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There are not three co-equal branches of government

Posted by Pat Cunningham on Feb 7, 2017 in Uncategorized | 8 comments



During a panel discussion I saw on one of cable news networks the other day concerning President Trump's controversial travel ban, one of the participants mentioned that "the Constitution calls for three co-equal branches" in the federal government.

Nobody else on the panel corrected the guy, but the reference was false.

I've addressed this matter on several previous occasions, and now I must do so again.

Granted, the notion that Constitution created three co-equal branches of government is an article of faith among most Americans. It's popularly viewed as the provision that gives us our system of checks and balances. But it's not really true. In reality, there's no mention of "co-equal branches" or "checks and balances" in the Constitution.

Most of the politicians who have played the "co-equal" card in recent decades have intended to argue against any presumption that the presidency is pre-eminent. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both played it during their presidential campaigns in 2008 as an argument against what they saw as the excesses of George W. Bush's administration, and congressional Republicans made similar arguments against the Obama administration.

But the fact is that the Founding Fathers did not create a system of co-equal branches of government. Rather, they intended for the legislative branch to be dominant, as is evidenced in the Federalist Papers and even in some of the arguments against ratification of the Constitution from people who said they actually wanted co-equal branches and complained that the proposed national charter seemed not to provide for them. In his 1999 book "A Necessary Evil," historian Garry Wills presented a convincing case against the "co-equal" theory — and against various other popular myths about the Constitution.

For example, Wills writes this: "The Congress can remove officers from the other two branches — president, agency heads, judges in district or supreme courts. Neither of the other two branches can touch a member of the Congress."

FOOTNOTE: Another problem in all of this is that the word "co-equal" is redundant — as is "co-conspirator."

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8 Comments



Pretzel Dick

February 7, 2017

Just as in the word co-ed, which originally referred to a woman who attends a college with men, tho not necessarily on an equal basis. Today the term refers to the college itself. Thus, could we now have 'male co-eds'? Pat, please advise...so I can have a sound sleep tonight.

reply



Robert Hazz Geunads

February 8, 2017

Since we're talking about co-equal, which can translate into comparable, lets talk about

1. Abortion – the left supports it in a very strong way, most if not all Muslims don't.
- 2 – Gay Marriage, the left supports it in a very strong way, most if not all (except lgbt Muslims) Muslims don't.
- 3 – Equality Between the Sexes, the left supports it in a very strong way, most if not all Muslims don't.

If Muslims do support the above in a way that is equal to the left, I sure haven't observed it. Have any of you?

What I don't understand is the disconnect from what are core values for the left, yet they stand in support of unfettered Muslim immigration to the USA, who are basically opposed to everything the left supports. Why isn't the left demanding the Muslim immigrants assimilate into the core values the left stand for? The left has no problem protesting republicans, why not the Muslims who are more aligned with republican values than they are liberals?

That doesn't make sense to me. Nor does the protesting of everything Trump and by default, the republicans. It seems the left will support purported minorities even if they're in extreme disagreement with their liberal cultural outlook, but will stand in the way of everything republicans stand for? Is it that the republican party is for the most part white and the left hates white people? What else could explain the extreme dichotomy of Muslim cultural values vs the left who marches for them? The Muslims have got to be looking at the left as useful idiots.

How can the left and in particular, the radical alt-left, be so against republicans and conservatives, yet they got the backs of a very conservative group of immigrants who believe even more conservatively on social issues, than today's average republican/conservative?

Where's the debate on these hypocrisy's?

reply



Steverino

February 8, 2017

A couple of things, first progressives want fair immigration not "unfettered" immigration. Secondly to answer your last question liberals as the name implies are open minded to those representing different cultures except of course Republicans.

reply



Robert Hazz Geunads

February 8, 2017

Just like i thought, libs and progressives align themselves with people whose core beliefs are the antithesis of their own....Thats crazy considering if your opposition to republicans is successful your support of Islamic conservative culture will create your next enemy...and they are formidable warriors even if dressed in a suit. Like i said, they view the left as useful idiots.

reply



tex

February 8, 2017

Robert Isa Geunad: It must suck to be a conservative and live your life in fear of anyone whose skin is darker than yours.

I thought all you conservative types carried a weapon to save us all from the boogymen you fear?

Oh, by the way. The other reason you carry those weapons is in case of tyranny in government. Well it's here. Mount up!!

reply



Robert Hazz Geunads

February 9, 2017

You make outrageous conclusions as you go home to your lilly white neighborhood that looks more like you than the people of color you libs claim to care so much about. I see whats happening in Europe.

Ive noted three very important values of liberals that Muslims are in conflict with and all you can do is avoid explaining why you support such beliefs that are so contrary to your own. Useful idiots is what the left has morphed into, infidel. PS – my posting history supports who i am and what i believe, not you.

reply



Steverino

February 9, 2017

Robert your posting history is nothing more than a Chatty Cathy doll. Pull the string and hear the same old racist drivell.

reply



Robert Hazz Geunads

February 9, 2017

Blah blah blah, racist,

Blah blah blah, xenophobe

Blah blah blah, homophobic,

Blah blah blah, sexist

Blah blah blah, fill in the blank.

Snowflakes, will be snowflakes, when they have nothing to counter legitimate questions about the hypocrisy of the their beliefs and who they stand with.

Notice, observers... the liberals on this board never explain anything contrary to what I've asked them to provide an alternative view to, over and over, I might ad. All they do is as another poster noted, make ad hominem attacks against anybody who doesn't promote their indefensible narratives. Their position is that weak. All they can do is protest in the name of democracy, but that democracy only applies to them as losers. That

same democracy that held an election they lost in an uncontested election by the loser who graciously conceded, isn't the form of democracy they will honor... so their platitudes are just another example of why the democratic party will become irrelevant in the next 4-6 years. Sooner, if they keep disrupting the right of citizens to go about their business in a civil way, uninterrupted.

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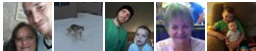
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