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*We Lost the Right to Our Own Opinions in 400 BC*

I was a young man, in a philosophy group, headed by a charismatic, self-serving individual, with whom I eventually broke, and it was only on this driving trip across the country, having coffee with readers, that all the pieces of that break fell into place.

You might know by now that I work to reduce things to common-denominators, as in: if you do not support 6 things found in the 1st 4 Amendments, you are, by definition, not an American, or 3 necessary rules for human behavior: keep to your word, and do not aggress on the person or the property of someone else. Simple and to the point.

In a world of contention and strife, how bad is it out there? A daft Biden is getting ready to travel to Europe to meet with a 'coalition of willing idiots', who, rather than accede to Russian security concerns, or face the fact that NATO is being annihilated in Ukraine, would rather join-in the butchery than wake-up in time to save civilization.

"Blinken warns against seizing Crimea"—pure nut-job lunacy. Why not "Lavrov warns against seizing Santa Catalina." There is no seizing Crimea or Catalina where the world exists post-seizing—except in the deluded minds of Western zealot elites.

Nothing holds them back from fantasized inanities: start a 2nd Ukraine front, or make 'vaccinations' unnecessary by putting mRNA, lipid-nano, end of life experiments into cattle, or in the water. With unchecked whacked-out elite hubris—anything is possible.

To understand how we got here we go back to Plato (I'll make this as painless as possible). Socrates, in Plato's dialogues, is portrayed as 'everyman', spending his days in the 'agora' (marketplace), questioning the opinions of others, which he reduces to absurdity ('reductio ad absurdum'). He does that to free minds from fallacious thinking?

Unfortunately, Socrates, via Plato, was the 'father of modern elitism', disdaining individual liberty while adhering to 1 man (no woman), rule. This is portrayed in Plato's dialogue, 'Theaetetus', where Socrates questions a sophist (traveling teacher), positing that since 'everyone knows how to do something better than someone else', by force of sheer number, nobody accepts a notion that one is 'entitled' to an 'unexplored' opinion.

Holding 'unexplored opinions' is a cause for concern, but that applies to the elite as well as citizens, especially when we consider the 'established narrative' now being foisted on American and Western citizens. Within the 'unexplored opinion leading to misinformation/disinformation thing', lies historical precedent which, if not understood, has consequences for citizen opinions that challenge the 'established narrative'—es-

pecially in a 'tyranny of 1 or a tyranny of the few'. In 2023—that's where we're headed.

I spent most of a decade in the dialogues of Plato, and came out of it realizing that few understand the message found there—or the impact Platonism has had on the world. Socrates is eulogized, but only by those who accept that we would be better off with an 'all-knowing philosopher king' at the wheel. In point of fact, the only thing worse than a 'collective' is '1 man rule'. Another point of fact: the more a nation moves away from power distributed among the citizens, it invariably devolves into '1 man rule'.

Since the 4th century BC, subsequent philosophical history supports a Socratic hierarchy (as it pertains to the worthlessness of 'everyman's right to his own views'), with only brief interludes, the most significant being the US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

This constant struggle between 'everyman' and 'tyranny' is the story of human existence. Now we begin a new chapter in that book—possibly the start of a new volume?

'Socratic dogma' is the meme for 2023. 'Free speech' is under virulent attack with an objective to curtail 'free thought'—suppressing/crushing whatever/wherever free spirit of 'everyman' yet exists. For the West, I see only 2 possibilities: the implementation of a tyranny—or grand revolution. 1 or the other is our future, though neither is enviable.

Plato is high-end propaganda intended to bastion a forever tyranny. Were we ever educated to the fact that Plato's Academy produced more tyrants than any since, or that his experiment to anoint a Sicilian philosopher-king went the way of all bad ideas?

Platonism is not philosophy—'philosophy' is the love of wisdom. Making the case for tyranny at the expense of citizens has nothing to do with wisdom—that's a power play.

Plato's rhetorical eloquence was no match for our 'white hot' propaganda machine, 'picking-off' Americans of low 'self worth' and a compromised ability to reason. Within those, 'cognitive dissonance' and 'double think' has replaced 'curiosity' and 'courage'.

The Platonic strategy set forth in 400 BC, is the same strategy being applied by the elite in 2023—a 'full bore' campaign to reduce 'plebeian opinion' to 'treasonous disinformation'. The difference being that our plight is global. Back then one could just walk over to Megara and be out of harm's way. A few decades ago, we had Canada as a default destination but now it's maybe worse there than here. Risky Mexico seems better.

It will be interesting to see this play out. The part of me that's done with their masks and lockdowns sometimes doesn't mind that it's coming. That said, they will be marshaling AI technology to fight their battles. Gates calls for the use of artificial intelligence to combat not just “digital misinformation” but “political polarization.” Use AI to stop certain views from being “magnified by digital channels.” Stop allowing “various conspiracy theories to be blasted out by people who want to believe those things.”

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Put it all together with 180K federals carrying weapons with 'dumdums' loads and an ever-increasing surveillance that Plato could only have dreamed of—and we are left with a blighted future. But, so what? Since all might already be lost to the tyranny, we have little to lose by demanding our rights—and the longer we stay silent insures that it will be more and more difficult to stop them before it's too late.

It gives me comfort that the elite have attempted to control the spirit of man for 2400 years—and the fight begins anew. It conjures-up that scene in "Dr. Zhivago" where the rebels confront the military and most of the military comes over to the rebels. Now it's the opposite: we rebels rebel against the 'communist collective'. Centuries pass, with elites 'all dressed up' in 'ideologies' of the day. We citizens are all that stand in the way.

Contrarians can get my articles, emailed by request: erik@neverhadaboss.com. Thx.