

Civil War in America?



By Steven Yates

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Probably not, but the narrative wars have likely engendered a period of unrest and decline no matter what happens. There remains hope.

[Author's note: a somewhat different version of this article is available on my Substack, [Navigating the New Normal](#). The updates are due to this being a developing story.]

Last Thursday (Feb. 8), the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on whether or not Donald Trump should remain on GOP ballots. The allegation, as everybody knows, is that on January 6, 2021, speaking to a throng of supporters from the Ellipse, he fomented an insurrection in the disqualifying sense of the 14th Amendment, Section 3, of the Constitution.

The Court may have decided this case before this has time to go up. I've gone ahead with it anyway, because even if (as most of us expect) the Court reverses the Colorado and Maine decisions, we're nowhere near out of the woods.

While the Supremes seemed more interested in such technical-legalistic matters as whether *officer of the United States* applies to the presidency, the real question going forward (see [here](#) and [here](#)) is whether what happened on January 6, 2021 constitutes an *insurrection*, since Trump told people to march to the Capitol "peacefully and patriotically..." He *never suggested anyone go inside the Capitol* (it was Ray Epps, possibly among others, who did that!).

This case is unprecedented. We've never seen a clash of narratives like this. Those on opposite sides literally do not see the world the same way. They aren't making the same assumptions about what kind of political system we're living under. Small wonder some are ready to divide the country – peacefully, if possible; forcibly if necessary. This is where the [narrative wars](#) have brought us.

We don't agree on what really happened that day, six days into 2021. An *insurrection*, as I explained citing references, is an organized effort to violently overthrow a government. Few who came onto Capitol grounds that day were violent, although there were hotheads on the front lines who broke through barricades, pushed Capitol police to the ground, and broke windows. This was a very small minority of the allegedly 2,000 or so people who entered the Capitol peacefully, some doing no more than walking around for a few minutes and then leaving.

There was no organized effort to overthrow the U.S. government.

So what were they doing? Well over 10,000 people were protesting in Washington, D.C. that day. They had doubts that Joe Biden was elected legitimately. Every effort to pursue the matter through the courts had been rebuffed. Judges did not look at any evidence (e.g., affidavits alleging wrongdoing in Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Georgia). They said either, "there's no evidence" or they used a legal ploy of "no standing to sue." The Supreme Court refused to hear appeals.

It became as if the use of phrases like *conspiracy theorist* and *election denialism* were sufficient to quell the sense of something amiss.

To this day, tens of millions of Americans think Election 2020 was stolen, even if they don't agree on the circumstances or how the steal was accomplished.

Their reasoning: a man, arguably showing signs of dementia and

staying mostly out of public view, trouncing a man able to fill arenas during a pandemic by 7 million popular votes, makes no sense whatsoever.

They now fear that something similar could happen *again*, in 2024, and *in broad daylight*!

The Jan-6ers believed they were trying to save democracy. Today we should fear destruction of *real* democracy, which reflects the will of the people (even those you disagree with), by those gaslighting us with phrases like *saving our democracy*!

What will happen this November? I honestly don't know. But there is no reason to think it's going to be pretty, with an outcome accepted automatically by both sides.

What then?

Civil War? Or massive civil unrest?

I do not think anything that happens will rise to the level of civil war.

Civil wars happen when discourse over fundamental disputes between two factions, both having sufficient resources to exact their wills on the body politic, breaks down. Laws and policy decisions are then disregarded as both sides battle openly and violently for control over dominant institutions, especially mass media.

Is this what we're looking at? Not quite.

One problem is with both sides having the resources to exact their wills. I do not think Trump's side has those resources, no matter how much of his own money Trump still has to spend. With efforts underway to cripple him financially, it's unclear how much he will have when the dirt settles.

The point of the 91 felony lawfare allegations as well as the

civil suits has been to render him impotent, and imprisoned, if that's what it takes to stop him.

To the extent that groups and organizations backing Trump's side in the narrative wars have *some* resources and would be able to mount significant national-scale protests if Trump were refused a spot on national ballots, I am unsure how many have the will.

