

Democratic Party



MADNESS

A SAPIENT Being's Guide to
the Progressivism Madness of
Democratic Party Policies & Agenda

Corey Lee Wilson

Democratic Party Madness

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Madness of Democratic Party Policies & Agenda**

By

Corey Lee Wilson

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Printed paperback and eBook ePUB by Ingram Spark in La Vergne, Tennessee, USA

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ISBN 978-0-9994017-9-8 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-1-953319-48-7 (eBook)

Democratic Party Madness-01-PDF (pdf)

LCCN 2022914832

Special thanks for the cover design by Jenny Barroso, J20Graphics, j20graphics@gmail.com and ebook conversion by Redeemer SoftTech, redeemer.softtech@gmail.com.

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Acknowledgements

I owe a debt of gratitude to the following for “heavily” borrowing at times pieces of their and/or outright sections. I do this unashamedly to use the sapient phrase, “if it ain’t broke—don’t try to fix it.” Most of the borrowed works and research cannot be improved upon—so why try? It’s better to assemble these meaningful parts, profound messages, and eloquent arguments into a cohesive whole, told with high school and college students in mind, and that’s what I’ve done and where my talent lies.

Below in alphabetical order are the major contributors to *The SAPIENT Being* that I borrowed verbatim, quoted, and conceptualized much of their content from a little to a lot. Wherever this happened, I did my best to acknowledge my source. If I didn’t at times within the 15 chapters, I did so intentionally because doing so would have distracted from their message. Nonetheless, they are more than acknowledged in the References and Index sections of this textbook.

Epoch Times, The: Is America’s fastest-growing independent news media, founded in 2000, and their mission is to bring readers a truthful view of the world free from the influence of any government, corporation, or political party. Contrary to other fake news organizations undue criticism of *The Epoch Times*, their aim is to tell readers what they see, not how to think; and they strive to deliver a factual picture of reality that lets readers form their own opinions—and their articles are consistently used throughout this textbook.

National Review: Is an American semi-monthly conservative editorial magazine, focusing on news and commentary pieces on political, social, and cultural affairs and contributed a significant number of articles to this textbook. The magazine was founded by the author William F. Buckley Jr. in 1955 and its editor-in-chief is Rich Lowry, and the magazine has played a significant role in the development of conservatism in the United States, and is a leading voice on the American right.

Newsweek: Is an American weekly news magazine and digital news founded in 1933, and was widely distributed through the 20th century, with many notable editors-in-chief. It was relaunched (print and digital) in 2014 under the ownership of IBT Media, which also owns the *International Business Times*, until it was spun off a few years later, and their news content has contributed many articles to this textbook.

Teixeira, Ruy: Is an American political scientist and commentator now with AEI who has written several books on various topics in political science and political strategy. He is most noted for his work on political demography, and particularly for *The Emerging Democratic Majority* (2002), which he co-wrote with John Judis, a book arguing that Democrats in the United States are demographically destined to become a majority party in the early 21st century.

The Heritage Foundation: Has provided the lion’s share of book content for most every chapter of *Democratic Party Madness*. For the third year in a row, they ranked as the No. 1 think tank in

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the world for “Significant Impact on Public Policy,” according to the latest edition of the University of Pennsylvania’s annual report on think tanks. Heritage also ranked first again in the “Best Use of the Internet” category, the think tank’s second consecutive year at the top of that category.

The Hill: Is an American newspaper and digital media company based in Washington, D.C. that focuses on politics, policy, business and international relations and their coverage includes the U.S. Congress, the presidency and executive branch, election campaigns., and the inner workings of government. Because they the nexus and leader of political analysis in America, many of their articles were used in this textbook .

Some readers of *Democratic Party Madness* will accuse me, without knowing the facts of course, of being a closet Republican and Trump supporter. The first claim is false and the second is misstated. For the record, I’m an independent and centrist voter who has never registered for a political party and abstained from voting for the most “sapient” presidential candidate in the 2016 and 2020 elections on ethical principles as being the Founder and CEO of the SAPIENT Being.

However, prior to that, I have voted for five presidential Democratic Party candidates and four Republican Party candidates in my lifetime as follows: D-Carter in 1976, R-Reagan in 1980 and 1984, no vote in 1988 (as I had a hot date that election night), D-Clinton in 1992 and 1996, R-Bush in 2000 and 2004, and finally D-Obama in 2008 and 2012.

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A SAPIENT Being's Preface

Ruy Teixeira, a lifelong man of the Left, author of the 2002 *The Emerging Democratic Majority*, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and fixture of Democratic Party politics for more than 30 years who very much wants the Democratic Party to succeed, reports—the Democrats and the Democratic brand are in deep trouble:

“That should have been obvious” he states “when Democrats underperformed in the 2020 election, turning what they and most observers expected to be a blue wave into more of a ripple. They lost House seats and performed poorly in state legislative elections. And their support among non-white voters, especially Hispanics, declined substantially.”

Still they did win the Presidency, which led many to miss the clear market signals this underperformance was sending to Democrats. That tendency was strengthened by the Democrats’ improbable victories in the two Georgia Senate runoffs, which gave them full control of the federal government, albeit by the very narrowest of margins.

Nonetheless, today’s Democratic Party seems deranged and unpredictable—insisting men are actually women if they think they are, claiming Biden’s multi-trillion-dollar spending programs and wild currency creation will “reduce inflation,” engineering a full-scale invasion of the American homeland by millions of illegal aliens so Democrats can stay in power forever, and so on.

The Democratic Party was once the political home of farmers, blue-collar workers, and lower-middle-class, and mostly Catholic “white ethnic” voters. Today, it’s the party of affluent urban and suburban professionals, and also, in no small part, the party of the genuinely rich, from Silicon Valley to Wall Street and from Greenwich to Aspen.

Per Joe Lieberman, “Democrats are in trouble because they have strayed from the pledge President Biden made to the American people during the 2020 campaign, and articulated so hopefully in his inaugural address, to establish a stable, moderate, bipartisan government in Washington...” and the polls reflect this.

Quinnipiac University is a major polling outlet not known for a bias has per their latest poll, Biden’s overall job approval has plummeted down to 38 percent from highs in the mid-50s earlier in his presidency. Things look even worse for Biden when you look at the complete collapse of his support from political independents, who now disapprove of him by a 60 percent-to-32 percent margin.

How did this happen? Why did it happen? And what’s next? Keep reading to find out and be forewarned: For some of you this *MADNESS* textbook will be a revelation, an epiphany, a sapient being moment. For others, it will be a triggering event, denial of truth, and a painful intervention.

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Are you interested in learning about how far left, socialist, and progressive regressive the Democratic Party has turned in the 21st century and how close it is to destroying our republic? If yes, please read on and if you also believe in the message of this textbook and willing to fight for it—please considering joining or participating in one of the three SAPIENT Being programs below.

Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program is a relevant and current events textbooks program (published by Fratire Publishing LLC) to help return conservative values, viewpoint diversity, and sapience to high school and college campuses—and enlighten them on the many blessings to humankind that are the direct result of Western European culture, American exceptionalism, and Judeo-Christian values.

Conservative Campus Advisor (CCA) Program helps fill and expand faculty or staff positions, throughout America’s predominantly liberally staffed college campuses, that can serve as much needed conservative club advisors. Typically, conservative students across the country are facing difficulty when they attempt to start a right-leaning student organization on campus due to a lack of faculty members willing to serve as their advisor.

Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program is an interactive opportunity and nexus for high school and college students to start SAPIENT Being campus clubs, chapters, and alliances where independent, liberal, and conservative minded students can meet, discuss, and debate important issues by utilizing the sapient principles of viewpoint diversity, freedom of speech, and intellectual humility—and develop sapience in the process.

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Are You a Sapient Being or Want to Be One?

Sapience, also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Being a sapient being is not about identity politics, it's about doing what is right and borrows many of the essential qualities of Centrism that supports strength, tradition, open mindedness, and policy based on evidence not ideology.

Sapient beings are independent minded thinkers that achieve common sense solutions that appropriately address America's and the world's most pressing issues. They gauge situations based on context and reason, consideration, and probability. They are open minded and exercise conviction and willing to fight for it on the intellectual battlefield. Sapient beings don't blindly and recklessly follow their feelings or emotions.

Their unifying ideology is based on the truth, reason, logic, scientific method, and pragmatism—and not necessarily defined by compromise, moderation, or any particular faith—but is considerate of them.

Most importantly, per a letter written by Princeton professor Robert George in 2017 and endorsed by 28 professors from three Ivy League universities for incoming freshmen, "Think for yourself!"

George's letter continues:

Thinking for yourself means questioning dominant ideas even when others insist on their being treated as unquestionable. It means deciding what one believes not by conforming to fashionable opinions, but by taking the trouble to learn and honestly consider the strongest arguments to be advanced on both or all sides of questions—including arguments for positions that others revile and want to stigmatize and against positions others seek to immunize from critical scrutiny.

The love of truth and the desire to attain it should motivate you to think for yourself. The crucial point of a college education is to seek truth and to learn the skills and acquire the virtues necessary to be a lifelong truth-seeker. Open-mindedness, critical thinking, and debate are essential to discovering the truth. Moreover, they are our best antidotes to bigotry.

Merriam-Webster's first definition of the word "bigot" is a person "who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices." The only people who need fear open-minded inquiry and robust debate are the actual bigots, including those on campuses or in the broader society who seek to protect the hegemony of their opinions by claiming that to question those opinions is itself bigotry.

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So, don't be tyrannized by public opinion. Don't get trapped in an echo chamber. Whether you in the end reject or embrace a view, make sure you decide where you stand by critically assessing the arguments for the competing positions. Think for yourself. Good luck to you in college!

Now, that might sound easy. But you will find—as you may have discovered already in high school—that thinking for yourself can be a challenge. It always demands self-discipline, and these days can require courage.

In today's climate, it's all-too-easy to allow your views and outlook to be shaped by dominant opinion on your campus or in the broader academic culture. The danger any student—or faculty member—faces today is falling into the vice of conformism, yielding to groupthink, the orthodoxy.

At many colleges and universities what John Stuart Mill called “the tyranny of public opinion” does more than merely discourage students from dissenting from prevailing views on moral, political, and other types of questions. It leads them to suppose that dominant views are so obviously correct that only a bigot or a crank could question them.

Since no one wants to be, or be thought of as, a bigot or a crank, the easy, lazy way to proceed is simply by falling into line with campus orthodoxies. Don't do it!

To be sure, our overly-politicized culture has a tough time viewing any “verbal cacophony” as a sign of strength and vibrancy. And perhaps nowhere is this truer than on many college campuses where political correctness is rampant, groupthink is common, and social media “mobs” arise in a flash to intimidate anyone who openly strays from the prevailing orthodoxy.

