

Ideas not Ideology

There is a culture-defining struggle between Ideas and Ideology in America today.

Ideas are open and expansive;
Ideologies are closed and restrictive.

Ideas are enlightening, adaptable, and pragmatic
– they help solve problems;

Ideologies are obscuring, immutable, and debilitating
– they exacerbate problems.

But we have to ask, because it's almost a punchline -- do ideas even matter anymore in American politics and in our national civil discourse; *OR*,

As the weight of the evidence seems to suggest,

Has the fevered grip of categorical ideologies become so divisive, partisan, visceral, emotional, and subjective that *ideas no longer matter*.

For the ideologically pure, there is no room for ideas, discussion, debate, explanations, creativity, or counterpoints.

Right here, right now, the ideological barbarians are at the gate clamoring to take more of what they have not earned, to disassemble that which they did build nor to which did they contributed.

We must hold the line. Ideas do matters.

And, in practice ideas must be protected from being weaponized into harmful ideologies, as politicians, mainstream media, and podcasters so often to do.

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