

George Floyd's death – a moment with revolutionary potential

One has to wonder why there has been such a huge burst of BLM emotions around George Floyd's death? How does it fit into the big picture? Where is this going?

Joshua Phillip tracks the answers from the late 19th century, when Anarchism was all the rage. But by its very nature, it did not have any ambitions other than to tear down the status quo. Hoping blindly that something better would emerge from the ashes.

Different schools of thought did begin to emerge – different forms of Socialism. Marxism has various strands like Leninism, Trotskyism, Maoism in China and Fanonism in Africa. There has been a lot of foment, and many socialist experiments have failed dismally. Think of Venezuela. Others are remembered for some success like “democratic socialism”. The Nazi's were socialists too, by the way, another one of the strands. It had a different look and feel to it, but it was centralized.

Joshua Phillip tracks the way the “lessons learned” from the spread of communism play out in today's world. His view is that China has a global agenda, to prove that its totalitarian way works better than America's un-tidy way. We all know that Democracy is un-tidy by comparison to Despotism. But that doesn't mean that we agree to abandon it.

This is how the very legitimate Black Lives Matter movement or cause gets hijacked. The non-violent tradition of the Civil Rights movement evolves into looting and arson. Suddenly this hatches new agendas like Defunding the Police which only 16% of Americans support, even now in the wake of all these protests. Neither of the major parties support it!

Phillip's view is that this is the way the Chinese Communist Party tries to push its agenda away from the Thesis (status quo) towards the Antithesis (Defund the Police) - by eliminating the middle ground (the Synthesis). Call it “planned revolution”, it is not spontaneous. And it is dangerous, because it is not easy to keep mobs under control. The authentic way is for protests to be peaceful – the true Antithesis of police brutality. Don't answer racism with reverse-racism, you are just polarizing the debate.

Phillip describes how Leftists want to promote strong Antithesis rhetoric to the Thesis (status quo). Then comes the classic twist – a phony Synthesis. People argue so vehemently against the Thesis (racism) that they use racist rhetoric against it! The problem is now WHITE police. (Not bad cops but WHITE cops.) Phillip describes how this same methodology was used during the Cultural Revolution, to humiliate the targets. Sometimes these targets were the wealthy, sometimes the intellectuals, sometimes the religious - in this case it is a race. The method is to publicly humiliate these targets. This drives forward the change project, in the direction of the Antithesis, not of a Synthesis. This is classical communist methodology.

Whereas the Civil Rights movement would seek some middle ground. Then change will come that doesn't aggravate the polarization. Like the anti-slavery movement before it, and the anti-apartheid movement in Africa, it remained rooted in familiar faith and used inspiring, envisioning rhetoric.

Think of MLK's I Have a Dream speech! The fruit never falls far from the tree. We now see many whites marching together with blacks in the peaceful protests.

When Phillip comes to more recent events – to the polarization which we are seeing so much of – he is not only in America but all around the world. At Davos 2020, polarization was actually pegged as one of the three major challenges that we face in today's world.

Phillip describes them in the light of “dialectical materialism”. This intentionally seeks to eliminate the middle. It purposely tries to create social disharmony. It desires there to be a struggle of opposites, and better yet if that struggle can be violent. So it literally creates conflict. I was aware of this reality, from my studies of communism at varsity and from living in communist countries. Riots can be incited by agitators. Hatred can be heated up by propaganda. Human catalysts are trained how to make this happen. Hate-speech is a favourite tool. It can actually sharpen the antagonism – and polarize opinions. That is their goal.

Phillip calls George Floyd's death “a moment with revolutionary potential”. Most people agree that it was not that different from many other incidents. Floyd was not a Bobby Kennedy or an MLK. So why did it ignite such a huge reaction? Exactly because of the polarization, the rising hate-speech, the animosity which preceded it. Largely due to the upcoming elections. The conditions had been created for violent confrontation. It was a perfect storm, so to speak.

No one knows yet where this will end, but Reform is generally a safer option than Revolution.

Source: An interview of Joshua Phillip on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4rgtUw5oYE&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0TVYKCWI-Tau4RyQNX7Yw2ZFG5yZdThld8iBo7mipllK-VNvMN58sYHXw>