At the SAPIENT Being we're not intimidated—and our primary purpose is to seek the truth by enhancing viewpoint diversity, promoting intellectual humility, protecting freedom of speech and expression while developing sapience in the process—no matter what the cost on the intellectual battlefield, campus classroom, and marketplace of ideas. This is our ethos! Is it yours?

Best regards and sapiently yours,



Corey Lee Wilson



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1 – Today’s Democratic Party Deficiencies: Culture, Economics, Patriotism & Much More



Credit: Dave Murray.

The future of the Democratic Party looks a lot like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as reported by David A. Graham in *The Atlantic* November 2018 article “How Far Have the Democrats Moved to the Left?”

Per Graham: Once it was the party of patrician liberals like Franklin Roosevelt; now women, people of color, and voters in big cities are the demographics at the heart of the party.

The question is whether the future of the Democratic Party votes like Ocasio-Cortez, a self-described Democratic socialist. Her June 2018 victory over incumbent Joe Crowley in a Democratic primary for a U.S. House seat in New York City was perhaps the most heralded example of what has been described as a burgeoning leftist shift in the Democratic Party.

For progressive activists, it’s a boon decades in the making; for moderate Democrats, it’s a political headache; and for Republicans, including President Trump, it’s both a worrying sign of creeping socialism and an effective bogeyman for rallying supporters.

According to Pew data, 46 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters now identify as liberal—up from 28 percent 10 years ago. Meanwhile, the percentage who say they’re moderates has dropped from 44 to 37. The number of conservatives continues to drop, too. But these changes most likely reflect the exodus of right-leaning Democrats as both parties become more ideologically homogeneous. It doesn’t necessarily mean that there’s been huge growth on the party’s left wing.

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How to Fix the Democratic Brand

Ruy Teixeira, a lifelong man of the Left, author of the 2002 *The Emerging Democratic Majority*, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and fixture of Democratic Party politics for more than 30 years who very much wants the Democratic Party to succeed, reports on “How to Fix the Democratic Brand” in April 2022:

The Democrats and the Democratic brand are in deep trouble. That should have been obvious when Democrats underperformed in the 2020 election, turning what they and most observers expected to be a Democratic wave into more of a ripple. They lost House seats and performed poorly in state legislative elections. And their support among nonwhite voters, especially Hispanics, declined substantially.

Still they did win the Presidency, which led many to miss the clear market signals this underperformance was sending to Democrats. That tendency was strengthened by the Democrats’ improbable victories in the two Georgia Senate runoffs, which gave them full control of the federal government, albeit by the very narrowest of margins.

At the same time, Trump’s bizarre behavior around refusing to concede the outcome of the election—which probably contributed to the GOP defeats in the Georgia runoffs—and his encouragement of rioters who stormed the Capitol on January 6 led many Democrats to assume that the Republican brand would be so damaged by association that the Democratic brand would shine by comparison. And yet...here we are a year or so later and the Democrats are in brutal shape.

Biden’s approval rating is in the low 40’s, only a little above where Trump’s was at the same point in his Presidential term which of course was the precursor to the GOP’s drubbing in the 2018 election. Biden has been doing especially poorly among working class and Hispanic voters.

Biden’s approval ratings on specific issues tend to be lower, in the high 30’s on the economy and in the low 30’s on hot button issues like immigration and crime. Off year and special elections since 2020 have indicated a strongly pro-Republican electoral environment and Democrats currently trail Republicans in the generic Congressional ballot for 2022. It now seems likely that Democrats will, at minimum, lose control of the House this November and quite possibly suffer a wave election up and down the ballot.

Most Democrats would prefer to believe that the current dismal situation merely reflects some bad luck. The Delta wave of the coronavirus undercut Biden’s plans for returning the country to normal and interacted with supply chain difficulties to produce an inflation spike that angered consumers. There is some truth to this, but it is not the whole picture. The reality is that Democrats have failed to develop a party brand capable of unifying a dominant majority of Americans behind their political project.

Indeed, the current Democratic brand suffers from multiple deficiencies that make it somewhere between un compelling and toxic to wide swathes of American voters who might potentially be their allies. I locate these deficiencies in three key areas: culture; economics; and patriotism.

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Culture

The cultural left has managed to associate the Democratic party with a series of views on crime, immigration, policing, free speech and of course race and gender that are quite far from those of the median voter. That's a success for the cultural left but the hard reality is that it's an electoral liability for the Democratic party.

From time to time—the latest effort was in this month's State of the Union address--Democratic politicians like Biden try to dissociate themselves from super-unpopular ideas like defunding the police but the voices of the cultural left within the party are still more deferred to than opposed.

These voices are further amplified by Democratic-leaning media and nonprofits, as well as within the Democratic party infrastructure itself, all of which are thoroughly dominated by the cultural left. In an era when a party's national brand increasingly defines state and even local electoral contests, Democratic candidates have a very hard time shaking these cultural left associations.

How did this unfortunate state of affairs arise? To understand this, we must understand the trajectory of the American left in the 21st century. The culture of the left has evolved and not in a good way. It is now thoroughly out of touch with its working class roots and completely dominated by college-educated professionals, typically in big metropolitan areas and university towns and typically younger. These are the people that fill the ranks of the media, nonprofits, advocacy groups, foundations and the infrastructure of the Democratic party. They speak their own language and highlight the issues that most animate their commitments to 'social justice.'

These commitments are increasingly driven by what is now referred to as identity politics. This form of politics originated in the 1960s movements that sought to eliminate discrimination against and establish equal treatment and access for women and for racial and sexual minorities. In evolving to the present day, the focus has mutated into an attempt to impose a worldview that emphasizes multiple, intersecting levels of oppression ("intersectionality") based on group identification.

In place of promoting universal rights and principles—the traditional remit of the left--advocates now police others on the left, including within the Democratic party, to uncritically embrace this intersectional approach, insist on an arcane vocabulary for speaking about these purportedly oppressed groups, and prohibit discourse based on logic and evidence to evaluate the assertions of those who claim to speak on the groups' behalf.

Is America really a "white supremacist" society? What does "structural racism" even mean, and does it explain all the socioeconomic problems of nonwhites? Is anyone who raises questions about immigration levels a racist? Are personal pronouns necessary and something the left should seek to popularize? Are transwomen exactly the same as biological women and are those who question such a claim simply "haters" who should be expunged from the left coalition (as has been advocated in the UK)? This list could go on.

What ties the questions together is that they are closely associated with practitioners of identity politics or adherents of the intersectional approach, who deem them not open to debate with

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the usual tools of logic and evidence. Politically derived answers are simply to be embraced by Democratic party progressives in the interest of “social justice.”

The Democrats have paid a considerable price for their increasingly strong linkage to militant identity politics, which brands the party as focused on, or at least distracted by, issues of little relevance to most voters’ lives. Worse, the focus has led many working-class voters to believe that, unless they subscribe to this emerging worldview and are willing to speak its language, they will be condemned as reactionary, intolerant, and racist by those who purport to represent their interests.

To some extent these voters are right: They really are looked down upon by substantial segments of the Democratic party—typically younger, well-educated, and metropolitan—who embrace identity politics and the intersectional approach. This has contributed to the emerging rupture in the Democratic Party’s coalition along lines of education and region.

This rupture was solidified by the election of Donald Trump in 2016. By far the dominant interpretation of white working class support for Trump on the left was that these voters were racist and xenophobic, full stop. They just didn’t like the loss of status and privilege allegedly attendant upon being white as America evolved to a more multicultural, multiracial democracy. This was odd since Democratic progressives had just spent the last many decades sternly denouncing the American neoliberal economic model and how it was ruining the lives and communities of all working people.

The Trump years further deepened the identity politics influence with the Democratic party, particularly in the wake of the nationwide movement protesting the murder of George Floyd. This left its stamp on the 2020 edition of the Democratic party, notwithstanding their old school standard-bearer, Joe Biden.

It has also left its stamp on how Democrats have handled difficult culturally-inflected issues since the election. They have fallen prey again and again to what I have termed the “Fox News Fallacy”—the idea that if Fox News and the like are criticizing the Democrats on such issues there must be absolutely nothing to the criticisms and the criticized policies should be defended at all costs. This approach has not served the Democrats well as Biden’s term has evolved.

Start with crime. Initially dismissed as simply an artifact of the Covid shutdown that was being vastly exaggerated by Fox News and the like for their nefarious purposes, it is now apparent that the spike in violent crime is quite real and that voters are very, very concerned about it. This very definitely includes black and Hispanic voters, as indicated by polling data and confirmed by Eric Adams’ support base in the New York mayoral contest. No wonder more and more Democratic politicians are running as fast as they can away from any hint of “defund the police,” the slogan beloved of the activist left that was actually put on the ballot in Minneapolis...and soundly defeated, especially by black voters. Consistent with this, a recent Pew poll found that black and Hispanic Democrats are significantly more likely than white Democrats to favor more police funding in their area.

Given this, it is no surprise Republicans, according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* poll, are favored over Democrats on the crime issue by 20 points.

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Another example of the Fox News Fallacy is the immigration issue. The Biden administration initially insisted that the surge at the border would go away on its own as the hot weather season arrived, a line most Democrats echoed, invoking the idea that the issue was more a Fox News talking point than a real problem.

Not so. It is now apparent that the perceived liberalization of the border regime under the Biden administration did indeed spur more migrants to try their luck at their border. An astonishing 1.7 million illegal crossings at the southern border were recorded in the 2021 fiscal year, the highest total since at least 1960, when the government first started keeping such records. In response, the administration has scrambled to deploy whatever tools it has at its disposal, including some left over from the Trump administration, to stem the tide. This has not sat well with immigration advocates, who staged a (virtual) walkout on top Biden officials in late 2021 to protest these administration policies.

These and other pressures, as well as the desire not to give in to Fox News talking points about a border crisis, has led most Democratic politicians to treat the topic of border security—and even the phrase—very gingerly (though Biden did at least allude to the need to “secure the border: in his SOTU speech). As a result, there is no clear Democratic plan for an immigration system that would both permit reasonable levels of legal immigration and provide the border security necessary to stem illegal immigration. Nothing illustrates this better than the Biden administration’s current plan to end Title 42, a move that will almost certainly lead to a further surge of immigrants at the border and increased pressure on an already-overwhelmed system.

Voters have noticed. In the *Wall Street Journal* poll previously cited, Republicans are favored over Democrats by 26 points on border security. And Biden, as noted earlier, has abysmal approval ratings on the immigration issue, typically in the low ‘30s.

Democrats would do well to remember that public opinion polling over the years has consistently shown overwhelming majorities in favor of more spending and emphasis on border security. The uncomfortable fact is that, while this issue is being exploited by Fox News, it is still a very real problem Democrats need to address.

