

## **Right Wing Anti-Americanism**

As I have already mentioned in my presentation, this paper is a modest try in my research for the right wing Anti-Americanism as a political idea. The findings, that I will present herewith, which come from three different authors, should be considered as “food for thinking” in the framework of a discussion going on, in this subject matter.

### **1. West European Right wing anti-Americanism**

It is, Jean-François Revel, which explains in his book “*Anti-Americanism*”, some of the cultural and intellectual causes of this phenomena in Europe, and specifically France, by stating that “the anti-Americanism of the Right and even the extreme Right, as blindly passionate as the Left, though with a different rationale, is characteristically a French phenomenon<sup>1</sup>”.

The European Right’s anti-Americanism, according to him originates from Europe’s loss during the twentieth century of its six-hundred-year leadership role. It was Europe, who had been the powerhouse of enterprise and industry, innovator in arts and sciences, while several European countries took the lead in this process of globalization “avant la lettre”, one after the other, either in concert or by turns.

But today this scenario looks different in view of Revel, because Europe has lost the ability to act alone on a global scale, and is somehow constrained to follow the path of the United States and lend support. That’s why this loss (real or imaginary) of “the great-power status” generates hostility and more especially in France

### **2. The Anti-American Right as a Fundamentally Leftist Menace**

Another interesting idea on this field is the one elaborated by Myles Kantor a, FrontPageMagazine editor, who after accusing anti-Americanists as Fifth columnist, claims that Anti-Americans on the Right are nothing less than the “surrogates for those abroad who seek to annihilate individual freedom, consensual government, and property right” and in general, the values articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

According to him anti-Americanism of the extreme Right, would impose varying forms of collectivism, like theocracy, racial and ethnic subjugation, and a statist economy, while leftist would substitute theocracy with coercive atheism and racial caste with coercive association. Considering that the Right and Left anti Americanisms share common grounds in imposing planned economies, their hatred is consequently fueled by the hatred for democracy and the liberal economy. So, while the Right would subjugate the individual and precious social institutions to an omnipotent state with a “quasi-religious dogma”, it is fundamentally leftist and shares the totalitarian-chilastic underpinnings of Marxism-Leninism. Hence, suggests the author, the Anti-American Right could be described as leftism with a racist face<sup>2</sup>.

### **3. Anti-Americanism and the specter of racial impurity**

A third section of thought in the development of right wing anti-Americanism is the product of racialist theory, which was first systematically elaborated in the middle of the nineteenth century. The core idea of racialist theory is that of the various races of man<sup>3</sup> who according to this theory, were hierarchically arranged in respect to such important qualities as strength,

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1 Excerpt from the Introduction to the book *Anti-americanism* by Jean Francois Revel

2 One of the proclamations of a Neo-Nazi leader Gary "Gerhard" Lauck goes like, "When the revolution comes, we will be triumphant." By showing so similarities to the leftist roots

3 With race here it is to be understood not only the major color groups but also different subgroups such as Aryans, Slavs, Latins, and Jews.

intelligence, and courage. A mixing of the races was said to be either impossible, in the sense that it could not sustain biological fecundity; or, if fecundity was sustainable, that it would result in a leveling of the overall quality of the species, with the higher race being pulled down as a result of mingling with the lower ones.

The author elaborating a complete theory of race, a Frenchman, was Arthur de Gobineau, "the father of racialist thinking", who with his *Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races*, focused on the fate of the Aryans, the purest and highest of all the races, according to him. He argued that the Aryans were allowing themselves "to be bred out of existence in Europe" that is why he turned the focus of his analysis at America, as "the Great White Hope", "the nation in which the Aryans would reinvigorate their stock and reassert their rightful dominance in the world". But Gobineau's hope of Anglo-Saxon racial hegemony turned illusory as the universalistic idea of natural equality in America was in fact promoting a democracy of blood, in which the very idea of "race, was vanishing"<sup>4</sup>.

At this point Gobineau foresaw the "Tiger Woods phenomenon" which was: amalgamation as the natural result of a democratic idea. America was creating a new "race" of man, the last race, the human race, which was no race at all. This elimination of race marked the end of history by presenting in his view America's future - a lamentable spectacle of creatures of the "greatest mediocrity in all fields: mediocrity of physical strength, mediocrity of beauty, mediocrity of intellectual capacities, simply said, nothingness." Racialist ideas persisted throughout the nineteenth century and affected between others many of the social sciences. The extreme of racialist thinking in the early twentieth century served as the foundation of Nazism. Today, the substance of the racialist philosophy is rejected except by a few elements on the extreme right. Yet traces of it have managed to find their way, into successive theorizing about America.

### Sources

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<sup>4</sup> At the time Europe was dumping its "garbage" races into America, and these had already begun to mix with the Anglo-Saxons