

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

Dr. Manning Marable

Why George Bush Lost

Bill Clinton's landslide Electoral College victory over George Bush has been viewed as a sharp rejection of twelve years' of Republican rule. But the clear majority of Americans voted either for Perot or Bush, not Clinton. The Arkansas Governor really didn't win the presidency: George Bush lost it. Bush will be remembered chiefly for his narrowness of political vision, an absence of personal ethics, and his sheep-like devotion to corporate interests.

Political power is never exercised in a historical vacuum. Every American election from 1948 until 1988 had occurred in the context of the Cold War, and the international conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. In selecting a leader, many American voters thought of the qualities necessary for leadership against what Reagan termed the "Evil Empire." Expertise in international affairs, some intimate knowledge of America's military arsenal, and even personal experience in the armed forces was considered nearly essential. The Cold War's Domestic impact was to push the entire axis of American politics to the right. Reagan's rise to power in 1980 was the triumph of a whole history of growing economic reaction, racism, and class warfare against working people. And George Bush was a logical product of that repressive history: a decorated veteran of world War II, the son of a wealthy Republican Senator, two-term Congressman from Texas, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Vice President to Reagan. Whenever Bush's personal beliefs conflicted with his drive for power, he eagerly sacrificed his principles. In the 1980 Repub-

lican primaries, Bush challenged Reagan by denouncing his economic plans as "Voodoo Economics"; twelve years later, he had become Voodoo's High Priest.

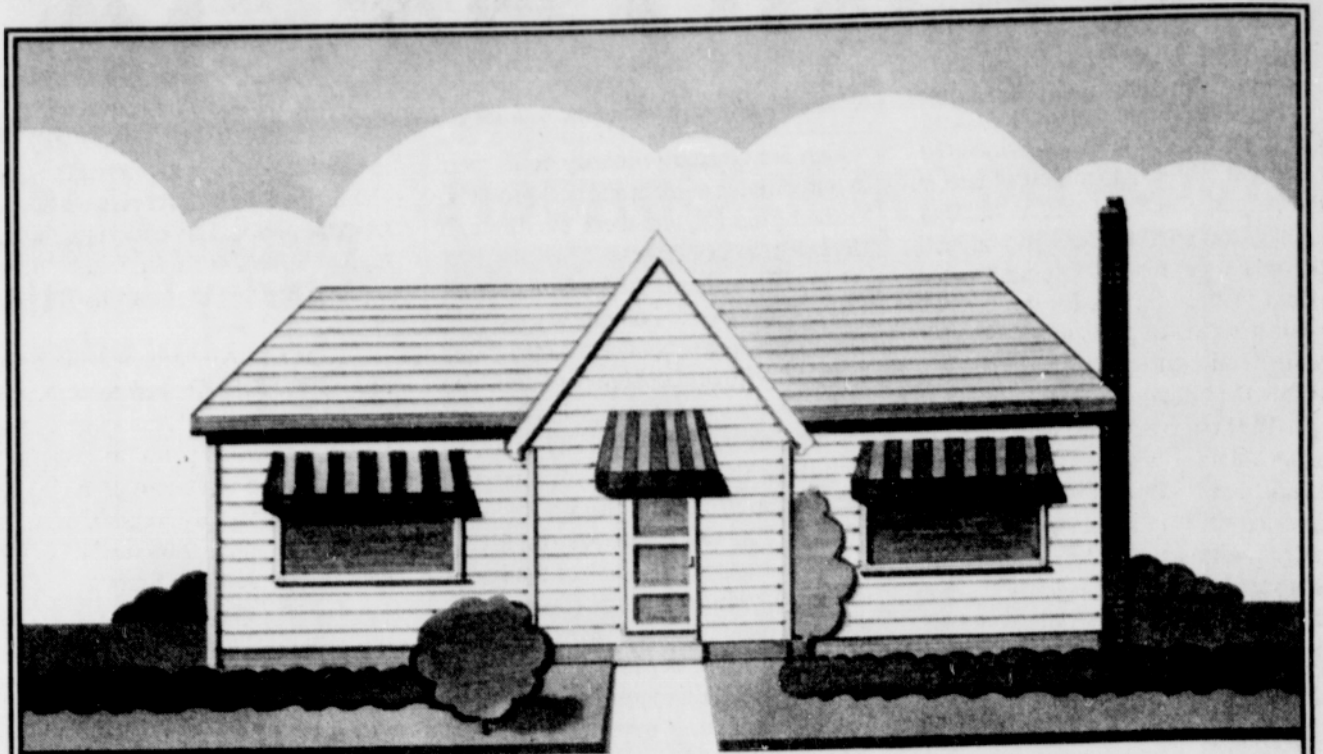
But history never stands still. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the dismantling of the Soviet bloc in Europe, and finally the termination of the USSR, everything changed. Both the United States and the Soviet Union actually lost the Cold War. The real costs to the American people should be weighed by hundreds of billions of dollars annually wasted on nuclear and conventional weaponry, little investment in upgrading factories and new technologies, deteriorating highways and bridges, and the lack of adequate federal government support for schools, health care, housing and other basic human needs. No amount of anti-Communist rhetoric could hide the millions of lost jobs, the decline in real incomes for millions of workers, and the rise in poverty rates. Somehow, Bush never understood this. He had never felt the pain of hunger, discrimination or poverty in his lifetime. He couldn't comprehend the heartache of being without a job, or the fear of not being able to buy warm winter clothes for his children, as the winter months approached. Bush couldn't feel the deep anxieties of middle class families, the fear of losing their homes. But "anxiety" for President Bush was not knowing which fork to use at a formal dinner.

