

Leftist Lexicon Word of the Week

Did you know you're oppressed? Oh, you may not think you are, but you totally are! At least, that's what the Left wants you to believe. Yep, in one of the most affluent and relatively freest countries in the world, you are literally under the thumb of The Man.

Meanwhile in the real world, we live in a world where the most oppression most of us face is having to wait for the microwave to reheat our food. Maybe the Left has a very liberal (pardon the pun) definition of oppression.

So, let's take a look at it.

oppression

What the Left thinks it means – a systematic attack on minorities and people without power by people with power, usually white men

What it really means – something we here in America really don't experience as often as the Left wants us to believe

In the grand scheme of things, everyone goes through hardships, ranging from family issues to being seen in a Justin Bieber shirt during Sturgis. What separates hardships from oppression is who is causing the hardships. If you can point to an actual person who is devoting his/her life to making your life crap, you might be oppressed. If you can't, you might be overstating your problems and creating a Boogeyman with less substance than a Paris Hilton novel. Or a Paris Hilton Post-It-Note, for that matter.

One of the cornerstones of Leftist ideology is everyone is a victim, except if you're a straight white male. And if you

don't see it, it's because you've "internalized" the oppression and, thus, are used to it. In other words, if you don't see what oppression the Left says you're experiencing, you're dumb.

And the Left wonders why Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 Presidential election using that same line of thinking...

The key to this approach is getting potential victims to believe they're being oppressed. For most people, that's hard to do, but for those who lean Left or who have been filled with Leftist dogma for years (thanks, public education system), it's much easier. I can speak directly to this, being a recovering Leftist.

When you're a Leftist, you are lead to believe everything sucks, but it's not your fault. In order to maintain both illusions, Leftists create faceless villains, dark conspiracies, and more enabling than a bad AA sponsor. It's easy to believe in the existence of a smoke-filled room where the richest 1% plot to screw over the 99% as much as possible so they can make as much money and maintain as much power as possible. If you don't think I'm right, just listen to any Bernie Sanders supporter discussing economics.

An additional factor that makes the oppression game so successful is youth. When you're young, your mindset can be molded by those who you trust. That's why it's important to understand who is influencing your children. When you pump a young person's mind from an early age to value fairness (at least as the Left defines it), tell them the world isn't fair, and offer a solution in the form of a Leftist squawking point, you have a ready-made believer in oppression. (And to think these folks are going to be tomorrow's leaders. Yay?)

Of course, there's one big problem with the oppression mindset: we aren't being oppressed in any real way. What the Left calls oppression, most people call First World Problems.

Two gay people can't get married? That's not oppression; that's a missed opportunity for folks in the wedding industry. The gap between the rich and poor too wide for your tastes? That's not oppression, either. That's an opportunity to look further into economic trends to see whether the gap is because of people going up or down financially. You know what is oppression? Being female and/or gay in Islamic fundamentalist countries, being intellectually curious in China, and being poor in North Korea, just to name three examples off the top of my head. Compared to these three examples, the "oppression" the Left sees everywhere is waiting in line at Starbucks behind one other person who knows exactly what he/she wants.

As pervasive as the Left's approach is, it's not unbeatable. It's important to remember we can simultaneously believe we aren't oppressed and we can still make things better for everyone. Oh, and that Leftist solutions are as useful as IT security advice from Debbie Wasserman Schultz. When you really think about it, we are living in a pretty free country that is also surprisingly free from oppression. Of course, the ones who tend to find oppression under every rock also tend to be the ones who want to add more government regulations, which tend to make things more...oppressive.

Funny how that works out, isn't it?