Finally, consider critical race theory or CRT, a particularly flagrant example of the Fox News Fallacy in that Democrats refuse to admit even grudgingly that there might be a problem here. CRT is a term originating in academic legal theory that has been shorthand by the right as a catch-all for the intrusion of race essentialism into teacher training, school curricula and the like.

The standard Democratic comeback to criticism about CRT in the schools is simply to assert that any voters, including parents, who are concerned about CRT are manipulated by Fox News and are opposing benign pedagogical practices like teaching about slavery, Jim Crow, the Tulsa race massacre, redlining and so on. The not so subtle implication is that such voters are racists since who else would be opposed to simply teaching such historical facts?

But voters’ worries about CRT cannot be bludgeoned away so easily by saying CRT doesn’t really exist in the schools and parents just don’t want their kids taught about slavery. Parents are far more worried about their children being arrayed into hierarchies of privilege and oppression and encouraged to see everything through a racial lens—whatever the theory is called—than

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they are concerned with their children learning about historical incidents and practices of racism.

This issue has importantly become caught up in general dissatisfaction with how Democrats have handled schooling issues during the pandemic. In Virginia, voters who were already upset about parental burdens and academic deficits from extended school closures became additionally concerned that an emerging focus on “social justice” pedagogy and policies was detracting from learning traditional academic subjects and rewarding high achievement. As a memo by the Democratic firm ALG Research on focus groups with suburban Virginia Biden-Youngkin voters noted:

They feel that people’s ability to have a civil discussion has vanished, and that they have to walk on eggshells even on seemingly innocuous topics. This extends to discussions around race in schools, where they were less concerned with critical race theory as an idea or curriculum but expressed frustration with the black-and-white approach they see taken toward such complicated subjects....

This isn’t about “critical race theory” itself, and we shouldn’t dismiss that CRT isn’t real and think we’ve tackled the issue. Many swing voters knew, when pushed by more-liberal members of the group, that CRT wasn’t taught in Virginia schools. But at the same time, they felt like racial and social justice issues were overtaking math, history, and other things. They absolutely want their kids to hear the good and the bad of American history, at the same time they are worried that racial and cultural issues are taking over the state’s curricula. We should expect this backlash to continue, especially as it plays into another way where parents and communities feel like they are losing control over their schools in addition to the basics of even being able to decide if they’re open or not.

Again, these issues cannot be waved away simply by dismissing complaining parents as racists or, less pejoratively, as dupes of Fox News. This is particularly the case for Asian parents. It is difficult to overestimate how important education is to Asian voters, who see it as the key tool for upward mobility—a tool that even the poorest Asian parents can take advantage of. But Democrats are becoming increasingly associated with an approach to schooling that seems anti-meritocratic, oriented away from standardized tests, gifted and talented programs and test-in elite schools—all areas where Asian children have excelled.

It does not seem mysterious that Asian voters might react negatively to this approach. In fact, it would be mysterious if they didn’t.

As a result of these and other cultural issues, the party’s—or, at least, Biden’s—attempt to rebrand Democrats as a unifying party speaking for Americans across divisions of race and class appears to have failed. Voters are not sure Democrats can look beyond identity politics to ensure public safety, secure borders, high quality, non-ideological education, and economic progress for all Americans.

Nevertheless, Biden and the Democrats must persist in attempting a rebrand in these areas because the alternative is ceding a culture wars advantage to the Republicans that will ensure not just defeat in 2022 but the continued failure of Democrats’ efforts to forge a dominant

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majority coalition for years to come. One obvious place to try this is on the crime issue, building on Biden's recent, tentative steps in this direction.

Consider the fact that Democrats are associated with a wave of progressive public prosecutors who seem quite hesitant about keeping criminals off the street, even as a spike in violent crimes like murders and carjacking sweeps the nation. This is twinned to a climate of tolerance and non-prosecution for lesser crimes that is degrading the quality of life in many cities under Democratic control.

Economics

To the extent Democrats have an overarching economic story it is that a dramatic expansion of the social safety net and a rapid move to a clean energy economy will—eventually—result in strong growth and an abundance of good jobs. But this is a muddled story that is clearly not getting through.

A standard Democratic take on this problem is that the basic economic ideas and accomplishments are great, they simply haven't been properly communicated. But I think the problem runs far deeper than this. Consider the debacle around the Build Back Better bill.

This was the multi-trillion-dollar bill that Democrats were, until very recently, trying to wrangle through Congress. It was supposedly “transformational”—but transformation to what? Democrats talked about the care economy, a Green New Deal, and other big ideas associated with Build Back Better. But what that added up to was not clear. Would it have created a more dynamic American capitalism that could lift up broad swaths of the country that have been left behind? Instead, the bill had a “shaggy dog” quality of funneling money to a wide variety of Democratic priorities. Some of this spending would have supported useful expansions of the notably stingy American welfare system and some would have supported useful public investments not provided for in the infrastructure bill, particularly in clean energy.

But none of this seemed transformational in the sense of leading to a more productive, higher growth, and less regionally unequal American capitalism. Indeed, this did not seem to be the point; rather, it was to make the current model of capitalism a bit fairer and a bit more climate friendly. That was laudable, but it fell short of a new model of capitalism that could brand the Democrats as the party of a fast growth American future.

But it is a huge mistake to lose sight of the need for faster growth? Growth, particularly productivity growth, is what drives rising living standards over time and Democrats presumably stand for the fastest possible rise in living standards. Faster growth also makes easier the achievement of Democrats' other goals. Hard economic times typically generate pessimism about the future and fear of change, not broad support for more democracy and social justice. In contrast, when times are good, when the economy is expanding and living standards are steadily rising for most of the population, people see better opportunities for themselves and are more inclined toward social generosity, tolerance, and collective advance.

Yet much of the Democratic left still regards the goal of more and faster economic growth with suspicion, preferring to focus on the fairness of how current growth is distributed. This reflects

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not just an understandable and laudable focus on unequal distribution, but also a general feeling that the fruits of growth are poisoned, encouraging unhealthy consumerist lifestyles and, worse, driving the climate crisis that is hurtling humanity toward doom. The latter view is responsible for the increasing vogue on the left for the idea of “degrowth.”

With such views it is not surprising that economic growth does not rank very high on the Democratic left’s list of economic objectives.

Doesn’t the left want to make people happy? One has to wonder. There seems to be more interest in figuring out what people should stop doing and consuming than in figuring out how people can have more to do and consume. The very idea of abundance is rarely discussed, except to disparage it.

You can also see this in the rather modest amount of attention and resources devoted to technological advance in the Democrats’ other bills. The bipartisan infrastructure bill did contain some money for developing next generation energy technologies like clean hydrogen, carbon capture, and advanced nuclear, but the amount was comparatively modest. The clean energy money in the last version of the Build Back Better bill (shelved—but now revived), was mostly focused on speeding up deployment of wind, solar, and electric vehicles.

But if there is to be an abundant clean energy future, not a degrowth one, it will depend on our ability to develop the requisite energy technologies which must necessarily go beyond wind and solar. The same could be said about a wide range of other technological challenges that could underpin a future of abundance: AI and machine learning; CRISPR and mRNA biotechnology; advanced robotics and the internet of things. These technologies, just like clean energy technologies, need to be developed aggressively to unleash their potential.

That’s why it’s inadequate for Democrats to focus narrowly on a clean energy, Green New Deal-type future. Not only is there an excessive focus on wind and solar, but the challenges for an abundant future cannot be reduced to the need for a clean energy transition. And make no mistake: what Americans want is an abundant future not just a green one that, they are told, is mostly necessary to stave off planetary disaster. The fact is that, for better or worse, combatting climate change does not rank very high on voters’ priority list (14th in a recent Pew Research poll). That suggests investment in clean energy technologies needs to be embedded in a broader “abundance agenda” (to use Derek Thompson’s phrase) that drives up the supply of innovation and can deliver an abundant life for all not just the avoidance of disaster.

In short, what Americans want, and need is an abundant economy, of which a clean energy economy or a care economy are merely subsets or components. That can be a winning vision of where Democrats want to take the economy in ways that Build Back Better or a Green New Deal simply can’t.

That should be the Democrats’ brand: more innovation, faster progress, greater abundance. Without that, simply being fairer and greener will fail as a unifying economic offer.

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Patriotism

Today's Democrats have difficulty embracing patriotism and weaving it into their political brand. It wasn't so long ago, Bill Clinton was saying "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America." And even more recently, when Barack Obama won the Presidency in 2008, he said:

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

For his part, Joe Biden does try to inject a little of that old time patriotism into his remarks from time to time. It's not really taking though. A big part of his party is singing a different tune and singing it loudly. As the liberal commentator Noah Smith observes:

[I]n the age of social media, the progressive movement is defined less by the President and more by the collection of journalists, professors, and lower-level politicians who dominate Twitter and major publications and news networks. And here I've seen a remarkable and pervasive vilification of America become not just widespread but de rigeur among progressives since unrest broke out in the mid-2010s....

The general conceit among today's progressives is that America was founded on racism, that it has never faced up to this fact, and that the most important task for combatting American racism is to force the nation to face up to that "history" Even if it loses them elections, progressives seem prepared to go down fighting for the idea that America needs to educate its young people about its fundamentally White supremacist character....

[T]he version of "history" that progressives want to teach young people, generally speaking, is a cartoonish story in which America is the villain—a nation formed from racism, founded the day the first slave stepped onto our shores, dedicated thereafter to the repression and brutalization of people of color.

This "history" ignores America's deep and powerful tradition of anti-racism, the universalistic egalitarian ideals of the Declaration of Independence, the abolitionist movement that was present from the very beginning, the Founders' conception of the U.S. as a nation of immigrants, America's role in the ending of European colonialism, its position at the forefront of liberal democratic reforms and experimentation, the promotion of global standards of human rights following WW2, and so on.

Consistent with this analysis, a survey project by the More in Common group was able to separate out a group they termed "progressive activists" who were 8 percent of the population (but punch far above their weight in the Democratic party) and are described as "deeply concerned with issues concerning equity, fairness, and America's direction today. They tend to be more secular, cosmopolitan, and highly engaged with social media".

These progressive activists' attitude toward their own country departs greatly from not just that of average Americans but from pretty much any other group you might care to name, including average nonwhite Americans. Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans, in fact, are highly likely to be

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proud to be Americans and highly likely to say they would still choose to live in America if they could choose to live anywhere in the world.

In contrast, progressive activists are loathe to express these sentiments. For example, just 34 percent of progressive activists say they are “proud to be American” compared to 62 percent of Asians, 70 percent of blacks, and 76 percent of Hispanics.

