

# **THE PSYCHOPATHIC SOCIETY: part 8: THE AMERICAN CONSENSUS????? alexis dolgorukii © 1997**

There was recently a Poll taken of American Public attitude and opinion which purports to show the general American attitude towards things, and their opinions about those things. The statistics given in the reports of that poll clearly indicate to me how fantastical and entirely out of touch with reality, the American People's views of America and of themselves are.

This preoccupation with their own perception of themselves and of their country is an intrinsic ingredient in the American Story ever since it's first beginnings. It is a common cliché that Americans and America spend far too much time "re-inventing the nation" and "reinventing themselves as citizens of that nation. This pre-occupation with self-image is the key ingredient in what I call "The Psychopathic society". And it is a deadly ingredient.

As Garry Wills observed in his obituary of Jimmy Stewart (Time Magazine, 4 July 1997) while observing that for all of the "wholesomeness", and "almost Saintliness" of the characters in Stewart's most famous roles, there was always as undercurrent of repressed violence. Wills observes: "But that is what happens when the sense of one's own virtue is affronted. American innocence fairly begs to be violated. **THEN IT KILLS.**" (Emphasis mine)

No truer observation has ever been made regarding the nature of the American preoccupation with self-image, and far more importantly, with the RESULTS of that pre-occupation. America's view of itself is the most dangerous phenomenon in the world today,

because what it very clearly says is this: "you see me as I see myself, or else!"

This view of America as a great danger is not mine alone, back in the 50s and 60s when I was living in Europe, and, like most Americans viewing the world in terms of black and white (or rather Red and Red-White-and Blue), I was astonished to find that most educated Europeans were far more afraid of the American Eagle than they were of the Russian Bear. A man I respected highly once told me: "Russia is, when all is said and done, an Old European Power and it's behavior can to some extent be predicted. America is an adolescent Cowboy with nuclear six-guns and it's behavior is as erratic as all adolescents".

In the poll to which I referred in the first paragraph of this essay an absolutely inordinate number of American Citizens (94% I believe) truly believe that "America is the Greatest Country on Earth". Which simply isn't true! Some of this misperception results from ignorance, for the American public is, by and large, woefully ignorant of the world in which it exists. But a good deal of it results from simple jingoism which is pathological. Next to religion, malignant nationalism (jingoism) is the greatest force for harm and oppression present on this planet.

True, America is the richest country on earth, it is the most powerful country on earth in the military sense of the term, and it possesses the infinitely greatest capacity to project that power. In fact at this point in time, America is planetary hegemon. But does that make it "great"? It does not, as I see the meaning of the term. Americans and many other people as well, far too many, confuse size and power with "greatness" and there they are completely wrong!

This I must say: the fact that The United States of America is, at this time, unchallenged planetary hegemon, is dangerous for the rest of the world and absolutely catastrophic for the country itself. It is catastrophic simply because it reinforces the pathology which is such an intrinsic aspect of American life and character.

True greatness, when one is talking about some nation, refers to what kind of a place it is, what kind of a place it is to live in, and what kind of a neighbor it is. If these are your parameters, then America, by which I mean to say The United States of America, doesn't fit the parameters at all.

America is beautiful, it has immense scenic grandeur and scope and a wide spectrum of physical magnificence, but that doesn't make it a great country. Sad to say, the U.S.A. is NOT the nicest place, by and large it isn't even a remotely nice place. Unless one is well-off, it is not at all a good place to live. Lastly, the U.S.A. is a terrible neighbor. There was a famous Mexican President who said: "Alas! Poor Mexico, so far from God, so near to America!" There was a Canadian Prime-Minister who said: "Living next to the U.S.A. is like sleeping with an Elephant". These are the next door neighbors, and it might be said that "familiarity (or closeness) breeds contempt. But the U.S.A. is not a very good world citizen either. It tends to bully and because of its never-questioned perception that it's the "greatest nation on Earth", and that it is "the freest nation on Earth", it feels justified in its bullying. American Presidents almost always refer to their policy as "making the world free for Democracy", but Democracy, and cleaner Democracy exists elsewhere. What they are really saying is that their policy "makes the world profitable for American Capital"!

