

Yung America

Part I: A Post COVID World

Doug Goldwater

One of my favorite things in music, esp. in rap music, is when people take old samples, and use them in new songs. Of course, no one would take a bad sample from a shitty song. They'd take the best parts and mix them with a new song. In a post-COVID world, we should do that with our society. We can't simply go on as if everything is the same. In fact, we can't pretend that American society in 2019, or 2015 for that matter was a model in the first place. We should take the good parts from the old, and mix them with good new ones, particularly at the governmental level. Above all, we must continue to have a free society, and prevent the call for authoritarianism and the government controlling what people do. This will certainly come in different forms, and we must put a stop to this. This could come in the form of a post-9/11 like Patriot Act, or the EARN It Act currently in Congress. It could also, and likely will, come from some in Silicon Valley and the corporate mainstream media. Heat maps that dive into your data and track your movement may in some ways help to stop the spread of COVID 19, but any mandate for people to do this is wrong and almost certainly unconstitutional. There will surely be similar ideas coming from someone, and we must resist this.

Secondly, the way we think about the economy, and government policy related to it needs to be drastically improved. Instead of merely supporting the market, we need the market to support the vast majority of the American people. To be clear, I am not a communist or a socialist, nor am I a free market corporate shill. We must look beyond the Cold War "capitalist vs socialist" battle, and onto the future. We must have new ideas that will lead us forward while still having some sort of free market, where you can survive without working 40+ hours a week for a job you hate, AND where you freely start a business you want and make some cash. To start, we can and should abolish poverty. Yes, you heard me correctly. We **can** abolish poverty. It is not actually all that difficult to do- we just need to have our priorities and main incentives realigned, and we need to put the politicians in place that will be committed to fight for just that. Here is how we can abolish poverty(+ hunger) in a few simple steps.

1. Universal Basic Income- **At least \$1000 a month for every American adult.** In addition to, not a replacement for most current welfare programs. You can spend this on whatever the fuck you want, but you'll have a guaranteed safety net if you are out of work. This is especially important right now w/Coronavirus, and will continue to be important as automation threatens millions of jobs over the next decade.
2. Universal Healthcare- Guaranteed healthcare free for everyone at the point of service. The government can act as our insurer for everyone that wants it. Will include essential medications such as insulin, inhalers, etc.
3. Universal Basic Food- everyone who wants it can get free access to a variety of nutritious products made by American farms- delivered either to a market near you, or to your door. In addition to current SNAP benefits, etc.

That's it. Not that hard is it? You didn't receive basic nutrition, healthcare services, and cash and become a Lenin-loving, America-hating Bolshevik? Didn't think so. I do not plan on overthrowing the American government, I simply want to improve the system so that it actually represents the people as democracy is supposed to be. But I am afraid that if we do not change the economy, esp. in these dire times, there will be a movement of communists or Nazis or whoever the fuck, and they will not be as easy on the establishment as I am. Young people are waking up, and they are not trusting the government like they used to. We can help fix this by giving the American people opportunities. (and also by backing off the foreign wars we hardly ever hear about). Other countries could look to us as a model if we lead by example, and help to get their own shit together. Teddy Roosevelt had a Fair Deal, FDR had a New Deal, and we need a New Fair Deal, or whatever the fuck you want to call it. So let's get our heads out of our asses, and fight for what needs to be done. Put your ideas together, support candidates who will fight for them, or run for office yourself. We can work this shit out, but if you do nothing but bitch on Twitter, it ain't happening. There is no time to wait. It's Our Time!