This is a big, big problem. One of the only effective ways—and possibly the most effective way—to mobilize Americans behind big projects is to appeal to patriotism, to Americans as part of a nation. Indeed much of what America accomplished in the 20th century was under the banner of liberal nationalism. Yet many in the Democratic party blanch at any hint of nationalism—one reason so many are leery of patriotism—because of its association with darker impulses and political trends. Yet as John Judis has pointed out, nationalism has its positive side as well in that it allows citizens to identify on a collective level and support projects that serve the common good rather than their immediate interests.

Given all that Democrats hope to accomplish, it makes absolutely no sense not to appeal to Americans’ patriotism and love of country. That too has to be part of Democrats’ rebranding. They must insist that their party is a patriotic party that believes Americans as a nation can accomplish great things. And they should not shrink from emphasizing the competitive aspect of patriotism. America is indeed in a competition with other nations like China and it is not xenophobic to say that America is a great nation that can win that competition.

A Democratic party that occupies the cultural center ground, promotes an abundance agenda and is unabashedly patriotic has a real shot at political domination given Republicans’ serious problems and weaknesses. Conversely, a Democratic party that does not rebrand in this way dooms American politics to continued stalemate and polarization. That’s not a pleasant prospect.

Democrats Move Left, But the Center Holds



Credit: Democratic Party on Facebook.

Per the William A. Galston “Democrats Move Left, But the Center Holds” article published in *The Wall Street Journal* in August 2020:

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A June 2020 report from the Pew Research Center details the party's demographic shifts. It has become less white and more educated. In 1994, 23% of Democrats were nonwhite. Today 40% are, compared with 17% of Republicans. When it comes to education, the parties have switched places. In 1996, 22% of Democrats and 27% of Republicans had college degrees. The figures are now 41% and 29%, respectively. College-educated whites rose from 19% to 28% of Democrats, while whites without degrees fell from 58% to 30%. Non-college-educated whites now make up 57% of Republicans.

This shift has been especially pronounced among women. In 1994 nearly half of white women with college degrees identified as Republican, compared with only one-third today. White men have moved more slowly in this direction, from 59% to 51%.

Add religion to the mix, and Republicans look like the America of the 1990s while Democrats resemble projections for the 2050s. In 2008, the earliest year for which Pew has data, white Christian Democrats outnumbered religiously unaffiliated ones by 26 points. Today, unaffiliated Democrats outnumber white Christians by 12 points. By contrast, more than 6 in 10 Republicans are white Christians, and only 15% of Republicans are unaffiliated.

Then there's geographic polarization. Urban voters have increasingly identified with Democrats and rural voters with Republicans, a trend that accelerated in 2016. Twenty percent of Clinton's 1992 vote came from rural America, compared with only 9% of Hillary Clinton's, according to Boston College political scientist David Hopkins.

The battleground is the suburbs—evenly divided in the early 1990s and now. The suburban share of the presidential vote has steadily increased, to an all-time high of 56% in 2016, Hopkins finds. A pronounced suburban shift toward one party would be a decisive change in the partisan balance that could reshape American politics for a generation. Democrats have become increasingly dependent on suburban voters, whose share of the Democratic presidential total has risen to 52% from 40% while the party's urban vote share remained stable, and its rural share collapsed.

These trends are even more pronounced in congressional elections.

According to Hopkins, the share of Democratic House seats in predominantly suburban districts rose to 60% in 2018 from 41% in 1992, while the share in rural districts fell to 5% from 24%. The share of Democratic senators from predominantly suburban states rose to 79% from 55% while the share from rural states fell to 6% from 28%.

Suburbs are politically heterogeneous. Hopkins finds that Democrats have improved their presidential performance in the suburban counties surrounding the 20 largest metropolitan areas but not smaller ones

Demography and geography have reshaped the Democratic Party's ideology. As conservative rural and small-town voters shifted their allegiance toward Republicans and the suburbs became more important to the Democratic coalition, the party moved left on many issues.

Other forces contributed. Industrial labor unions, which were moderate on culture and foreign policy, have waned while more ethnically diverse, left-leaning public-employee and service-

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sector unions gained ground. The financial crisis of 2008-09 exacerbated doubts about the market-friendly orientation that dominated the party during the 1990s, as did rising inequality and corporate concentration. Occupy Wall Street in 2011 was a harbinger of the progressive coalition that Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who calls himself a democratic socialist, mobilized in his 2016 challenge to Clinton. The surprise primary victory of another democratic socialist, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, over a Democratic House leader turned out to be the first of several such upsets in 2018 and this year.

As the 2020 primaries began, the left had reason to hope that this would be its year. Sens. Sanders and Elizabeth Warren got off to strong starts, and early primaries made Sanders a front-runner. If African-Americans—many of whom who are more moderate than white progressives—hadn't united behind Biden in South Carolina, the Vermont senator probably would be the party's nominee.

The Biden campaign understood the need to conciliate the left—something Clinton failed to do in 2016. It set up six “Biden-Sanders unity task forces” to work out compromises on contested issues. Biden made speeches and put out briefing papers that were well to the left of positions he had endorsed during the primaries. He has sought to promote party unity without alienating either his moderate base or the suburban independents and moderate Republicans who held their noses and voted for Trump four years ago.

Biden's challenge, in short, has been to keep his balance.

Even with the left-wing insurgency, most Democrats are reformers, not revolutionaries. They want to improve capitalism, not establish socialism. They worry that social mobility has slowed and not all Americans have enjoyed the fruits of economic growth. They believe that corporate concentration has inhibited innovation and that financialization has distorted the economy. They think all Americans deserve shelter and medical care. They want to make society more inclusive. They are convinced that climate change is dangerous and human activity contributes to it. They believe that alliances and international institutions help advance American interests but pushing for regime change usually doesn't. These views are contestable but hardly radical.

The 2020 Democratic platform is evidence that the center has held. Here's a list of what it doesn't endorse: Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, reparations for slavery, defunding the police, free college for all, cancellation of all student debt, open borders, abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a national ban on fracking, deep cuts in the defense budget, and the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions movement.

Instead, it calls for reforms to existing programs aimed at making affordable health insurance available to all, reducing carbon emissions with new technologies, improving police practices, equalizing opportunity across racial and ethnic lines, reducing the costs of college, making immigration enforcement more humane, and reducing the costs of defense procurement.

Still, the Democratic Party leans further left than it did in 1992. Taken as a whole, the party's agenda would substantially expand the size, scope and cost of the federal government. That will require higher taxes on corporations, wealthy Americans, investors and estates. Other positions put the party at odds with Republicans in ways that are longstanding and familiar. Today's

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Democrats aren't supply-siders, but they haven't been since Lyndon B. Johnson's administration. They continue to believe vigorous regulation is compatible with economic growth and innovation.

Democrats are more focused than ever on equality for women, racial and ethnic minorities, disabled Americans and the full range of gender identities. They are more united on social and cultural issues than on their prescriptions for the economy. Their unity presages intensified conflict with social conservatives, with no end in sight.

These Are Not Your Grandfather's Democrats

This section is courtesy of the Jim Daws American Thinker article in January 2019 titled "These Are Not Your Grandfather's Democrats."

The Democrats' obstinate refusal to fund a physical barrier on our southern border is the starkest illustration yet that they are no longer a political party dedicated to the protection and prosperity of the United States. The party has been captured by cultural Marxists who are radically hostile to America's founding principles, its history, and its people. It's no exaggeration to recognize the reality that the Democratic Party is engaged in an ideological war against the historic American nation, which many of the party's members despise.

Post-Civil War Democrats fashioned themselves as champions of America's working classes and defenders of the freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights. Those Democrats were patriotic and believed that while the founders' promise had yet to be fully realized, their ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" were profound and sacred truths.

That all changed beginning with the cultural revolution of the 1960s, as cultural Marxists began their long march to take over America's universities, media, courts, and popular culture. These Democrats fancied themselves revolutionaries who believed that because of its flaws, America was irredeemable. Their motto was "tear it all down." While tattered remnants of those old-style Democrats survive on the margins, they are no longer an animating force within the party.

Committed civil libertarians were also jettisoned by the Democrats. Once champions of free speech, the Dems now work in myriad ways on college campuses, in popular culture, and on social media to censor opposing points of view, often through violence and intimidation.

Second Amendment rights are likewise under constant assault from the Democrats, who know that an unarmed, docile populace is a prerequisite for state control. And Fourth Amendment rights to privacy have been so violated as to now be rights in name only.

The Dems have filled the void created by the abandonment of these constituencies and once cherished beliefs with a toxic stew of grievance and identity politics. They've cobbled together a coalition of people who believe that government is their salvation and that any shortfall of their own is the fault of an oppressive, bigoted America.

Where once they believed in equal rights, they now push racial preferences and quotas. Where once they believed in free enterprise and market capitalism, they now openly advocate socialism. Belief in strong, traditional families has been replaced by advocacy of redefining

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marriage and men in women's sports and bathrooms. Once antiwar, they now openly advocate for endless, globalist wars of no discernible national interest for America's young men and women to fight and die in

The problem with all this is that America is still marginally a traditionally conservative nation, and none of these leftist policies enjoys majority support outside liberal coastal and big-city bastions. So the new Democrats are pretending desperately to be the Democrats of old just long enough to complete the transformation of the nation to fit their Marxist ideology.

The way Democrats mean to complete the transformation is through mass immigration—both legal and illegal. They have been importing a new electorate that has little history, understanding, or appreciation of free enterprise and civil rights. These new voters are more concerned with day-to-day economic survival than "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—ironically because of the very socialist governments they are fleeing.

This is the reason why the Democrats are so adamantly opposed to a physical barrier on the border—not because they believe that it doesn't work, but because they know that it does.

Young Democrats Are Less Politically Tolerant Than Republicans, Poll Shows

A recent survey conducted by Axios shows that young Democrats are far more likely to be less tolerant of people who have different political beliefs per the Daniel Chang El American article in December 2021 titled "Young Democrats Are Less Politically Tolerant Than Republicans, Poll Shows".

The poll shows that College Democrats are far less likely than Republicans to have friends from the other side of the aisle but Republicans more likely to have Democratic friends. Clearly, younger Democrats are less tolerant than their Republican and Libertarian cohorts.

The survey showed that an overwhelming 71% of young Democrats would probably not go on a date with someone who voted for another candidate. A substantial 37% of respondents said that they will probably not be friends with someone who has a different political position. Almost a third said they would not work for someone who voted for the opposing candidate, and 41% said they wouldn't even shop at or support a business of someone from the opposing party.

In contrast, only 31% of Republicans said they would probably not date someone who voted for the other party, and less than 10% said that they would base their decision on who they work for, who are their friends, and where do they shop at, on politics. The numbers are also low for Independents, as less than 30% say they will not date someone who voted differently, 11% said they might not be friends with someone from the opposing candidate, 13% said they would not shop at a business from a supporter of the different party.

