

## Right/Left Belief Inventory

George Rebane – 19may22(v14jun22)

This brief inventory of Right/Left ideological tenets or beliefs is summarized to support a productive discussion that may identify threads to a common ground from which we may work to reduce the existential polarization that today rends the nation.

1. Science stands on two fundamental principles – falsifiability and Occam's razor. All scientific propositions and theories must be intrinsically falsifiable in how they are stated/defined. Propositions and theories that cannot be falsified are deemed faith-based. Occam's razor states that when two or more competing theories explain all that is observed, select the simpler one because it inevitably turns out to be the correct one.
2. These principles are replicated in nature – everything of animate and inanimate form seeks its simplest (least complex) structure and lowest energy level that still supports needed survival/sustaining functions. Nature abhors centralized control (of any functioning system) and achieves its level of minimally required complexity (to support needed functions) through the locally-coordinated actions of its maximally distributed components (subsystems) – thereby resulting in the maximally distributed control and knowledge in 'natural systems'.
  - 2.1. The leaf of a tree 'knows' neither the existence nor function of the tree's root, or even the existence and function of its neighboring leaf. In other words, there is no processing mechanism nor data stored in a leaf that gives evidence of its knowledge of the tree's 'purpose' and existence of its other components or the conduct of identity-specific communications with these components. The leaf contributes to the marvelous complexity of the entire tree, required for its survival and reproduction, by executing the simplest algorithm on the biochemical 'messages' it receives and transmits through its stem, and from the photons it absorbs from the sun.
  - 2.2. It is in the hubris of Man that we find people ignorant of this fundamental reality, and/or people seeking power over others that give rise to the need to centralize control and knowledge.
3. The algorithm that maps (calculates, transforms) a subsystem's inputs into its outputs is called its transfer function. Everything in this universe has a transfer function – almost all are natural, based on the laws of physics, among sentient critters these are also evolved, and among intelligent (sapient) critters, most are prescribed and/or mandated. The exogenous control and/or predicting the behavior of any system requires some useful level of knowledge of its transfer function. Ignorant of its transfer function and only having the ability to manipulate a subsystem's inputs is not sufficient for its profitable operation. Absent transfer function knowledge is the same as having a chimpanzee pilot a 747 at 30,000 feet – the ability to sense and manipulate are there, but knowledge of the airplane's transfer function is absent. (Does this not remind us of the performance of economists, government, and large bureaucracies?)

4. Belief tenets generally attributed to the Right.
  - 4.1. Only the smallest social units (e.g. family, friends, clan, tribe, ...) can function efficiently and sustainably within a social contract based on altruistic behavior of its members. The larger the social unit, the more an individual's self-interest guides behavior.
  - 4.2. In any form of governance, public policies based on altruism do not work, and often lead to autocratic alternatives with which to extract desired behaviors. Public policies that recognize and comply with individuals' self-interest will maximize 'common good' with minimum imposed control. (cf. Garrett Hardin's '[Tragedy of the Commons](#)')
  - 4.3. Our three branches of government should hew to their constitutional functions and responsibilities. Specifically, no legislating from the bench or the executive branch.
    - 4.3.1. As does our Constitution, all subsequent laws, regulations, and ordinances should hew to the Bastiat Triangle of Rights – rights of personal security, individual liberty, and private property. Weakening any one, automatically weakens the other two. (Cf. Frederic Bastiat's [The Law](#) (1848) that summarizes the writings of our Founders.)
  - 4.4. Congress and state legislatures should constrain legislating to a minimum, and for passed legislation include maximum guidance as to how it should be carried out, leaving implementing bureaucracies minimum latitude to exceed the 'sense of the legislature'. All laws should have sunset provisions that require their periodic re-examination. Reliance on case laws should be minimized.
  - 4.5. Federalism in the distribution of governance is preferred as opposed to concentrating power in a central government. Per our Founders, the several states should act as laboratories of democracy, experimenting with and sharing best practices with other states.
    - 4.5.1. States, in turn, should maximize local control to its counties and municipalities.
    - 4.5.2. Local governments should interfere minimally in the lives and commercial activities of their residents. Local governments should also experiment and adopt best practices from other similar jurisdictions.
    - 4.5.3. Equal opportunity should be maximized; enforced equity should be minimized.
  - 4.6. Each level of government should have maximal say in how it wants to develop and maintain its infrastructures that don't impinge on neighboring jurisdictions. Neighboring jurisdictions should be allowed to negotiate the development and maintenance of their 'shared' infrastructure projects.
  - 4.7. Markets should be regulated, but to the minimum extent possible to maximize freedom of commerce.
  - 4.8. Trickledown economics works, for it's the wealthy and those willing and able to take risks who create jobs and provide for our QoL and the blessings of economic growth.
  - 4.9. Church and state should remain constitutionally separated; however, per the Founders the presence of religious facilities, totems, and observances in public spaces should not be proscribed, but promoted according to the religious practices and preferences of the local citizens.
  - 4.10. Voting is the most sacrosanct communal activity in a democratic republic. Its practice should be restricted and granted only to franchised citizens, the status of whom should be the goal of all permanent residents of the US. Voters have the social

