

WHY DO YOU HATE AMERICA?

by roger solis

This question is not directed to al-Qaeda, the Taliban, North Korea, Iran or any of the maligned Latin American leaders. It's us. Look around you! In recent years, we are guilty of "hating America" or being enablers to others who "hate America." Whether its right wing conservatives declaring that only parts of the country are the real America with true Americans or left leaning liberals who constantly criticize, we all need to stop hating. It's time to love America again and reclaim this country for its entire people. We as Americans have a moral obligation to do so.

We are now at a pivotal point in the destiny of our country and its people. We have gone beyond just voting for the candidate that makes us most comfortable (someone you can drink a beer with is warm and fuzzy, however, disastrous for the world). I challenge all of us to put our special, selected interests aside and quit being divisive and practice inclusiveness. Divisiveness is the tactic of those who hate America (divide and conquer). It is the moral obligation of a democracy to seek and implement the most good for the most people. We now have an opportunity to end the hate:

LET'S STOP THE "HATE AMERICA" SYNDROME!

End the war in Iraq (dishonestly called the war on terrorism). Whether through lies or stupidity we have become involved in an occupation of a sovereign country killing citizens who have nothing to do with the war on terrorism. Americans have higher ideals than this, let us end the occupation. The occupation is shameful to our sense of justice. Why spend five trillion dollars on Iraq and not on New Orleans, America's infrastructure, or education. I love America, the choice is obvious.

I love America, I want it to be great, to be respected in the world community. As a superpower we have to provide leadership that earns that respect. Those who hate America lead us to believe that we don't need the cooperation of other nations and as a result our beloved country is a paper tiger. **We are in more danger from our arrogant and ignorant foreign policy than terrorism.** Those who hate America create the reasons for others to hate us. Where is our compassion in Darfur? Where is our leadership in the Arab-Israeli conflict? And, Latin America is ignored or taken for granted. Iran cannot be ignored until they meet our requirements. That is as foolish as saying that Iran will ignore us until we meet their requirements. The list goes on and on: North Korea, Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan. If you hate America, continue with the arrogance and uncooperativeness and surely you will get an impotent America.

I love the American ideals of hard work, cooperative efforts, and innovation. However, we have become complacent and developed a sense of entitlement. America haters want Americans to be fat dumb and lazy. We have become a nation of consumers and not producers. We have allowed rampant greed to run our business and economy. Now we are faced with its consequences. American haters relish the increasing disparity between rich and poor, the elimination of the middle class and the creation of a subservient class. **If we love this country, we can not continue laissez-faire business.** We have to be ready to sacrifice, tighten our belts and hold business and government leaders accountable. Thank God social security wasn't "privatized" by the greed of Wall Street.

Substance abuse can wreck a person's life. When it is someone we love, we try to help them overcome the problem, through some program or therapy. You want your loved one to live a happy and productive life. I love America. **I want us to kick the oil habit. I want us to stop enriching the producers.**

America has the genius to accomplish that goal. If you hate America then you take great pleasure (and riches) from Americans suffering for the next hit. Let's take the lead in providing the technology for clean alternative energy.

America is the most medically advanced country in the world, yet our health care standards are very low. **Those who hate Americans want to sustain this indentured servitude to the health care industry by making health care so expensive.** Every American has the right to the pursuit of happiness and being healthy contributes greatly to that. We need to take personal responsibility for our health. Stop the addiction to overeating, unhealthy substances, and talking those magic pills for whatever ails us. We need a health care system that prevents illness, not just cure them. Let's spend 85 billion on health care for everyone instead of bailing out a company that failed because of stupidity and greed.

These are just five ways to show love for America and its people. Let's unite in this new era of hope and work towards the common goal of making lives better for everyone. Let's stop being manipulated by wedge issues that deny us our humanity, common sense, and fair play. I love America; together we can make this country great for everyone! Where do you stand?

