

"A proud Liberal's dissent"

A comment from the course...

Hard to know where to begin with how much Professor West gets wrong about modern progressives and/or liberals. For starters (and just responding to the first essay),

"Today, although the prestige of science remains great, it has been greatly diminished by the multicultural perspective that sees science as just another point of view."

Tell me again, which major party has more denialists of the science of climate change, of evolution, of the age of the earth?

Second,

"Two decades ago, in a widely publicized report of the American Council of Learned Societies..."

...which nobody but the author has ever heard of. I'm a proud liberal, and I've never heard of it. Indeed, the Wikipedia page for ACLS (which I also hadn't heard of until today) doesn't even mention it. How influential was it, again?

Third,

"Second, liberalism today has become preoccupied with sex."

Sorry, it's not Democrats who are OBSESSED with forcing women to bear (literally) the consequences of their sexual encounters. For a movement that counts "freedom" as one of its Holy Words, you sure do want women to cross their legs unless they're in a relationship exactly as you define as "proper".

Fourth,

"Third, contemporary liberals no longer believe in progress."

Wow, the BS is getting deep in here. Look, I understand you may not agree that Gay rights, women's lib, and Black guys in the Oval Office constitute "progress", but you don't get to define "progress" for Progressives. It's conservatives who hearken back to a glorious bygone era. It's even in the names chosen for each side: "CONSERVative" vs. "PROGRESSive" -- how is this even possible for you to get wrong???

"They are therefore disinclined to support any foreign policy venture that contributes to the strength of America or of the West."

Do you actually believe this poppycock? Look, I was no fan of GWB. I thought he did lasting damage to my country's international standing by invading Iraq on false pretenses, creating American Gulags in Guantanamo, and adopting torture as just another interrogation technique. But at no point was I intellectually shallow enough to ascribe to him a *desire* to damage our country. The author sounds as dumb here as the idiots who believe Obama *actually* has the goal of destroying Capitalism (which, judging by the falling deficit and climbing stock market, is doing just fine, thank you).

"The more a person is lacking, the greater is his or her moral claim on society. The deaf, the blind, the disabled, the stupid, the improvident, the ignorant, and even...the sad — those who are lowest are extolled as the sacred other."

Oh, please. They're called "our fellow citizens". Would you rather the blind man have a job that produces something for society or a tin cup for begging as he would in Third World countries? You can quibble about the "how" of the welfare state, but to get the "why" of it this wrong is evidence that you didn't even *try* to understand the subject on which you speak.

"Among ordinary Americans...there is still a strong attachment to property rights,..."

...on what? What's been taken from you?

"...self-reliance,..."

...sorry, you don't get to own this. Food Stamps and unemployment insurance decades ago helped me and my family *survive* a rough patch long enough to become functional, employed, healthy members of society. A higher minimum wage will allow more fully employed fast food and WalMart workers to get *off* of SNAP and become more self-reliant, but conservatives are against that because it would cut into the corporations' profits.

"...and heterosexual marriage..."

Oooh, can I quote this to the Millennial Generation, which will start running things in 10 years or so?

"...; a wariness of university-certified 'experts'..."

...what were you intoning about progressives earlier? Oh, yeah, that they "[see] science as just another point of view". Pot, meet Professor Kettle (a certified 'expert' on politics at the University of Dallas).

"...; and an unapologetic willingness to use armed forces in defense of their country."

Right, that one *is* all yours. Progressives are not shy in defending our country (Wilson in WWI, FDR & Truman in WWII, Truman in Korea, LBJ in Vietnam, Clinton in Haiti and Iraq, just for a highlight of the major 20th century conflicts), they also recognize that we have other tools in our toolbox besides the military (see Syria, Chemical Weapons Abandonment Without A Shot Fired).

Your history lesson I mostly won't quibble with, but your conclusions are nonsensical. Ask President Romney how well that "living inside the bubble" mentality is working for him, huh?