

Defining Today's Cancel Culture

I was asked by a friend and reader to address the subject of today's **Cancel Culture**. In researching the subject I find a broad spectrum of definitions for the term , the simplest being:

Cancel culture (or call-out **culture**) is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles - either online on social media, in the real world, or both. Those who are subject to this ostracism are said to be "canceled." Wikipedia

There are many other examples and types of Cancel Culture given in varying degrees but they all have one common denominator, the root of them all is hate against an individual, an event or a group of people with the most extreme example being Ethnic Cleansing.

Example

The Trump Accountability Project

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York Democrat, began the retaliation talk for unspecified crimes by urging followers to create an anti-Trump archive as evidence.

"Is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to downplay or deny their complicity in the future?" the socialist tweeted. "I foresee decent probability of many deleted Tweets, writings, photos in the future." (Washington Times)

Enthusiastic **supporters** of **AOC** have come up with a plan to ensure that no 'Trump sycophant' goes unpunished. A 'Trump Accountability Project' (TAP) has been established to document the names of every administration staffer, campaign staffer bundler and lawyer who worked for US President **Donald Trump**. www.opindia.com/2020/11/joe-biden-democrats...

The focus in this example being a hatred for Donald Trump, his family, associates and his supporters. That is a large group to hate.

Example

Cultural Historical Cancelling/Cleansing

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The total destruction of Historical Monuments, Statues, Memorials etc. in an effort to "erase" them from history. Everything from a **statue of General Robert E. Lee** torn down by modern day haters of the Confederate States of America and the slavery it represented to the **ancient Temple of Palmyra in Syria** destroyed by the radical Islamic State of ISIS.

There are very vocal advocates for tearing down the **Washington Monument**, **Lincoln Memorial** and destroying **Mount Rushmore**.

Hatred here is focused on relics and icons of things past.

Example

Ethnic Cancelling/Cleansing



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Ethnic Cleansing has gone on world wide for thousands of years. Examples include the World War I era Ottoman Government of Turkey attempts to destroy the Armenian population within its borders to Adolph Hitler's attempt to eradicate the Jewish people worldwide.

Cancel Culture here is so extreme that hatred desires to utterly destroy, for all time, races and cultures of those despised.

I am faced with the question: Though they have different names, what is the real difference between Cancel Culture and Ethnic Cleansing? Both have a common denominator: **Hate**

Some will say there are degrees of hate with some kinds of hate maybe being justified by history. Is it possible to "hate" events or actions without seeking revenge and hatred for individuals and their families, other cultures and whole races of human beings?

I am reminded that hate is a cancer and very powerful emotion capable of destroying not only what is hated but also the one who hates. In June 2018 I wrote an article titled Two Graves and the following is an excerpt from that article:

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""Confucius has been credited with the saying: "Before embarking on a journey of revenge, first dig two graves". The message being that you will need two graves, one for the object of your revenge and the other for yourself.

To which I would add this corollary: Before embarking on a path of hatred, first dig two graves. One for yourself and the other for the people and things you loved which will be destroyed in the process of fueling your rage to destroy that which you hate.

Hate is a poison and a powerful emotion. It can destroy your logic, your reason, your compassion and your humanity. It is a cancer which can rapidly spread to consume every aspect of your life."" (end quote)

Would not society be better served to spend less time trying to "cancel culture" it might find objectionable and instead cancel hatred from our lives?

Lord, Make me an instrument of you peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love... Prayer for Peace – St. Francis of Assisi

Bob Bandy - November 2020

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