

A Modest Proposal: *Let Women Run the Government*

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I wrote this short essay in 1992 as a quarterly newsletter. When I built my web site in 2002, I included it in the Essays Archive. It's still there. Given the recent upwelling of dramatic social change in women stepping forward to acknowledge sexual improprieties by men in power, I think it's a good time to re-post the essay. I've edited it slightly as an update, but it's essentially the same piece I wrote a quarter-century ago. The tone is meant to be both tongue-in-cheek and deadly serious.

For almost two centuries, the feminist movement promoting political and psychological equality for women has provoked us to struggle against ourselves.

Modern feminism was born in the occult spiritual renaissance of the mid-19th century, as women found their first avenue of cultural power. Social reform movements of the late-19th century were largely a feminine reaction to the horrors of the industrial age. Political involvement followed as suffragettes fought a long battle to obtain voting rights for women. Rosie the Riveter took over previously male-dominated factories during World War II. In the turbulent 1960s, women burned their bras, asserted their sexuality, and took control of their bodies.

Each chapter was another step forward in the struggle to reform the outmoded gender roles imposed by culture and kept in place through social inertia. And the battle rages on.

Having been a full-time astrologer for 45 years, I can attest personally to the high percentage of female clients who have bitched and moaned to me about men. Their points of view have ranged from mild dissatisfaction to enraged negativity, and over the years the intensity has steadily increased across the board. To listen to these many women, one might reasonably conclude that cultural patriarchy was the devil's plan, and that the male half of the species is composed exclusively of idiots, jerks, and ne'er-do-wells.

Being a man, however, I must also admit my own and my male friends' bitching and moaning about women. Our protests may be more reactive and slower to emerge, but they are, nonetheless, equally real, and in recent years just as

passionate. Listening to our litany of complaints, one might conclude that women were impossible to please, and that they exist only to exasperate and torment men in an unending effort to make our lives miserable.

Every person I know embraces divergent, conflicting opinions about the male-female dilemma — from heartfelt hopes to profound cynicism. Each of us actively promotes equality and reconciliation in certain ways, yet each of us also staunchly resists reform at other levels. We are divided not merely between ourselves, but within ourselves as well.

So what's to be done? My modest proposal is offered not as a solution, but, instead, as a simple, elegant social experiment, a leap into the brave new world of last chance rescue of ourselves from ourselves:

Let's give the country to the women.

By that, I mean letting women run things by turning over to them the running of local, state, and federal government — lock, stock, and barrel.

Men have attempted to govern this nation for almost 250 years, to direct its growth and substantiate in law and policy the high ideals of its philosophical mandate. Almost no one is happy with the results. We are all — men and women alike — utterly fed up.

Women are gradually making inroads to formal positions of power and influence through politics, and the coming mid-term election in November 2018 promises their largest gains. But it is so damned slow. Let's shortcut the whole process by giving the government to the women.

We'll set it up so that men can continue to run the business world. That's only fair. But women will occupy all elective offices, from county commissioners and school board members, mayors and governors, congresswomen and cabinet members, all the way to the White House.

Think about it. What are the critical issues where government is stalemated? Abortion, education, social security, medical care, opiate addiction, homelessness, rebuilding the infrastructure, cutting military expenditures, insuring environmental protection... Why, all these are issues that involve nurturing and protecting human beings, which is precisely what women have been practicing for millennia.

Crap like "Line-Item Veto" debates goes right out the window, because women are terrific at working out agreements among themselves. Congress will never adjourn.

Taxes? The federal deficit? Government spending? No problem. We cut taxes to

a flat 5% of gross income for both individuals and corporations. No exemptions, no sheltered income, no funny business. Bye-bye, IRS.

Slash military funding. War is just men arguing over whose dick is bigger, anyway. Bye-bye, phallic missiles.

The femme government will hire male-run business to create corporate social entities. No more padding or cost overruns; women office-holders will shop 'til they drop, insisting on sale prices. Business will provide high-quality, efficient social services at a profit. In other words, women will set the agenda and men will solve the tasks.

It's perfect! And even if the experiment doesn't work, even if the country remains just as screwed up as ever, we can then justifiably tell anyone who still bitches — male or female — to put it where the sun don't shine.

I understand very well that my proposal won't be adopted, at least not in the form I suggested. More realistically (and pragmatically), we might opt for an alternate process that is already underway, that of women running for elected office at all levels of government — local, state, and federal.

The "Me Too" movement is yet another example of a grass roots uprising against abuses of power by the ruling elites (in this case, the Good Old Boys' Club of men in power who equate their exalted privilege with permission to express sexual domination with impunity). Such upwellings are characteristic of this Uranus-Pluto decade, where many of those in power are essentially at war against the bulk of the population. The rebellions arise from every sector of society where people feel left behind, excluded, or marginalized, and do not feel that their welfare and concerns are being addressed by the existing order. The politics and cultural values of such movements are all over the map and include every possible perspective and belief — from the Tea Party to Occupy, from White Supremacy to protecting DACA children. Race, gender, and wealth are all central issues.

The danger in this is fragmentation and social division. Polarized factions have become extreme in America as we descend into tribal conflict — left versus right politically, urban versus rural, secular versus evangelical, upper versus lower class economically, etc. In addition, the powers-that-be are very good at pitting disenfranchised groups against each other to deflect protests and prevent alliances for change from forming. For instance, lower income, wage-earning white Americans are encouraged to regard immigrants and racial minorities (Blacks and Latinos) as enemies, which is false, of course, but harms all those groups and protects the hierarchies of existing power. I wouldn't call that a conspiracy — it's simply the inevitable strategy of the status quo rulership, to divide and conquer (or, in this case, to keep people distracted so that nothing substantive changes).

The Me-Too movement might be different, however. Women comprise more than half the population, and even accounting for wide differences of attitude and belief, we're talking about a huge number of women who are beginning to stand up and shout, "NO MORE!" Strangely enough, I think we have Donald Trump to thank for that. More than any other single provocation, the Access Hollywood tape left a very bad taste for a large percentage of women, especially after Trump's victory in ascending to the Oval Office. The Women's March on Washington the day after Trump's inauguration, where 200,000 women gathered to voice their disapproval, was no mere flash in the pan.

We've already begun to see a dramatic increase in women running for — and being elected to — office in Virginia. Most were first-time candidates. Throughout the nation, women are now registering to run for office in unprecedented numbers. I hope that trend continues and increases, since it is the essence of the grassroots energizing that we need. If, over the coming years, the percentage of women holding elective office in government reaches something close to parity, we might have a better chance of making some desperately-needed changes in the direction of our country and the world.

No, an equitable balance of gender in representative government will not guarantee that all the daunting problems of America and civilization will magically be solved. To suggest that we face a steep uphill climb is an understatement. Still, that change would be one step in the right direction.