

The Capital

Opinion

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America is embroiled in a second civil war

We are in the middle of the second American Civil War. This is not a shooting war between North and South over slavery, but a war between the Democratic and the Republican Party over the basic civic values of democracy and corporate power. Unaffiliated voters are mere Conscientious Objectors. I am re-reading Huntington's 2004 book: "*Who Are We?*". His analysis helps explain how we got into this war. Flaws in our basic Constitution over the meaning of "*all men are created equal*" led to a Civil War in 1861. It took us almost 100 years to mostly heal these wounds. We reached the peak of our nation's ability to live up to the "*American Creed ...of the essential dignity of the individual human being, of the fundamental equality of all men, and of certain inalienable rights to freedom, justice, and a fair opportunity*" after WWII with President Kennedy's plea: "*Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country*". We began our 50-year decline into this Civil War with President Reagan's statement that "*...it is your money*". The Republican Party found that it was to its electoral advantage to play to division and hatred of "Others" based on religion and race. As a party that represents a minority of our citizens on economic and environmental issues, it needed emotional issues that could generate hate and civil disobedience. No longer would Republicans seek "*E Pluribus Unum*". We have seldom had a more critical election.

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