Our Duty to the Future of the World and the Destiny of Humanity

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In 1941, during WW2, the greatest and most terrible war in all human history, a war fought in principle to protect the rights of individuals from their destruction by Axis regimes—Nazi Germany, fascist Italy, and imperialist Japan—which despised human rights, a great statesman on the side of the Allies gave a speech to the U.S. Congress in which he said (and I have slightly modernized his words):

“By singleness of purpose, by steadfastness of conduct, by tenacity and endurance, by this and only this can we discharge our duty to the future of the world and the destiny of humanity.”

Two years earlier, on Sept. 3, 1939, at the onset of that great war, this same statesman said in a speech to the English House of Commons (and again I have slightly modernized his words):

“We must not underrate the gravity of the task which lies before us or the temerity of the ordeal, to which we shall not be found unequal. We must expect many disappointments, and many unpleasant surprises, but we may be sure that the task which we have freely accepted is one not beyond the compass and the strength of the people of the United States.”

He added:

“We shall prove ourselves not unworthy of those great men and women, the fathers and mothers of our land, who laid the foundations of our laws and shaped the greatness of our country. We are fighting to save the whole world from the pestilence of tyranny and in defense of all that is most sacred to man. This is a war, viewed in its inherent quality, to establish, on impregnable rocks, the rights of the individual, and it is a war to establish and revive the stature of man. We look forward to the day, when our liberties and rights will be restored to us, and when we shall be able to share them with the peoples to whom such blessings are unknown.”

Those speeches were made by Winston Churchill.

Today, with reactionary forces on the cusp of seizing power in the United States, we must heed the wise words of that world-historical figure.

We, the people of the United States who believe in human rights and social justice, are now, early in the twenty-first century, involved in another war. It is a war against, I am sorry to say, a domestic, indeed American, Axis. It is a war against the political, social, and religious right, particularly the plutocrats and the authoritarian-minded. It is a war against the mighty powers of the one percenters, the mega-corporations, and their stooges. It is a war to reinstate the greatness and essence of America, a war against increasingly powerful, sinister political, social, economic, and organized religious forces who wish to challenge the evolving standards of decency that have marked the progress of our maturing society. These dark elements seek to wrench this country—and, indeed, Western civilization—backward. They embrace devolving standards of decency that they hope will lead to the decay of social and human rights progress.
- Our Duty continued

These evil political forces—these days spearheaded by their mouthpieces, lackeys, and activists—have been around for as long as our country has existed. They were the ones who defended black slavery and hated the Abolitionists. They were the ones who fought against giving women either the right to vote or equal rights with men. They were the ones who foisted Alcohol Prohibition on us. They were the ones who battled against the social and economic reforms of the New Deal. They were the ones who tried to prevent the teaching of basic modern science in our schools. They were the ones who opposed the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. They were the ones who fought against America entering (spitefully but futilely, I might add) against little Iraq. They are the ones today fighting the disastrous war of aggression we waged against little Iraq. They are the ones today fighting (spitefully but futilely, I might add) against equal rights for the LGBT community.

Never, however, since the end of WW2 have these forces of reaction and repression been as influential and powerful and successful as they are now. They control the legislatures and governorships in many states; they control one House of Congress; they may soon control both Houses; and they might seize the presidency in 2016. If they do take control, America is headed for a Dark Age in which social Darwinism will run amok. If you are not wealthy or healthy, too bad! The strong will survive! Humanitarianism will become “false humanitarianism.” The plight of the poor, the infirm, and the underprivileged is and will be beneath contempt. Pitilessness toward the miseries or sufferings of an ever-expanding, desperate underclass will be the norm. A sculpture of Ayn Rand’s head probably will be added to Mount Rushmore, and the dear Ms. Rand’s face may end up appearing on the Statue of Liberty (renamed the Statute of Noble Selfishness).

And need I add that they are anti-environmentalists? That they deny and indeed spit on the problems of global warming and the pollution and ravaging of the earth and the atmosphere and the endangering or extinction of wildlife?

Truly, if I may borrow from Game of Thrones, winter is coming if these forces prevail, even temporarily.

What they will do if they gain power is obvious. There will be more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law more prisons, more prisoners, more police, more arrestees, more draconian administration of justice. Courts will be presided over by unfailing semi-Zombies like Clarence Thomas and the late but entirely unlamented William Rehnquist. These statist, pro-government judges will make the awful law.