

Patriotism / So What, Who Cares by John O'Malley - 9/11/2021

*What would America look like today if everyone lived by the **spirit** of the Constitution and Bill of Rights?*

Patriotism. I never thought much about Patriot-ism, or being a Patriot, or being called a Patriot until being ask to speak here today. To be honest, I am not sure many people know what a Patriot is. I mean not any patriot, but a **true America** Patriot.

Patriots, also known as Revolutionaries, Continentals, Rebels, or American Whigs, were the colonizers of the thirteen colonies. They rejected British rule by declaring their independence in July 1776.

- *Speaking about Patriot-ism, my wife woke up feeling pretty patriotic this morning, because she told me that she just declared her independence. I am not sure what she meant, but I don't like the sound of it...*

Their decision was based on the political philosophy of **republicanism**, as expressed by such well-known men as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Thomas Paine.

Republicanism grew out of some very old notions, including ideas from ancient Greece and Rome, the Renaissance, and England. Some of the most important ideas of republican-ism are that **Liberty** and "**Inalienable**" rights, are the most important things in an **egalitarian** society. **Government should exist to protect these rights**, and the people; **all** the people!

Republicanism in the United States is the use of the concept of **republic**, or the **political ideals** associated with it. The political ideals have been discussed since before the concept of a republic was introduced **legally** by Article Four of our Constitution.

American republicanism was articulated and **first practiced** by the **Founding Fathers** in the 18th century. For them, republicanism represented more than a particular form of government. It was a **way of life** - that is for white land owners - a **core** ideology, an uncompromising commitment to **Liberty, Equality, Harmony** for the same, and a total rejection of nobility, and oligarchs.

Modern republican-ism has been a guiding, political **pseudo-philosophy** of the United States, and has been a major part of American **civic thought** since its founding. It stresses individual **liberty** and **inalienable** rights as **core values**; recognizes **the rule of the people** as the source of **all** authority in law; rejects monarchy, aristocracy (aristocracy), and hereditary political power; **vilifies corruption**, and expects citizens-especially politicians-to be **virtuous and faithful** in their performance of civic duties.

American republican-ism **was to be** a set of **Patriotic** ideas that channeled the government and politics. These ideas were to shape the United States government, and the way people think about politics since its genesis. The American Revolution (1775), the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Constitution (1787), and even the Gettysburg Address (1863) were **all** based on ideas from American republican-ism.

As you might guess, "Republicanism" comes from the word "republic." However, they are not the same thing. **A republic is a type of government**, one where the people can choose their leaders. However, I am not too sure that holds true today. **Republican-ism is an Ideology**, a set of **beliefs** people in a republic have about what is **most** important to them; **Liberty - Equality - Harmony**.

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The people who live in a country, as a whole, should be sovereign. They should be able to choose who leads them and have a say in how their government is run. Power must always be given by the people **peacefully**, never taken by **force**, or politically inherited like in an autocracy.

People must **all** play a **Patriotic** role in their government by doing three key things: **Voting** their conscious for the common good, **Volunteering** to help the less fortunate in times of need, and stay **Vigilant** for political, corporate, and civic corruption, which are catastrophic to the common good, and have **no place** in America society.

Republican-ism is **different** than other forms of democracy. In a "**pure**" democracy, the majority rules. If a majority of the people voted to take rights away from a certain group, that is what would happen. **Alexis de Tokville** (Tocqueville), a famous French political thinker, called this the "**tyranny of the majority**." He meant that a pure democracy could still turn into an **unfair, unequal, and corrupt society** if the majority of the people (self-called Patriots) decided to **take away** others' rights.

Remember, republican-ism says that people have "**inalienable**" rights that **cannot** be voted away. In a **true** republican government, one group, even if it is a majority, **cannot** take another group's inalienable rights away...

- *Susan B. Anthony said, "In a true republic: men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."*

Our Founding Fathers may have declared independence from Britain in 1776, but **the real work** of putting together the new government got underway at the Constitutional Convention, which took place at Independence Hall in Philadelphia from May 25 to September 17, 1787.

After the deliberations ended and the delegates were leaving the hall, **Mrs. Elizabeth Powell**, a member of the crowd that had gathered outside, stepped forward and asked **Benjamin Franklin**, "Well, doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?" Franklin responded, "A republic, madam, **if you can keep it.**"

In general, republican-ism refers to the **Ideology** embraced by **all** members of a republic, which is a form of **representational** government in which leaders are elected for a specific period by the preponderance of the citizenry, and all laws are passed by these leaders for the benefit of the **entire** republic, rather than an oligarchy and industrial complex.

