



Up Front

View from
Down Under.

By C.J. Hadley

America is in chaos. Tough to know what to believe. Anarchy reigns. Contradictions are the norm. Coronavirus has been brilliant in helping these United States commit national suicide and the effects are frightening.

One of my relatives lives close to the beach north of Sydney, Australia. A serious socialist with long-held beliefs about sharing the wealth, she despises capitalism and “loves the peace of Buddhists in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.” I admit it, I had to look it up, and found that Tibetan Buddhist monks fled to Bhutan in the 12th century. The kingdom has never been conquered, occupied or governed by an outside power and split from India when that country gained independence from British rule in 1947. Its philosophy is “gross national happiness.”

My rellie doesn't think much of America or the fact that I am a white, jew-black-and-brown-loving Christian. She wrote: “I believe Trump is incompetent but that's no attack on you. I don't want to belong to any religious sect but that's no attack on you. We can only learn and grow from communication with people who hold different views and share their thoughts without contempt and anger so that we can all grow to work together. Your leader in America has no compromise in mind and the poor and disabled are following him in hope for America to be *great* again. What's great about America right now?”

She wants to help me learn the truth and added: “The world is talking about how bad it is in America and it appears that Trump is not handling this huge world crisis seriously. Americans are losing their lives when better can be done by them knowing the truth. I hope this video from CNN reaches you and you watch it with calm and understanding.”

I watch CNN, MSNBC and FOX regularly and the link was a breathless Don Lemon mimicking Obama's slow and precise words, while stating proven-inaccurate information. I watched, calmly, and sent her a meme about Obama that said, “Never has a president left office to collude with others to impede the

next sitting president of the United States of America, until Obama.” She replied: “That is just bitchy. It's awful. Nobody's perfect.”

“That's true,” I replied. “Worst president in history unless the point was to destroy our constitutional Republic, increase poverty and encourage socialism and more government.”

Then she dropped a classic: “All you need to do is bring the Constitution up to date. It was written in a hurry and needs fine tuning. Not by any political party but by selected intellects. Obviously, the system hasn't worked with so much animosity all over the Nation so it needs repeal. Loose ends could be clarified and we can do it by working together.”

I know my country. I love it. I am American by choice. I have been inspired by this magnificent place and its people for decades. Now it is being bludgeoned, bloodied, and lied about. One hillbilly opined about the Oz's views: “Can only explain the anti-American attitude by supposing that in Australia, each pack of Kool-Aid is sold with a liter of 180-proof grain alcohol. The obvious solution would seem to be changing that to wood alcohol, which by the way is very much like socialism—rather *toxic* and often *fatal*!”

And then my rellie brought in bigger guns (the woman who married her ex-husband) after reading a brilliant (my opinion) quote by former Congressman Trey Gowdy: “What kind of name is that? The mind boggles. He is a total conspiracy theorist and does not know it. If he does not know it, then he is a deeply flawed character. If he is a deliberate perpetrator of conspiracy theories then he is actually on the side of the vested interests us ‘lefties’ believe are ruining and running the world.”

Two Australians with serious opinions on these United States last month were just a couple too many. I was looking for the wood alcohol. And to add to the strange fodder, there was an extraordinary quote by a brown leader of Black Lives Matter in London. A reporter asked why BLM wanted to destroy the statue of Sir Winston Churchill. “Well, I haven't talked to him yet,” she said, “but he is a white supremacist.” Churchill died in 1965 after saving the Brits from becoming German in World War II. Ignorance reigns.

I asked my Ozzie rellie which country she considers the most successful. “The only place that I believe is close to equality and socialist ideals is Bhutan. I wanted to go but I think I've left it too late. Fancy a trip there with me? Their only problem I know about is the glaciers are melting and they are being flooded.”

Thanks, Sis, but not right now. I am a climate skeptic and we have a country to save. ■