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KEENE: Free speech on the guillotine

Liberals employ extreme measures to silence opposition

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President Obama's progressive and partisan...



By David Keene - The Washington Times

Monday, June 23, 2014



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Audio Clip: 06-24-14 11d David Keene with Andy Parks

STORY TOPICS

Politics

Liberal progressives have in recent years all but abandoned the American belief in free speech and the First Amendment in favor of shutting down those with whom they disagree. The president pointedly announces that critics of Obamacare or his climate-change policies ought to shut up because "the debate is over." His supporters in Congress are actually proposing amending the Constitution to eliminate First Amendment protection of political speech and the Internal Revenue Service not only to harass those with whom they and their president disagree, but urges the Justice Department to prosecute those who voice a different view.

Last week [Hillary Clinton](#), a prospective candidate for the presidency, told an interviewer who asked about gun control that "we cannot let a minority of people hold a viewpoint that terrorizes the majority of people." This is a dangerous, but unexceptional statement coming from a 21st century liberal progressive. She, like the president she hopes to succeed, begins by describing the facts as she wishes they were and then attempts to dehumanize and demonize those with whom she disagrees as terrorists whose ability to express views contrary to her own shouldn't be tolerated lest they mislead others.

[Mrs. Clinton](#) in this interview was talking about those who support the Second Amendment, but others on the left have suggested that "global warming deniers" should be silenced and even jailed as enemies of the planet. In their view, those with whom they disagree need not and should

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The Washington Times TWT

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QUESTION OF THE DAY

Is it still considered bad form to talk politics during a social gathering?

Yes
No
I only enjoy like-minded folks
It's a safer topic than sports

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not be tolerated — nor should they be allowed to teach, run private corporations or speak at high school and college commencement ceremonies. Those who hold views other than their own are never simply wrong, badly informed or misguided, but evil, dangerous and corrupt.

This hostility toward the free-speech guarantees written into our Constitution and the Founders' concern for the rights of minorities as well as majorities may be traceable to the fact that they are the philosophical sons and daughters of the French rather than American Revolution and the belief that minorities should be allowed only to the extent that majorities decide not to send them to the guillotine.

Where possible, liberal progressives have attempted to use the state to silence their critics or to criminalize political speech and activity with which they disagree. Last week, the U.S. Justice Department ordered an FBI investigation into the decision of Virginia Democratic Sen. Phillip P. Puckett to resign his seat because his resignation gave control of the state Senate to Republicans and thwarted the Commonwealth's new liberal progressive governor's plans. Even Virginia Democrats expressed amazement at the federal government's overreach as Mr. Puckett has been forced to hire a team of attorneys, and his name is being dragged through the mud by an ideologically driven federal law enforcement agency.

In Wisconsin, the state's liberal progressives regurgitated allegations against Gov. Scott Walker that had already been laughed out of both state and federal courts, with the partisan media reporting the charges as if they have been made as part of a serious ongoing investigation. The New York Times inferred in a Page One report that the governor is believed to be the mastermind behind a criminal conspiracy rather than the victim of baseless partisan allegations that had been debunked and dismissed by the two courts.

The allegations were included in materials released along with hundreds of pages of other documents that were a part of a partisan "John Doe" investigation launched by Democratic prosecutors following the unsuccessful 2012 recall campaign against Mr. Walker, a Republican. The allegations were included in a motion made by one of these prosecutors in December of 2013 and thrown out on Jan. 4 by the judge in the case who said in his decision that the prosecutor had "failed to show probable cause that a crime had been committed."

What's more, the documents on which The New York Times and other stories were based were released at the request of Walker supporters to put the silliness of what the prosecutors were trying to do to the governor on the public record. None of this stopped the newspaper and other progressive publications from twisting the story into something it wasn't in an attempt to damage a possible 2016 Walker run for the White House.

It should be no surprise that Wisconsin progressives are at the forefront of the most overt drive to criminalize the activities of their opponents as Badger state leftists have always been more blatantly transparent about their motives and desires than others. A reporter recently asked Madison's leftist mayor about Republican charges that he is demanding the reporting of all political activities and contributions of individuals and corporations seeking city contracts for the sole purpose of punishing his opponents and rewarding his friends. Obama administration officials proposed imposing similar requirements on federal contractors, then vehemently denied they would use the information thus gathered to punish those critical of the president. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin bragged that this is exactly what he intends.

Such intolerance is hardly new, but it has never found such acceptance among so many supposedly mainstream politicians. In the late 1960s as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin, I debated the Vietnam War with a leftist member of the Madison City Council. When I finished my opening remarks my opponent stepped to the microphone to announce that while he wouldn't dignify anything I had just said with a response, he could promise that "come the revolution" I would be



COMMENTARY

KEENE: Free speech on the guillotine

By David Keene
 Liberals employ extreme measures to silence opposition

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among the first executed as an enemy of the people.

