

Opinion

Merry Christmas, And Count Your Capitalistic Blessings

There has been much written about the meaning of Christmas. I would like to focus on another aspect of Christmas that is rarely if ever talked about - how our enjoyment of the holiday has been greatly enhanced because of capitalism.

It is important to remember what life was like during the 17th century in England when the West first started its march towards capitalism and the betterment of mankind. It was capitalism that unleashed the ingenuity of individuals that led to hundreds of inventions that has given

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people in our country a standard of living never before seen on earth. It would be overwhelming to name them all, but here are a few examples of how the results of capitalism has made an enormous change in our holiday celebrations. I like to call these our Capitalistic Blessings.

- ◆ Family get-togethers. The average life span in the 17th century was only 35 because many people died when they were still children. If people could survive until their mid-teens they would probably live to 50 or 60 years of age. Today at our family gatherings we can see our grandparents or even great grandparents due to the fact that we live longer.
- ◆ Gift giving. All the wonderful affordable products to buy as a way of expressing good will toward friends and family is only possible because of our wealth. Before capitalism people were so poor they could only be concerned with day-to-day survival.
- ◆ The American tradition of celebrating Santa Claus. Clement Clarke

Moore wrote a poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and it was our country that created the tradition of Santa Claus that we enjoy today - the jolly red fellow who rides from house to house on a sleigh bringing gifts to deserving children. (Note that Santa doesn't give gifts to just poor children, he gives them to everyone and the only requirement is that they have good behavior.)

- ◆ Christmas lights. Prior to Thomas Edison there were none. Now we have Christmas lights that turn trees, lawns, buildings and many decorations into sparkling beacons of cheer.
- ◆ Clothing. People used to own one or two outfits. Now, not only do we have a whole closet full of clothes, but we have clothes for different purposes such as: Work, play, sleep, exercise, sports, lounging, casual, formal and even the holidays.
- ◆ Transportation. Rather than going to church or to grandma's on foot, or if you were fortunate, on horseback - or bouncing around in a stagecoach or horse and buggy - we can travel in warm, comfortable cars thanks to Henry Ford, whose goal was to make automobiles affordable to the common man. If you want to travel to friends or family far away, you can also go by bus, train, or airplane.
- ◆ Communication. If you are unable to visit family or friends far away, you can communicate with them easily by email or telephone thanks

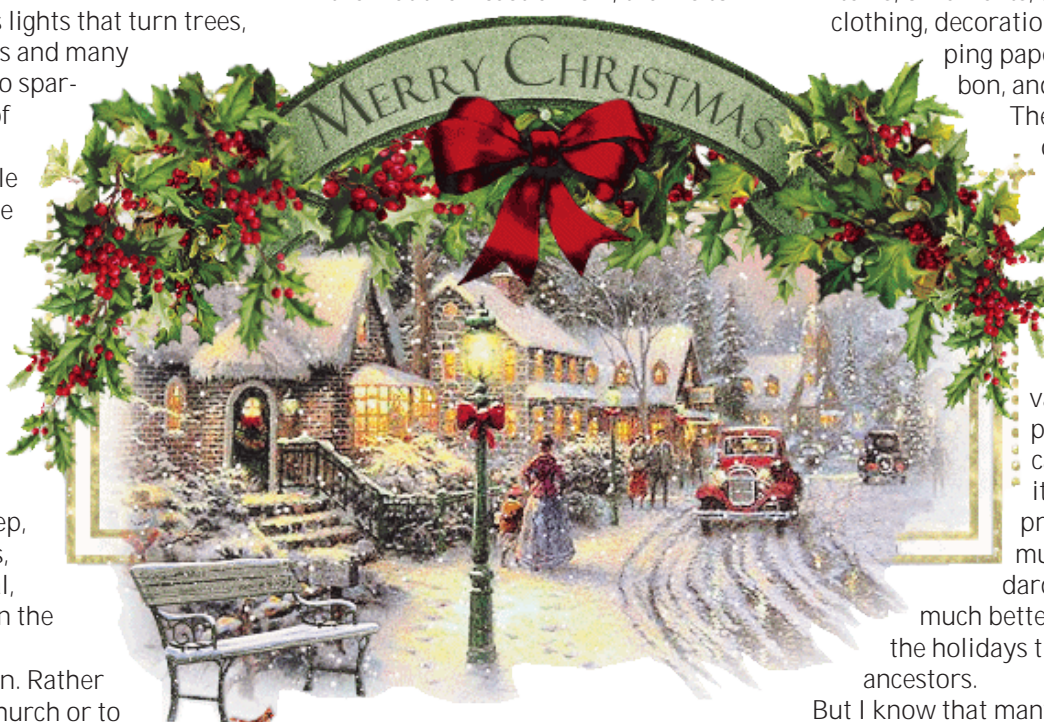
to people like Alexander Graham Bell, Ray Tomlinson, Bill Gates and others.

