman, a security officer, a cartographer, and a government bureaucrat. I've blown up boulders and driven trains deep underground, and crept along girders to wrestle red iron in the sky. I've cooked in a "fine dining" restaurant and worked heavy construction. I've tied enough rebar and formed and poured enough concrete that my back hurts thinking about it, and I've done about any kind of carpentry there is to do. I once held advanced degrees in shovel and broom, and knew my way around the field with fork, rake and hoe.

I've witnessed life's tableaus from junkies getting high and whiskey-fueled barroom brawls to the family dramas of people whose fourth or fifth residence is still a penthouse or mansion. I've worked with Laotians who were so poor that they wore sandals, in late winter, in Alaska, and I've shaken the hand of two owners of the Vail ski area properties, and a CEO of Anheuser-Busch. I've labored with Jamaicans and Laotians, Japanese and refugees from Poland, East Germany and Cuba, with Guatemalans and Canadians, and yes, even with a Mexican or several hundred.

I've adventured in Alaska, canoed in Boundary Waters, maple sugared in Massachusetts, lolled on Miami Beach, bicycle camped across the Great Plains, toured the West solo (for three-plus months) via backpack and thumb, driven the back roads so I wouldn't get crazed (thanks, L.G.), and have at least touched ground in all but three states (LA, AL, and HI). I've been awed from the rings of Saturn to a tiny spider fishing for and snagging a tiny ant, and from the depths of the Grand Canyon, through the musical transcendence of Red Rocks and Telluride, to the summits of Rocky Mountain 14ers.

I enjoyed my sort-of hippy years as a liberal airhead as much as anyone; it was a fun period of my life. However, I then wandered off as a seeker, sailing the high seas of knowledge, and so that phase became merely one of life's ports-of-call, a landlocked harbor (aka, a pond), which, as it turns out, is a crucifiable offense to "progressives".

I've been where "progressives" are still at, I've done what they are still doing, and I've gone where they fear to go. So it is that I comprehend that leftist politics, modern liberal politics, "progressive" politics, are far more closely akin to kindergarten than to a college level of political understanding. As Winston Churchill succinctly put it, "To be conservative at twenty is heartless and to be a liberal at sixty is plain idiocy". The question I always pose is, "Aside from leftist politics, is there any other arena of human life where the understanding of a teenager, or at best a college sophomore who has taken Brainwashing 101 and 201, is considered to be the zenith of comprehension?" Is one a better lawyer, a better mechanic, a better farmer, a better parent at age 25 than at age 40? Hardly ever, yet a sophomoric understanding of social and political issues is deemed to represent the height of perception by all shades of the political left. And furthermore, holding with a death-grip tightness to the same jejuneness for an entire lifetime is deemed to demonstrate an open mind! Daft is the word you're looking for.

I believe that "Progressivism" is nothing more complex than the ages-old totalitarian tendencies of political leftists throughout history resurfacing under a prettified name and masking its true intentions behind curtains of deception, deceit, and language perversion, as in its very name. I believe that there is nothing progressive about "Progressivism". Under the bright colors, fancy ribbons and gaudy bows designed to gull the sheep, it is the same empty box as always. Turn the box over and scan the UPC on the bottom and the scanner reads, TYRANNY.

I believe that the relentless efforts of "progressives" to drag the few down to their level of the many, and thus, far from coincidentally, into Big Brother's ravenous maw, is in fact socially regressive, not progressive.

I believe that real progressives are people like me who would assist the many to raise themselves to the level of the few, and thus, far from coincidentally, out of Big Brother's ravenous maw.

I believe that the brutal oppression of America's poor and downtrodden, the direct and inevitable consequence of the presence of twenty or thirty million foreign invaders, which "progressives" are so ab-so-lutely de-lighted to be the primary advocates of and apologists for, is thoroughly sickening and disgusting. I believe that a society, much like a chain, is only as strong as its most vulnerable part, and after several decades of intentional and constant and concerted attacks upon our most vulnerable, I fear that our society is very close to being deliberately shattered. I understand that the primary source of that deliberate effort is the cancer, the toxic plague on this nation that is the social parasites of leftist academia and their minions in the Democrat Party. To be fair, while the primary source, they receive more than too much assistance from the RE, the Republican Establishment (not most Republican voters), the unconscionably greedy and selfish puppets of Big Business/Big Money.

