

American Thoughts by Isaac B Echevarria

Hoisted are the colors of pride and self preservation. Where once flew red, white, and blue now hangs the blood, bandages, and glory of greed, politics, and disbelief... Yep, in that order. The words, "O! Glory," only exist in museums when at one time it burned in all hearts who sought the unity and true Democracy of a land wise enough to carry such a burden. Strength was in the people. Unity was in the land. The people were that land, that Democracy, that power. Strength was last. The land prospered and the people thrived.

Look now upon your flag and take notice that your eyes deceive you. Know that the colors are not as bold and bright, they flicker. Gaze as the stars have diminished in their brilliance giving way to the shine of petty ideals and selfish gain. Observe as the blue standard morphs to reshape from clean, clear borders to a dull hue of wavy lines.

Yes, we the American people are not perfect by any means. Yes, we the people must relearn and retake the Democratic meaning without "self" in our eyes. For even though we the people are true Democracy, the true meaning of Democracy we have forgotten. Look at your fellow American citizens and those who choose the American way of life. Look long. Look hard. Behold, they are not the enemy. They are no less than you. Life, all life carries the same weight and burden as our own. It is what bonds us and keeps us. These two truths our forefathers knew and utilized as the motor for what was to become our American Constitution. The real enemy seeks to destroy that, as it does any Government.

I understand and realize that there are persons and groups within our borders poisoning and destroying our Democratic way of life as I am educated in that area. However, we the American people must believe in ourselves and fellow citizens to know or learn what our forefathers wrote about regarding Democracy. Government, states, and law have bent to the will of political gain for too long. We the American people have bent to the will of selfish gain for too long. It is now, at this moment, that we all must realize the gain was temporary and has come to an end.

Legacy is all we can offer to the future and all we truly pass on from our past. Nothing, nothing is taken with us when we leave this life. Conversely, what we leave in this life directly affects this world. That means your children, grandchildren, and so forth on down the line will have to endure the legacy you leave, good or bad. We the American people have evolved to love ourselves. Now, we must love our Democracy.

True there are issues that need to be addressed and political ideals that have merit, but the value and nature they have decreases when there is no Democracy. Who will listen when chaos and anarchy swell? Who will take action when civil unrest and militant resistance invades our Democratic way of life? We the American people have proven we will stand united during the American Revolution and the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Demonstrating heroic action and effort, we the American people resembled our true Democracy. Every time you see our flag fall, you are witnessing the decline of American Democracy. Open your eyes fellow citizens and see that the terror and real enemy has never left. Stand united and stay united. We the people have

forced the hand of evolution. A Darwinistic ideal believing in the survival of the fittest. Not true. Survival comes from the heart and soul of all human beings. Ask any person, first responder, or military member who has experienced true survival and your answer will be the same. Adaptation is only a small part of a much larger equation, physical strength will help but not necessary. It is strength and purity of the human soul and mind that will be your salvation to survival. Funny how that closely mimics the salvation of the soul.

That brings me to my next point. Our forefathers founded America and American Democracy on their religious belief in God. Was it not Jesus's last commandment to love one another as he loved the church? Are, we the people, not the church Jesus is referring to? Is your life so miserable that you must resort to persecuting your fellow citizens? Is your sex life or lack of so bad you turn to condemning the sex lives of those different than yours? Remember, we have mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters here at home and overseas giving their lives, if need be, to defend Democracy and our way of life. Still we bicker over sexuality. Shallow and feeble we have become. As a human being and an American who believes in Democracy, I am forced to reflect on Jesus telling his apostles, on the Sabath no less, to love others as he loved the church. A fact you can read in all bibles, no room for argument yet we still do.

