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**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

Make America *What?*

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Make America *What?*

February 28, 2021

The January 6, 2021, assault on America's Capitol building has been characterized as an attack based on grievances against the elite class of the country, those harboring most of the country's wealth. I join in this concern, but not in the assault.

A substantial number of Americans who broke into the Capitol believe they have been left behind. As written in another article: They have been left behind. According to a recent Federal Reserve report, the top one percent of Americans have a combined net worth of \$34.2 trillion (or 30.4 percent of all household wealth in the U.S.), while the bottom 50 percent of the population holds just \$2.1 trillion combined (or 1.9 percent of all wealth).

Until this problem is faced head-on, protestors are not going away.

Interestingly, most of the protesters were staunch Trump followers. An anti-elite believer who also believes in Trump? That viewpoint is a contradiction in logic. Here's why.

A Supreme Irony

One of the quotes of the protesters was, "We're sick of the elites!" while also shouting support for their leader, Donald Trump, a self-proclaimed populist.

Let's examine the words populist and *elite* in the context of Donald Trump's life style. *Oxford Languages* defines *populist* as: "A person, especially a politician, who strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups."

Among other grievances, the riot was a populist protest against elites. What irony. They were protesting against the class to which their leader belongs! Trump resides in the one percent of Americans who hold 30.4 percent of America's wealth.

All is well for Mr. Trump. If we only had it so good. If those protesters only had it so good. No one should begrudge a person of his/her wealth. But the protesters' resentments were being steered by a man whose privileged life-style fed their resentments in the first place.

Trump has been goading this unwary populace for his entire presidency. In so doing, he has done a disservice to a loyal constituency. He has played his gullible supporters as saps, and they have fallen for his charade hook, line, and sinker.

Here is a man, a billionaire, who brags about not paying taxes as being smart, while his followers labor under the illusion he is one of them. I have news for these protesters. Unlike many of you, Trump is not on minimum wage.

If these people---the violent ones---were not so dangerous, I would feel sorry for them.



Had the rioters focused their anger on elites' buildings, instead of a building symbolizing fairness and equality---if even theoretically---Mar-a-Lago should have been in their crosshairs. This resort, with the lobby shown in this figure, is one of many owned by Donald Trump. The man got his head start in life from a generous father who bequeathed Trump his silver spoon.¹ Again, that is not Trump's fault.

¹ For more information on Trump and populism, key-in "Blog.UylessBlack.com." Scroll down and click on "Politics in America." Click on "Name Calling I- Populist."

The protesters are justified in their complaints about the unequal wealth distribution in this country. They are not justified in attacking any government building, much less the Capitol. In addition, the action was shortsighted. The rioters lost the support of many Americans who had been relating to some of their complaints, including this writer. But they lost my empathy and support with their attacks on the Capitol.

More than a Grain of Truth. As much as I find the Proud Boys dangerous, I agree with this thought from one of their leaders who, upon being challenged about their philosophy and putting lawmakers in danger, replied that he was not too concerned about people who all they want to do is “get re-elected.”

That observation has more than an element of truth to it. But his making congressional senators and representatives his target for violence will not help his cause. Relative to the American population of 329 million people, the Proud Boys and similar sects are (a) very small in number and (b) not supported by most Americans.

Stop Beating around the Bush

Something was missing in the rioters’ invectives on January 6. Their broadsides that I heard were mostly about corrupt politicians, the elites, and discontent in general. Did you discern the crowd was against blacks and the Black Lives Matter movement? I did not pick up on this aspect of what we know is one of their central tenets: They are against minorities, especially blacks. (The word “against” is a charitable characterization of their beliefs.)

The racist Proud Boys’ protests were received by Trump with his statement, “Proud Boys, stand back and stand by.”

The Proud Boys is described by many news media as a far-right, neo-fascist, and male-only white nationalist organization. Various journalists state the organization engages in political violence in the United States and Canada.²

Donald Trump instructed these men to “stand by.” Stand by for what? His advice is troublesome.

As another example, QAnon is also a far-right cult that claims a world-wide secret cabal of Satan-worshippers operates a global child sex-trafficking ring. QAnon states the ring is composed of noted Hollywood stars, Hillary Clinton, and other liberals.

The FBI states QAnon is a terrorist organization.

QAnon claims the pedophiles in the ring rule the world. Plus, QAnon states this child-exploiting cabal is out to get rid of Donald Trump.

When Trump was asked about QAnon at a White House news conference, he said, “I heard that these are people that love our country.”

He has said he had not heard very much about QAnon “other than I understand they like me very much,” and that “it is gaining in popularity.”

Proud Boys and QAnon, haters of the elite and anyone whose skin has too much melanin, look for leadership from, Donald Trump, one of America’s most elite people. Some would call their support one of loyalty. It’s loyalty, for certain.

² Neil MacFarquhar, Alan Feuer, Mike Baker, Sheera Frenkel, "Far-Right Group That Trades in Political Violence Gets a Boost," *The New York Times*, September 30, 2020, and Joel Shannon, "Who are the Proud Boys? Far-right group has concerned experts for years," *USA Today*, October 2, 2020.

I would like to sit down with the man who was wearing horns at the January 6 riot and show him Trump's balance sheet, photos of his private plane, pictures of his Rolls Royce, and documentation about his cheating blue collar workers who built his casinos in Atlantic City of their rightful pay. I wonder what his reaction would be?

Make America Great Again!

Since Trump's ascension, his battle cry has been "Make America Great Again!" MAGA T-shirts, flags, and placards, as well as Confederate flags dominated the Capitol building and the National Mall on January 6. Trumpism and the Confederacy were on display.

Something was missing in the January 6 demonstrations. Throughout Trump's campaign and his term in office, he repeatedly made anti-black, anti-Latino, and anti-Muslim Tweets.

What was not on display on January 6 were any blacks banging on the Capitol walls and doors, or waving MAGA banners. And no blacks hoisting Confederate flags.

I examined scores of photos and several videos of the January 6 riot, such as the two shown below. I could not find one African American among the masses. Reasonably enough, any discerning black had judged this kind of assemblage would not be in the black's interest to attend.



Which brings this writer to an observation that I am sure many others have made. The Capitol attacks were not just about the elites and the lawmakers, not just about an unfair wage law. Many Americans agree with these complaints.

There was more involved in the January 6 assault. As much as any factor, the riot was fed by fear of the whites of America losing their place of authority, power, and preeminence in the country. Of losing a white supremacy that has been part of America since the 17th century.

Let's stop beating around the bush. A substantial number of those violent rioters were shouting "**Make America Great Again!**" What they meant was "**Make America White Again!**"

That train left the station many years ago, and it is not coming back. Neither walls on America's borders, voter restrictions, or protest groups are going to stop this train. Like it or not, whites in America are destined to become a minority racial/ethnic group.³ The Proud Boys and

³ Fear not Proud Boys and QAnon, whites still rule the roost! As of July 2016, according to government statistics, whites are the racial majority in America, comprising 61 percent of the population. Hispanics and Latinos are the largest ethnic minority, comprising an estimated 18 percent of the population. African Americans are the second largest racial minority, comprising an estimated 13.4 percent of the population.

QAnon might as well get aboard, even if it means hitching on to the caboose. Staying at the station is only going to put them further behind in a changing America.