

America,
“You have come a long way babe”
Farid Younos

It was in my February 15, 2016 article “Clinton II,” where I predicted Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the next president of the United States of America. That day is on the way to be the next president of this oldest democracy.

America struggled hard for equality and civil rights. From July 19-20 1848, in Seneca Falls New York where Elizabeth Cady Stanton initiated her equal right movement for women to August 26, 1920 in which the 19th amendment granted full voting rights to women in America. We have observed a monumental task and achievement. After that day, American democracy was half baked but not fully.

It was in 1869 that slavery was abolished. Another step forward for justice and equality. The path for a true democracy was underway until August 6, 1965 in which the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed by the 36th President of the United States, President Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-73). The motto of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the 16th President, a Republican, who said “Government of the people by the people for the people” was truly shaping the sociopolitical aspect of this country.

On the path to equality, It was on June 12, 1987, that Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, a Republican, in his most famous speech, at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin, Germany, addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, then the President of the Soviet Union to unify Germany saying “Tear down this Wall.” That message was not only a blow to the Soviet communist un-humanistic policies, but also a message to humanity that dividing people by ideologies is against human rights and the dignity and integrity of the people.

Today, unlike Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan, the Republican party with its front runner Mr. Trump is off track. Lincoln managed to make democracy more accessible to all strata of society; Mr Trump tries to dismantle that by being anti-Muslim and anti-minorities.. Reagan said “Tear down this Wall ” and Mr. Trump tries to build a wall between Mexico and the US. Whereas Republicans earlier wanted to be more inclusive in their approach, it looks like today it is all one race campaign that embraces racism, discrimination and biases. Just as the Taliban and ISIS want Muslims to go back 1400 years, Mr Trump wants America to go back before 1869!

America achieved a great deal in term of gender equality and civil rights.. Almost eight years ago we sent to the White House an African American. It is time that we send to the house of the people a woman who is highly qualified and understanding. America cannot afford to go back to the 1800s. America, “you have come a long way babe”

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