

Yankee Steve's Column
for the week of October 8, 2009

On Knowing Who and What We Are in These Perilous Times

An authentic American is someone who has rejected the French Revolution in favor of the American Revolution.

The latter came first. Any school child will tell you that officially it began on July 4, 1776. But will they be able to tell you why the American Revolution differs from the French? Will they be able to demonstrate why these two political and social upheavals were never more different?

The American Revolution came about because freedom lovers chafed at the idea that freedoms once enjoyed as subjects of England were increasingly being denied them.

Today's liberals, who are willing to be less free in order to secure a crust of bread thrown to them by progressive politicians, are they in fact Americans? I would answer "no" for no other reason than that they do not value true freedom. And I would suggest that they would be more at home with the consequences of French leveling rather than the American elevating effect. Dare I say it, an analysis of our times easily reveals a striking resemblance between the fomenters of the French mayhem (scorned as it was by Edmund Burke [1729-97] philosophical founder of modern conservatism) and the American left.

Organizers of the French Revolution were not content to secure for mankind certain inalienable rights like the ones Americans now enjoy. Instead they looked ahead to what one French leader called "a second revolution" or what might be called socialism. The French spoke of the "rights of man," but what they meant would have been thought by some of America's founders as questionable. The French notion of the rights of man has mainly to do with what they called "equality." They went so far as to issue a *Manifesto of Equality*. Listen to their madness -

Be gone, hence forth, monstrous distinctions of rich and poor, of great and small, of masters and servants, of rulers and ruled. Let there be no differences between human beings other than age and sex. Since all have the same needs and the same faculties, let there be one education, one fare for all. They are satisfied with one sun, one air, why should not the same quantity and equality of food suffice for each? . . . The moment has come to found the Republic of Equals, the great hospice open to all men . . . People of France! Open your eyes and hearts to full felicity: recognize and proclaim with us the Republic of Equals.

The founding fathers of America did not look beyond the Revolution. They wanted nothing more than the opportunity to put in place the best kind of government - a representative democracy. Economic equality was unrealistic, and they knew it. They knew that it could never be achieved without a government becoming a too powerful entity.

Has the mantle of French socialism fallen on President Barack Obama? From all indications it would seem that way. Like all socialists he is looking forward to a second revolution, to that time when the government strives to make us all equals. Of course it will fail.

Conclusion: The desire for equality, economic or otherwise, lies at the foundation of the French Revolution. That cannot be said of the American Revolution. The Americans wanted nothing more than their rightful freedoms. Their faith was not in any government that by its actions could assure them of equality. Instead they had faith in themselves and in providence. If granted the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that would be plenty.

The mind set of the French, dictated by such “intellectuals” as Rousseau, Babeuf, Marechal, Fourier, and others, should have remained within France, but it crossed the ocean. This drive for equality has been at the source of the Democrat Party ever since the days of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The French influence over FDR helps to explain the present day tendencies of the Obama administration. It is more of the same French Revolution clap-trap!

"Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it." American economist Thomas Sowell [1930-]

Ever yours,

Steve Cakouros

oldlineconservative.com