

Decade of Irrelevance

In the Sunday newspaper, the Editor issued the following invitation. Below is my response.

The Times-News would like to invite readers to participate in a lively discussion every Sunday in the Opinion section.

In a few weeks, we will begin running a Sunday feature called "Point/Counterpoint." We are looking for writers who would be interested in taking a side on a local political issue and writing a 400-word essay explaining your perspective. Your essay will be paired with a piece taking the opposing point of view.

Interested? Send a letter to Editor Autumn Agar explaining who you are and why you would be a good "Point/Counterpoint" commentator. Include a list of political topics that interest you.

My name is Vicky Davis. I maintain a website named www.channelingreality.com and a new one called www.thetechnocratiictyranny.com that is in the process of being built. My objective with these websites is to make sense of a world that makes no sense in the Western and American traditions. There are two primary reasons my websites are needed: globalization and technology neither of which are included in context by the mainstream media coverage of issues that are affecting the lives of the American people. Since the context of your new editorial feature is case in point, the rest of this commentary will focus on that subject.

For the last four decades as the availability of computer technology and software has proliferated, the foremost mission of this country has been a quest for efficiency. In business and in government, savings through efficiency enabled by technology has been pursued as untapped veins of gold. The seemingly unnoticed problem is that the quest for efficiency is also the quest for collectivization and centralization. Within a single corporation, that's good thing. It maximizes control and resource utilization. Across corporations, within government and across governments and corporations, efficiency changes the nature of those institutions creating "governing structures" that we all know don't serve the interests of people when the accurate adjective is attached: fascist.

Beginning in the 1980's, the privatization of government in the name of efficiency began as a national agenda. In the 1990's, the public availability of the Internet as a global communications system, the initiatives to create a Common Market with Canada and Mexico, followed by globalization of our economy through participation in the WTO, combined with the environmental agenda of "sustainable development" behind which is the agenda of efficiency, privatization and "end of the nation-state" replaced by a continental Technate, all contributed to the "creative destruction" of the American government and way of life. Beginning in 2000, it has been nothing but war – war on the Middle East, war on Terror, war on Drugs, war on American workers and war on American citizenship, war on the border, war on American business and small investors and war on homeowners.

In 2012, for your new feature of point/counterpoint in the Sunday edition of the newspaper, you want to limit the topics to potholes on Main Street. That may very well portend the agenda for this decade – the decade of irrelevance.

427 words – 27 over the limit – and proudly so.

Vicky Davis
May 23, 2012