

# The Lights are Going out and I am Ashamed

*Daniel J. Basta, 2024*

The hope and promise of freedom, liberty, a life free from oppression and a fair shake in the pursuit of a better life is wanning around the entire world. The 'beacon' of the great American experience as a representative government by the people and for the people is flickering out. Has America shaken by turmoil from within lost its way and has its identity been irrevocably altered? Have our energies drifted from sustaining a representative government to how to exploit it. A wave of indifferent ignorance has gripped the Nation fanned by forces driven by elitism, greed, the pursuit of wealth at any cost, a craving for power, and an over whelming intolerance. The great American contributions to freedom everywhere that shined so brightly, the Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution, are fading into interesting historic curios through a reckless ignorance. This charge of "ignorance" bristles most Americans and it should because they should be ashamed of what their indifference has led to.

The "man on the street interviews" of the late-night talk shows which we find so funny are "a tell." Those hilariously funny uninformed individuals show us the face of indifferent ignorance in America. A "free rider" ignorance that cares only for what can be done for them and now. **I am ashamed.**

**I am ashamed:** Of Americans that ignorantly shun Science in the time of pandemic for their own convenience, need of ego, or political purpose.

**I am ashamed:** Of Americans who unwittingly through their ignorance help place the yoke of tyranny around their necks by looking the other way when democracy is being diminished by turning democracy against itself.

**I am ashamed:** Of Americans who blame everyone else or the "system" for all things. While it is us who have raised the sons and daughters that run the businesses and governments of America with profound ignorance to the American ideal and it's principles.

**I am ashamed:** Of an America that abandons its allies and supports the rise of totalitarians everywhere and allows the world to lose hope and drift into darkness.

**I am ashamed:** Of the politicians who say nothing, nor stand up for the most basic principles of American democracy and the rule of law, and I am ashamed of the ignorant electorate that keep them in office.

**I am ashamed:** That my country has been so damaged by the ignorance of its citizens, that the bright lights of the America I knew and loved are flickering out.

**There is no free lunch and Americans must shake off the fog of ignorance and work in unity to sustain their representative government and freedoms.**