

## Where Did We Lose Our Way?

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Where did the country lose its way? That's a tough one. It may be helpful, though, to take a look at the path followed *before* it lost its way. I claim the words of John Kennedy mark that path. Kennedy made some blunders as all presidents do but he was right on the money when he said that we should ask what we can do for our country and not what it can do for us and that we would pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders support policies which are contrary to these ideas. We seem to be asking more and more *from* our country as we nudge close to socialism. At the same time, far from asking what we can do for our country, we seem to be seeking ways to destroy it by erasing history, institutionalizing a new racism, and adding debt that only a bankruptcy will resolve.

As for the success of liberty, we seem willing to ignore the extraordinary achievements which liberty has produced. We are even willing to claim such liberty and achievements have a malevolent intent and we should cast about for replacements. The freedom of achievement based on merit, hard work and self reliance should be replaced by guaranteed income, advancement based on identity, and cradle-to-grave government support. Even more chilling, we seem willing to form alliances with countries that eschew liberty for their own people without any serious attempt to challenge that country's behavior.

The effect of such self doubt about our country is of course not lost on our adversaries who understand that it may blind our leaders to the intentions of those adversaries as our leaders pursue a course of appeasement when a better course would be one of a confident offense. Further, such doubts make our country ripe for attack by a country with no such doubts.

During the Trump administration there was a flicker of hope we had found our compass and were returning to Kennedy's vision. Unfortunately, the Biden administration is steering a return course to the social and economic disasters of the Obama years. China, of course, is keenly aware of this. And, it may well be they see their lack of aggression during the Obama years as a missed opportunity, Trump's failed reelection as dodging a bullet and Biden's election as a second opportunity.