Conservatives were able to laugh at such rhetoric then because the left didn't control the police, prosecutors or the FBI, and besides, the jealous guardians of free speech in the media and among our elected officials of both parties would never allow their fantasies out of the fever swamps.

But that was then.

David A. Keene is opinion editor of The Washington Times.

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300gr3100fps · 12 hours ago

What we are witnessing today is little more than modern day bolshevism. Which is why the left is so desperately trying to disarm America.

An armed America will never stand for a soviet style uprising and overthrow of our country. A disarmed America will stand by and watch.

23 | · Reply · Share



chocopot > 300gr3100fps · 10 hours ago

As I have stated countless times over the last decade or more: gun control does not now and has never had anything to do with crime or criminals - it is all about disarming the general population so no one will be able to challenge the dictatorship the Left is working so hard to establish. The key word in the term "gun control" is not "gun," it is "control."

21 | · Reply · Share



valkyrie101 > chocopot · 7 hours ago

I think efforts at gun control are similar to our efforts to stop drunk driving. We have no problem with responsible people driving, and no one suggests banning driving, but we do wish to prevent people who have been drinking from driving. Likewise, lawful gun ownership, as Obama and Clinton have said, is cool, but tightening up our rules to prevent guns from getting into the hands of children, the insane, or convicted criminals is certainly a good idea.

Consider that every three years over 100K people are killed by guns.

1 | · Reply · Share



ags4ever > valkyrie101 · 6 hours ago

Nothing you state about guns killing people is in the least bit factual or truthful. For guns are inanimate objects, despite your inordinate fear and humanization of them, and cannot do anything by themselves, nor can any other weapon. You don't blame a murderer's hands for being the killer when he chokes

someone to death, or beats them to death with his fists, do you? (Though with you and five, I think you do think that a murderer's hands or feet or fists are evil things, but the murderer himself is pristine).

Nothing you state about obama/holder/clinton and the rest of democratic elite supporting gun ownership has any factual basis for support, for every democratic politician for the last 50 years or more has advocated first registration, then banning then confiscation of all privately owned guns (with the exception of the ones they themselves own and the guns their bodyguards use to protect them and their families. You and your like just ignore their repeated statements saying that that is what they want.

Since criminals by definition don't obey laws, none of the idiotic regulations and or laws you and your like propose will result in any reduction in crime, for only those people who would never use a gun (or any other weapon) to commit any crimes will be affected by those idiotic laws. The criminals love gun control laws, for they know that their victims will be rendered defenseless and they can kill, rob, maim, and rape to their hearts' content, with no fear they will have to face an armed opponent.

12   • Reply • Share ›



JoninMaryland > ags4ever • 4 hours ago

I just looked at the profile of "ags4ever". In the past 11 hours he (she?) has posted 83 comments. EIGHTY-THREE comments in half a day. His (her?) profile says that she has posted 3375 comments total. I can't believe that to be true, since I have sometimes received as many as a dozen messages from this individual in one day. I'm all for free speech, but "ags4ever", perhaps you could use a little less of it. Go outside. Take a walk. Perhaps stop your ranting and raving and vicious attacks on various people posting on this site. You know, by the way, don't you, that you write the same thing over and over? You've written it to me, I've seen you write it to at least a dozen other people: "you have no facts or logic to support your worthless opinions, nor can you because you cannot conceive of anything but your own inane and quite worthless opinions." Take a break. Get some fresh air. Try not to post eighty some comments a day. That's just a bit disturbing.

  • Reply • Share ›



William Burke > JoninMaryland • 3 hours ago

Who died and made YOU the arbiter of free speech?

4   • Reply • Share ›



TWTfan > JoninMaryland • 2 hours ago



Your desperation is showing. And it is pathetic.

3 · Reply · Share ›



chocopot > valkyrie101 · 5 hours ago

You could not be more wrong. Your claims are typical of those on the Left whenever the subject of firearms or the Second Amendment is discussed: blatantly false or using words or statements taken completely out of context.

There are now more than 22,000 federal, state, and local gun control laws in this nation. Isn't that enough? The burdens placed on good and honest citizens just to exercise their CONSTITUTIONAL right to possess firearms are already ridiculous (technically, ALL gun control laws are unconstitutional, notwithstanding court decisions to the contrary, since the Second Amendment clearly makes no provisions for restrictions or limitations). By definition, criminals will not obey laws, so all of these laws do very little, if anything at all, to prevent firearms from being obtained by those who intend to misuse them; FBI statistics show that the overwhelming majority of firearms used to commit crimes were obtained either illegally or by theft, meaning all of those 22,000

[see more](#)

7 · Reply · Share ›



WallyHunter > valkyrie101 · 6 hours ago

Remember, Clinton is the president who signed the HIPPA privacy laws into place. The vast majority of mass shooting have been perpetrated by medicated mentally ill loons. None were ever reported to the federal instant background check for fear of breaking HIPPA laws. Some were legally able to purchase weapons by passing the checks or others broke current law. The blood is on his hands. Also remember the HIPPA laws were borne of the HIV/AIDS crisis and the advocates for their protection.

