



# ENQUIRY

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A publication of the AHI Undergraduate Fellows // Free thought and discourse

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## How the Left Abandoned Middle America

By WILL UTZSCHNEIDER  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Historians will long analyze and ponder the political sonic boom of 2016. People will read about it decades or perhaps hundreds of years from now. For students of history considering this election, a prophetic Huffington Post article, “Hillary Clinton has a 98% chance of winning the presidency,” might serve as a fine primary source.

Such a headline reveals how the Huffington Post’s editors (and readers?) stand aloof from those Rust Belt states like Michigan and Wisconsin—and maybe even Minnesota and New Hampshire, which came close to favoring Donald Trump.

Decades ago, the Democrats appealed to the average working person, the “little guy.” Candidates like Jim Webb represent this era of the party. Over time, however, Democrats became the party of the coastal elites: intellectuals, Hollywood stars, and Silicon Valley moguls, as well as progressive college students. In doing so they ignored the working-class portion of their base. Engulfed in the obsession of identity politics, the left proceeded apace, focusing on reaching out to various groups such as millennials, African-Americans, women, Latinos, gays, etc. The overemphasis during the campaign was both blatant and patronizing. The signs were ubiquitous: “Latinos for Hillary!,” “Women for Hillary!”

Did it ever occur to Mrs. Clinton that you can appeal to all people with a “People furious with stagnant wages for Hillary!” sign? How about a “People vexed with skyrocketing health care premiums for Hillary!” sign? Apparently not.

Perhaps this focus was a calculated effort due to the lack of enthusiasm for Hillary’s campaign, but her message amounted to a sibling’s rewrapped Christmas gift: Nice try, I know what I’m getting.

Imagine a Michigan factory worker in despair who lost his manufacturing job, foreclosed on his house, and lost a son to heroin, only to be told by coastal

progressive elites that he had to repent for his white privilege. Obama advisor Van Jones echoed this sentiment, saying: “as a liberal, when those factories started closing, did the NAACP come help? Did Greenpeace? Did the National Organization for Women, did any liberal group come? We didn’t ask them for a date.”

Clinton displayed a sneering disdain for many of Trump’s backers by calling many of them a “basket of deplorables.” It’s as if

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Of course, some have claimed that Trump played footsie with ethno-nationalists. Such movements are reprehensible and should be swiftly condemned. But it is important to understand that the shrill cohort of white nationalists makes up only a small fraction of his supporters.

Consider filmmaker and progressive activist Michael

*continued on back page*






## Reflecting on Communism After Castro

By AMY ELINSKI  
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro’s death, it’s time for the world to be reminded of a very important truth. Communism doesn’t work. While the philosophy seems popular among young millennials, most of them were not even alive during the most recent periods of communist oppression to see its horrors and failures. Not only is it economically unfeasible, but in nearly every modern communist state, its governing structure has led to the immense suffering of the people. In smaller communistic societies where violence was not employed, the communities have rarely lasted more than a generation or two

## This Week’s News in 140 Characters

### EDITORIAL REPORT

-  **Bill Kristol** @BillKristol · 1h  
Fair to point out that a rising tide doesn't always lift all boats. But really foolish to undercut policies that do lead to a rising tide.  
↳ 27   ↻ 23   ❤️ 62   ...
-  **The New York Times** @nytimes · 8m  
Go inside the Oceti Sakowin camp in North Dakota. Standing Rock protesters were ordered to leave but are digging in. [nyti.ms/2gVJtC1](http://nyti.ms/2gVJtC1)  
↳ 4   ↻ 22   ❤️ 34   ...
-  **Matthew** @Matthops82 · 14h  
The moral of the Stein story is that there a lot of people in this world that are gullible enough to give money to pretty much anything.  
↳ 4   ↻ 4   ❤️ 7   ...
-  **Newt Gingrich** @newtingrich · 14h  
Nick Burns tweeted about Taiwan is Trump listening to the State Department? I hope not. Americans voted to change Washington not to obey it.  
↳ 387   ↻ 1.8K   ❤️ 5.1K   ...
-  **The Associated Press** @AP · 30m  
BREAKING: First official results in Austria: Left-leaning candidate takes unbeatable lead in presidential election.  
↳ 38   ↻ 825   ❤️ 753   ...

### COMMUNISM AFTER CASTRO cont.

before they dissolved on account of tension with members’ human desires to work for themselves and own property. History shows that communism always fails.

Cuba happens to be a prime example. Castro’s guerrilla army overthrew the government of Cuba by force in the late 1950s, installing a communist regime. Once his regime was in place, he resorted to violence to keep power. His enemies often met their ends with non-judicial sentences, firing squads, and assassinations. Thousands of individuals died. An estimated 78,000 more died attempting to escape the Castro regime. In total, more than 1.5 million fled Cuba, seeking asylum in the United States and other countries.

Beyond Cuba, plenty more examples of communist oppression occur in recent history. The Soviet Union similarly mistreated its

*It can only be successful when all members of society are active, willing participants*

people, leading to the deaths of millions of citizens. After emerging from behind the Iron Curtain, many of the formerly Soviet-dominated nations are still

## Reactions to Fidel Castro

By FRED POLLEVICK  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The death of the infamous Cuban leader Fidel Castro sparked a wide range of reactions.

