

THEOLOGICAL GEOGRAPHY

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Bannockburn Bridge Burn is a Scottish word meaning a large creek or stream. The Battle of Bannockburn was the tipping point of the Scottish Wars of Independence of the 14th Century. The Scottish Commander and Champion at that Battle was Robert the Bruce, King of Scots.



An Important Discussion The Condition Of The System?

By The Rev. David R. Graham

An important discussion came into the open today between Dan Riehl on the one hand and Stacy McCain and Smitty on the other. It focuses on the question of what to assume regarding the condition of the system that is the United States when thinking about how to act, what to do with respect to it from here forward.

All of those men are first class intellectuals, reporters and citizens. Their observations and deliberations matter deeply and therefore far and wide. They also are friends and communicants. Stacy and Smitty operate **The Other McCain** and **Not Tucker**

Carlson and Dan operates **Riehl World View**. They have one another's phone numbers and use them regularly.

The discussion got under way after the US House of Representatives, with 8 Republican votes (including that of my Representative, Dave Reichert), narrowly passed a bill called, popularly, Cap and Trade.

The passage of this bill, though not yet law because the Senate must vote on it, was a psychosocial tipping point and everyone knows that it was.

Stacy's response was to stop donating to the National Republican Congressional and Senatorial Committees: "**Not One Red Cent.**"

Dan took exception to this approach and **argued for a different one.**

All of these men are superior writers and thinkers and their approaches to this matter must be appreciated and afforded the utmost consideration and deference. They are serious men with righteous intentions and powerful abilities.

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My comment on [Dan's post](#) laying out the particulars of this matter ran as follows:

I have to side with Smitty and Stacy on this, understanding, I flatter myself thinking, why Dan sees it as he does.

My reasoning is this: the system is broken but few are admitting that fact as the starting point of their thinking through what to do now.

The looters in the WH and Congress would not be there if the system were working. That they are means it is not.

Dan's point of view on the general situation starts, I think, with the assumption that the system is still working but needs fixing.

Granted, it is not a widely held, or at least admitted, view that the system is broken. Most appear to think or want to think that it is still working but needs regular maintenance and repair.

Either way, that is delusion. The system is broken beyond the powers of regular, even vigorous maintenance to repair. Thinking should start from that assumption, which I submit is justified on the basis of facts -- e.g., the individuals now with hands on the levers of government.

The presence of those individuals means that the system has pancaked into a cliff at high speed. The cliff won.

I concur with Dan that genuine conservative candidates are required to rebuild the system and work it.

However, it has to be rebuilt from fresh materials. Old designs can be used and adapted, but the materials and fabrication have to be from scratch.

The previous system just pancaked. It is totaled. It is not coming back to life.

I think Stacy's and Smitty's approach to rebuilding is the one with the most probability of success.

First, drying the money stream would reveal the genuine conservatives from the posers in the same way that firing ore in a crucible reveals the gold by burning away the dross.

Second, although I am no authority on this, I infer from reports, perhaps mistakenly, that modern politicians are accustomed to passing "surpluses" in their accounts to fellow travelers, sometimes by choice, sometimes by coercion.

If this is the case, then giving money to a politician in the hopes that they are genuinely conservative is, as all hopes, not a policy and always potentially forlorn.

With an uninterrupted money stream, the politician has no incentive to be genuine and, by current custom, is likely to forward money you thought was for him or her to a like-minded fellow traveler.

The system is broken, that is the point.

Smitty mentions scorched earth. I propose a parallel metaphor: the crucible.

A genuine conservative will run true to form whether they have money or not. Furthermore, if they are genuine, the money will arrive, just as it does to every activity that expands access to truth.

Finally, there is an ancient insight that bears immemorially on political activity: the person qualified to hold responsibility for making decisions that affect the lives of their neighbors is the one not seeking it.

Let the fact that the system is broken be admitted widely and emphatically -- by drying up the money stream (scorched earth, fired crucible) -- and observe developments.

See who is left.

There is a high probability that that person(s) is qualified to bear the public trust, to discharge the public responsibility. The odds are, having walked through the scorched earth, survived the crucible, they will be genuine gold.



Comments



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