

# To Achieve Social Justice, We Must De-Polarize Our Society

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## Problems:

Powerful forces at high levels of their societies want to distract and mislead us so we won't see how they abuse human societies.

One of their classic tools is to polarize us by pitting nation against nation, religion against religion, race against race, political party against political party, etc. Polarization occurs all the way down to sports team rivalries at the level of professional teams (owned by extremely rich people but named for local cities) so we will root for the "home" team, even though the teams are bought and sold as business investments from one part of the country to another. We are taught to polarize "us" vs. "them" even down to rivalries between high schools.

The American Empire is crumbling and coming apart at the seams. This deterioration was long underway before the 2016 election, but Trump and the cynical hyper-partisan (hyper-polarizing) Republicans are hastening the collapse of the USA. Trump and the Republicans have been escalating the "divide and conquer" strategy that oppressors often use. They are deliberately polarizing us by race, nationality, gender, religion, and in other ways in a desperate attempt to hold on to their illegitimate power. This gimmick is used by Republicans and by their base of big business, racists, sexists, right-wing religious extremists, etc.

When people in **any** demographic group polarize against **any** other demographic group, they are unwittingly serving Trump, the Republicans, the capitalists, the Deep State, and so forth. No demographic group can liberate itself by putting other demographic groups down. We must recognize that **all people are one human family**, and that by joining together in genuine solidarity, we can empower the entire human family against the forces that want to divide, dominate and oppress us.

Oppressive powers – including the Military-Industrial Complex and the Deep State – used the Cold War between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. as a polarized "us" vs. "them" – "good" vs. "evil" – way to divide and conquer the world. The Cold War gave them immense wealth and immense political power. After 1989 that polarization collapsed, so they needed another way to continue the same dynamic and continue deceiving the public into thinking that say we can't afford to end poverty and we can't afford to provide health care for everyone and we can't afford to protect the environment, because we have to fight a global war against "evil."

Now since 2001 we are suffering from stupid, unwinnable Endless Wars based on the polarization that George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and the neo-conservatives imposed upon us. They proclaimed that "we" are good and "they" are "evil-doers."

The Cold War had lasted more than 40 years. Soon after 9-11-2001, Dick Cheney promised a "War on Terror" that would last longer than our lifetimes. The Endless Wars (actually, unwinnable wars) had begun.

Both the Cold War and the "War on Terror" are based on lies. Both are utterly corrupt, dysfunctional systems that serve the same masters. They do not serve ordinary people, nor our well-being, nor our best values. Both the Cold War and the "War on Terror" are evil and unwinnable scams. Both take away our freedoms. Both rely upon contrived polarization and demonization (Communists then; Muslims now). Both abuse our entire nation (except the elites the profit by the Cold War = Endless Wars).

## **Solutions:**

“Divide and conquer” is a classic tool of oppressors. They polarize us by race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, and so forth, in order to prevent us from joining together and prevent us from collectively challenging the oppressors’ power.

**Polarization violates the basic truth that all people are one human family.**

In order to solve any of society’s big problems, we must debunk the propaganda and debunk the contrived polarizations that have been imposed upon us. We must unite across all of the contrived divisions, join together, and nonviolently disempower the huge oppressors that dominate us by polarizing us.

Mohandas (“the Mahatma”) Gandhi worked courageously to bring Hindus and Muslims together in a united India, rather than yield to the forces of polarization that broke his nation apart into a Hindu-controlled India and a Muslim-controlled Pakistan. He also welcomed Sikhs and all other religious groups into a unified nation.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies.” That is a powerful, revolutionary, nonviolent way to refuse to be polarized – and therefore to dismantle oppressive systems and to disempower the oppressors.

One effective remedy for the oppressors’ “divide-and-conquer” strategy is for all people to join together across the contrived differences – across nations, across religions, across races, etc. – and denounce polarization of any kind. **“Identity politics” is a liberal misunderstanding that keeps us polarized and fools us into thinking we are progressive or radical. “Identity politics” is just the liberal scam for what conservatives have been doing. We must refuse to be polarized. We need solidarity across all demographic variables.**

## **An example of successful de-polarizing:**

Historically, LGBTQ people have been oppressed by straight people, but in just the past few decades they have made a huge amount of progress toward stopping the oppression and establishing equal rights. In general, the movement for LGBTQ rights has affirmed Pride and built upon humanity’s best values, such as fairness and equality for all people. They took positive approaches and recruited allies to build majority support.

Although some oppressors still want to polarize and demonize, the overall LGBTQ movement did not retaliate by blaming or attacking straight people. They did not vent anger at all straight people as a demographic group. They did not demand that straight people stop and examine their internal homophobia, and they did not blame all straight people for being part of a demographic majority that has traditionally oppressed this demographic minority.

LGBTQ organizers skipped all of that and strategized directly toward recruiting straight allies to help them solve the problems by organizing to change social attitudes and public policy. **Instead of bogging down in negativity and accusations, LGBTQ organizers drew upon best values and welcomed allies so we could make progress as a whole society.**

## **Avoid the trap of anger, polarization, revenge, etc.:**

Sometimes a person who has been hurt seeks revenge against the person(s) who had hurt that person.

Sometimes a person might generalize beyond the specific individual(s) and feel anger and take revenge against any member of that individual(s)’ demographic group. We see this in hate crimes where “patriotic” Americans

attack any Muslim. We see this where a man who feels snubbed by a woman takes violent revenge against some other woman simply because she is a member of that demographic group.

We see this also when a person of color generalizes anger and blame against all white people, even though some of us white people have been allies in working for social, racial and economic justice. (See the next topic below.)

Feeling anger and taking revenge only trap the victims further in victimhood. Anger and revenge disempower the victims, escalate our society's polarization, and distract everyone from taking positive actions to solve the problems, change our culture, change public policy, and so forth.

**People who seek “justice” for their oppressed demographic group by attacking any other demographic group are unwittingly helping the oppressors use a ‘divide and conquer’ strategy against us all.**

The way to achieve “justice” for any demographic group is by joining together with all other demographic groups in solidarity in support of human rights, fairness, compassion, truth and love, as Gandhi, King, and others have wisely promoted.

**We need to nonviolently interrupt and break the cycles of anger and enmity that have provoked violence throughout our society and our world. We need nonviolence, understanding and healing. We need to take positive actions to solve the underlying systemic and institutional problems.**

All people are one human family. Our common humanity is bigger and stronger and deeper and more powerful than our specific demographic differences.

Nonviolence precludes polarization. In order to practice true nonviolence, we must ground ourselves in our common humanity rather than distract ourselves with demographic variables.

## **Trying to “guilt-trip” anyone only pushes them away from solving the problems:**

Solving social problems requires reaching out to many people at the grassroots level and welcoming them into the movement for positive social change.

What motivates people to undertake bold, creative work for a worthy cause? **NOT guilt!** Venting anger and blaming a white person for being white – or an old person for being old – or an affluent person for being affluent – only pushes them away! **Blaming people or trying to make them feel guilty prevents us from building a broad-based movement to solve the problems.**

**People do their best work – their boldest and most creative and most effective work – when they are grounded in positive values and when they feel empowered (not guilty).**

## **We must ground our movements in profound nonviolence and people’s best values:**

**People do their best work – their boldest and most creative and most effective work – when they are grounded in positive values and when they feel empowered (not guilty).**

Nonviolent principles and methodologies have an excellent track record of success.