

Change: A Necessary and Possible Response to Disaster

By: Anthony Yoshida

We wake up every day to many updates, headlines, and press conferences. Occasionally these updates are positive, we hear that our efforts are working and that we are making progress against this pandemic. Most of the time, the overwhelming majority of the time, we are met with bad news and are told that despite our efforts, we need to push harder or that plans are in motion that could erase all the progress we have made.

It's these reminders, these daily updates that signal to us that there is something wrong. Of course, we know that there is a problem. Otherwise, our neighbors, friends, and family would not be falling ill and dying at a rate that is unconscionable in a country, with so much wealth and power, that it should be well equipped to handle disasters like the one we find ourselves in today. There is a problem much deeper than the pandemic at hand.

The system that we have built, our government that we uphold is failing to do what we need it to do. The country that we all love is letting us down. We find our state governments scrambling for resources, struggling to handle the situation at hand despite their best efforts. Our leaders in the highest offices are finding it hard to create solutions, and our President in a press conference has proposed looking into using disinfectants like Lysol to be used in our bodies. Leaders in Washington try to pass relief and bailouts to corporations before families.

We are in a crisis. The actions we take to get ourselves out of this crisis, and to ensure that we are never in this situation again is critical. In the most significant crisis, is where the biggest change is possible. The Great Depression gave birth to the New Deal, which created a historical public works movement that gave birth to some of America's most iconic structures, including the Golden Gate Bridge and the Hoover Dam. This change put America on its feet, and we need that now more than ever.

My point, though, is not about building dams and putting America to work. The change we need is a different kind of structural change. One where we come out of this crisis running, one where we use this disaster as a wake-up call to make the change that helps Americans not just survive but to live the American dream whatever that dream may be.

If we do not change now, if we will not stand up and say enough lies, enough cheating, enough corruption, we will have chosen our fate. This government has not delivered and has only made things worse for the majority of Americans. It is time for a change, and you make that change, your neighbors, friends, and family make that change. It is an effort by the American people.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or an Independent, think about the situation you find yourself in today and ask yourself if this is what you want for America but also ask if this is what you want for your kids and your grandkids because what happens today will impact generations to come.

We have to vote accordingly to our values. Chances are if you want to ensure that every American has the opportunity to walk out of this pandemic regardless of their race or wealth, there is a vote to be made in November that will make that change possible, if not, at least easier. Systemic change, for better or worse, needs to happen, and if we can get that change even one small step at a time, we need to pounce on every opportunity we get with urgency.

Vote like your life depended on it. Make change like your life depended on it. It is no longer a luxury. Your life does depend on it, and we can now see, without doubt, the consequences of inaction are inequality, injustice, and even death.