In the United States, it was marked by widespread celebration. Many Americans understood Castro in the context of the brutal violence and oppression he inflicted upon the Cuban people. During his rule, he ordered the deaths of thousands of Cuban citizens via extra-judicial orders and was responsible for a number of human rights abuses. Many of the Cubans who had fled to the U.S. during his regime viewed his death as closure for both their suffering and the suffering of their friends and family.

In addition, Cubans now living in America viewed Castro as a wicked man who lied to them about the possibility of making their lives better under communism. Following the Cuban Revolution, Castro had used his passion, charisma, and promises of prosperity to rally the Cuban people after overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. As it turns out, a number of Castro’s policies did more to

Moore, who has surprisingly served as another voice of reason. Speaking on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," Moore said of many Trump voters: "They're not racist. They voted twice for a man whose middle name is Hussein. That's the America you live in."

Claims that all, or even many, Trump supporters voted on the basis of hate contradict the exit polling data. Such accusations also tend to detach progressives further from Middle America.

As Moore pointed out, more than a few Trump voters had supported President Obama. (His administration then ratcheted up EPA regulations to close down their coal power plants, giving in to the wishes of people like San Francisco-based donor and hedge fund manager Tom Steyer.) And how about the uptick in African-American and Latino votes for Trump compared with Mitt Romney's in 2012? His African-American support seems to have increased from 6 to 8 percent, while Hispanic support seems to have grown from 27 to 29 percent. If Trump's appeal was racist in nature, why didn't he do worse than Romney with blacks and Hispanics?

The left's abandonment of Middle America has put them in a precarious position. When President Obama came into office, the Democrats controlled 30 governorships, the House and Senate by wide margins, and 60 of the 99 state legislative bodies across the country. As he leaves office, they control neither house of Congress and only 15 governorships, while the Republicans have majorities in 66 legislative chambers. The Democrats are, in this respect, in their weakest position in nearly 100 years.

If President-Elect Trump manages to fulfill his campaign promises (who knows), Americans of various incomes and colors could flock to him. If that happens, the Democratic party will accelerate its morphing into a smaller, regional party that populates mainly the coasts.

Or maybe historians will conclude that 2016 was when progressives really learned that they should pay more attention to that area between New York and San Francisco.

COMMUNISM AFTER CASTRO cont.

struggling to find their ground, economically and culturally, more than two and a half decades later.

Just looking at the attitudes of the citizens of those countries toward communism, one can see – as I did during my recent semester in Poland – exactly how they felt that system failed them. The Polish people in particular have vehemently anti-communist

attitudes. Their country has found itself the object of Russian aggression for centuries, and they received horrid treatment under the Soviets, including being subjected to famine and frequent shortages, and to violence when they tried to gain any semblance of control.

Communism fails on a smaller scale as well. It can only be successful when all members of society are active, willing participants. Interest tends to wane.

Upstate New York, for example, has had its fair share of communistic societies. The "Burned-Over District," site of arguably the greatest religious revival during the Second Great Awakening, had a high number of religious communal societies. The Oneida Community, not far to the west of Hamilton College, is a major example. Now known for their silverware empire, the Oneida Community began as a religious communal society in 1848. It remained successful for years as

new members continued to join. However, the next generation of Oneidans, most of whom were brought to the commune by their parents, became disenchanted with the community's ideals. They disbanded it in 1881.

The Oneida Community is not alone in this problem. Often, children who grow up subjected to communist ideals, much like anyone forced to live under a flawed system of governance, become disaffected. This disaffection is also prevalent in large-scale communist societies – including Cuba, for the many who fled and among many who couldn't leave. Almost anyone old enough to remember living under the Castro regime has terrible memories of it, and thus abhors the principle of communism.

Now, after Fidel Castro's death, we should stop to reflect on his legacy of violence and hate. Although he is gone, his brother Raul still reigns, continuing his legacy. Although some changes have been made in Cuba's economy at times, the Cuban people are still suffering. We can only hope its condition will improve soon, and that the death of Castro can help to bring positive change.

REACTIONS TO FIDEL CASTRO cont.

harm the Cuban people than to help them. As former Florida Governor Jeb Bush argued, Cuba in the absence of Castro can now be "truly free and democratic."

However, several international figures, such as French President Francois Hollande, mourned Castro's death, praising him as a "towering figure in the 20th Century." Vladimir Putin of Russia, Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, Evo Morales of Bolivia, Nicolas

Maduro of Venezuela, and former U.S.S.R. leader Mikhail Gorbachev have also publicly displayed their appreciation for Castro. In particular, his supporters praise him as a champion of socialism and anti-imperialism whose revolutionary regime secured Cuba's independence from American domination.

The question that remains: do the people of Cuba still admire and support Castro as much as they did during his revolution 57 years ago? It might appear so.

*Castro's supporters praise him as a champion of socialism and anti-imperialism whose revolutionary regime secured Cuba's independence from American domination*

Reports from Cuba have produced only messages of mourning and sadness over the death of their beloved "Commandante." But the Cuban state controls the media, so it is likely that dissenting opinions would be quashed.

Moving forward, the United States can allow its strained relations with Cuba to die alongside Castro. After giving the Cuban people time to mourn their "Commandante," U.S. leaders should attempt to foster friendlier relations and help the country move in a more positive direction. As a result of Castro's anti-globalization policies, Cuba is still stuck in the 1960s. With the help of America and the rest of the world, it can finally enter the 21st century.

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