- ◆ Christmas stockings. We hang stockings by the chimney so that Santa can fill them with lots of goodies, but chimneys didn't always exist. Homes during the 17th century had a hole in the roof rather than a chimney.
- ◆ Entertainment. Kings had to wait to gather musical ensembles to play for them at their castle. Now, thanks to

cream, cookies, ice cream, candy, nuts, and holiday beverages?

- ◆ Cheap energy. Rather than going outside to find and chop firewood for a fire (or use cow dung), we now can stay snugly warm inside by using oil, gas or electricity to heat our homes. We can also run all our electronics with affordable abundant energy.
- ◆ New products. Many new products have come into existence that add to Christmas such as holiday florist items, ornaments, specialty gifts, clothing, decorations, dishes, wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbon, and so on.

These are just a few of the many advancements we enjoy due to the work of scientists and producers who were given the freedom to innovate for their own profit. And because they profited, we have also profited by having a much higher standard of living and a much better enjoyment of the holidays than that of our ancestors.



Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and others, even the poorest of us have at our fingertips access to recordings of movies, musical recordings, operas, plays and so on.

- ◆ Holiday meals. How does the daily monotonous diet of bread, cheese, onions and stew (with perhaps pieces of meat or fish if you could afford it) compare to turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, gravy, cranberries, various salads, vegetable dishes, rolls, olives, pickles, fruit, vegetables with dip, pumpkin pie, whipping

But I know that many of us feel disheartened this holiday season. The threat of socialism is too big and bold to ignore. The government has passed legislation so that before long our health care, food, and the Internet will be under their total control. For those of us who understand the evil consequences of tyranny, it is hard to feel positive about our future.

One of my favorite holiday pastimes is to watch the 1954 movie "White Christmas." In it is a song composed by Irving Berlin called "Count Your Blessings" with this verse: "So if you're worried and you can't sleep, just count your blessings in-

stead of sheep." I have always loved that song and its optimistic outlook on life. Even when the chips are down, I've always found comfort in knowing that living in America I did indeed have many blessings to count - but the question now is, how much longer will that be possible?

It has been said that history repeats itself. Will the United States continue down the path towards the decay of socialism? It is important to understand that what moves and changes the world is ideas. It was ideas that created the United States of America. It is ideas again that will save it. The philosophy of Aristotle lead to the Enlightenment and it was the Enlightenment that led to the establishment of the United States. Those ideas are still out there.

If we want to save America what needs to be done is to discover, learn and promote the right ideas necessary to sustain freedom throughout the culture. We need to study the great thinkers like John Locke, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Adam Smith, Ayn Rand, Ludwig von Mises and others who have all given us a solid foundation and strong defense for the principles of capitalism.

So, in spite of the fact that our country is sinking further and further into statism, in spite of the fact that the chips are down, we still have blessings to count. We have the Tea Party Movement. We have the right ideas. We have the ability to think. Our ancestors worked hard to achieve freedom and if we do it again, Americans will continue to count their Capitalistic Blessings Christmas after Christmas.

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The "Occupy" Movement: Welcome To Liberal Utopia

For all but the most blindly dogmatic, any former "bloom" has long since left the rosy facade of the "Occupy Wall Street" phenomenon. Though the liberal media have been working overtime from the beginning to maintain the fantasy that the protesters embody the concerns and aspirations of Real America, and despite their best efforts to frame any discussion of the movement as a noble endeavor propelled by unfettered idealism, its sheer ugliness is daily becoming more apparent and inescapable.



Chris Adamo

Increasingly, "Occupy" events throughout the nation are becoming anarchistic zones of unchecked assault, robbery, rape, and even murder. Reports of spreading diseases, in one instance even including a particularly virulent form of tuberculosis, are ever more common at the protest gatherings. And in general, the lofty and pious rhetoric of the protesters is rendered completely implausible by the abhorrent filth and squalor in which its participants are willing to subsist.