15 – California’s ‘Progressive’ Democratic Supermajority

Nightmare: A Dire Warning to America



Credit: California’s most famous Democrat Kamal Harris - Los Angeles Times.

From *California Madness* comes many reports for this chapter regarding the ideological failure of California falling squarely on the shoulders of progressive politicians and activists, social justice reformers, civil rights workers, cultural appropriation enforcers, diversity, and inclusion warriors and the like who have spread into the media, government, college campuses, neighborhood organizations and workplaces.

This July 2020 *City Journal* article and section “California’s Woke Hypocrisy” is from Joel Kotkin and explains how California’s woke leaders offer platitudes and counterproductive policies rather than opportunities and better living standards for the state’s minorities. Vice-President Kamal Harris is a perfect example of this wokeness.

No state wears its multicultural veneer more ostentatiously than California. The Golden State’s leaders believe that they lead a progressive paradise, ushering in what theorists Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca call “a new progressive era.” Others see California as deserving of nationhood; it reflects, as a *New York Times* columnist put it, “the shared values of our increasingly tolerant and pluralistic society.”

Despite these progressive intentions, Hispanics and African-Americans—some 45 percent of California’s total population—fare worse in the state than almost anywhere nationwide. Based on cost-of-living estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 28 percent of California’s African-Americans live in poverty, compared with 22 percent nationally. Fully one-third of Latinos, now the state’s largest ethnic group, live in poverty, compared with 21 percent outside the state.

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“For Latinos,” notes longtime political consultant Mike Madrid, “the California Dream is becoming an unattainable fantasy.”

More than 30 years ago, the Population Reference Bureau predicted that California was creating a two-tier economy, with a more affluent white and Asian population and a largely poor Latino and African-American class. Rather than find ways to increase opportunity for blue-collar workers, the state imposed strict business regulations that drove an exodus of the industries—notably, manufacturing, and middle-management service jobs—that historically provided gateways to the middle class for minorities.

California: Wave of the Future? Wake of the Past? Or Something in Between?

This section’s content comes from the 2020 research brief by Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky “Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California’s Middle Class” at the Chapman University Center for Demographics & Policy:

The notion of the Golden State as a “nation-state” is a valid descriptor given that California has a population (nearly 40 million residents) that’s larger than all but 35 countries (California would fall between Sudan and Iraq), the fifth largest economy in the world (ahead of India’s and behind Germany’s), plus remarkable diversity (92 languages other than English are spoken in the Los Angeles public school system).

California has always been a state where excess flourished, conscious of its trend-setting role as a world-leading innovator in technology, economics, and the arts. For much of the past century, it also helped create a new model for middle and working-class upward mobility while addressing racial, gender and environmental issues well in advance of the rest of the country.

The End of the California Dream?

Furthermore, if California fails to offer young people and newcomers the opportunity to improve their lot, the consequences will be catastrophic—and not only for California. The end of the California Dream would deal a devastating blow to the proposition that such a widely diverse polity can thrive.

California-based *Atlantic* writer Conor Friedersdorf offers a broad and harsh critique of the state in an article entitled “The California Dream is Dying.”

Despite the state’s many attributes, he writes, “I fear for California’s future.” The generations that benefited from California’s dizzying ascent into global prominence, he says, “should be striving to ensure that future generations can pursue happiness as they did. Instead, they are poised to take the California Dream to their graves by betraying a promise the state has offered from the start.

While California publicly celebrates diversity and inclusion, Friedersdorf continues, “the state’s leaders and residents shut the door on economic opportunity,” citing a chronic shortage of housing, high poverty, poor educational services, homelessness, and other factors that limit upward mobility.

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Friedersdorf warns that “blue America’s model faces its most consequential stress test in one of its safest states, where a spectacular run of almost unbroken prosperity could be killed by a miserly approach to opportunity.”

Thus, while Governor Newsom still sees California as “America’s coming attraction,” it’s jarring that writers who share his ideological orientation are joining those on the right to warn the nation against emulating the state.

The Middle Class Squeeze

More from the 2020 research brief by Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky *Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California's Middle Class* at the Chapman University Center for Demographics & Policy:

California policies, often steeped in good intentions, have had deeply deleterious consequences, especially on its middle and working-class families. The state’s rich have enjoyed an unprecedented bounty. But California also suffers the widest gap between middle and upper-middle income earners of any state. California’s signatures of upward mobility, homeownership, and the availability of economically sustainable jobs, have fallen well below the national average.

High real estate prices have fostered high rents, and prevented many Californians, notably the young and minorities, from purchasing houses. This is occurring at a time when the vast majority of jobs being produced in the state pay under the median wage, and 40% pay under \$40,000 a year. Since 2008 the state has created five times as many low wage jobs as high wage jobs. Yes, the state’s employment growth in the past decade has outperformed the rest of the country, but most of the new jobs pay poorly, and now seem to be permanent for many.

California is the single worst state in the nation when it comes to creating jobs that pay above average, while it is at the top of the nation in creating below average and low-paying jobs. High wage jobs have increased marginally in the state during the past decade, but our competitors—Utah, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, and Washington have seen much higher growth. At the same time, middle-skill job growth in California is well below competitive states. California lost 1.6 million above-average-paying jobs in the past decade, more than twice as many as any other state.

Given the sophistication of its economy and its enormous natural advantages, California should lead, not lag, in creating high wage jobs.

California Feudalism: The Squeeze on the Middle Class

This section is also from the 2018 article “California Feudalism: The Squeeze on the Middle Class” also comes from Chapman University researchers Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky:

However, California’s economy is dominated by a handful of Bay Area tech firms that have expanded at one of the most dynamic paces in economic history. Most of these companies are in a relatively constrained geography along the San Francisco Peninsula.

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Together, these tech firms—Apple, Netflix, Facebook, Google—along with Microsoft and Amazon, have achieved a combined net worth equal to one-quarter of the NASDAQ and equal to the GDP of France. The S&P 500, the broad index of stocks, has a total market capitalization of approximately \$24.2 trillion slightly more than the GDP of the country. They represent 15% of the entire S&P 500 companies' market capitalization.

This has been a heady period for the Bay Area, with San Jose and San Francisco boasting the first and third highest average per capita income in the country. Between 2007 and 2016, according to an analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the Bay Area created 200,000 jobs that paid better than \$70,000 annually. Yet during that same period, high wage jobs dropped in Southern California and statewide; simply put, the Bay Area replaced the high wage jobs lost in the recession while the rest of the state did not.

For Latinos, the 'California Dream' Is Becoming Unattainable

From *California Madness*, our collective badge of shame is the prevalence of poverty amidst enormous affluence. This correlates with a state that, amidst high living costs, produces a disproportionate number of low wage jobs. Nearly one in five Californians—many working—lives in poverty (using a cost-of-living adjusted poverty rate); the Public Policy Institute of California estimates another fifth live in near-poverty—roughly 15 million people in total.

Most tragic, roughly 17% of California's children live in or near poverty. Poverty rates for California's Latinos and African Americans, most of them working, are well above the national average, and considerably higher than in Texas, our primary competitor, and a state with a similarly diverse population. Over half of all California Latino households, now a plurality in the state, can barely pay their bills, according to a United Way study. "For Latinos," notes long-time political consultant Mike Madrid, "the California Dream is becoming an unattainable fantasy."

The loss of jobs, particularly in hospitality and retail, from the coronavirus could exacerbate this situation further. California's cost adjusted poverty are among the highest in the country, and, even during the recovery, remained higher in 2019 than in 2007.

On the most extreme end, the most obvious expression of pervasive inequality and economic dysfunction lies evident on our streets. Even as homelessness has been reduced in much of the country, it has continued to swell in California. Roughly half the nation's homeless population lives in the Golden State, many concentrated in disease and crime-ridden tent cities in either its largest city, Los Angeles, or San Francisco. This surge, notes the Council of Economic Advisors, is largely attributable to the state's "excessive regulatory barriers."

The High Cost of Housing In the 'Can't Afford' State

According to the most recent data available from the California Department of Finance, the median price for a home in the Golden State was \$611,420 in June 2019, a new record price.

Housing prices hit record highs despite a "weak" California housing market—home sales statewide were down nearly 6 percent in the first half of 2019 compared to the year earlier. Transactions monitored by online real estate database Zillow show that, over the past 10 years, median home sale prices in California have increased by 72 percent, from \$291,000, adjusted for

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inflation, to about \$501,000. They estimate that the median home listing price is currently \$549,000. And the median monthly rent has increased, too.

The median monthly rent paid for a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,679, adjusted for inflation, in November 2010. Currently, median rent paid for a one-bedroom unit is \$1,906. But rent is much higher in certain locations. According to apartment rental platform Zumper, the median monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in San Francisco is \$3,720, a record high and the highest rent in the nation.

Meanwhile, the average household income in California has not kept pace. In 2009, the median California household income was \$70,300 per year in 2019 dollars. By 2017, the most recent year for which data are available, median household annual income only increased about 6.5 percent, to \$75,000 (adjusted), while home prices increased 72 percent. A third of California renters and 16 percent of homeowners spend more than half their income on housing.

Only 30 percent of households in the state can afford a median-priced home in the county in which they live, according to the California Association of Realtors. The national average is 54 percent. Elliot Eisenberg, partner economist at MLS Listings, sums up California's housing market, "This is truly a housing market that's a complete wreck."

California's High Housing Costs are Especially Burdensome for Low-Income Households

Many people have responded to the high housing costs by leaving California as noted in *California Madness*. The US Census Bureau's American Community Survey has shown a consistently negative net domestic migration for California during the past several years: more people left California for other states than came to California from other states.

On net, from 2007 to 2018, California lost nearly 1.3 million residents to domestic migration (see [here](#) and [here](#)). And since 2016, overall net migration (including international migration) has been negative in California.

The outward-migration has been concentrated among lower-income and middle-class residents and the less educated, who are increasingly stretched thin in California. Testimonials and patterns of movement reveal a lack of affordable housing to be a driving factor among people increasingly looking elsewhere to achieve the American dream. The exodus is likely to continue.

A July 2019 Quinnipiac University poll found that 45 percent of Californians believe they cannot afford to live in the Golden State, and nearly 80 percent of Californians think the state has a housing crisis. In August 2019, California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) bluntly acknowledged, "The California dream is in real peril if we don't address the housing crisis."

California to Business: Get Out!

This December 2017 article "California Ranks Second Worst in U.S. on Economic Freedom Index: High Taxes, Overregulation Causing Exodus of Workers and Employers to Other States" comes from the Independent Institute's David J. Theroux:

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California's policymakers have enacted policies more harmful to economic freedom and opportunity than those of almost any other state, according to the 2017 Economic Freedom of North America report by the Independent Institute in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute.

