

EAF 28 The Speech—and how it, and he, has inspired me

Wonderful article! You almost do justice to the speech and the great man (NEWSMAX. 10/24/14). The signature line: “. . . up to freedom, or down to totalitarianism” founds the framework for my analysis of public policy. Mr. Reagan’s Choice demonstrates that there are indeed two Americas, divided not 1%-99%, or by sex, ethnicity or any other demographic, but by genetic compulsion—those who live to tell others what to do, and those who resist being so told. The former follow Plato—see the world as they believe it ought to be; the latter are Aristotelians—experience the world as it really is, by fact and evidence.

Mr. Reagan has inspired me: I advocate employing Reagan’s Choice to analyze public policy, from Aristotelian (up to freedom) and Platonic (down to totalitarianism perspectives. Consider your 10/24/14 table of contents: common core, ISIS, EMP security, climate change, EPA war on coal, Obamacare, U.N./ Hamas—“The Referendum . . . trouble for Obama”. He just said publicly, “all [my] policies are on the ballot”. Can we not begin analysis of each of these (and many more) by asking—does this one basically move America up toward freedom or down to totalitarianism?

Take for example Obamacare. Individual Americans want health. Consider the series of individual actions to get from the fundamental freedom of health to the Procrustean totalitarianism of Obamacare. First, individual health results from genetics and age. Second, health results from lifestyle actions (diet, exercise, rest). Third, healthcare results from individual treatment actions—avoidance and procrastination, self-ministration, family and friends, emergency room or VA(!) patronage. Only then do we get to healthcare costs (money, time, effort, aggravation) which insurance is designed to alleviate. Now, health insurance can be covered by employers, parents, catastrophic policy—and Obamacare.

But Obamacare’s one-size-fits-all health insurance produces unintended consequences. First, Obama lied when he repeatedly said. “if you like your doctor and healthcare insurance, you can keep it. Period.” Nope, your coverage must be approved. Costs have gone up not down, the supply of healthcare providers (doctors, nurses, hospitals, etc.) cannot keep pace with the demands of Obamacare, the website continues to be a disaster, federal and state governments cannot keep track of people eligible for subsidies (of who are gaming the system), and on and on ad nauseam.

And Obamacare is but one example among many; Americans increasingly doubt that more government can fix things. These examples collectively are correctly blamed on the Obama administration—executive leadership is incompetent, bureaucrats expand their empires and hide their foibles, Congressional oversight is lax, judicial relief is too slow and too partisan. But these failures result not from current governmental structure and actions. These failures are the inevitable consequence of Platonic ideology. Platocrats want the world to be as they envision it; they believe that all that requires is statements of “good and just” intentions; that those who oppose them (i.e., value individual freedom) are not simply wrong but evil; and therefore that government can, must, use force—laws, regulation, taxation, police SWAT teams(!)—to implement their desired America. In fact, however, totalitarianism has failed wherever implemented in the real world. Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Peron, Castro, and many other real-world failures demonstrate this historical fact. Unfortunately, much human misery results before individual freedom triumphs.

Ronald Reagan articulated American's choice in The Speech. I advocate carrying on his vision. And I challenge every American to use that choice to analyze contemporary public policies.