Interesting how this last commandment spurred the, "Coexist" movement for other religions to be accepted in the American way of life but nothing else. I am not gay or bisexual, however I am not authorized to judge the sexuality of others as the last commandment forbids it. A plain and simple commandment that we the people have twisted to accommodate our own political or self gain and greed. The fact is that our enemy seeks to destroy Democracy and life, not our sexuality. All the times I have faced the enemy, it was economics, politics, government, religion, and demographic origin that was the problem. However, life and experience have taught me that American economics is not to blame but the political influence of our economics.

Truth be told, America is rapidly declining towards a second rate nation. The American greed for wealth or power has blinded us, domestic and foreign, to the truth of and about the real enemies of America and its citizens. Who gives a damn about wealth when you or a group of American citizens are being shot at in a fight? What does it matter who holds the most, so called power, when battling the enemy for your lives? Remember, Democracy puts the power in its people, so protect them all as all of us have that power. Another fact, the United States Marine Corps trains all their marines to take on any job or position within Its company or squad so that the mission or objective can be completed. All marines have that power regardless of rank or job title. No structure can bare the weight on one brick, but all the bricks make that structure impervious. For if you are swayed by wealth or power then you have yet to experience true Democratic conflict. Inner conflict rages in you as an individual and is not the conflict we currently face as an American Democracy.

Make no mistake, terrorism and Democratic attacks happen frequently and reside right here on American soil. Every day there are events known as, "Hate Crimes" or "Civil Dissention". These horrific acts are domestic in origin. Yes, Democratic decline is well underway. Our enemy has struck a prominent blow to the hearts of the American people. They have implanted the seed of doubt about our Democracy and we, the people are that Democracy. Are you really going to

allow doubt into your plans for the future, your life? Perhaps we have embraced a life of convenience and availability for too long that we have forgotten how hard it was to get here in the first place. We also need to remember how we are making it difficult for our loved ones to keep it there.

The drama continues as we reflect on that legacy we just left behind for our fellow American citizens. In our country, now littered with a multitude of heinous acts, we add to the chaotic brew our own personal agendas of how we were wronged. We voice our disapprovals and make actions of selfish justice. We charge forward in our conceited quest only to accomplish damage to a road others will have to take with our hatred, anger, and torment. Of course leaving yet another primordial, vandalistic issue for others to fix. Time, energy, and resources, vital to the American Democratic way of life, wasted on personal and petty damage while the real problem is neglected or worse, denied. Face reality and see that our personal issues may bare merit but cower to the weight of Democracy. We have become addicted to all forms of media regardless of the truth or lack of. Obsessed with hopes that we can distract ourselves with the negative events of others. We have become creatures feasting on the carcass of downfall if only to dull our own misery. We spit our curses, pass blame and judgement, and socially debauch others with a trending ignorance of truth or civil fortitude all so we can briefly feel better about our own lives. Odd how that resembles an addict looking for their next fix. It is becoming clear why so many different generations and cultures have come to hate Americans.

We have learned and taught that it is wise to choose our battles, a tactic that holds true to this very day. However, the battles that, we the people, are choosing are shredding the fabric of Democracy. The incline of self image and self gain holds more precedence than unity or political moral. Battles fought are reflecting the arrogance and ignorance of an American people spoon fed applesauce because we have become too lazy to chew the real food. Ease, availability, popularity, and petty ideals are the media distractions governing our choice of battles. Mindless combatants on a crusade of self righteous Do's and Don'ts all the while more noble and paramount battles decrease in resolve and relevance. We the people would rather claw at our fellow citizens for name sake than unite together for American sake. We have shown the world we can stand united for Democracy during the American Revolution and the attacks of 9/11. It is time to stay united.

The American Democracy's future looks bleak and fades with every passing moment. We the people have lost our way. We the American people have chosen to become our own enemy. American citizens have diminished and degraded their priorities to what is at arms length and not the reach of a Democracy. We the American people are the problem but we are also the very Democracy we scar.

All American citizens must get back to the basics so we can fix Democracy. When we do that and stay united, I am willing to bet all those other issues will resolve as well.

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