

COMMUNITY COMMENT DECEMBER 5, 2012
This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

While I have spoken about Hillsdale College and American Exceptionalism before, I just read the College Newsletter, called Impremis. This issue contained excerpts from a speech given by Norman Podhoritz, who is a Pulitzer Scholar at Columbia University. His speech was given at the Hillsdale College 3rd Annual Constitution Day Dinner in September of this year.

Mr. Podhoritz, a Fulbright Scholar, spoke about the things in this country that I hold dearly. First, he says that this country was founded on the principle that all men are created equal. This meant as he said, that where in all other countries, citizenship was a matter of birth, of blood, of leniage. However to become a full fledged American you just had to pledge Alligiance~~w~~ to the new Republic and to the principles for which it stood.

In other nations, the rights enjoyed by their citizens were conferred by human agencies, kings and princees and maybe parliament.

The rest of the world wondered why Socialism had never taken root in Amerixa. That's because our rights come from God and are all inclusive. Arguments for years would spring up as to whether our exceptionalism made it a force for good or for evil.

We are a capitalistic society which has done so much to lift people out of poverty. Mr Podhoritz first believes that American Exceptionalism has been a vital force for Good. He asks the question of those who question that America has been a force for ^{Good, so} God, compared to ^{what} what is America so bad. After pondering this question for forty years he says I believe that the United States belongs on an exhalted list. He says we have excelled by following our founding fathers to the preservation of the blessings of liberty and posterity. Our Declaration of Independence according to this author required prosperity as a pre condition to life in this country. Conservatives believe in freedom while liberals believe in economic equality, you know "spread the wealth around". This author told the story about equality in this country

when an Israeli Socialist told William F. Buckley, Jr. that those nations which have put liberty ahead of equality have ended up doing better for equality than those with the reverse priority.

The Republicans are the party for liberty while the Democrats are the party of re distribution, and that is why they say "The rich are not paying their fair share, even though the top 10% of earners pay 71% of the Federal Income tax burden, while 47% pay nothing.

I leave you with a point to ponder, "Do you believe that confiscatory tax policies that reduce growth, deny opportunity, and keeps more people in poverty, ~~is~~ ^{are} Fair?"

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