

PROSPERITY Exhibition 2012 – Helen Norton

VARIOUS QUOTES TO INSPIRE ON THE SUBJECT

"Any child of 16 years of age who is not a socialist has no heart, any adult of 25 years of age is still a socialist has no Brain" - Samuel Clemens or Mark Twain

" Those who would trade a little freedom for a little safety deserve neither and will lose both" Ben Franklin, paraphrased.

Isn't It A Pity

A truly insightful man well known to the masses for his involvement with the most significant cultural phenomenon of the 20th Century is on record as highlighting that the world is run by mad people. He no doubt said that because he noticed that political and institutional leaders the world over are at essence self loathing opportunists who despite their flowery language are without character and the empathy and compassion necessary to realise the pain their ideological blindness inflicts on their fellow man. The body count of the 20th Century proves the insightful man absolutely correct. The fellow also knew mankind's current affluence came about via the WiFi hookup we all have to source and happened despite the best efforts of the political and institutional classes who deceitfully, but also ignorantly, have taken the credit. Australia has more than enough opportunists leading its descent without importing, even temporarily, more of the grubs. - Anon on the musical chairs in Australian leadership politics (re Gillard, Rudd, Gillard etc and onwards to the next party)

As the philosopher Bertrand Russell put it:

Much that passes as idealism is disguised hatred or disguised love of power. A social class which uses the law to stifle the opinions of another is not nice or well-meaning. It is dictatorial and dangerous.

How are we all responsible? Perhaps this is a warning for all of us who love and cherish our democracy.

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years."

"When the taste for physical gratifications among them has grown more rapidly than their education . . . the time will come when men are carried away and lose all self-restraint It is not necessary to do violence to such a people in order to strip them of the rights they enjoy; they themselves willingly

loosen their hold. . . . they neglect their chief business which is to remain their own masters."

- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America Volume 2* 1835-1840

--We suppose we should say something about the 'historic' transition of Chinese political power that occurred yesterday. But we won't. There's a torrent of opinion in the world's media about what it all means, and we don't intend to add to it...not today anyway.

--Except for this: China has already sown the seeds of its economic problems. There's simply a younger generation of privileged power brokers now in place to oversee those problems.

Job number one of the powerful is to entrench that power base. Job number two is to maintain a 'harmonious society', in order to reinforce job number 1.

--Everything else is just the method by which the powerful seek to retain and reinforce that power. Pretty simple really.

Greg Carnarvon – Port Phillip Publishing.

[Walter Russell Mead on the new calls from the Left to censor the press:](#)

In the old days the Brits censored anything to do with sex; these days anything goes where sex is concerned, but "hurtful" speech is something else. All over Britain, the speech nannies are stirring, eager to ensure that only worthy thoughts can be spoken in public places. Give them an independent body that is able to regulate and punish the press, and they will seek to expand its powers and extend its jurisdiction to "harmful" content as well as harmful methods.

The trend against free speech... must be fought. The right of people to say nasty, unkind and untrue things, their right to insult your religion, your dearest moral values, the ethnic and racial groups from which you spring, your eating habits and social customs, your ideals—that is the essence of freedom. Sad but true.

The "good" people, the "helping" people, the "nurturing" people and the idealists are usually the ones eager to punish people who say hurtful things.. "Nice" people who want to limit your freedom of speech so that only "nice" ideas will be expressed are some of the most horribly misguided and dangerous people around. They must be relentlessly mocked and resisted so that human freedom can survive.

In a complicated, pluralistic society like ours, when life depends on the coordination of large institutions and complex social systems, and there are many groups and individuals whose feelings are easily hurt by the thoughtless or hostile comments by others, the temptation is huge to use the law and the powers of the administrative state to keep disturbing speech out of the system.

But that temptation must be fought.

Social disapproval of bad ideas is perfectly appropriate... But using the power of the law to shut down speech you think shouldn't be heard, or in the case of far too many colleges, limiting permissible speech out of some pathetically misguided ideas about community is an existential threat to freedom and is the sure path to soul-destroying dictatorship.

The speech nannies are everywhere these days. The left nannies are more potent and dangerous right now than the right nannies ... but they all need to be fought...

A free press isn't elegant, it isn't moral, it is often filled with vitriol and lies. A free press holds a mirror up to society, and rather often we don't like what it reveals. But when all is said and done, government efforts to regulate or civilize the wild and woolly press, however justified by the sleazy conduct of unscrupulous hacks, are worse than the disease they purport to cure.

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