



And must have whiskey
Oh, you know why

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March 14, 2024

Transgender - The Inability To Distinguish Facts From Wishes

Matt Taibbi opines on the latest piece of transgender nonsense:

[The Dumbest Cover Story Ever](#) - *Racket News*, Mar 13 2024
New York Magazine's "Freedom of Sex" is the ultimate example of the lunatic nihilism that's consumed America's intellectual class

New York Magazine has a new cover story, by the trans writer Andrea Long Chu: "[The moral case for letting trans kids change their bodies.](#)" A jeremiad in support of the idea that children must have absolute political agency, it makes the Unabomber manifesto read like a Shakespeare sonnet. The money passage:

We must be prepared to defend the idea that, in principle, everyone should have access to sex-changing medical care, regardless of age, gender identity, social environment, or psychiatric history.

A lot of the piece is standard-issue woe-is-me fuck-everything cartoon nihilism you'd hear from any laptop-class liberal arts product, arguing for a generalized smashing of the patriarchy, among other things by attacking the biological conspiracy to produce those units of material labor value known as babies. Complete abolition of norms would be an "impossible task," Chu notes sadly, but that doesn't preclude their "collective reimagining" by an alliance of intersectional victims working toward a Marxian paradise free of "oppressive systems," which of course include the nuclear family.

The nihilism Taibbi points to is also the major theme the French anthropologist Emmanuel Todd takes on in his book "The Defeat of the West".

From its *New York Times* review:

[This Prophetic Academic Now Foresees the West's Defeat \(archived\)](#) - *New York Times*, Mar 9 2024

American leadership is failing: That is the argument of an eccentric new book that since January has stood near the top of France's best-seller lists. It is called "La Défaite de l'Occident"

("The Defeat of the West"). Its author, Emmanuel Todd, is a celebrated historian and anthropologist who in 1976, in a book called "The Final Fall," used infant-mortality statistics to predict that the Soviet Union was headed for collapse.

...

Mr. Todd is not a moralizer. But he insists that traditional cultures have a lot to fear from the West's various progressive leanings and may resist allying themselves on foreign policy with those who espouse them. In a similar way, during the Cold War, the Soviet Union's official atheism was a deal-breaker for many people who might otherwise have been well disposed toward Communism.

...

Mr. Todd does believe that certain of our values are "deeply negative." He presents evidence that the West does not value the lives of its young. Infant mortality, the telltale metric that led him to predict the Soviet collapse half a century ago, is higher in Mr. Biden's America (5.4 per thousand) than in Mr. Putin's Russia — and three times higher than in the Japan of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

While Mr. Todd is, again, not judgmental on sexual matters, he is judgmental on intellectual ones. **The inability to distinguish facts from wishes astounds him** at every turn of the Ukraine war. The American hope early in the war that China might cooperate in a sanctions regime against Russia, thereby helping the United States refine a weapon that would one day be aimed at China itself, is, for Mr. Todd, a "delirium."

Back in January Todd expanded on the inability of distinguishing facts from fiction, which is also the basis of trans-genderism, during an interview with *Le Figaro*. From its [English translation](#):

Q: Over time, haven't you become a bit of a reactionary?

I was brought up by a grandmother who told me that, sexually speaking, all tastes are part of nature, and I'm faithful to my ancestors. So, LGB, welcome. For T, the trans issue is something else. The individuals concerned must of course be protected. But the fixation of the Western middle classes on this ultra-minority issue raises a sociological and historical question. To establish as a social horizon **the idea that a man can really become a woman and a woman a man is to assert something that is biologically impossible, it is to deny the reality of the world, it is to assert the false.**

Trans ideology is therefore, in my opinion, one of the flags of this nihilism that now defines the West, this drive to destroy not just things and people but reality.

But, once again, I am in no way overwhelmed here by indignation or emotion. This ideology exists and I have to integrate it into a historical model. In the age of the metaverse, I can't say whether my attachment to reality makes me a reactionary.

The intentional denial of reality, as it is currently practiced in the West, is not a new phenomenon. It is the basis of neo-conservatism from where it has crept over to the progressive side.

As Ron Susskind wrote in his portrait of the first years of the Bush junior presidency:

[Faith, Certainty And The Presidency Of George W. Bush](#)
(archived) - Ron Susskind / *New York Times*, Oct 17 2004

The aide said that guys like me were "in what we call the reality-based community," which he defined as people who "believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible

reality." I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. "That's not the way the world really works anymore." He continued "We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality—judiciously, as you will—we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do."

Karl Rove, the Bush advisor Susskind had quoted, displayed the same lunatic nihilism that is represented by those who argue that children, teenagers or people generally should can freely chose their gender. It is an attempt of "creating other new realities". It represents a total denial of actual reality and of the common values derived from it. The Bush administration failed in its endeavor to create new realities in Iraq. The current regime in the West will fail likewise with regime change in Russia. So will others who deny realities.

The author of the Todd book review, Christopher Caldwell, [adds](#):

Fighting a war based on values requires good values. At a bare minimum it requires an agreement on the values being spread, and the United States is further from such agreement than it has ever been in its history — further, even, than it was on the eve of the Civil War. At times it seems there are no national principles, only partisan ones, with each side convinced that the other is trying not just to run the government but also to capture the state.