I believe that the American experience, the American experiment, the American concept of a land of liberty, the American concept of the individual free from government coercion and regimentation, is the best, and the most advanced, and the most progressive political system that the world has ever seen. Second place is not close.

I believe in a nation where one is judged, to paraphrase a better wordsmith than I, by the content of their character, their individual merit if you will, rather than the color of their skin, or any other collectivist category; and I believe that though liberals of all stripes profess to believe that also, the lie is given to that profession by virtually every action they take and every program they propose. As always with the flimflam men (and women), ignore the lips, watch the hands.

I believe that a base concept of "Progressivism", that, despite all evidence to the contrary, all cultures, all ideas, all systems are neutrally equal, is nothing but propagandist mind mush, concocted to provide cover for their racist, sexist dogma (the racist, sexist dogma that forms the very core of their sickness), that white males,

and particularly American white males, are the cause of all that is wrong in this country and the world. In fact of course, white males, particularly those of a Judeo-Christian background, are the sources of the vast preponderance of all that is good, of all that is truly progressive in this world.

I believe that the vast majority of the hatred, intolerance, racism, bullying, bigotry, sexism and ignorance in this country, and much of the rest of the world too, flows from the freedom-hating "progressive"/Islamic alliance. I believe that alliance is plummeting the world into a new Dark Ages, re-featuring the slavery of the mind and the absolute crushing of the individual before the forces of Ignorance, State, and Ayatollah.

I absolutely, completely, and totally reject the assumption that "progressives" have any standing whatsoever to define the terms and/or boundaries of debate.

I believe that the deeper one's understanding of the past becomes, the clearer one's perception and understanding of the present also becomes. The future is not hard to predict when it has already been done.

And I believe that when a person does not understand something, or someone, it is almost invariably because that person is looking behind them for what is actually ahead of them. When I am around someone who knows more than I about something I am interested in, I ask questions, sometimes a lot of questions, sometimes an annoying amount of questions. I have learned that eagerness to learn is not a common trait to possess.

My life has been spent in seeking understanding through experience combining with study. I believe that wisdom is the end product of reflection upon experience and study, though the quality of that end product is directly proportional to the quality of the reflection, experience and study.

I have an excellent driving record and no police record.

I strongly believe in lifelong learning. I continue an almost daily program of reading-to-learn, and I range far and wide in that reading. My last three books were on Marco Polo, the history of the magnetic compass, and the life of Oliver Cromwell (not yet finished). My next will be *Crowds and Power*, by Elias Canetti. I also work through several allegedly college-level courses on DVD a year, mostly in history and political science, but also in art and science. I have purchased around thirty of those courses, though it has become increasingly hard to find ones that are not full-throttle leftist brainwashing. Through those at least, I have gained an eye-opening understanding of how leftist academia is now nothing but an exercise in unchallenged simple-mindedness attempting to remake the world in its own image. They call themselves scholars. In fact they are social parasites, a malignant cancer on this nation, working relentlessly and implacably to destroy the very system and society from which they are stealing their obscenely overpaid salaries.

Put it all together and I am what "progressives" fear, and so, like peasants, have spent years of concerted efforts attempting to destroy. In their eyes I am a monster, i.e., an intelligent, aware, healthy American, open-eyed, open-minded, educated and willing to fight for what the whole "Progressive" movement has every intention to destroy, because they have only the most simple-minded understanding of what that destruction means. I recognize that movement for what it is, a deep and dark sickness of mind and spirit, ignorant, flower-childish, totalitarian utopianism, a regression to the tried and true failures which leftists never tire of repeating.

I have never met or even heard of a "progressive" anywhere who can or will, publicly, for refutation, present even a coherent, much less cogent, detailed prospectus for what they intend their destruction to create. I have never met or even heard of a "progressive" anywhere, who dares even to attempt to bridge the gaping chasms between their words, their actions, and the real world. Having turned millions of minds, young and old, quite deliberately to mush, and having the Moonbeam Media as their protection racket, those chasms can and do exist without those enslaved minds of mush having the slightest awareness of their existence. Put it all together and it is Alinskyite totalitarianism (Obama and Clinton are Alinskyites), using the election-fodder votes of brainwashed ignorance to sink the talons of tyranny into this nation.

That is what I believe and who I am. I am very comfortable in my own skin.