

Tea Party Movement Is Not a Sign of Disunity

By Bala Prasad

The formation of the Tea Party has brought different rhetoric from different groups of people. But this is the Democratic system working at its best. In the annals of democratic society, “the 101 lesson” is if you do not like a system, change can only be reached through an electoral system. The majority will prevail until the next election. The people who formed Tea Party and the people who support the Tea Party are trying to change things with the power of their vote. Of course, politics always plays a pivotal role.

The views of the mainstream Republicans have not changed in the last hundred years. Every so often disenchanted people form smaller political groups. Just about a year ago such a political group came to life and was named the Tea Party. This party was formed directly as a result of President Barak Obama’s government policies and the Republican party’s response to them. Their views differed on almost everything – on the economy, on social security/welfare programs, on immigration and our military – to name a few. They have been able to articulate their opinions and views to the public and have in return been awarded with election of their candidates to the United States Congress and Senate. Many previously elected members of this elite body also identify with the Tea Party’s political views. Their number is small, but such are the rules of politics, that they have been able to affect many a decision of the congress. Whether these decisions by the congress and senate were right or wrong is not the point. The point is, they are doing things the right way. We have had no major breakdown of law and order. No major strike. No stoppage of work that cannot stop. This is the power of the people through their vote and represents a fine example of how a democratic system should work.

The nay-sayers, you cannot make them understand that this is certainly not a fatal national division. Most of the time these splinter groups are small, they last for a short period of time and then disappear from the face of the earth to be replaced by a new one. In the last 60 years or so we had many such groups. They all seem to crop up just in time of our Presidential election every four years. Prominent amongst them was the presidential candidacy of Henry Wallace who earlier was vice president under Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Strom Thurmond who was both governor and later senator of South Carolina; George Wallace who was governor of Alabama; John Anderson who was a U.S. congressman. We also cannot forget Ross Perot and Ralph Nader. And then there were presidential candidates of no real consequence. Always either the democrats or republicans call them spoilers, depending on whose candidate did not get elected. But at least we forget this is the only way we can lawfully change things in a democratic society and it represents a democratic system’s finest hour and not a nation divided.

The Tea Party Alienates and Divides America

By Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’

Any kind of extreme political view may be divisive. The Tea Party is one such acrimonious organization. It’s not just because they are to the right of the political spectrum, it’s because they are alarmingly extreme. Politics in a democracy should encourage consensus and compromise. On the contrary, they have a set of political ideals they agree upon and don’t want to hear about anything else. The Tea Party has a good premise (fiscal responsibility, smaller government) but they would reject anything coming from the other side. Since partisanship doesn’t make for good politics, they are certainly segregators and not integrators.

The Tea Party started as an angry reaction to Obama’s 2008 victory and its rise threatens America’s integration. Its hatred for the established two-party system is going to fuel divisiveness throughout the nation. Consider the growing support for the Alaska Independence Party, the Hawaiian Independence Party, the New England Independence Movement, the South Carolina League of the South, the Free Texas Republic, the Free California Republic of northern California and Oregon, the Cascadia Republic of northwestern states, among other lesser known yet equally serious secession movements throughout the country.

Witness further the Tea Party discontent; the widening rift between Republicans and Democrats, the call for a second Constitutional convention; the claiming of Federal land by states; virtual collapse of the financial system; the unbridled dishonesty and greed of Wall Street. The Tea Party encourages all the above. Now, here is the dirty little secret about the Tea Party supporters that are protesting higher spending, high taxes and government controls. They are almost all misguided ordinary citizens who have little experience in politics. The Tea Party’s role is more likely to run their Congressman out of office on election day rather than serving the nation.

The Tea Party movement is enemy within. It hates immigrants, supports wars and invasions of other countries and favors corporate unaccountability. The Tea Party can be described in a plethora of adjectives to determine exactly what their platforms might be which are assortments of conflicting ideology and outdated belief systems. This rag tag party is being used as a front by Republicans to detract, delay and disturb while creating a circus atmosphere which was initiated during the initial health care reform bill town halls. The strategy is to have one believe that the Tea Party is a third party grass roots movement that accepts all people. Let’s dissect what they really stand for and who they represent.

Tea Party’s slogans mask the humanity of others and allow them to be easily dismissed and reviled. They do nothing to illuminate or convey the truth about the other side’s position. They only serve to alienate, inflame and divide America.