Look at what's been done to over a thousand Jan-6ers. Most of these people will never get their lives back. Businesses have been destroyed; homes are gone. Some will be unable to find decent work. They have been demonized in corporate media as "Capitol rioters" and "insurrectionists." This label may well follow them the rest of their lives.

Is this or is this not a major disincentive to mount mass protests, no matter the provocation?

Moreover, in large crowds many of whose members don't know all others personally and with no way to vet them, infiltration by the FBI or leftist *agent provocateurs* is a separate risk. Fear of this happening was probably a factor in undermining the Take Our Border Back Convoy which convened at Eagle Pass, Texas, on Feb. 3: instead of 700,000 attendees, around 7,000 showed up, disappointing those who see securing the border with Mexico as a major issue this year.

[A recent discussion](#) with a number of legal scholars, political analysts, and national security experts did not feature a single person who predicts a civil war. Some do, however, predict the sort of scattered disruptions that signify civil unrest. I think we will see unrest whatever the Supreme Court decides, in this or in upcoming cases involving Trump.

What I can't predict is how much, how long it will last, or what the long term repercussions will be.

Most observers think the Court will set Colorado and Maine

aside, ensuring that their ruling applies to all 50 states. According to the 14th Amendment only Congress can invoke the insurrection clause by passing a law, and this isn't going to happen. This might invite protests from the other side, possibly worse than overturning of Roe v Wade did, because of how the Establishment has presented this situation to the public. Again: "democracy is on the ballot," Biden has put it. "Democracy itself" is at stake, wax the hysterics (as if the U.S. is really a democracy, which it hasn't been for a very long time – but never mind that now).

This is how narrative war works.

Assuming Trump is still on ballots as you read this, the globalist-leftist alliance will already be maneuvering full throttle to block a Trump 2.0 administration.

We might see cyberattacks or other false flags to be blamed on Trump supporters. We might even see [The Great Taking](#) (see below). Something as sudden as it would be drastic could happen any time between now and November.

I'm not making a prediction here. That would be hazardous. But the fear of Trump 2.0 is palpable.

Bottom line, though: no civil war.

Especially with an Establishment able to command technologies (use of smartphone records, facial recognition, generative AI, etc.) that would make previous tyrants gasp. Plus, I doubt that Homeland Security's hollow-point bullets have gone anywhere. I've seen nothing to suggest that the militarized power centers in the Asylum on the Potomac, if militarized, couldn't put down any direct domestic challenge to their power with relative ease.

This Is What Civilizational Decline Looks Like.

If we look at the larger sweep of human history, one thing

becomes clear: even relatively free societies are very rare. Empires, tyrannies, dictatorships of various sorts, are the norm. In most places and at most times, those in power have done pretty much as they pleased. So is tribalism a norm, almost one of our default settings: “us” versus “them.”

Briefly, Periclean Athens moved towards freedom, but compromised it with slavery, allowed what freedom they had to weaken them in other ways (as Plato observed), the result being the loss of the war with authoritarian Sparta and long-term decline.

The Christian worldview began to create a societal ambience in which there were moral checks on human authority. The powerful couldn't do as they pleased because they answered to God for their actions. Eventually this ended the idea of “the divine right of kings.” The Christian conviction was that this was a world of physical and moral order. On this foundation rose Western civilization, surely the greatest civilization in human history, via science, technique, property rights, markets, and limits on state power.

By the mid twentieth century we were starting to dismantle the tribal distinctions of the past, via Martin Luther King Jr.'s promotion of judging people “not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

Those obsessed with the need to control others, and as much of the world as possible, rebelled against the Christian worldview. They'd removed God from the world picture and had learned to use societal and technological systems others had created against them. The scientific-industrial-educational mainstream became *de facto* materialist. I say *de facto* because it is not as if many of their managerial disciples reflected on what they were doing. A few did.

The result has been a slow and painful slide backwards towards what the West had partly escaped: tribalism, naked grabs for

power, re-enslavement by economic and technical means, and the obliteration of truth in favor of propaganda, gaslighting, and open and unabashed lying.

