

Portnoy and Politics

by Phillip W. Weiss

Some predicted that the Trump election would spawn massive demonstrations. They were wrong. People are genuinely outraged and disgusted by the Dem political agenda. Yet the Dems are doubling down on their program to incite division and hate. The Dems politicize everything. They politicize crime, weather, environment, the economy, energy, international relations, immigration and any other issues not to resolve the issue but rather to use the issue to pander to a real or imagined political base. That is pathetic and dangerous and places the well-being of the United States at risk.

The Dem party is driven by hate. This hate is the result of unresolved psychosocial issues producing frustration and anger which then are projected onto society. This syndrome is dramatized in the novel Portnoy's Complaint by Philip Roth. In this book, the principal character, Alexander Portnoy, is a Jewish-American man with unresolved anger resulting from the parent-child relationship which distorts his sense of identity and denies him the opportunity to truly enjoy life. He projects this anger onto society, which he perceives as an extension of his parents' phoniness and hypocrisy.

Thus, Portnoy becomes a political activist involved with promoting human rights while at the same time wanting to fuck whores and sneering at the very people he ostensibly wants to save. Portnoy's warped hypocrisy causes him to

sabotage personal relationships with women who care for him and to stay angry at his parents even after he becomes an adult and moves away. For Portnoy, sex becomes not a source of joy but a source of shame and his whole life becomes a sham as his sexual perversions become more pronounced and his life more dysfunctional, causing him to seek psychiatric care.

While ostensibly a champion of civil rights for the underprivileged, Portnoy is in fact a snob and elitist who simultaneously wallows in self-hate for being a Jew and perceiving himself as a living stereotype of the ugly Jew with a gangly body, frizzy hair, and the large, hooked nose. Portnoy denigrates his father as a hapless loser, his mother as an overbearing shrill, and his sister as brainless lump of lard. Portnoy blames all his unhappiness and rage on external psychosocial factors beyond his control and thus a hapless victim of circumstances. He refuses to take responsibility for causing his own distress. He rejects the one woman who loves him because she offends his intelligence and tries to rape another woman who becomes a target for his rage. Portnoy's only redeeming quality is his talent for self-depreciation.

Superficially he lives a conventional middle-class lifestyle, but he is fundamentally a sexual pervert who is finding it more difficult to suppress his perverse sexual urges, which include exhibitionism, voyeurism, incest, and masochism. Portnoy envies the size of his father's genitals, craves his mother's body, and fantasizes about his sister's bra to gain sexual gratification.

Portnoy derives no pleasure from the sexual act since he really wants to fuck his mother about whom Portnoy harbors unresolved sexual fantasies.

Hence, psychologically Portnoy is a closet motherfucker who wants to fuck his mother but is prevented from doing so by social conventions that deem such an act as taboo. Portnoy projects his frustration onto the society which Portnoy reimagines as systematically unjust and racist and therefore a worthy and deserving target for Portnoy's rage.