### **Rediscovering Americanism and the Tyranny** of Progressivism



#### Rediscovering Americanism: And the Tyranny of

Progressivism by Mark R. Levin



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In the annals of American history, the early 20th century stands as a period of profound transformation and ideological conflict. The Progressive Era, spanning roughly from the 1890s to the 1920s, witnessed a surge in activism and reform movements aimed at addressing the social and economic ills of the time. While many of these initiatives were wellintentioned and ultimately beneficial, a darker undercurrent of progressivism emerged, one that eroded the core values of Americanism and paved the way for the tyranny that would later grip nations across the globe.

At its core, Americanism is a philosophy rooted in the principles of liberty, equality, and democracy. It is a belief in the inherent worth of the individual, the importance of self-reliance, and the limited role of government in the lives of citizens. These ideals were enshrined in the Declaration of

Independence and the Constitution, and they have served as the guiding light for generations of Americans.

However, during the Progressive Era, a growing number of intellectuals and politicians began to question the validity of these principles. Influenced by European ideologies such as socialism and Marxism, they argued that the unfettered pursuit of liberty and individualism had led to social inequality and economic instability. They proposed a new vision for America, one in which the government played a more active role in regulating the economy, redistributing wealth, and protecting the rights of the working class.

While some of the Progressive Era reforms were undoubtedly necessary and beneficial, such as the establishment of child labor laws and the regulation of food and drug safety, others were more insidious in nature. For example, the creation of the Federal Reserve System gave the government unprecedented control over the money supply, while the of the income tax shifted the burden of taxation from the wealthy to the middle class. These policies laid the foundation for a more centralized and authoritarian state, one that would eventually erode the freedoms and liberties of American citizens.

The rise of progressivism also coincided with a decline in patriotism and national pride. Progressive intellectuals and activists often portrayed America as a flawed and oppressive nation, in need of fundamental transformation. They sought to undermine traditional values such as love of country, respect for authority, and the importance of military service. Instead, they promoted a cult of victimhood and grievance, blaming America's problems on its history of racism, sexism, and imperialism.

The pernicious effects of progressivism can be seen in the rise of the modern welfare state. In the name of compassion and social justice, government programs have proliferated, creating a dependency culture that has undermined individual responsibility and self-reliance. The welfare state has also led to a massive expansion of government power and bureaucracy, further eroding the freedoms of citizens.

Another dangerous aspect of progressivism is its embrace of identity politics. Progressivism divides society into competing groups based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other characteristics. By emphasizing these differences, progressives foster resentment and conflict, undermining the unity and cohesion of the nation. Identity politics also leads to the suppression of dissenting views and the silencing of those who dare to challenge the progressive orthodoxy.

The tyranny of progressivism is not merely a historical curiosity. It is a real and present danger that threatens to destroy the very foundations of American society. The erosion of liberty, the decline of patriotism, the rise of the welfare state, and the embrace of identity politics are all symptoms of a progressive agenda that seeks to transform America into a socialist utopia. This utopia, however, is not one of freedom and prosperity, but of oppression and conformity.

It is imperative that we rediscover the true meaning of Americanism and reject the tyranny of progressivism. We must reaffirm our belief in the principles of liberty, equality, democracy, and self-reliance. We must promote patriotism, national pride, and love of country. We must reduce the size and scope of government, and restore the rights and freedoms of individuals. We must also reject the divisive policies of identity politics and

embrace the unity and common purpose that has always made America great.

The future of America hangs in the balance. Will we choose the path of freedom and prosperity, or the path of tyranny and decline? The choice is ours. Let us choose wisely, and let us rediscover the true meaning of Americanism.

#### **Additional Resources**

- Rediscovering Americanism and the Tyranny of Progressivism (book)
- Rediscovering Americanism and the Tyranny of Progressivism (video)
- Rediscovering Americanism and the Tyranny of Progressivism (article)



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★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5

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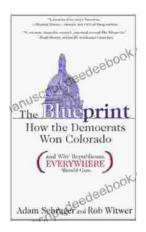
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