6 · Reply · Share ›



DOCWRIGHT > valkyrie101 · 4 hours ago

You have been deceived by liberals. The current President wants all guns banned. Forget what he says... look what he does.

5 · Reply · Share ›



William Burke > DOCWRIGHT · 2 hours ago

Absolutely! Nixon's AG, John Mitchell, to a reporter: "Watch what we do, not what we say!"

2 · Reply · Share ›



chocopot > DOCWRIGHT · 2 hours ago

Never mind forgetting what he says - he has said plenty. Go into Google and type "obama, gun confiscation" into the search bar.

2 · Reply · Share ›



bifatjac > valkyrie101 · 3 hours ago

Do you believe that most guns used in crimes are registered? Purchased legally? Do you believe that criminals won't have access to guns if laws restricting law abiding citizens from ownership for protection are passed? That gun laws will cause gun crimes to cease? Do you ever read the stories about the perps and their firearms when a crime has been committed?

Who do you think should be denied gun ownership? I have read opinions on that topic, from our legislators and the Obama administrators suggesting that veterans shouldn't be allowed gun permits, as they might have PTSD. Still others say terrorists, who are people who do not agree with leftists policies regarding late term abortion or government land grabs, or those who have a problem with illegals and gang violence, should not have guns.

Who do you think should be targeted and left without defense? And how much longer do you think freedom of speech, of private ownership, protection from arbitrary police search and seizure, or the right to a trial by jury of peers would be available to all citizens?

One right, after another, after another...lost forever.

4 · Reply · Share ›



Prof Z > valkyrie101 · 34 minutes ago

And many more than that were killed by fists and knives and backyard pools and cars and bees and . . . do you want to take all those away as well? Besides, your figure includes those who killed in self-defense, those who killed themselves, those who were killed by cops - not an accurate number to use when trying to make your argument.

2 · Reply · Share ›



William Burke > valkyrie101 · 3 hours ago

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your kind for eliminating drunk driving in the U.S.! Well done.

2 · Reply · Share ›



fivefoottwo > valkyrie101 · 7 hours ago

Very well stated, Valkyrie.

1   · Reply · Share ›



ags4ever > fivefoottwo · 6 hours ago

a total and blatant lie by valkyrie, as well as yourself. You, like him, refuse to accept the evidence that obama and the like (including yourself) spew forth all the time. You wish control of the people, not gun control, for you care nothing about human lives, only power.

8   · Reply · Share ›



TWTfan > fivefoottwo · 6 hours ago

Still proving which 'spin' you find no fault with....

5   · Reply · Share ›



raymondvilla · 14 hours ago

Great article. As we see , continuously, there is no fascism quite like the commie left. repeatedly its the right wing, protecting our rights. A mosque has been built near a kindergarten in Australia. Children singing Xmas carols have been banned, they can be heard from the mosque and cause offence. As Pat Condell - opponent of violent religions, says - " they are easily offended by children singing, but a beheading doesn't bother them a bit".

17   · Reply · Share ›



BobLee > raymondvilla · 4 hours ago

great point Raymond.

  · Reply · Share ›



Dutchman61 · 8 hours ago

It should be really disturbing to everyone who reads this to see just how open the Left is about destroying the core values of this country. What should be even more upsetting is the fact that they do not think they need to hide it any more. They are that confident that they are really going to win. And if they do, the curtain will fall on our way of life. Not even the socialists in Europe have done some of these things. And consider that as open as they are, they spent their lives hiding their values. There is no reason to think they are showing everything they believe. Cuba and Venezuela are their models. The USSR is their desire.

If you doubted the importance of the 2014 and the 2016 elections, then you had better look again. The reality is we are moving closer to a tipping point and only huge conservative victories with new blood will push us back from the edge.

15   · Reply · Share ›



SFLBIB > Dutchman61 · 7 hours ago



Excellent!

3 • Reply • Share ›



Francis W. Porretto • 8 hours ago

An amoral contestant, regardless of the nature of the contest, will regard the rules as mere obstacles to be surmounted by any means expedient. That's the Left in our political sphere. Rights? Law? They'll find ways around *those*. And indeed they have -- in no small part thanks to the Right's unwillingness to call them on it, **much less to counterattack**.