A perfect example of this is the present American drive to expand NATO. What purpose will the expansion of a military alliance serve? Two purposes: First; it gives the United States of America a permanent place in the socio-political world that is Europe, a place to which America, geographically speaking, has no right. It also places the United States in a position of almost entirely unchallenged supremacy in Europe. Second: It provides an enormously expanded market place for American Arms Manufacturers to sell their deadly wares. These manufacturers possess entirely too much influence in the decision making processes of the government of the United States.

There are many countries, especially in Europe, that are far more truly Democratic than America. There are certainly many countries that are more benign and compassionate than the U.S.A. And there are many places where it's far better to live than the U.S.A. Rich people can live well anywhere. That's not the criterion I am using to judge. It's where it's good to live when you're poor that is important to this discussion, and the U.S.A. is a terrible place to be poor.

One of the main reasons that the U.S.A. is a terrible place to be poor is that the American establishment, inculcated in the White Protestant "Work Ethic", and in the basic Judeo-Christian ethos, (that if you are careless enough to be born poor, it must be because "God" doesn't like you); believe poverty is a fault! The American establishment believes that people are poor because they are lazy and inferior, and they treat them that way! The establishment in America, and I don't even want to attempt to distinguish between the Republican Capitalist and the "Liberal" social worker; regard the poor with contempt and they patronize them. The only real difference is that the Republican Capitalist doesn't want to even hear about "the poor", while the Liberal Social Worker regards the poor as a source of income, and influence, and more important than either of these, of power..

In this same connection, if America is "the greatest country in the world" why is it such a really bad place for ordinary folks to get sick? I can remember George Bush thumping his chest and proclaiming "America has the best medical care in the world!" Well, that's true when you're the President of the United States and get entirely free medical care at the Bethesda Naval Hospital which is as good as immense wealth can make it. I remember too, during the campaign against President Clinton's half-hearted medical scheme; Senators and Congress persons (of both parties) making the same claim. But they too have all the resources of the state behind them. When viewed from the viewpoint of a person like myself, who has no medical insurance of any type, it is simply an egregious and mean-spirited lie! These folks like to decry the national medical care schemes in other countries, and while those schemes do have flaws, believe me, flawed medical care is infinitely better than no medical care. And no medical care

is exactly what a large percentage of American's have!

Americans talk and brag loudly about their nations "heart" and "compassion" but when one gets down to details, they haven't got either. What characterizes American Society is primarily greed and arrogance and religious fanaticism.

Now I want to turn to the second item in the poll that horrified me. And that "item" is the American People's total devotion to a perception of the "American Family" that is totally divorced from reality. Far too many Americans believe that the nuclear family as portrayed in "Leave it to Beaver" is the only requirement to procure the domestic tranquility of the nation, and the only necessity in the pursuit of happiness! They couldn't be further from correct!

The so-called American Nuclear Family is the most devastating thing I have ever encountered. The American Nuclear Family has destroyed more lives than the American Nuclear Arsenal.

Now this is not to say that there are not a lot of American Traditional Nuclear Families that

are perfectly "happy", but there are far more who only pretend to be happy. Much of what one sees of the Traditional Nuclear Family is a "Potempkin Village", a false front behind which lurks some really awful things.

One of these awful things is the deeply ingrained belief that people in non-traditional relationships can't be "happy". Indeed the belief is more that of: "These people in non-traditional life situations cannot, must not, and most of all, shouldn't be happy!" The fact that this is not true, and everyone knows it isn't true, simply increases the furor of those who regard anything different from themselves as threatening to themselves.

There are only three groups of people who profit from the Traditional American Nuclear Family, they are: The Professional Religionists, The Psychologists and Psychiatrists, and lastly the Mental Hospitals.

The United States of America is a psychopathic society and it is religion, and it's handmaiden, the Nuclear Family that made it that way.