## IF YOU WANT TO EAT AT MY TABLE, USE GOOD TABLE MANNERS, PLEASE

When the President of the United States of America invites members of the US Senate to come to the White House to attend a social function, it is not expected that sparks will fly, with Democrats, attacking Republicans, rightists, attacking leftists, advocates of a free-market economy, attacking staunch socialistic adherents.

When US senators meet dignitaries and leaders of Communist countries at such functions, they shake hands, smile, exchange pleasantries, for the most part, and then circulate in order to meet other guests.

It is as though there be no differences of opinion between the combatants when outside their respective venues for expressing political persuasions.

The most successful diplomats and professional politicians, especially those involved in international politics, rarely adopt an adversarial stance at social occasions since this is, internationally, considered in very poor form.

This goes doubly for those diplomats and politicians from Western democracies, whose ideas are diametrically opposed to the Authoritarian doctrines of the East.

Further, what can be accomplished by a frontal attack, aimed at embarrassment rather than construction when confronted at a social function by an individual who, in another venue, may well be a political adversary?

This has got to be the reason that the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) does not invite (so-called) democrats from the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to official and/or social functions, either in the HKSAR or in the PRC.

When the National Day Celebrations of the PRC were held, recently, in Beijing, it was noted that no member of the HKSAR 'right' was invited to attend.

It was said that there were murmurings, among the Democrats, about this seeming snub.

But, can one blame PRC Government ministers and minor PRC Government officials, involved in the selection process, of persons to be included to join in festivities of any importance, when it is well known that most of the HKSAR democrats are extremely adversarial by nature, and find it difficult to restrain themselves when in the company of their political enemies?

The PRC Government's feeling is, clearly, this: If they -- the HKSAR democrats -- cannot act civilly, then for what reason should they spoil the spirit of camaraderie, which is hoped to be engendered at the function to which consideration is being given to inviting them?

Catching bees is much easier when one uses honey; since vinegar is unlikely to be a suitable enticement for the foraging insects.

The Government of the People's Republic of China is committed to a Communist dogma.

Say what one might about this Chinese-styled, Communist regime, but say not that it is not a success, in terms of order and feeding the most populous country in the world.

In the 5,000-year history of China, this is the first time that its peoples have been completely united under one banner; and, this country, for all the international criticism, levelled against it (not without good reason), it has enjoyed 50 years of relative peace and calm, with little to no internal squabbling.

One may compare modern China with what is happening in Eastern Europe, with The Russian Federation, being engaged, year after year, in fighting between breakaway provinces, all wanting to establish their own little governments.

In World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill is said to have remarked that Poland was not a country, at all, but a disease.

What he meant by this remark was that the Poles were an undisciplined bunch and were, always, bickering over trivia, and, that it was unlikely that there could ever be a consensus on anything in that mixed-up European country.

In the Middle East, one sees similar problems, with one Muslim nation, facing off against another Muslim nation -- with both nations, claiming that the 'Jihad' -- Holy War -- is for the sake of the dignity, honour, and love of Allah.

As a result of constant attacks on each other, both sides lose.

Most Middle Eastern countries can never be united in anything because of petty jealousies, and the inability of these peoples, all of the same ethnic background, to be tolerant of their fellows.

It is said that politics is the art of compromise, but, in the case of the democrats of the HKSAR, it appears that the word, *compromise*, does not exist in the dictionary of the far right.

As a result, the Government of the PRC is apprehensive that, if a member of the HKSAR far right were invited to attend a function, hosted by the PRC Government, or any high-ranking member of it, the HKSAR democrat might not act in accordance with acceptable protocol -- notwithstanding good manners.

A difference of opinion, even a violent difference of political opinion, does not, necessarily, mean that either party is wrong ... in fact, it is possible that both parties are only partly correct.

In most parts of Europe, prior to the outbreak of World War II, only virgins were considered suitable candidates for weddings where wealth or nobility was concerned.

It is highly unlikely that most of the former European, socialite brides of the 1930s were virgins because, nature, being what it is, caused young girls to be just as interested in their bodies, then, as they are, today.

But, in any parts of Italy, today, and especially in what is considered good Catholic families, in both Spain and Portugal, it is still considered important that a bride be a virgin on her wedding night.

Hypocrisy has been a stumbling block in the establishment, and continuance, of social mores since man first determined that he would pair bond for a long period of time with his opposite gender number.

The Communists of the PRC are just as corrupt as the democrats of the HKSAR, or, for that matter, just as corrupt as the fervent advocates of democracy in any other country.

Socialism has been a political reality for many hundreds of years, and there appears to be a wide-spread acceptance of socialism in the 'democratic' country of Canada.

Prolonged socialism, it is said, leads to Communism, but, in the case of Canada, it has not done so, in spite of there being an active Communist Party in Canadian politics.

To allow a Communist Party in Canada has proved to be more of a boon than a bane because it allows Canadians to employ the logic of the Doctrine of the Unity of Opposites.

This Doctrine states that one may only know good by knowing bad, black by knowing white, beauty by knowing ugliness, etc.

As a result, the Communist Party of Canada has never been very successful, and is unlikely, ever to be successful.

If the HKSAR democrats want to be invited to PRC Government functions, then there must be assurances that their presence will not be an embarrassment to their hosts.

It must follow that, like a father who disciplines his child, if the child cannot behave himself at the dining table, then the child will have to eat, by himself, in the kitchen.

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