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By: Tom Wiknich

Do liberals understand the anger from the conservatives?

As we move along through this presidential campaign, both parties say they are seeing the desire to elect an outsider. On the democrat side, Sanders has bracketed himself as the outsider, and Clinton as the establishment candidate. On the republican side, of the four remaining candidates, Trump and Cruz have established themselves as the outsiders, and Rubio and Kasich are the establishment candidates. As the campaign heats up, Cruz is now spinning it that only he is the anti-establishment candidate. As he has cited some comment many years ago from Trump about how he is part of the establishment. What Cruz fails to mention is that he’s mainly referring to how he has to do business dealings to get things done business wise. Not political establishment.

If anything, Cruz is the establishment, as he is a sitting senator. Even though he doesn’t get along with the establishment, he is still there in the Senate, an elected republican.

Do liberals understand the conservative anger at Washington? As i listen to all the anti-talk from pundits for the last 6 months, I do believe that most Washington liberals do understand, but that most of the outside-of-Washington liberals do not really understand. The Washington insider liberals will eventually line up behind their liberal candidate to help preserve the changes made by the Obama administration over the last seven years, while the angry conservatives will be voting to change what Obama has done.

I read a really telling lecture/opinion editorial on Huffington Post recently about their take on the anger of conservatives. They admit in the editorial that they are not a conservative-leaning organization, and really hate Trump. However, it was really interesting to read their assessment of our anger. Here is a segment of their editorial, and note the subtle liberal belief comments spun into this editorial: Again, this is from the Huffington Post.

Let's also put something else out there: we understand that people are hurting. [Wages have barely budged](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/10/09/for-most-workers-real-wages-have-barely-budged-for-decades/) for decades, and [jobs have gone overseas](http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/12/11/outsourcing-to-china-cost-us-32-million-jobs-since-2001). No matter who controls the white house or congress, [The rich keep getting richer](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2011-01-01/why-rich-are-getting-richer) and the cost of everything that matters -- [college](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/rising-college-costs/), [day care](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/03/childcare-tuition-costs_n_6256280.html), [housing](http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/fastfocus/pdfs/FF22-2015.pdf) -- just keeps going up and up.

Meanwhile, things are changing fast. Just believing the same things your parents and grandparents believed gets you labeled a bigot now. We think that what you call "political correctness" is a part of that arc of history bending in the right direction. Just a few years ago, even democratic hopefuls [Bernie sanders](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bernie-sanders-gay-marriage_us_569fcc4de4b0a7026bf9e06f) and [Hillary clinton](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/jun/17/hillary-clinton/hillary-clinton-change-position-same-sex-marriage/) were against gay marriage. We get that you might be feeling whiplash. We also know that most police officers get into the profession for the right reasons. They're [underpaid](http://www.nbcnews.com/feature/in-plain-sight/police-pay-gap-many-americas-finest-struggle-poverty-wages-n232701) and they're asked to solve social problems that would be better handled by better schools, a stronger economy or functional mental health providers – But we put it all on cops, instead.

We know that you've been lied to and betrayed. For nearly 50 years, since republicans decided to make a play for the white working-class vote, they've been talking directly to you. Richard Nixon called you the [silent majority](http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/richard-m-nixon/videos/nixon-addresses-silent-majority), and now the slogan is everywhere at Trump rallies. He's promising to make America great again -- which was actually [Ronald Reagan’s campaign slogan](http://www.businessinsider.com/donald-trump-trademarked-make-america-great-again-2015-5), and the middle class has gotten a little more hollowed out every year since. In 2010, the [tea party](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/05/tea-party-class-of-2010-where-are-they-now/) took over Washington and you were promised things were going to change, and they haven't. So, that’s the end of their editorial.

My summary of the words written are a definite jab at conservatives. While they think they understand us, that we are not happy with the changes to our country, they believe we’ll eventually get over it and come around to their way of thinking. That we are wrong, and they are right. Every day I get some emails examples from conservatives on how things have changed for the worse under the Obama administration. A lot of them are right on.

However, to all liberals out there, conservatives are angry at the weak elected representatives. While there have been some good and very much needed changes over the last 50 years, all the changes are not good. The good and bad changes could be editorial in their own right. But this editorial is about understanding. The bottom line, conservatives believe in the constitution as it was written. It is not a living document that is to change will changing times. Everything can be administered by sticking to the constitution. No one branch of government may change the constitution without going through the process set up by the founders. Conservatives are angry that Obama has flipped off the Congress, and changed the constitution in many ways. His use of executive orders is a flagrant abuse of power. Conservatives are angry that a republican held congress has done little to stop Obama. We are especially angry at the Senate. Even with the republicans controlling the Senate majority, it has not been enough to overcome democrat gridlock. While that in itself is one issue, what conservatives are mad at is the seemingly lack of desire of senate republicans to really take on the democrats. We hear the democrats just have to threaten a filibuster, and the senate republicans tuck tail and drop the issue. This is outrageous. Where is the fight? Why are they on the news every night saying the things they are trying to get done, to be only blocked by democrats? By their silence, the democrats win every press release. If there was an attempt to shut down the government, the republican would be at fault. The republicans don’t fight anymore. I’m not saying we need to shut down the government. But all the democrats have to do is threaten the republicans to do it their way, or the government will shut down. The republicans run for cover. This spineless negotiating has to stop. This is why a person like Trump is gotten so much support. Conservatives are just as mad at our own party as we are at Obama. We are mad at our republicans not giving a real fight. To hit the airwaves with our beliefs. What we are trying to do that just gets blocked by the senate democrats.

Example: Kate’s law. A simple law that will put a convicted felon illegal immigrant alien into jail for a minimum of five years, if he enters the country illegally again. Now, what is so wrong with that law? A person that comes into the country illegally. A person that is a convicted felon. If he gets caught illegally coming into the country another time, he goes to jail for five years. Now, what’s wrong with that? This is a convicted criminal that continues to break the law. Shouldn’t there be consequences for breaking the law. So what happens in congress? The house passes the law. It goes to the senate and it dies. The senate democrats, encouraged by Obama, do not want to pass the law. The republicans slowly and quietly let it die, which makes law-respecting conservatives furious. Anyway, that is an example at why we are angry. We are mad as heck, and want a change. We do not believe the establishment even now gets it. Instead, they are plotting on how to defy the will of the republican voters. They are throwing millions of dollars at defeating the anti-establishment candidates. Well, if they don’t honor the vote of the people, they’ll be shocked at the result.

For those of you that sometimes take me to task for not attacking the republicans, what do you say now?

In conclusion, while liberals try to understand conservative anger, they really don’t.

It’s because we are going the direction the liberals want to go. They believe that eventually we’ll get over it and accept it. That is not what we want. 65% of the people do not agree the country is going the right direction.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to [info@kzgn.net](mailto:INFO@KZGN.NET).