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AP Lang – Period 1

On the Re-Democratization of America

A Plan to Reduce Political Inequality and Provide a Logical Solution to the Problem of Rampant Bipartisanship.

The current political, social, economic, and environmental state of the United States of America is a dire one. When one sees the average, optimistic citizen going to the voting box in any even remotely red-leaning county, they can't help but feel a tinge of pity for the poor, hapless person practically throwing their vote away. In these so unfortunately biased counties, it seems every election result is the same, one after another. Each politician, seemingly permanently placed in their position. This effect is only getting worse, year after year, as education budgets are cut in the name of fiscal conservatism, leading to a vicious circle between schools and conservatism in politics. District borders are only becoming more convoluted and gerrymandered. And we neglect to mention the disaster that emerges in the presidential race when the electoral college is added into the mess that is our first-past-the-post political system.

It is essential that we take action before our perilous situation gives way to a tragic and even more polarized one. Our current state and trajectory spell out dire straits for democracy in the near future if unchecked and uncorrected. The rampant effect of gerrymandering, one of the conservatives' textbook tools for securing the vote long-term, causes more and more political polarization, and a race towards the fringes of the political spectrum and a dangerous uptick in bipartisanship. Any proposed solution to redraw these district lines is consistently blocked by those on the right side of our political spectrum.

The tragically misguided first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all voting system based on the electoral college only adds to the disarray. All that this does is to add the effect of encouraging a two party political system and adding an element of game theory to voters' minds, continuing to split our democracy down the middle! With a near congressional deadlock through partisanship, I see no end to our political predicament.

It is with this that I propose a new and novel method to re-draw these gerrymandered borders and finally put an end to extreme bipartisanship. This proposed method would increase economic prosperity, reduce congressional deadlock, and allow for a greatly increased flow of progressive legislature, benefiting the people over all else. As well, the proposal will simultaneously increase both states' and federal rights throughout all sectors: social, economic, and environmental.

The core of this proposal operates around the (hopefully obvious) assumption that extreme bipartisanship is unsustainable. Of course, checks and balances as well as voter choice are essential for a healthy democracy, which is what this proposal seeks to accomplish. Containing multiple stages – all of which are feasible yet will require effort by the populace – this plan would ensure a healthy economic future for the land mass that is currently United States of America.

The initial and most essential step is one that no American well versed in history is unfamiliar with: secession; in this case, the unconditional secession of all left-leaning states on the west coast. As stated in prose by the Declaration of Independence, it is sometimes necessary by circumstance for a body to “dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another.” This is exactly such a case. Pacific Northwestern states – being Oregon, Washington, California, and arguably Nevada – have been repressed in policy and the working class exploited by the Federal Government for too long, not to mention the undemocratic and unequal representation under the current system of the electoral college.

For instance, for every dollar of tax money that California sends to the current United States federal government, its people only receives roughly \$0.78 in services and benefits. When weighted with the fact that one person's vote in California is worth just one-tenth of a percent (0.1%) of a vote from an Arizona citizen, and a greater but still underwhelming one-fifth of a percent (0.5%) of that of a Mississippi citizen, California is being tragically and painfully undervalued and underrepresented. I am informed that both Oregon and Washington as well are in parallel situations of both welfare spending and vote worth.

The federal government has had its due chance. We have experienced next to zero change spanning multiple presidents on either side of the political spectrum (minus the rote back-and-forth fiscal policy after a democratic president cedes to republican, or vice-versa). The average worker is still oppressed by regressive economic, social, and political policy. It is essential that we act now for the good of our democracy!

I formally propose that the states of California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada secede from the United States of America and unite under the henceforth named Common Collusion of Cascadian Parties, or CCCP. Formed between the member states, the Pacific Northwest Common Economic Zone, or PNCEZ, would have a staggering total GDP of over \$3.2 trillion, making the CCCP the worlds 5th largest economy.

From what I have gleaned, the CCCP would be able to be entirely self-reliant. Economically, China and Japan would be obvious trading partners, as well as what would now be the significantly smaller USA. The people would be free to make their own decisions regarding governmental topology, being free to adopt European Socialism, for instance, and make a constitution that appropriately covers modern judicial pitfalls. A majority of people polled in all four states are in favor of moving from our first past the post voting institution to a democracy based off of proportional representation. Freed from

the oppressive and exploitative grasp of the United States, this would be not only possible in the CCCP, but both logical and inevitable.

Speaking of the USA, defense and responding to the US's spite is essential. This, however, is little problem. The CCCP would encompass and therefore possess multiple military bases and defense contractors, including Boeing. This, as well as the threat of nuclear retaliation in response to US revanchism, would secure Greater Cascadia's – the CCCP's motherland – future as belonging to the people of the CCCP and the people alone!

We can plainly see that the CCCP has the potential to be a progressivist utopia, with no heed required by given towards the obstructionist right. Under its flag, even the common man can aspire for greatness. And by no means will this prosperity be localized to simply the PNCEZ's bounding lines.

While the west coast is, currently, the only area of the United States that has the economic prosperity, level of education, and natural resources to easily exist as an independent country, we can perform informational campaigns to help spread the word of the prosperity of the CCCP to the unenlightened of America, swaying public support and encouraging immigration and tourism. Other left-leaning cities – and possibly some centrist to right ones – will be drawn by the awesome quality of life improvements the average citizen of the CCCP will have, and gladly offer their annexation in exchange for becoming a full member state – even if remote – and reap said benefits.

Now, reader, I will not lie. Simply creating this localized region of prosperity and progressiveness isn't the ulterior motive. We, of course, want to do the right thing, and spread this prosperity to the rest of America. As more and more states become annexed, we shall amass more and more military power. From there, it is a simple matter of instating puppet governments in the holdout states – for the greater good of its citizens, of course. Eventually, they will be annexed, and the problem of bipartisanship in the American Landmass will be solved for good.

As we can see, this proposed policy would, while causing some opposition among malcontents, completely fix the problem of unfair and exploited borders and voting systems in the American Landmass, and have the side effect of raising prosperity and living conditions.

I thank the reader for entertaining my ideas of a more prosperous and equal future for America. I – and many others – believe in the power that the CCCP could have for the average citizen. I hope in the future we can see a greater proportion of our fellow Americans think rationally and see the truth in the Cascadian Motherland, and join our humble cause.