

Taking Responsibility During Irresponsible Times

You read the papers and they read like a moratorium on sanity. The news is bad, there is no consensus, and there is scarcely any hope as we approach a hopeless war. More importantly, there is little truth in the media except from a handful of journalists. They understand the need for a balanced and honest presentation. They are sticking their necks out informing us why we're at a critical point in our history and future, how we got there, and how we might resolve the damage inflicted upon us using diplomatic solutions. This should present a brilliant opportunity to look deeply into our prejudices and our government's policies, not only objectively, but with hindsight, fessing up to our major historical blunders. Unfortunately, our U.S. government has not done that. And they continue to lie through their teeth about events leading up to this critical point, which were a result of their very bad policy and insatiable greed. That may end up being their greatest downfall - the inability to learn from history and take responsibility for past actions.

As individuals we can learn from hindsight. We can't change the past but we can change tomorrow. While we may not be able to sway our politicians' actions, as most are too wrapped up in their own self-interests and survival to be honest, we can all choose to bypass the patriotic rhetoric and acknowledge each other as brothers and sisters. We all want the best for our and our families' welfare, and if we can work with each other to take care our basic needs, treating everyone with dignity, there will be no reason for war or hatred, especially in our communities. Our country was born because our founders were escaping the very intolerance that we are facing now.

World War III is not something to take lightly. And repression by our supposed democratic government in some ways is even more ominous than going to war. The voices of decency and peaceful solutions are out there but they're being repressed and you rarely see them in the paper or hear from them in the news.

The U.S. government appears to be totally devoid of reason and can no longer be trusted to approach problems using decency and humanitarianism. Two wrongs don't ever make a right. Instead of bombing each other, we should be feeding each other; instead of hating each other, we should be loving each other - after all, we are all God's children regardless of race, nationality, color, religion or creed. But hatred rages on between God's children. But while our politicians have all become testosterone poisoned, we can individually make a difference. We can become responsible for how we personally think, how we choose to live, and what we choose to do every day.

We can be kind to strangers. We can go out of our way to give people the benefit of the doubt. We can defend someone who is being unlawfully and brutally harassed, and we can evaluate our own behavior on a daily basis to determine if we have been good Americans, worthy of respect by others.

When war fervor is high, it distracts from finding peaceful solutions and we tend to become enraged; not only at the perceived enemy, but at our neighbors who might disagree with our point of view. That adds more fuel to the fire when we should instead be finding ways to help each other and reach common ground.

We are in for some very serious times. We have a choice to make. Choose responsibly and wisely. Think of the legacy we want to leave for our children. We may not get a second chance.