

The CATO Institute Asks: Whatever Happened to the TEA Party?

The CATO Institute is hosting a 1.5-hour forum on March 10 in its Hayek Auditorium in Washington D.C. at which three 'experts', moderated by a fourth one, will deliberate on what has happened to the TEA Party. Click [HERE](#) for more information. I get the impression from the advertisement the CATO Institute believes the TEA Party should be opposed to Trump as well as Sanders. I think I can answer their question without their input.

The TEA Party has morphed into a body of people who have turned out in droves at polling stations to vote their protest against the Establishment in this year's Republican Primaries and Caucuses. In place of the TEA Party which demonstrated against existing government with signs and yelling is a new body of people that has chosen their Leader and rallied around him. The following is why I say this. On Monday of this past week I went to Radford University for a Trump Speech/Rally. The audience, a 3-thousand capacity in the auditorium and another 12 thousand outside watching on an outdoor screen, was from all walks of life: young and old, wealthy and not, men and women, publically prominent and not. I listened to those people talking to one another about the same things I heard said at TEA Party rallies years ago – limited size of and limited spending and regulation by government. The only difference was that the voices spoke with more conviction and less simple yelling in protest.

Those people have not banded together under a single organization such as the TEA Party, nor have they chosen to represent themselves as Republican, Libertarian, etc. They are a homogenous crowd, a 'HUGE' crowd, of individual citizens from all walks of life who are simply pissed off and fed up with government. They are not simply protesting. They are going to the heart of the matter to find government leadership that they believe is in keeping with what they want – jobs; a healthy economy; border, national, and individual security; deficit reduction, elimination of Obamacare, protection of the Bill of Rights, and a host of other demands. They are the Community At Large, not a sub part as has the TEA Party been accused of being. What is taking place is a revolution of an entire community, not a small portion such as the group that tossed tea into the water after which the TEA Party made its equivalence

Frequently you will hear it said that the Political Insiders ("The Political Establishment") do not understand what is happening. I believe they do understand, and there are others such as Rush Limbaugh and Pat Buchanan, click [HERE](#), who think the same. I do not believe it is difficult to see that the Establishment is jealous of its powers and control. I do not believe it should surprise anyone that the Establishment will do anything it thinks it can to preserve that power and control so that it remains at the top of the heap with the Masses to stand on. I do not believe we should be shocked that this is true of the Republican Party as well as the Democrat. So this is a battle between the Establishment and We the People in a more fundamental, deeper, and complete sense than it was between the TEA Party and government. But still it remains to be seen if We the People persevere in this round of confrontation between Government and the Citizens. If so then perhaps this Nation will begin to solve some of the ills brought on by those who prefer personal benefit to keeping this Nation's founding principles and values. If not then the next revolt may not be a peaceful one.

Meanwhile what about the TEA Party? I do not see that it has joined in this battle. I have listened to members of individual TEA Party organizations who support Trump, who support Cruz, who support Rubio, who supported Carson, and even a few who supported Bush. I have not seen a focus. Perhaps this is because the TEA Party is going on 7 years old, and with that age has lost its UMPH. It really does not matter because of the new mass of energetic and frustrated individuals that has taken its place – no name in particular, just Citizens. That may be a good thing. As the Director of one of the TEA Party organizations I'll do what I can to engage my organization. Meanwhile I will be out there as an individual doing what I can as part of this new mass of energetic and frustrated individuals.