

A Conservative Morals and Values Ghetto – 120113

Webster defines 'ghetto' as: a quarter of a city in which members of a minority group live especially because of social, legal, or economic pressure OR as an isolated group. We are accustomed to associating a 'ghetto' with Jews, Blacks, Irish, Asians, and Christians all of which pertain to race, nationality, or religion. But it may have a more chilling application; for example, what of 'morals and values'?

Webster defines 'morals' as a person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do. Webster defines 'values' as a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life. All of us have 'morals and values', even those who are liberal, progressive, social, or communist. Those who live off of the larger society, those who expect private and government handouts, those who insist they have no restraints on their sexual behavior or beliefs, and those who feel they are entitled to whatever they want and to take it, legally or not, have 'morals and values'. The thing is those morals and values are not in keeping with those associated with the founding of our Republic.

There is no difficulty in defining what were the morals and values at the founding of the United States of America. They are voiced in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," and in the opening words of the Constitution: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The question central to this essay is whether or not conservative morals and values which were of an overwhelming majority of the population at the founding of the United States of America are today a 'majority' much less than an 'overwhelming majority.' Today, the top 10 percent of income earners paid 71 percent of all federal income taxes though they earned 43 percent of all income. The bottom 50 percent paid 2 percent of income taxes but earned 13 percent of total income. About half of tax filers paid no federal income tax at all, click [HERE](#). Today, almost 48 million (15 %) Americans are on food stamps, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), and the unemployment rate is 7.3 % (U-3 rate, click [HERE](#)) or 14 % (U-6

rate, click [HERE](#).) The truth may be that conservative morals and values may tenuously be a majority. If that is so then at what point does that portion of our Nation become a minority? At what point in time does it become such a small minority that conservative morals and values are an isolated portion of our nation, a ghetto? Is such an end inevitable? Do we, as a Nation, have control of our destiny or does the history of nations simply repeat itself? What are our responsibilities, our obligations, to ourselves and our Nation? What are our means and are we capable of using them if they exist?

Ronald Reagan said it best: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."