Nevertheless, these brave and principled individuals, we are told, constitute a shining army of visionaries who have dedicated themselves to the establishment of a proper and decent America. The future of the nation is firmly in their

hands, and we can all rejoice at the plans which they have conceived for us. And herein lies the one critical warning to be gleaned from this debacle by a vigilant America. From its inception to the appalling manner in which the "Occupy" movement is being advanced, it does indeed represent the grim fate awaiting the nation if a drastic course correction is not implemented soon.

To begin with, this was no uncoordinated groundswell of like-minded individuals sharing a collective yearning to establish justice and promote the "general welfare" of their fellow citizens. Despite all of the propaganda seeking to create parallels between the "Occupy" and Tea Party movements (aided and abetted by the entire liberal/Democrat political machine up to and including the Obama White House), the foundations and methods of the organizations could not be more disparate.

While the people of Heartland America did indeed rise up spontaneously in the spring of 2009, taking time off from their jobs and voicing their opposition to the decimation of their country occurring at the hands of the hard-Left, the "Occupy" movement was hatched and nurtured from the top-down, ACORN style, and facilitated through enormous outside funding. These "Occupy" players are simply incapable of autonomously generating and supporting an effort of this scale.

On a continual basis, they are being

resupplied and underwritten from the outside through Soros-style backing, which is the only reason they can maintain their noxious presence on public property while the nation's adults accept their responsibilities and go to work each day.

Here again the situation is an excellent representation of the liberal economic model. A bunch of idle loafers gather together and engage in an orgy of narcis-



Portland, Ore., city workers clean the filth left behind by "Occupy" protesters. The *Portland Oregonian* reported that 70 dump-truck loads were needed to clear the trash. / Photo by Mike Zacchino, *The Oregonian*

sism, while their basic needs are met by donations made from the outside. On the same day that they stop receiving the sustenance garnered from the labors of others, the "Occupy" protestors will grow hungry and go home.

Obviously some unnamed and intellectually-vacant do-gooders have decided of their own free will to bear the cost of this inane exercise. But for it to ever ensue on a societal scale as imagined by the pro-

testers and their simple-minded benefactors, the rest of the nation would be required to foot the bill. Someone would always be forced to pay for such unproductive and ultimately fruitless endeavors as sitting in a public park, languishing in a mire of refuse and human waste, and complaining about the injustices of life.

However, that depressing bit of truth is only the beginning. Even within their phony environment of endlessly taking and consuming with no thought of repayment, the very nature of their artificial communities is predictably degenerating. In stark contrast to the affluent cities and great promises of the nation that surrounds them and endures their silliness, the "Occupy" camps are rapidly descending into nightmarish microcosms reflective of the worst regions of the third world.

One can only hope that, after the atrocities suffered by many of the female protesters, a reality is beginning to dawn on them that these sub-human conclaves are not the best places to be. In stark contrast to the abuses inflicted on them by this bunch of effeminized misogynists claiming to be their ideological kindred, real men do not abandon their women to being raped and victimized in tents, but instead build houses in which they can reside in safety. Nor would those who ascribe to traditional morality ever willingly cover the tracks of the rapists, as has been so typical among the "Occupy" organizers.

Like any tiny fringe living in fear of being revealed as such, the "Occupy" crowd relentlessly seeks to create an image of being much larger than it is. But considering the volume of filth and foulness these diminutive gatherings create wherever they take root, thank goodness they represent only a tiny fraction of the nation's population. Otherwise the disease, waste, and other maladies of their existence would be reaching truly epidemic proportions.

Nevertheless, as evidenced by their increasing animosity and belligerence towards the nation that is generally seeking to go on about its business, the disruptive actions of the occupiers signal the end game of "community organizers" and subversives throughout the country. Since they know they can never gain the concurrence of Real America, they will work to dismantle and recreate it in their sordid image through force, confrontation, and violence. Despite having had their ideology soundly rejected by voters in the 2010 elections, they remain determined to metastasize into an "Occupy America" army in 2012.

The nation needs to get a good look at the escalating savagery and chaos going on in every "Occupy" event from Zuccotti Park to Oakland. This is the modern Democrat Party vision for America's future. Next November, you can vote to institute it on a national scale.

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