

## Where Do We Go From Here?

Uncle Sam stands, one foot on either side of the great divide. The chasm over which he is stranded widens as the right and left sides drift apart. His legs shake under the weight of the baggage on his back. Economic issues, public health, foreign policy, and social concerns threaten to drive him into the abyss below. Out of the darkness, the calls of sirens drift up to his ears. Peering into the depths, he sees in one hand, the siren clutches a red rose: a symbol of socialism. In the other, she holds the hammer and sickle of communism. Tearing his eyes away, Uncle Sam attempts to drown out the calls with his own thoughts. A simple question escapes his lips. “Where do I go from here?”

Uncle Sam’s predicament cannot be solved merely by stepping off to one side. The division of political ideology is too great. The only way to bridge the gap between the left and right is to seek the truth hidden in our disagreements. However, as the onslaught of relativistic mentality attacks basic knowledge, truth and morality, it becomes harder to identify these common truths. The most basic of these being a philosophy of distinct right and wrong. Implemented with logical reasoning and facts, all of these combined must form the foundation of our political standings.

Uncle Sam shifts the load on his back, uncertain of how to position it. The issues that comprise this burden are the same problems that have faced the United States since her founding, just in new packaging. The war in Afghanistan, coronavirus, and government spending are recent examples. Constructing a perfect solution to these issues is challenging. However, our nation has over two hundred years of experience to draw from. In all cases of successful outcomes, American leaders have made decisions that adhere to what the Constitution has outlined and respect the rights of individuals. Man was created for freedom, therefore our leaders must honor the citizens’ right to decide, for themselves, a proper response to personal and civil situations. The press then holds the duty to provide the citizens with complete, accurate, and truthful information to facilitate these sound judgements. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “In our country, we must trust the people to hear both the good and the bad, and choose the good.”

Like sirens of old, who distorted their voices to shipwreck sailors, the sirens of today use their calls to introduce the mentality of totalitarianism into our nation’s democracy. In times of crisis, these ideas sneak in, guided by those who feed the public promises of safety and security

in exchange for personal freedom. Panicked and afraid, the people accept this hasty proposal without fully deliberating if it is truly in their best interest. Just like that, the government has gained more control. Once this power is seized, it is not easily relinquished. This is why, even when our nation appears to be in chaos, when leaders are telling us to either act now or lose everything, the American people must not let themselves be pressured into allowing someone else's assertions override individual thinking. It is of the utmost importance that we keep our wits about us and hold tight to the values that have brought us thus far.

In his heart, Uncle Sam knows he has only one honorable choice. He straightens his shoulders and sets his jaw. A determined glint, familiar to patriots, shines in his eyes. This desperate situation will not be the end of him. He will not lose hope for the future. Picking up his foot, he takes a shuffling step forward. Then another. The steps are awkward, uncomfortable, and strenuous. But his efforts will be worthwhile; America is too beautiful of a thing to lose. We can't let today's difficulties define the future of our country. So, let us shoulder our packs, align our endeavors with our conscience, and pursue a better tomorrow.