Not only does California rank 49th out of all 50 U.S. states, but its burdensome combination of high taxes and regulatory overreach is so toxic for economic opportunity that it is causing a major out-migration of both workers and enterprises to other states.

"California's lack of economic freedom helped motivate more than 10,000 businesses to leave the Golden State, reduce operations, or expand elsewhere during the past seven years," said Dr. Lawrence J. McQuillan, Senior Fellow and Director of the Independent Institute's Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation. Census data show that 3.5 million people left California for greener pastures from 2010 to 2015.

"The freest economies operate with comparatively less government interference, relying more on personal choice and markets to decide what's produced, how it's produced, and how much is produced," said Fred McMahon, who co-authored the report with economists Dean Stansel of Southern Methodist University and José Torra of the Mexico City-based Caminos de la Libertad.

A Failing Education System

From the 2020 research brief by Joel Kotkin and Marshall Toplansky *Beyond Feudalism: A Strategy to Restore California's Middle Class* at the Chapman University Center for Demographics & Policy:

The demand for middle-skill jobs is high and meeting it could prove a crucial challenge. In 2015 we identified over 50% of all jobs in California as middle-skill, but only 39% of the state's workers were trained at that level. Demand for these skills is expected to continue for years, and will provide benefits for the students who obtain them, as well as for the California business community. The California Employment Development Department (EDD) estimates that by 2026, the state will need 9.5 million mid-skill workers, an increase of 858,000 over 2016 levels.

Sadly, our educational system seems ill-prepared to train either mid-skilled or college educated people. Since 1998 California has ranked, on average, 46th in 8th-grade reading and mathematics subject-area performance on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), the only comparable assessment between states nation-wide.

It includes comparisons with demographically similar states such as Texas, which spends less money per student, as well as New York. Almost three of five California high schoolers are not prepared for either college or a career; the percentages are far higher for Latinos, African Americans, and the economically disadvantaged. Among the 50 states, California ranked 49th in the performance of poor, largely minority, students. San Francisco, the epicenter of California's woke culture, suffers the worst scores for African-Americans of any county in the state.

California's Public-Sector Unions Rake in \$921 Million in Annual Revenue

This section's content from the August 2020 article "California's Public-Sector Unions Rake in \$921 Million in Annual Revenue" by the California Policy Center's Edward Ring.

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There is no special interest in California that wields more influence over state and local politics than public sector unions. At every level of government, from the office of the governor to a school board managing a district with only a few hundred students, public sector unions are omnipresent. With rare exceptions, to defy their agenda is certain political suicide.

The reason for this power is money. Lots of money. Every two-year election cycle, not millions, but hundreds of millions of dollars are spent by California's public-sector unions to support or oppose candidates, campaign for ballot measures, lobby the legislature, and pay for public relations campaigns.

While wealthy individuals or powerful corporations may at times challenge these unions, their concerns are narrow in focus. Nothing matches the perennial torrent of public sector union money; the opposition may stir up a flash flood, but these unions are the Amazon.

This time, using the same methods as 2018, but going into somewhat more detail, the new estimate is \$921 million. It should be noted that available information online is usually about 18-24 months behind. For example, our 2018 report referenced Form 990s that were filed for 2015. This 2020 report used Form 990 data for the year 2018, the most recent currently available.

Billions and Billions Spent of Political Donations

California's public-sector unions collect and spend well over \$900 million per year, or \$1.8 billion per two-year election cycle.

While only about one-third of this money is spent on explicitly political purposes such as campaign contributions and lobbying, this is still a staggering amount of money. What other special interest in California is willing and able to spend \$600 million every two years on political advocacy, year after year, for decades on end?

California's public-sector unions are not only the most powerful political special interest in the state, but most of them are nakedly partisan.

With only a few exceptions—primarily among the law enforcement unions—the websites of these public sector unions read like a pamphlet describing the agenda of the Democratic party. Is this appropriate? Does this represent the membership? And even if so, shouldn't public sector unions, with all the power they wield, be politically neutral?

A long-overdue reckoning with public sector unions faces California's electorate. It might start with the public schools, which labor under a public-sector union monopoly that has nearly destroyed accountability.

California's Budget "Surplus" Ignores Crushing Debt Burden

This January 2019 article "California's Budget 'Surplus' Ignores Crushing Debt Burden" comes from the California Policy Center's Edward Ring:

When new governor, Gavin Newsom, delivered an inaugural address in January 2019, it accurately reflected the mentality of his supporters. Triumphant, defiant, and filled with grand plans. But are these plans grand, or grandiose?

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While California's 2021-22 budget outlook currently offers a unique surplus in excess of \$76 billion, that is an order of magnitude less than what it will cost to do what Newsom is planning to do in the long run. And this surplus, while genuine, is the result of an extraordinary, unsustainable surge in income tax payments by wealthy people from Silicon Valley.

As people sell their overpriced homes to move inland or out-of-state, and as tech workers cash out their burgeoning stock options, hundreds of billions of capital gains generate tens of billions in state tax revenue.

But can homes continue to double in value every six or seven years? Can tech stocks continue to quadruple in value every six or seven years? Apparently Gavin Newsom thinks they can. Reality may beg to differ.

Just a Slowdown in Capital Gains Will Cause Tax Revenue to Crash

The problem with Gavin Newsom's grand plans is that it won't take a downturn in asset values to sink them. All that has to happen to throw California's state budget into the red again is for these asset values to stop going up. Just a plateauing of their value—will wreak havoc on state and local government budgets in California.

The reasons for this are clear enough. Wealthy people, making a lot of money, pay the lion's share of state income taxes, and state income taxes constitute the lion's share of state revenues.

Returning to the 2017 fiscal year, of the \$86 billion collected in state income taxes, \$28 billion was from only 70,437 filers, all of them making over \$1.0 million in that year. Another \$7.3 billion came from 131,120 filers who made between a half-million and one million in that year. And since making over \$200,000 in income in one year is still considered doing very, very well, it's noteworthy that another 807,000 of those filers ponied up another \$15.1 billion in FYE June 30, 2017.

There is an obvious conclusion here: if people are no longer making killings in capital gains on their sales of stock and real estate, California's tax revenues will instantly decline by \$20 billion, if not much more. And it won't even take a slump in asset prices to cause this, just a leveling off.

Debt, Unfunded Pension Liabilities, Neglected Infrastructure

When considering how weakening tax revenues in California will impact the ability of the state and local governments to cope with existing debt, it's hard to know where to begin.

To get an idea of the scope of this problem, the California Policy Center released an analysis of California's total state and local government debt. California's total state and local government debt as of June 30, 2017 is over \$1.5 trillion. More than half of it, \$846 billion, is in the form of unfunded pension liabilities.

The controversy over what is an accurate estimate of a pension liability arises due to the extreme sensitivity that number has to how much the fund managers think they can earn. Using the official projection, which is typically around 7.0 percent per year, the official pension liability for all of California's government pension funds is "only" \$316 billion.

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But Moody's, the credit rating agency, discounts pension liabilities with the Citigroup Pension Liability Index (CPLI), which is based on high grade corporate bond yields. In June 2017, it was 3.87 percent, and using that rate, CPC analysts estimated the unfunded liability for California's state and local employee pension systems at \$846 billion. Using the methodology offered by the prestigious Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, California's unfunded pension debt is even higher, at \$1.26 trillion!

Where pension liabilities move from controversial theories to decidedly non-academic real world consequences, however, is in the budget busting realm of how much California's government agencies have to pay these funds each year.

California's State Budget is Extraordinarily Vulnerable to Economic Downturns

California's public sector employers contributed an estimated \$31 billion to the pension systems in 2018. Extrapolating from officially announced pension rate hikes from CalPERS, California's largest pension system, by 2024 those payments are projected to increase to \$59 billion. And these aggressive increases the pension systems are requiring are a reflection more of their crackdown on the terms of the "catch up" payments employers must make to reduce the unfunded liability than on a reduction to their expected real rate of return.

Huge unfunded pension liabilities are another reason, equally significant, as to why California's state budget is extraordinarily vulnerable to economic downturns. If assets stop appreciating, not only will income tax revenue plummet—at the same time, expenses will go up, because pension funds will demand far higher annual contributions to make up the shortfall in investment earnings.

A cautionary overview of the economic challenges facing California's state government would not be complete without mentioning the neglected infrastructure in the state. For decades, this vast state, with nearly 40 million residents, has been falling behind in infrastructure maintenance. The American Society of Civil Engineers assigns poor grades to California's infrastructure. They rate over 1,300 bridges in California as "structurally deficient," and 678 of California's dams are "high hazard."

They estimate \$44 billion needs to be spent to bring drinking water infrastructure up to modern standards, and \$26 billion on wastewater infrastructure. They estimate over 50 percent of California's roads are in "poor condition." In every category—aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, wastewater, hazardous waste, the energy grid, inland waterways, levees, ports, public parks, roads, rail, transit, and schools, California is behind. The fix? Literally hundreds of additional billions.

What Governor Newsom might consider is refocusing California's state budget priorities on areas where the state already faces daunting financial challenges, rather than acquiescing to the utopian fever dreams of his constituency and his colleagues.

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If Latino's Upward Mobility Doesn't Improve—California Will Suffer

From the Winter 2012 *City Journal* article “California’s Demographic Revolution: If the upward mobility of the impending Hispanic majority doesn’t improve, the state’s economic future is in peril” is by Heather Mac Donald:

Unless Hispanics’ upward mobility improves, the state risks becoming more polarized economically and more reliant on a large government safety net. And as California goes, so goes the nation, whose own Hispanic population shift is just a generation or two behind.

The scale and speed of the Golden State’s ethnic transformation are unprecedented. In the 1960s, Los Angeles was the most Anglo-Saxon of the nation’s ten largest cities; today, Latinos make up nearly half of the county’s residents and one-third of its voting-age population.

A full 55 percent of Los Angeles County’s child population has immigrant parents. California’s schools have the nation’s largest concentration of “English learners,” students from homes where a language other than English is regularly spoken. From 2000 to 2010, the state’s Hispanic population grew 28 percent, to reach 37.6 percent of all residents, almost equal to the shrinking white population’s 40 percent.

Nearly half of all California births today are Hispanic. The signs of the change are everywhere—from the commercial strips throughout the state catering to Spanish-speaking customers, to the flea markets and illegal vendors in such areas as MacArthur Park in Los Angeles, to the growing reach of the Spanish-language media.

Many of California’s Hispanic students who have been schooled in the U.S. for all their lives and are orally fluent in English remain classified as English learners in high school because they have made so little academic progress. In the Long Beach Unified School District, for example, nearly nine-tenths of English learners entering high school have been in a U.S. school at least since first grade.