12 • Reply • Share ›



SicSemper • 11 hours ago

It's no longer morning in America, it's 1984 (+30).

I'm certainly glad you survived the radical hotbed that was and I assume still is Madison, WI Mr. Keene. Words and their expression, like elections can have consequences. Anyone who thinks gulags here are beyond the range of possibility doesn't understand history.

12 • Reply • Share ›



guestwho2 • 8 hours ago

There are already thousands of open laboratories that show us the cause and effect of leftists zealously enacting and enforcing their Utopias with little or no opposition. They are known as America's colleges and universities.

9 • Reply • Share ›



rlowen • 9 hours ago

Those who would shut down conservative free speech should remember the pendulum swings both ways. They won't always have Obama and Holder to protect them. See myblog at <http://cranky-conservative.blog...>

8 • Reply • Share ›



Josey Montana • 7 hours ago

I once ran an off-campus, independent newspaper during the "campus PC craze" of the Nineties. We were not ideological like say the Dartmouth Review - but we were not liberals either.

I completely believe Keene's claim of execution threats because we thought as much then.

The lunatics are running the asylum and they are truly insane.

11 • Reply • Share ›



chelmer · 5 hours ago

As totalitarianism fails, it has no choice but to silence its critics. Then, when it continues to fail, it has no choice but to oppress and then to murder its opponents. That's why every communist takeover starts with idealism and ends with mass murder. We are on that path, and the trolls who frequent these pages are on board with it. They can never view their failure as their own: their abject failure must be the fault of Republicans, or conservatives, or Jews, or Catholics, or "saboteurs" or "reactionaries": It CANNOT BE that their ideas are empty, illogical, and don't take human nature into consideration. The more violently they attempt to impose their policies and hide from the results of their bad faith, the more violently they must repress those who can see that it obviously doesn't work, and the more they then must fear the vengeance of those whom they have violently oppressed by oppressing them ever more violently. Stalin was a paranoid who, acting on his paranoia, acquired real enemies. The Left sees threats coming from everywhere, because in fact they understand that such a reaction is entirely reasonable and predictable. One day these sandwich shop and bicycle shop owners are going to unleash their anger. Those of us--and there are many of us--who saw this coming before Obama's first day have been waiting for Obama to lose his cool--by showing that he is a dufus who can't shoot free throws or order food at a fast food restaurant. That may be enough to turn this around. But if our leaders in Congress think they're going to avoid trouble by ignoring their Constitutional responsibilities, they're going to reap the very whirlwind that they have sought in such a cowardly manner to avoid.

5 · Reply · Share ›



chrisinva · 8 hours ago

"How dare Mr. Keene compare Hillary Clinton to Hitler! (Hitler used guillotines to dispatch his political enemies like Sophie Scholl, we recall) That's hate speech!"

-- comment from typical left-wing bozo whose only remaining standard of evil is, you guessed it, Adolf.

5 · Reply · Share ›



fivefoottwo > chrisinva · 8 hours ago

Actually, it's just stupid speech. The entire article from title to the article itself is stupid. It does show just why there should be consequences for those who chose to use the words Mr Keene does.

· Reply · Share ›



ags4ever > fivefoottwo · 7 hours ago

Tell us, with facts to support your inane comments, just exactly what is incorrect about Mr. Keene's truthful statements that people like you are entirely willing to suppress any speech that is critical of your views or your opinions.

You are correct in one way. You and your like should bear the consequences of your factually incorrect rhetoric and blatant suppression of views that oppose your own.

7 · Reply · Share ›

Defender of the truth > ags4ever · 4 hours ago



When did being critical of someone's view amount to violating their first amendment rights. Has anyone been locked up for disagreeing, have right wing sites been shut down by the government?

□ | □ • Reply • Share ›



Josey Montana > fivefoottwo • 7 hours ago

What, in your opinion, should be the consequences you must face?

Hmmm?

I've got a few ideas myself but I'm "keene" to hear yours, as a matter of morbid curiosity.

7 □ | □ • Reply • Share ›



fivefoottwo > Josey Montana • 7 hours ago

My first post here today suggested Keen's idea of the "guillotine" is over the top. Personally I think there are many good "journalist" who wouldn't chose to use sarcasm/satire when writing. I'd love to see the media take responsibility for what shows up in/on their publications. Provide Mr Keene with his walking papers.

□ | □ • Reply • Share ›



ags4ever > fivefoottwo • 7 hours ago

Your first post that Keene's statement that the liberal left wishes to guillotine anyone who disagrees with them is "over the top", and that Mr. Keene should be provided "with his walking papers", actually fully supports what Keene is saying. You and your like are totally intolerant of any comments that disagree with your own and want to silence those comments.

5 □ | □ • Reply • Share ›

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