

Jim Evans writes:

I wish to alert you to two books:

I'll be brief--

1. Sen. Elizabeth Warrens New Book – "This Fight is Our Fight"
2. Sen. Bernie Sanders 2016 book--"Our Revolution"

Warren discusses 2 issues:

- The Deterioration of the Middle Class
- How Do We Get it Back?

Sanders' book has been out since the day after the election, so it's not new news. That said, his book connects to Warren's book in two vital ways:

To Wit--

- a. Let's Make the Economy Work for Us, not the Billionaires
- b. Let's Close the Gender Wage Gap

In addition, the titles of the two books work together in that Sanders' "Revolution" is Warrens' "Fight."

It strikes me that in a fundamental way, these two Senators are discussing the same thing.

As well, the two books connect to one of the most troubling statistics Candidate for SD County Sheriff, Dave Meyers, mentioned at our Feb. 9 Club Meeting, i.e.,

Mr. Meyers said that Violent Crime of all types increased in 2016. And this increase is all over the nation, in small rural towns as well as our large urban cities. And San Diego is among the cities seeing an increase in violent crime.

Here's the deal:

Social Scientists (particularly, Sociologists, Cultural Anthropologists, Political Scientists, and Social Psychologists), have told us for years that the strongest indicator of a society in trouble (a society in decline) is violent crime defined as physical injury to a person by another in the act of committing an unlawful act.

What alarms the Social Scientist is not so much the unlawful act, but, rather, the physical hurt to the victim done by the perpetrator of the unlawful act.

Here are two examples:

1. Instead of robbing the Convenience Store, taking the money, and leaving, the robber purposely hurts the cashier, and then leaves with the money.
2. A burgler breaks into a home and instead of looking for cash, or items that are cash convertible, and leaving, the burgler purposely looks for someone at home to hurt, and then leaves. .

In both examples, Social Scientists see punishment as the key to understanding this phenomenon. What they mean is that the robber/burgler wants to subconsciously punish the victim in the act of committing the crime, as if to say, "You have a lot. I don't have much. No matter how hard I work, I can't seem to get anywhere. Everyone says to work harder. It doesn't matter how hard I work."

Therefore, economic inequality is a key variable in looking at the health of a society/culture. And the key to fixing ineconomic inequality is a strong, vibrant middle class.

Our middle class has been in decline for many years, and, for many years, the U.S. has been scoring high on the economic inequality variable relative to other global industrial societies.

And San Diego scores especially high on the economic inequality variable, relative to other West Coast cities, e.,g, higher than LA, and far higher than San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, Fresno, and Spokane.

What can the U.S. do about it? What can San Diego do about our local situation?

Senators Warren and Sanders speak to the U.S. solution in their respective books.

As a social scientist, permit me to add my two cents:

A. Recreate a 2017 version of the New Deal.

B. DO NOT HAVE AN ECONOMIC OR GOVERNMENT POLICY PREDICATED ON AUSTERITY! This will only make things worse!

In addition,do five things:

1. Work on infrastructure.
2. Make education free and buy up the debt that students have incurred.
3. Make health care a fundamental constitutional right.
4. Pass single payer health care.
5. Take back the House and the Senate (Vote for Progressive Democrats--actually, it doesn't matter if they are Progressive. Vote for Democrats and we'll make them Progressive if they are not).

Unfortunately, San Diego cannot do much by itself. We are mostly dependent on the state and the nation. That said, we do ourselves great harm by giving away public assets in the hope that those we give the assets to will do something good for us. (Think Qualcomm Stadium and the 166 acres that it sits on.) This acreage is a public asset and it belongs to you and me.

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