In an ideal republic, leaders are elected from among the working citizenry, serve the republic for a defined period, then return to their work, never to serve again. Serving in the Senate and House of Representatives has morphed into a **career**, a sandbagging one at best.

Republican-ism stresses several key concepts, notably, the importance of **civic virtue**, the benefits of **universal** political participation, the **dangers** of corruption, the need for **separate** powers within government, and a healthy fidelity for the rule of law, that is, **all just laws!**

- *Mark Twain said, "Patriot-ism is supporting your county **all** the time, and the government when it **deserves it!**"*

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From these concepts, one paramount Patriotic value stands apart: **political liberty**. In this case, political liberty refers not only to freedom from government interference in private affairs, but it also places **great** emphasis on **self-discipline** and **self-reliance**. Let me stress, however, that both require a **decent** and **productive** education.

Leaders of a republic **should stay out** of the lives of the individuals they serve, being the general assumption is that most individuals are capable of helping themselves and their fellow citizens, **unless** the republic as a whole, **is threatened** in the case of a natural disaster, or a pandemic, or insurrection, or a state of war, or a violation of a civil liberty guaranteed to **all** the people by our Constitution...

- *Abraham Lincoln said, "Our safety, our liberty, our equality depends upon preserving the Constitution of the United States as our fathers made it perfect."*

Patriotism... *So What, Who Cares?* Well, I for one care, and from my humble point of view, American Patriot-ism is the act of caring **less** about oneself, but **more** about the well-being of our Nation, and **all** its people-the common good.

American Patriot-ism is the willingness to take a moral stand when the need arises to protect the nation and **all** its people. I believe that we here today recognize and believe we **all** have responsibilities as well as rights, and our wellbeing and fortunes are **critically linked!**

True Patriots **don't ask** what's in it for me, for that kind of thinking only spells doom for our Nation, and our "second to none" way of life. True Patriots **Get** involved, **Stay** involved, and **Vote** involved, to bond **all** Americans in solidarity for the benefit of **all** our people, and the good of the nation as a whole. True Patriotism is our nation's **superglue**.

Many people think that they are a Patriot because they religiously observe Patriotic holidays- Independence Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, and an event like today. They respect the American flag, and sing loud the National anthem with gusto, removing their hat, not talking or texting, standing tall, right hand over your heart or saluting during the pledge.

I still often wondered though, do these **professed** Patriots really take the Pledge of Allegiance serious, when so many of their everyday words and actions indicate otherwise...

- "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, **one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**"

Whenever a country is at war, people are most vocal about their Patriotism, they play patriotic songs and make speeches full of national pride. However, only about 1% of Americans join the Nation's Armed Forces. So I ask you, is that a sign of Patriotic people?

Showing Patriotism is so important in bonding people together, that politicians will argue with each other about who really has more Patriotism; though **true** Patriots try to reconcile and compromise, not divide. True Patriots know and embrace the old adage, "**One for all, and all for one.**"

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Patriotism starts at a **Young** age. What we teach our children by words and actions will instills patriotic love for the nation and **all** its people, or just the opposite. Lest they forget, it's **vital** we teach our children and grandchildren about the virtues that make America great... Freedom, Equality, and Justice for **all**.

- *Former President George W. Bush, said, "America is a nation with a mission. Our aim is a **democratic peace**, a peace founded upon the **dignity and rights** of every man and women, and will take every man and woman to do so."*

When others are wronged, a true Patriot **Wakes Up, Stands Up, and Speaks Up** to right that wrong, with no hesitation for action on their part!

So the **real** question to ask **yourself** today is, "Am I a **true** American Patriot, or just a facade?" If the latter, there is hope, as God gives each of us the freedom to change, but you must have within the patriotic courage and fortitude to change.

A true American Patriot fears **No Challenge**, fears **No Man**, and fears **No Sacrifice**. Will you have the courage to standup, be steadfast when called upon to defend **all** the rights of **all** Americans, and promote and protect the common good?

Now I ask you... Do you recall the motivating word all **true** American Patriots live by? The word is **ALL**...

Y'all think about it, are you a **True American Patriot**?

In closing, I will leave you with two quotes, the first a quote of former President Theodore Roosevelt:

- "Patriot-ism means to stand by the country, and it doesn't mean stand by the **president**, or **any** other elected official who jeopardizes liberty, equality, and justice for **all** Americans!"

The second, a quote from a person less famous:

- *"By word and deed, the **true** American Patriot **inspires** others to dream more, learn more, become more, and achieve more for the nation's common good." John O'Malley / USMC*

Thank you, have a blessed day and tomorrows ever after...

Semper Fi...