The Christian conviction of checks on secular power is gone. The sciences, which honestly sought order and explanation, are now The Science, a form of intellectual authoritarianism funded by corporations and government. Technique no longer solves problems for the whole of the body politic but designs algorithms to bring the masses into passivity and control, incentivizing the masses to ensnare themselves (think: nearly all social media).

Property rights no longer exist as such; all are subject to taxation, and even the conditional ownership implied by deeds-plus-property-taxes is being replaced by rent of various sorts, as home ownership becomes harder and harder to afford.

Markets are not free but controlled, because corporations employ hidden incentives or “nudges” of various sorts; the above-mentioned algorithms Big Tech has perfected “know” more about you than you know about yourself and have honed the science of getting you to consume.

Finally, to speak of morality in the halls of Congress is more likely to prompt gales of laughter than serious reflection on where the country is going.

Legal eagles invoke the Constitution which it serves their agendas, as with those using the 14th Amendment to try to get Trump off ballots. Otherwise, it’s dead.

Is sending money to foreign government fighting wars halfway around the world authorized anywhere in the Constitution? Especially when our own southern border is so porous that thousands of people including possibly dangerous individuals can cross it illegally every month?

Language itself has been perverted. *Democracy* clearly no

longer means government by and for We the People. It is code for one species of elite domination, in which the locus of power isn't a single figure, such as a Xi or a Putin, but systemic and driven by money. Trump was only able to mount a serious candidacy back in 2015-16 because he could finance his own campaign. Had he lacked those resources, he wouldn't have registered. Money isn't everything, of course. It is necessary but not sufficient. If you could literally buy your way into the presidency, Ross Perot and Steve Forbes would have had viable shots back in their day.

Trump had (still has) a great deal of personal charisma, a solid ability to command mass media even if its owners hate his guts, and things to say that resonate with an increasingly disillusioned Republican audience.

He was an existential threat to those who think in terms of global power (globalists) and cultural dismemberment (the brand of hard-leftist that's obsessed with transgenderism). This is the case even if he has no systematic philosophy of his own. He's a disruptor by nature. Disruption works, especially when institutions are losing their sense of legitimacy. This loss of legitimacy is characteristic of long-term decline. Many of those behind Trump have no trouble dynamiting (figuratively speaking, of course) something that ceased to work for them long ago.

Trump 2.0 would be an even bigger existential threat to global power and leftist dismemberment because there's no doubt he's far more knowledgeable about how to work governing systems now than he was in 2017.

Hence the constant barrage of fear porn from every corporate media outlet, every major magazine, all the dominant political voices in unison.

I've no idea how likely a Trump 2.0 administration is. As I've said, globalist-leftist power and propaganda will do

everything they can to keep it from happening.

What we can be sure of is that should Trump be reelected, it wouldn't guarantee anything. Anyone who thinks this will quell globalist-financed leftist street protests, probably violent, even if Trump invokes the Insurrection Act, is kidding himself.

The next year, 2025, could turn out to be more volatile and violent than anything 2024 served up.

The next administration will face combined challenges: rising homelessness, the debt explosion, the southern border, fentanyl, continued demands by foreign leaders with an entitlement mindset like Zelenskyy, continuing unrest in the Middle East, the possibility of China encircling Taiwan, and more.

I have no trouble envisioning complete paralysis.

The U.S. rose empowered by the magnificent thoughts of the James Madisons and George Washingtons and Thomas Jeffersons of the day. There are no thinkers of that caliber anywhere to be found in our present-day political or moneyed classes. Nor is the view that directed hard work is what builds and sustains civilizations the prevailing one, and even if it were, today's institutions are designed to reward political connections and politically correct ideology far more than hard work. The latter is a threat to those who have learned how to exploit and profit from the present system.

This is what civilizational decline looks like.

What Happens Next?

I don't like making predictions. So, I just draw scenarios, and I've never had so many in all my pockets at one time. I've even heard serious suggestions that there might not even *be* an election this November.

What do we see? Two mighty forces on collision course!

