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Meltdown

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The January 2016 Focused Fire Newsletter, Issue 33, and titled [Time capsule - Reopen on December 1, 2016](#) provided a pre-election perspective, and a promise to follow-up on December 1, 2016.

Meltdown

Meltdown means losing control of a nuclear power plant core. It also means the loss of rational behavior. The election of Donald Trump ignited a partial social meltdown, made worse by the normalcy bias, where people refused to believe a "worst-case" outcome was even possible, but then it happened.

Many demographics were blindsided by Donald Trump's thwarting the coronation of their revered Queen Hillary Clinton. The current administration, the press, and the supporters of both, have negatively reacted, accusing the winners of being "divisive," protesting nightly and burning business places in Portland, Oregon. Scapegoat terms for Trump supporters include racist, misogynists, stupid, Nazi, and basket of deplorables. I voted for Donald Trump, and have automatically been branded with these terms, even by some family members. This is a playground reaction, with the loser reduced to demonizing the winner by name-calling.

I understand the anger and frustration over losing an election where the winner was supposedly predetermined four years ago, but the negative reaction amounts to mass hysteria, and the pain so arbitrarily spewed will not easily be alleviated by the salve of apologies, either covert or overt.

Vision of a future America

If America is going to be successful, people need to know what kind of country they want. Before discussing the major probabilities for the future, here is my vision for America as posted on CompetitiveAmerica.us.

America must be as great for our children and grandchildren as it is/was for prior generations. Most Americans want the same basic outcomes. They want a strong economy, good jobs, a clean environment, responsible government, a viable education system, and reasonably priced health care. All are part of the American dream. Citizens deserve freedom from prejudice and unnecessary governmental regulation, freedom of religion, and freedom to pursue opportunities. That is the path to America's resurgence.

Freedom has never meant abdicating responsibility. We are stewards of our environment, resources, freedoms, and each other. Freedom is not free. It is hard work, and the intelligent use of time, resources, and personal values. It is being there for our neighbor, our military and law enforcement, firefighters, and brothers and sisters in the trench next to us.

It will take all of us to rebuild a Competitive America, and it starts by innovating the fourth-industrial age, green and resource effective, led by American businesses.

God gave America abundant resources; we must be good stewards and not bury our talents. It is our choice.

I work every day to make this vision a reality.

A manufacturing/builder economy

Everyone knows that disruptive change is pervasive, caused by globalization at a macro-level, and digitalization at the micro-level. Both forces powered the Presidential election, separately but synergistically.

The Trump victory included individual social decisions but this election was the consequence of national policy and economic direction, not social policy. The continuum of ever-larger government was broken when the American people voted for change and economic opportunity.

America became a great nation because it was a land of opportunity - a nation of builders and workers. We generated wealth because we were premiere manufacturers, builders, and businesspeople. We led the world in innovation.

I was born and raised in a producer environment, when America built everything. My father, a designer and maker of ventilation systems, was also an alcoholic and poor male model. As a young boy, my next-door neighbor, a thin, black man named Jimmy Roberson, could make anything in his garage workshop. I was a frequent visitor, and often a pest. He was a caring and nurturing man, and would be appalled at the lack of civility today. He was a male role model and hero who provided needed stability. I proudly grew up to emulate him, a maker and do-it-yourselfer, while spending many years in manufacturing, from worker, to management, to consultant.

The business of America was business. In less than thirty years we threw it all away and became a consumer nation. We took our technological advantage and the American dream to the brink of oblivion. The people want the American dream renewed, achievable only with a production-based economy.

The election

In last month's newsletter, [Hold Your Nose, but Vote](#), I provided a detailed analysis of both candidates and the rationale behind my vote. By any definition, from a character perspective, America could not have picked two more unlikable people. In summary, both Trump and Clinton score high on the distrust scale. As a vet, however, Hillary Clinton lost my vote because she did not lift a finger to help four Americans in Benghazi. ***SHE DIDN'T EVEN TRY! The American military must have a Commander in Chief who will be there for them.***

Americans voted for Donald Trump for a variety of reasons. In the final analysis, however, the political system was corrupt and broken by both parties, and people were losing hope.

Hillary Clinton offered a continuum of Obama's failed policies, spelled out in my book "[The Little Boy Asked WHY? The Search for Answers](#)". The voters rejected these policies, and chose an opportunity driven society, achievable only by changing the government. The builders, workers, and makers wanted the country back and voted for a contractor to rebuild it.

Traditional labor based jobs are rapidly being replaced by robots and other forms of technology. For American industry to grow, a massive education/reeducation process is mandatory. There are 6-12 million STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) jobs open, and the number will approach 20 million before 2020. Many young people, including those in the inter-cities, with training, could fill that need. Following are three of the Power Points posted on CompetitiveAmerica.us to help understand the new world of technology.

http://competitiveamerica.us/publications/Marten_mfg.pdf

http://competitiveamerica.us/publications/Jobs_production.pdf

http://competitiveamerica.us/publications/Advanced_Agriculture.pdf

I have not seen a pathway for young people to find success, even given the education, if the jobs transfer to Mexico or China. Where will they work? An opportunity driven society will give them a chance, along with numerous other demographics. For those who view everything in society through a racial prism, I have a message - robots and sciences are colorblind. A repurposed, opportunity driven

society, based on environmentally sound principles and personal equality, will provide our children and grandchildren far more opportunities to reach their potentials.

The five stages of grief

Those persons still immersed in the five stages of grief, that is, **denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance**, have my sympathy, as long as they do not implicate me. If they do, it is their problem. I do not need to defend my vote, nor will I tolerate their negativity. What they failed to see was the deterioration of job quality and the loss of the American dream. Citizens had enough of redistribution, broken promises, corruption, and the formation of a two-tier justice system.

Conclusion

I would suggest that everyone give the new president a chance to get into office before extrapolating doom's day scenarios. If he fails, I will not be silent, but until then, President Trump deserves a chance to succeed or fail.

In the February 2016 Issue of Focused Fire, [*Enough! Our Broken Bureaucracy*](#), I stated, "Sadly, if I base the future on the past, Americans will not overcome bias, nor get the facts, and may well make a decision they later regret. Four years from now, we will again say "enough," look into the mirror to find the reason, and see Einstein's smiling image, "don't you ever learn?"

Americans did learn, and most will not see Einstein's smiling face. For others, friends and family, I wish a quick passage to "**acceptance**."

With the election over, I can positively concentrate on analyzing the situation for risks, opportunities, and probabilities, and suggest this path for others as well. I will return to my manufacturing roots, photography, making products of potential value, writing books, and posting newsletters about business issues.

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