But the gap between Hispanics’ performance and that of whites and Asians narrowed only modestly, since white and Asian scores rose as well. Latino students’ rate of B.A. completion from the University of California and California State University is the lowest of all student groups, reports the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy at California State University, Sacramento.

The state spends vast sums each year trying to get more Hispanics into college and to keep them there—\$100 million in 2009, for instance, on the education of full-time community-college students who dropped out after their first year, according to the American Institutes for Research. (Facilitating transfers from community college is a favored strategy for increasing Hispanic enrollment in four-year colleges.)

The Battle for California is the Battle for America

These sections below are from the October 2020 article “The Battle for California is the Battle for America” and comes from the California Policy Center’s Edward Ring:

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By now, this is a familiar story that California is a failed state.

Thanks to years of progressive Democratic Party mismanagement and neglect, the cities are lawless, and the forests are burning. Residents pay the highest prices in America for unreliable electricity. Water is rationed. Homes are unaffordable. The public schools are a joke. Freeways are congested and crumbling. And if they're not still on lockdown or otherwise already destroyed by it, business owners contend with the most hostile regulatory climate in American history.

It is understandable that conservatives in the rest of the United States would be happy to write off California. But California is not writing off the rest of the United States, and therein lies grave danger to American prosperity and freedom.

What if California doesn't implode, a victim of its own political mismanagement? What if California instead completes its transformation into a successful plutocracy, run by a clique of big-tech multi-billionaires in a partnership of convenience with environmentalist extremists and backed by the power of a unionized state bureaucracy?

What if the people who would resist this tyranny leave, and the remaining population peacefully accepts universal basic income and subsidized housing? What if all it takes to be a feudal overlord in progressive California is to proffer to the proletarians a pittance of alms, while reliably spouting incessant, blistering social justice and climate change rhetoric?

California is by Far the Wealthiest, Most Influential State in America

What happens in California matters to the rest of the United States because California's internal market is huge, its political and financial influence is powerful, and it rallies political allies throughout the U.S. If what California does to transform its own culture and economy isn't stopped, the rest of the U.S. will fall into line. The result will be a comprehensive reinvention of society in all areas, political, economic, and cultural.

The difficult reality that conservative Americans must accept is that while California may be a failed state by the standards Middle America has come to take for granted, California may not fail by its own standards. The society California is building may prove viable, even if it is hideous to contemplate and morally wrong. It may prove viable even though the alternatives that it displaces offer more prosperity and freedom to more people. It amounts to an all-powerful tech plutocracy ruling over a micro-managed, dependent population, with rationing and redistribution in the name of social justice and saving the planet.

This model, which is a modern form of feudalism, may work not merely because it is politically and economically sustainable despite its many shortcomings, nor merely because it offers more power and profit to its handful of resident billionaires who already possess obscene levels of power and wealth. These reasons don't fully explain the popularity of progressive feudalism. There is one more piece in the puzzle.

The progressive model also becomes viable because of a moral narrative that is flawed but nonetheless compelling: We live in an inherently oppressive society, so we must reduce the

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privileged middle class in the interests of social justice. We live in an era of limited resources and a stressed planet, so we must reduce everyone's standard of living.

Countering that narrative is the mission that must be sent into California. The misery that Californians have condemned themselves to live is not a moral choice. They are victims of a con job, and it could be coming to the rest of America.

Left and Lefter in California

From the Joel Kotkin *City Journal* article "Left and Lefter in California" in March 2018:

To its many admirers back east, California has emerged as the role model for a brave new Democratic future. The high-tech, culturally progressive Golden State seems to be an ideal incubator of whatever politics will follow the Trump era.

Certainly, California is an ideal place to observe this shift, as radicalism faces no restraints here. The Republican Party has little to no influence in politics and culture and not much even among business leaders.

For the Democrats, this vacuum allows for a kind of internecine struggle resembling that of the Bolsheviks after the death of Lenin. And just as happened then, a new Stalinism of sorts seems to be emerging—in this case, to the consternation not only of conservatives but also of traditional liberals and moderates of the Feinstein stamp.

Yet as California Democrats exult in what they see as a glowing future, they are turning away from the models that once drove their party's (and the state's) success—a commitment to growth, upward mobility, and dispersed property ownership. California's current prosperity is largely due to the legacy of Governor Democrat Pat Brown, who, a half-century ago, built arguably the world's best transportation, water, and power systems, and created an incubator for middle-class prosperity.

Ironically, the politician most responsible for undermining this achievement has been Pat's son, Democrat Governor Jerry Brown. Long skeptical of his father's growth-oriented, pro-suburban policies, Brown the Younger put strong constraints on growth, especially when these efforts concerned the fight against global warming—a quasi-religious crusade. Battling climate change has awakened Brown's inner authoritarian; he has lauded the "coercive power of the state" and embraced "brainwashing" on climate issues.

The key issues for the glitterati are not income inequality, upward mobility, or the preservation of middle-class neighborhoods but the feverish pastimes of the already rich: gender and racial issues, climate change, guns, and anything that offends the governesses and schoolmarms of intersectionality.

To the ranks of these over-exposed but influential voices, you can also add California's media and most of its intelligentsia, who seem to get their talking points from progressive sources and work assiduously to limit the influence of moderate (much less conservative) views. With Silicon Valley increasingly able to control content and ever more willing to curb debate, the policy

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agenda of the state's new elite may well become reality—a nightmarish one for millions of ordinary Californians—and the rest of America if other states try to emulate California.

Stopping California's Downward Spiral Into Progressivism Madness

This section's content is from both the Summer 2010 *City Journal* article "The Golden State's War on Itself" by Joel Kotkin and the December 2020 article "Fixing California—Part One: The Themes That Make Anything Possible" is from the California Policy Center's Edward Ring:

In the 19th and 20th centuries, California was the destination for those seeking a better place to live. For most of its history, the state enacted sensible policies that created one of the wealthiest and most innovative economies in human history. California realized the American dream—but better—fostering a huge middle class that, for the most part, owned their homes, sent their kids to public schools, and found meaningful work connected to the state's amazingly diverse, innovative economy.

In the middle of the 20th century, the leadership of Governor Pat Brown and his practical Democrats made California, the Golden State, the envy of all others. These were the sapient leaders with old school Democrats values, ideas and policies that helped create the California dream.

However, since the dawn of the 21st century, the dream has been evaporating. Between 2003 and 2007, California state and local government spending grew 31 percent, even as the state's population grew just 5 percent. The overall tax burden as a percentage of state income, once middling among the states, has risen to the sixth-highest in the nation, says the Tax Foundation.

Today's California represents most everything wrong with today's Progressivism movement. In retrospect, California's progressive mistakes provide an incubator and testing ground to show America and prove to the world, why it's not in the best interest of the overwhelming number of Californians and Americans.

Since 1990, according to an analysis by California Lutheran University, the state's share of overall U.S. employment has dropped a remarkable 10 percent. When the state economy has done well, it has usually been the result of asset inflation—first during the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, and then during the housing boom, which was responsible for nearly half of all jobs created earlier in this decade, and big tech most recently.

Guiding the agenda of California's Democrats are a ruling elite, small in number, but wielding incredible power. Among these elites are government union leaders, liberal billionaires from Hollywood to Silicon Valley, extreme environmentalists, and the social justice vanguard. The money and influence these elites bring to California politics cannot possibly be matched by the opposition. But all the money in the world cannot make up for the fact that their policies have made life miserable for millions of ordinary Californians.

We've heard all this before. Much of what Californians face are challenges confronting everyone in America. But California, the biggest state, and the bluest state, is a powerful trendsetter. California is broken, hijacked by opportunists wielding overwhelming financial and political power. How does this change?

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For conservatives across America, California has become the cautionary tale for the rest of the country. Anyone who actually lives in the Golden State, and enjoys the best weather and the most beautiful, diverse scenery on earth, knows there are two sides to the story of this captivating place. Nevertheless, the story keeps getting worse.

For every essential—homes, rent, tuition, gasoline, electricity, and water—Californians pay the among the highest prices in the continental United States. Californians endure the most hostile business climate in America, and pay the highest taxes. The public schools are failing, crime is soaring, electricity is unreliable, water is rationed, and the mismanaged forests are burning like hell.

California’s Frightening Rankings

This section’s content is from the January 2020 report “A Perverse Way To ‘Solve’ California’s Housing Crisis: People Are Leaving The Golden State” by the Hoover Institution’s Lee Ohanian.

To be sure, California has enjoyed faster income and job growth than the rest of the country over the past decade. But over the past few years, even before Covid-19, it has fallen behind other states, such as Texas, Utah, Washington, Nevada, and Arizona.

The state is often praised for its elaborate environmental and labor protections, but its record on economic mobility, middle-class disposable income, and even on greenhouse gas reductions, is not encouraging. The gap between middle-class Californians and the more affluent is becoming greater.

Ironically, California’s elected officials claim that they support low earners and historically disadvantaged groups, including African Americans and Latinos. But nothing could be further from the truth. The California of today reflects a very specific failure of governance and policy choices that are enormously biased towards very wealthy political elites who strongly support incumbent politicians and who can easily afford the rising cost of living that comes with their political preferences.

Just how bad are things in California? Here is a partial breakdown:

- Poverty rate: 50th
- Housing affordability: 49th
- Cost of living: 49th
- Inflation-adjusted household income: 27th
- Tax rate for top earners: 50th
- Sales tax rate: 50th
- Business taxes: 49th
- Overall tax burden: 40th

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- Business climate: 47th, 48th, 50th
- Infrastructure quality: average grade of D+
- Traffic congestion: 47th
- K–12 learning outcomes: 42nd
- Homelessness rate: 50th

For the first time since 2010, when the state’s unemployment rate was over 12 percent and exceeded the national average, California is losing population. Over the last year, nearly 200,000 people have left California, primarily for states with much lower housing costs and with better growth opportunities for middle-income earners. Under the current conditions, it’s easy to understand why.

Yet all of this can be fixed. The solutions aren’t mysteries and consist of the following:

- Deregulate housing permits.
- End the disastrous “housing-first” policies and instead give the homeless safe housing in inexpensive barracks where sobriety is a condition of entry.
- Repeal Proposition 47, which downgraded property and drug crimes.
- Build reservoirs, desalination, and wastewater recycling plants.
- Build nuclear power plants and develop California’s abundant natural gas reserves.
- Recognize that the common road is the future of transportation, not the past, and widen California’s freeways and highways.
- Let the timber companies harvest more lumber in exchange for maintaining the fire roads and power line corridors.
- Implement school choice and make public schools compete with private schools on the basis of excellence.

Done!