The economic recession which Bush boasted having ended more than one year ago continued to depress wages and increase unemployment lines. In the twelve months prior to the election, over 20 percent of all American families had experienced someone who had lost a job during that time. Of those jobless Ameri-

cans who had obtained new employment, more than half had experienced a loss in wages in their new jobs. But Bush campaign virtually ignored this entire class of American working people.

However, Bush's most crucial electoral mistake was in underestimating Clinton's political strengths, and the capacity of the national Democratic Party to mount a serious campaign. If political clout is calculated by the number of ballots one receives, Clinton had emerged from the Democratic primaries as the strongest candidate in decades. Clinton had received a higher percentage of the national primary vote, 52 percent, than any Democrat seeking the presidency in twenty years. He won 10.5 million primary votes, more than any Democrat or Republican, in the history of presidential primary elections. And by mid-July, nearly all of the major leaders of the Democratic Party, including Jesse Jackson, had come together to endorse his nomination. For several critical months in the spring and early summer, 1992, Bush's campaign strategists mistakenly assumed that their chief electoral rival was H. Ross Perot, not Clinton; consequently, they aimed their rhetorical fire largely against the Texas billionaire. This was a serious strategic error, and although Bush closed much of the gap between himself and Clinton during the campaign's final weeks, his mistakes in political judgement cost him the presidency.

In the end, Americans desperately wanted "change." Most who voted for Clinton weren't endorsing the Democratic nominee. They were voting against George Bush.



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Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards Recognize Teen Volunteers Who Are Changing The Face Of The World

Last year, over 60 percent of American teenagers participated in some form of volunteer activity. The Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards were created to reward the efforts of these remarkable young people who are dedicated to improving the world around them. This year, the Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards program will recognize outstanding teen volunteers from across the United States, awarding cash prizes of over \$30,000.

All junior and senior high school students are eligible to enter the Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards program. The individual teen category will honor students who have single-handedly developed and implemented a volunteer project or have made a difference in school or in local, national or international communities through

volunteer efforts. The teen group category will recognize outstanding junior and senior high school groups who have conceived and implemented volunteer projects benefiting their schools, communities or humankind.

In the individual teen category, \$1,500 cash prizes will be awarded to five finalists. One teen will be named the grand-prize winner and receive a \$2,500 cash prize and a \$2,500 grant to his/her favorite cause or project. In the group category, winners from all fifty states and the district of Columbia will receive certificates of honorable mention; five Regional finalist groups will be selected to receive \$2,500 for their project or cause. The group selected as the grand-prize winner will receive \$5,000 for its cause, and a \$5,000 grant for its school. In addition, television

star Gabrielle Carteris will present the award to the group at a special in-school celebration.

"The environment, homelessness, illiteracy and hundreds of other issues are facing today's teenagers," says Mike Yearling, spokesperson for Noxzema. "We believe that the Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards program can give them the tools they need to work for change. Noxzema is proud to be part of a program that motivates ordinary teenagers to have an extraordinary impact on the world around them."

To get involved, students should contact their school guidance counselors or call 1-800-488-7288 to enter themselves, their volunteer group or a friend in the Noxzema Extraordinary Teen Awards program.

Lets Work Together

Not just a good idea but an Socio-economic reality that must take place real soon.

I less than a month ago I wrote an article entitled "Lets Work Together" for this paper. I talked with a few people who said they had seen it, one person that called said they read it, but no one as yet has followed up on it in a way that would be regarded as a meaningful exchange.

The article pointed at the Socio/Economic benefits that are made available in the market place by business corporations who monetarily compensate people who can work together in small groups and help others do the same. The Oct. 26/28 issue of U.S. News and World Report ran an article (under Career Guides) directly related to this phenomenon and the characteristics that would be necessary to plunge ahead economically at this time.

I believe its important that people take the time to find out about this. Its my/our goal to help as many people as

possible argue this information, consequently joining our minds and efforts together, to bring more people into this collective Socio/Economic boost.

Many people are complaining about a lock of jobs, and while this is true, opportunities are opening up all around. However, opportunities demand that people be diligent, willing to grow and eager to learn. Things are changing all around us and we must become informed as to what these changes will bring. The impact on us individually/collectively, and how we can position ourselves to take advantage of these opportunities and help others do the same.

The unique feature about this new proven way of doing business collectively is that it works best for people who are unselfish, who have an attitude of helping others and teaching them to do the same. The criteria/qualifications for involvement is non-discriminatory because it is based on

what a person is willing to learn and what they will do with what they learn.

It's consumer profit sharing. Business corporations giving economic opportunities to the informed educated consumers who have been limited to large corporations/stockholders (and middle management). Now the consumers (you and I) can take part and get our share of this multi-billion dollar industry.

We now have the opportunity to become economically empowered individually by working together collectively. This is a great opportunity. You must take the time to get more information on this phenomenon. If your interested, don't just read this article, get involved. You'll never know the reality of what this can do for you and others unless you get informed and involved. "Lets work together".

Sincerely
J. Olive
(503) 248-8790 or respond thru Portland Observer