I see a very similar denial of reality, followed by nihilism and a lack of values, at the top of the current European leadership. The loss of the common view of things is splitting societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

However, with regards to transgenderism, some sense of reality is still trying to survive:

[National Health Service England stops prescribing puberty blockers, citing 'not enough evidence' - USA Today](#). Mar 13 2024

"We have concluded that there is not enough evidence to support the safety or clinical effectiveness of (puberty suppressing hormones) to make the treatment routinely available at this time," the publication by NHS England stated.

Puberty is a natural process which often includes a temporary confusion about ones identity. Blocking a kids puberty to further some ephemeral confusion some may have during those time is in my view criminal.

I even agree with Rishi Sunack on this:

[U.K. prime minister on gender: 'A man is a man and a woman is a woman' - Washington Post](#), Oct 5 2023

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak asserted his stance on gender identity in a speech Wednesday, stating it was "common sense" that "a man is a man and a woman is a woman" — a remark that sparked criticism from transgender rights activists and elicited fervent applause from attendees of the Conservative Party Conference.

I see myself, just like Matt Taibbi seems to see himself, as a progressive striving for a society based on some form of socialism and justice.

To then find myself on the same side of an issue as some staunch conservatives, and getting attacked for it, is mildly disturbing.

Is it really impossible to be reality based and on the left side of things?

Posted by b on March 14, 2024 at 11:24 UTC | [Permalink](#)

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What's it got to do with Marx?

Posted by: Dominic | Mar 14 2024 11:38 utc | [1](#)

@Dominic | Mar 14 2024 11:38 utc | 1

Nothing. It got to do with McCarthyism, though. When the repressive measures of McCarthyism ran their course, the US establishment resorted to an EEE-like (Embrace, Extend, Extinguish) policy: they faked to support some instances of socialism, through neoliberalism, then claimed that socialism was about race, gender, other non-sense, and finally they destroyed it in capitalist America.

Posted by: SG | Mar 14 2024 11:48 utc | [2](#)

As a young man they never let me row as a Lightweight. I'm sure I would have been good. Some nonsense about me being 30Kg too heavy. Weightist.

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Is it really impossible to be reality based and on the left side of things?

It isn't left vs right anymore. It is elitist vs non-elitists. The media are on the side of the elites who think they can control opinions (to be fair they mostly do a good job of this).

Some on the Left have insights because they refuse to take what the media says as fact. That allows them to understand. The Right does the same. Sadly many who were on the left and some on the right have been co-opted (to UniParty in USA because it has real power).

The Fusion of Left and Right is a Genuine and hugely positive development. Matt Taibi and Glen Greenwald appearing on Tucker Carlson is HUGE. Likewise Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate appearing on Judge Napolitano's Judging Freedom.

Posted by: Mickey Droy | Mar 14 2024 11:48 utc | [3](#)

>Is it really impossible to be reality based and on the left side of things?

Bluntly, yes.

All progressive ideas must ignore or refute some foundational reality. With most issues most people don't understand enough about them to know reality so they can believe a well crafted argument. Fervently. It's just that the trans issue takes it to such an absurd level that no serious person can play along.

Posted by: Art Wellesley | Mar 14 2024 11:53 utc | [4](#)

To then find myself on the same side of an issue as some staunch conservatives, and getting attacked for it, is mildly disturbing.
Posted by b on March 14, 2024 at 11:24 UTC

Serious question, but I'm curious which part you find "mildly disturbing", finding yourself on the same side of an issue as some staunch conservatives or getting attacked for it by progressives?

Posted by: Phil R | Mar 14 2024 12:01 utc | [5](#)

It's always funny to see the reactions of my friends who are right-leaning when I remind them that societies like the USSR, the DPRK, Maoist China and the Warsaw Pact in general never dealt with any of this gender nonsense and really only stuck to economics, class struggle and anti-imperialism. When liberals are reminded of that they call you a 'class reductionist,' but really that's what normal revolutionary minded people thought about and would push for.

Posted by: Ba'ath | Mar 14 2024 12:04 utc | [6](#)

This has zero to do with Marx, which is a false claim that prompted me to stop reading Taibbi. This BS about "cultural Marxism" is a propaganda campaign of the extreme right fascists out there.

What really is going on what's described and named by Professor Nancy Fraser as "Progressive Neoliberalism". That is a political project whereby the Democrats use identity politics and curtail issues ("progressive") to mask pro-corporate economic and pro-war policies ("neoliberal").

Google her published papers on that term. Superb work.

Posted by: [bill wolfe](#) | Mar 14 2024 12:08 utc | [7](#)

I agree with the sentiments here, but suggest that the big picture is missing.

Note that - as outrageous as all this 'transgenderism' is - by talking about it, we are not talking about the ongoing invasion of the United States by third world refugees (among other things). This forced population growth has nothing to do with morality, but is a vicious treasonous policy aimed at driving wages and living standards down for the many, and rents and profits up for the few. As, in both this country and many others, it always has. Poverty will spike, crime will spike, diseases will spike, homelessness will spike... the elites don't care that we find 'transgenderism' offensive, they care only about money and power. Transgenderism, abortion, really anything not directly related to money is being shoved down our throats to distract us from things the rich really care about. I'm not saying that we shouldn't care about these things, just remember that the people in charge don't, either way.

Posted by: TG | Mar 14 2024 12:08 utc | [8](#)