responsibility to become knowledgeable, because their vote will affect more than just themselves.

- 4.11. Immigration is a two-party contract between the granting government and the would-be immigrant. Aliens entering illegally are not immigrants. Illegal immigrants are immigrants who have let their legal status lapse while remaining in-country.
- 4.12. To be an ‘America First’ nationalist is not a pejorative attribute for a citizen. America First does not mean ‘America only’.
5. Taxation: The Right believes that taxes are generally already too high, and that there is no prescribed limit to how low sufficient tax rates may be to sufficiently fund government.
6. Government Participation in Economy: The Right believes that the participation of government in the country’s economy is already too high, and that there is no prescribed lower limit to government’s role in the economy.
7. The Left divides itself into those (pre-intellectuals) who believe that pure democracy is sustainable and will serve as the basis for organizing a society, and those (intellectuals) who believe that the larger populace (hoi polloi) needs a comprehensive government bureaucracy of ideologically uniform elites to interpret laws and develop, prescribe, and enforce society’s rules of livelihood so as to achieve the greatest common good.
8. Belief tenets generally attributed to the Left
  - 8.1. Well-functioning public policies can be fashioned that depend on the wholesale practice of altruism.
  - 8.2. Open market capitalism does not work since commercial interdependency on both national and global scales does not guarantee equity among peoples or nations.
  - 8.3. Monetary risk is a false notion perpetrated by capitalist economists. Productive behaviors – entrepreneurship, investment, etc – are not affected by regulatory risks or tax rates on profits.
  - 8.4. There should be no intrinsic limit to the extent that government participates in the economy. Similarly, there should be no limit to the levels of taxing the private sector, as long as defined standards of social equity are satisfied.
  - 8.5. In the final analysis, only equitable world orders are not only possible but are also stable, since they are intrinsically socially just.
  - 8.6. To protect the public, socially harmful speech – misinformation, disinformation, ‘fake news’, ... - and expressions of all kinds must be proscribed and mediated by the state.
  - 8.7. The development and interchange of ideas in the public forum must be monitored and, if necessary, mediated by government.
  - 8.8. Racism per se is a widely entrenched and self-evident universal practice that requires no further definition or explication. Proactive measures to address this social blight must be implemented in all our institutions.
  - 8.9. Racism is a pervasive behavioral blight that must be identified, isolated, and abolished through collective action.
  - 8.10. America has been and continues to be an intrinsically racist country. The same assessment holds for western colonialist culture(s).
  - 8.11. A peaceful and socially just society is possible only when nationalistic sovereign-nation states give way to a global world order that can ensure an equitable distribution of

resources among the world's peoples. The main impediment to such progress is America's inequitable position as the world's economic and military hegemon.

9. Taxation: The Left believes that taxes are generally already too low, and that there is no prescribed limit to how high sufficient tax rates may go to fund government.
10. Government Participation in Economy: The Left believes that the role of government in the country's economy is already too low, and that there is no prescribed limit as to government's role in the economy.

Some previous expansions of the above notions can be found in my posts on Rebane's Ruminations through the following links.

[https://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes\\_ruminations/2019/12/a-progressives-common-ground.html](https://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2019/12/a-progressives-common-ground.html)  
[https://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes\\_ruminations/2021/04/the-futility-of-searching-for-common-ground.html](https://rebaneruminations.typepad.com/rebanes_ruminations/2021/04/the-futility-of-searching-for-common-ground.html)  
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