

DENIED TRUTHS
STANLEY DAVID GEDZELMAN
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Big Mike was a hostile criminal who didn't have to be killed. For sure there must be far better ways to tag a suspect, for example some indelible fluorescent dye, and then round him up at convenience. American Blacks are targeted but they also are far more likely to be criminal, confrontational, aggressive, violent, and, agendized. The police are excessively armed, too prone to use force, authoritarian, and will tend to cover up sins of offending comrades, even if they don't like them. American Blacks share one very common characteristic. We are all sieves of facts. Deny any offense you have committed and only allow the offenses against you to pass through. We all see ourselves as victims, even as we victimize our presumed offenders. My Polish colleague was aghast at the theme of victimization accompanied by denial of any responsibility for World War II at the Hiroshima Museum, while she herself, like so many Poles denied any responsibility for their eager complicity in the Jewish Holocaust.

The eternal drug war is now in at least its 6th decade. Proponents use spurious arguments such as legalizing drug use will turn us into a nation of addicts, and legalizing relatively innocuous drugs like marijuana cannot be tolerated because it will be a gateway drug. (What about alcohol and tobacco?) What they ignore is that criminalizing drugs creates large and international scale criminal activities that center about illegal drugs. What is needed is a responsibility law. Any crime committed under the influence, including vehicular accidents, is punishable as if the person was stone cold sober, for after all, at some point the culprit made the deliberate decision was made to take the drugs or alcohol.

Sanctions imposed on offending nations are ineffective at best and typically counterproductive. These nations are almost invariably tyrannies, which tyranny is only strengthened when people are impoverished. Rebellion against brutal authority usually increases when economic conditions are improving but increase of political power and freedoms lags behind growing expectations. A nation whose populace suffers under grinding poverty and severe repression uses all its energy to survive and find the next meal.

The immigration problem will continue because we want cheap labor but want to deny the laborers privileges.

In all these problems Conservatives always choose paths that involve punishment, even if it can be proven that approaches without penalty work better, and may be the only approaches that work at all.

Finally, for the moment at least, is oil and global warming, issues that have taken on religious proportions. Denying human role in global warming is an absurdity, but so too is the view that the world will end because of it. And using the low unemployment rate in North Dakota, 48th in population, to imply that the Keystone Pipeline will solve America's unemployment problem is like claiming that a mouse will balance a see-saw when an elephant is on the other side. The real issue of the Keystone Pipeline involves the dirty tar sands that require large energy to extract the

oil. The Saudis have postponed that problem several decades ago by lowering oil prices to the point extracting oil from tar sands is uneconomical, and they are doing the same thing again now.