Those tendencies conveniently labeled “populism”: ordinary people rising up against powerful elites everywhere: in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Israel, and elsewhere. In a few countries (India, Hungary, Italy), counter-elites have won public office. Counter-elite Jair Bolsonaro was in control in Brazil but tossed by corrupt leftists who are trying to imprison him. A counter-elite named José Antonio Kast, a conservative, could become president of Chile if he decides to run in Chile’s next election (2026). Chile’s presently-dominant leftists are also struggling with inflation and dysfunction.

You know the counter-elites and their supporters because globalist-controlled corporate media demonizes them as *extremists, conspiracists, white supremacists, protofascists, spreaders of misinformation, etc., etc.*

Globalists (WEF/Davos, the UN/WHO axis, big foundations / funding networks such as Soros’s and Gates’s, others) doubtless fear the unraveling of everything they’ve spent lifetimes working towards. If they lose, they could end up hanging from lampposts! They damned well know it!

It is important not to underestimate what these psychopaths might be capable of! Some do that. (Example [here](#).)

I’m thinking again of *The Great Taking*. Download the book for free [here](#); David Rogers Webb discusses the book at length [here](#); read my commentary [here](#); lengthy interview with Webb [here](#); another very worthwhile discussion [here](#). We’re hearing warnings of possible cyberattacks, conceivably at the hands of some of those who entered the U.S. illegally which include Chinese nationals as well as Hezbollah sleeper cells awaiting activation on command from the disrupted Middle East.

A single, well-planned and well-placed cyberattack could cripple American infrastructure, take down part or all of the

Internet for a time, and bring the global financial system to its knees.

Forget bitcoins and other crypto. Your wallets will be useless pieces of paper.

CBDCs would be introduced as the “fix.” If covid-19 was the biggest power grab we’d ever seen, CBDCs would quickly surpass that.

You’d be allowed back on a vastly more controlled Internet with government-issued ID (e.g., a passport). No more anonymity.

CBDCs (Central Bank Digital Currencies) would then be downloadable via an app in your phone and could be programmed to work only during a specific time duration (to ensure that you consume), to purchase certain goods or services but not others (to ensure that you consume what those in power *want* you to consume), and to function only within a given radius (in case the programmers have been told by their masters to restrict peasant movement, as in the “sustainable cities” WEF globalists envision).

Cash would, of course, disappear as a casualty of the financial calamity. Cash can’t be tracked or traced or monitored.

Few would be in a position to resist – presumably mass starvation is not an option! Those stuck in big cities would find themselves in a dystopia that would make present-day China look like a paradise by comparison.

Dissent? Your CBDC would be turned off, so that you can’t buy food.

Hope.

There remains hope, of course, and it is important not to lose sight of this.

We also learn from history that events move in long cycles. Civilizations rise, then they decline and fall. Most fall from within. Discussions of how cycles work are readily available (start [here](#)). There are conditions on a society's existence, and if those conditions cease, it finds itself living on borrowed time.

Economies based exclusively on debt eventually collapse. The track record is 100 percent.

"Prophets" try to point this out and draw attention to the problems. Initially they are dismissed as "doomers-gloomers" and denounced in controlled media. The masses are either too insouciant to listen or just too busy trying to survive.

But "prophets" always find a following that has figured out the truth. Some refer to this following as a *remnant* (Isaiah 1:9). This remnant will build up a new society, restoring values and practices that work.

We are clearly in a decline phase. Our "prophets" are increasingly listened to. There are remnant communities already out there, organizing a "parallel economy" mostly outside the grid. Others are in the planning stages.

Such groups, like the Amish, would be far less affected by a Great Taking.

The future, I submit, lies with those who can take charge of their own educations and lives, learn to sustain themselves growing their own food so that they don't need CBDCs or even cash for purchases, developing barter systems where necessary.

They will be closer to the natural order and therefore closer to God, the Creator and Author of nature and therefore of *real* sustainability before globalists hijacked that term and used it for their own insidious purposes.

One thing is for sure: building communities outside the power

systems and sustaining them while riding out whatever occurs will take resilience. How many of us are working on that?

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