This isn’t just about ideology. The politicians who governed California during what arguably were its greatest yesteryears were Democrats. Old-timers refer to them as the Pat Brown Democrats (not to be confused with his son Jerry Brown and his progressive Democrat constituents), leaders whose approach to politics was pragmatic and focused on serving the people.

During that heyday, homes were affordable, and freeways weren’t crowded. Public schools were good, and the University of California campuses offered the best public higher education in the country. The California Water Project, taking barely more than a decade to construct, remains the most successful feat of interbasin water transfers in the world.

The Coalition That Will Realign California and Help Save America

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Across several areas of policy, the Democratic party, led by Gavin Newsom, has not merely alienated, but enraged millions of Californians.

The key to political realignment in California is not only to offer these groups a political agenda that incorporates solutions to all their grievances, but does so in a manner so coherent, so practical, and so promising, that a common solidarity is generated which transcends all the ways California's ruling class has thus far divided them.

Hardcore populist support for Democrats in California comes primarily from millions of white liberals, living in inherited homes, who pay minimal property taxes and are hence immune from the consequences of an out-of-control public sector bureaucracy, along with the government employees that work in that bureaucracy.

The critical swing constituency, currently solidly in the Democratic camp, are black, Latino, and Asian voters—and the battle to turn back California's progressive downward spiral is in the hands of these critical groups.

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Appendix

2000 Mules -- IMDb Review and Trailer: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt18924506/?ref=tt_mv_desc

40 MADNESS Textbook Titles: <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/madnessbooks>

- *Fake News Madness*
- *Crime Rate Madness*
- *Voting Madness*
- *California Madness*
- *Free Speech Madness*

AllSides: “Form the Left” and “From the Center” and “From the Right” News Comparison:
<https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>

Annual Media Fibbys – Top Mainstream Media Fails of 2021:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T5De2S2luw>

Betraying the American people: Leaked video reveals Joe Biden’s ‘hush hush’ migrant invasion:
<https://nypost.com/633280bf-449e-465a-a4c6-32ed45daacf8>

Election Fraud Database from The Heritage Foundation: <https://www.heritage.org/article/about-the-election-fraud-database>

George Soros Donations to Democratic Candidates and Super PACS list from Open Secrets:
<https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=george+soros&order=desc&page=2&sort=D>

Introducing Real Clear Investigations' Jan. 6-BLM Riots Dataset:
https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2021/09/09/realclearinvestigations_jan_6-blm_comparison_database_791370.html

Judicial Watch: <https://www.judicialwatch.org/jwtv/>

Map of Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States–Center for Immigration Studies: <https://cis.org/Map-Sanctuary-Cities-Counties-and-States>

Neighborhood Scout Ranking of the Most Crime-Ridden Cities and Their Mayors:
<https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/blog/top100dangerous>

Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/about/>

SAPIENT BEING PROGRAMS:

- **Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>
- **Conservative Campus Advisor (CCA) Program:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>
- **Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>

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- **SAPIENT Being program handbooks:** <https://www.sapientbeing.org/resources>

The Facts About H.R. 1 - The "For the People Act of 2021": <https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/report/the-facts-about-hr-1-the-the-people-act-2021>

The Joy of Being Wrong – Video by the John Templeton Foundation: <https://youtu.be/mRXNUx4cua0> ***The S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being:*** <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/books>

Vote Integrity – Data Analytics For Election Integrity by Vote P. Analysis:
<https://votepatternanalysis.substack.com/people/20957397-vote-integrity>

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Glossary

Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, required equal access to public places and employment, and enforced desegregation of schools and the right to vote.

Filibusters and Cloture – The Senate tradition of unlimited debate has allowed for the use of the filibuster, a loosely defined term for action designed to prolong debate and delay or prevent a vote on a bill, resolution, amendment, or other debatable question. In 1917 the Senate adopted a rule to allow a two-thirds majority to end a filibuster, a procedure known as "cloture." In 1975 the Senate reduced the number of votes required for cloture from two-thirds of senators voting to three-fifths of all senators duly chosen and sworn, or 60 of the 100-member Senate.

Fake News – A broad term that collectively includes media bias manifested in many different ways in mainstream journalism, social media, and illiberal establishments that in principle and practice are antithetical to an intellectually vibrant and viewpoint diverse sapient being mindset. Per Andrew Klavan's edited definition at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOZ0irgLwxU>.

Fox News Fallacy – The idea that if Fox News and the like are criticizing the Democrats on such issues there must be absolutely nothing to the criticisms and the criticized policies should be defended at all costs.

Idiocracy – An idiocracy is a disparaging term for a society run by or made up of idiots (or people perceived as such). Idiocracy is also the title of 2006 satirical film that depicts a future in which humanity has become dumb.

Illiberalism – The 21st century term is used to describe an attitude that is close-minded, intolerant, and bigoted.

Insurrection -- The term broadly means a revolt against an established government, usually employing violence.

Intersectionality – A theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of one's social and political identities might combine to create unique modes of discrimination.

Jim Crow – Racial segregation laws up to 1965, that were enacted and enforced in the South in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by white Southern Democrat-dominated state legislatures to disenfranchise and remove political and economic gains made by blacks during the Reconstruction period.

Libertarian - An advocate of the doctrine of free will; a person who upholds the principles of individual liberty especially of thought and action; a member of a political party advocating libertarian principles.

Mainstream Media (MSM) – Traditional forms of mass media, as television, radio, magazines, and newspapers, as opposed to online means of mass communication.

Mediacrats – Is an often used term throughout the MADNESS textbooks to mean that the liberal media and Democrats are closely aligned in their philosophical views and association with each other.

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Marxism – The political, economic, and social principles and policies advocated by Marx and a theory and practice of socialism including the labor theory of value, dialectical materialism, the class struggle, and dictatorship of the proletariat until the establishment of a classless society.

Open Inquiry – Is the ability to ask questions and share ideas without risk of censure.

Political Correctness – A term used to describe language, policies, or measures that are intended to avoid offense or disadvantage to members of particular groups in society.

Projection-- The compulsion to accuse others of the very sins and crimes of which they themselves are guilty. It's in their nature, they can't help it, it's reflexive and automatic.

Progressivism – A political philosophy in support of social reform based on the idea of progress in which advancements in science, technology, economic development, and social organization are vital to improve the human condition.

Sapience – Also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, unbiased judgment, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-actualization, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Shorist Principles -- David Shor is a data analyst and socialist who has become something of a cult figure on the center left for his critique of the Democratic Party's leftward lurch, which he believes is out of step with the values of most of its voters.

Social Justice – A political and philosophical theory which asserts that there are dimensions to the concept of justice beyond those embodied in the principles of civil or criminal law, economic supply and demand, or traditional moral frameworks.

Socialism – Any various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. A system of society or group living in which there is no private property. A system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state. A stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done.

Useful Idiot – Is attributed to Vladimir Lenin. It describes naïve people who can be manipulated to advance a political cause.

Voter Suppression – An artificially created term that unfairly condemns any perfectly legal election reform with which liberal critics disagree. It is a linguistic trick designed to taint reasonable and commonsense safeguards that protect voters by lumping these policies together with illegal activities like poll taxes and literacy tests that did occur in the Democratic South prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 – The Voting Rights Act of 1965 expanded the 14th and 15th amendments by banning racial discrimination in voting practices. The act was a response to the barriers that prevented African Americans from voting for nearly a century.

Woke – Having or marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, especially those related to civil and human rights.

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Author Bio



Author: Corey Lee Wilson.

Corey Lee Wilson was raised an atheist by his liberal *Playboy* Bunny mother, has three Anglo-Hispanic siblings, a bi-racial daughter, a brother who died of AIDS, baptized a Protestant by his conservative grandparents, attended temple with his Jewish foster parents, baptized again as a Catholic for his first Filipina wife, attends Buddhist ceremonies with his second Thai wife, became an agnostic on his own free will for most of his life, and is a lifetime independent voter.

Corey felt the sting of intellectual humility by repeating the 4th grade and attended eighteen different schools before putting himself through college (without parents) at Mt. San Antonio College and Cal Poly Pomona University (while on triple secret probation). Named *Who's Who of American College Students* in 1984, he received a BS in Economics and won his fraternity's most prestigious undergraduate honor, the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity's Shideler Award, both in 1985. In 2020, he became a member of the Heterodox Academy and in 2021 a member of the National Association of Scholars and 1776 Unites.

As a satirist and fraternity man, Corey started Fratire Publishing in 2012 and transformed the fiction "fratire" genre to a respectable and viewpoint diverse non-fiction genre promoting practical knowledge and wisdom to help everyday people navigate safely through the many hazards of life. In 2018, he founded the SAPIENT Being to help promote freedom of speech, viewpoint diversity, intellectual humility and most importantly advance sapience in America's students and campuses.

The SAPIENT Being has three programs: Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program, Conservative Campus Advisor (CCA) Program, and the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program—all working together to promote its mission and vision of sapience.

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Hopefully, this book was enlightening and your journey through it—along with mine—made you aware of the issues and challenges ahead of us. If it has, your quest and mine towards becoming a sapient being has begun. If it hasn't, there's no better time to start than now. Come join us in creating a society advancing personal intelligence and enlightenment now together (S.A.P.I.E.N.T.) and become a sapient being.

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Ruy Teixeira, a lifelong man of the Left, author of the 2002 *The Emerging Democratic Majority*, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and fixture of Democratic Party politics for more than 30 years who very much wants the Democratic Party to succeed, reports—the Democrats and the Democratic brand are in deep trouble:

“That should have been obvious” he states “when Democrats underperformed in the 2020 election, turning what they and most observers expected to be a blue wave into more of a ripple. They lost House seats and performed poorly in state legislative elections. And their support among non-white voters, especially Hispanics, declined substantially.”

Still they did win the Presidency, which led many to miss the clear market signals this underperformance was sending to Democrats. That tendency was strengthened by the Democrats’ improbable victories in the two Georgia Senate runoffs, which gave them full control of the federal government, albeit by the very narrowest of margins.

The Democratic Party was once the political home of farmers, blue-collar workers, and lower-middle-class, and mostly Catholic “white ethnic” voters. Today, it’s the party of affluent urban and suburban professionals, and also, in no small part, the party of the genuinely rich, from Silicon Valley to Wall Street and from Greenwich to Aspen.

Nonetheless, today’s Democratic Party seems deranged and unpredictable—insisting men are actually women if they think they are, claiming Biden’s multi-trillion-dollar spending programs and wild currency creation will “reduce inflation,” engineering a full-scale invasion of the American homeland by millions of illegal aliens so Democrats can stay in power forever, and so on.

How did this happen? Why did it happen? And what’s next? Keep reading to find out and be forewarned: For some of you this *MADNESS* textbook will be a revelation, an epiphany, a sapient being moment. For others, it will be a triggering event, denial of truth, and a painful intervention.

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