

SEX IN POLITICS, A SUMMARY

by Melvyn Lurie, M.D.

See also: *Sex In Politics, A Primer*, free on www.SexInPolitics.com, and *Sex In Politics*, The book, coming soon on Kindle and other media

Science has advanced largely by the reductionist approach. The idea is that by reducing what we observe into smaller and smaller parts, we can understand the most fundamental building blocks and thus understand the whole. This reaches the point of what is called the uncertainty principle, something hard to fathom, even by diehard hard scientists.

From time to time, however, we must combine the parts that have been observed and see how they explain the whole, even if we run into uncertainty going in that direction as well. The data are more diffuse, softer, and less amenable to the presumed certainty of experiment, with controls and thus proof.

I was originally schooled in a relatively hard science, biology, and then medicine. I became more and more comfortable with uncertainty, however, when I became a psychiatrist and had to deal with soft science.

As I struggled to understand how the facts of life determined societal life, I came to realize that the policies and styles of the two American political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, can be understood biologically as reflecting the sexual roles of women and men. Most of what I point to is familiar to all of us. It is only the emphasis on some fundamentals and how they all tie together that explains this.

To understand what I mean by this, one must understand several aspects of life. First and foremost, for there to be life, a being must survive and reproduce. The information about how this is accomplished is programmed in genes and carried from one generation to the next. If the environment changes, those individuals able to survive in it are selected to continue.

Survival is markedly improved if there is a large degree of variation between the members of a given species, so that at least some can survive as the environment changes. Sex provided this variation.

Plants and many animals have thousands of offspring, ensuring that at least some of them will survive if the environment changes. These species do not spend much time on any individual offspring.

Many other animal species have only a few offspring at a time. Some of these animals do the work of building a nest for reproduction. Some species hide or otherwise protect their nests and then leave it alone. Other species, like birds, bees, and humans, actively protect it. They also actively give birth and raise their offspring in it. They fortify it, and they keep it clean and comfortable for their offspring. They bring food and other necessary resources into it and remove waste and dirt from it. That is, there is a range of ways in which the basic life functions of survival and reproduction occur.

Genes work by programming the body, including the brain and thus its function called the mind. The human brain can see different aspects of things. Instead of merely food, humans invented money, which can buy food and other necessary resources for survival and reproduction. Trade and jobs generate money to buy food and those resources.

The human mind makes us aware of ourselves and our environments, but there is much in our brains/minds that we are unaware of, i.e. unconscious of. These are largely many fundamental aspects of survival and reproduction, as well as enhancements and limitations placed on them in early life, especially before we learned words for them, i.e. before language developed in each of us.

The human male and female brains are wired differently, with, among other things, females having more connections from the emotional parts of the brain to the thinking parts. Pleasurable emotions drive survival and reproductive behavior; painful emotions occur if survival and/or reproductive behaviors are blocked. Anxiety is what we feel when we might fail at survival and reproduction.

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In humans, the male engages primarily in survival work outside the nest, acquiring resources and bringing them into it and giving them to his mate for her and their offspring. He also functions outside the nest, fortifying it and protecting its contents, i.e. the reproductive unit of his female mate and their shared offspring. His body and brain/mind are genetically programmed for these functions, i.e. mainly for survival functions.

Human females engage primarily in reproductive work inside the nest. The human female's bodies, especially their breasts, hormones, and brains/minds, are genetically programmed, especially for reproduction. These attributes happen to remain, even after the offspring are independent enough to tolerate her forays outside the nest to engage in the survival behavior of getting food and other necessary resources for it and the offspring.

Another important difference between human females and males is that the female can have many less offspring than human males, requiring even more of a focus on ensuring that each offspring survives well enough to reproduce.

Humans are a social species and can work cooperatively both inside the nest and outside the nest in society to improve survival and reproduction for all of them. The themes of fundamental survival and reproduction of the individual are reflected in society, because humans make up society.

Cooperative behavior in the form of companies begets jobs that beget money for food and other necessary resources. Cooperative behavior begets services and products that support survival, reproduction, and, because humans are so good at this, there is enough time to produce goods and services for recreational activities that are not essential for survival and reproduction, even though they also reflect these functions.

The **Republicans** have adopted the traditional roles of men up until about two generations ago, primarily survival.

Men are programmed to protect the reproductive unit from intruders. They are physically adapted for this, including their bodies, hormones, and brains/minds. Republicans sense danger very keenly. This is extended beyond the nest/home into society, with a focus on protection against internal crime, which could endanger the nest/family, and external enemies, which could endanger the entire society. Republicans value being tough on crime, favor having guns, and insist on spending resources - money - on a strong military. They feel pleasure when it is strong, pain when it is not, and anxiety/stress/pressure when it might not be strong enough for protection. These are human male values and behaviors.

Men also focus on gathering resources - money. They sense opportunities to do so very keenly. They avoid depletion of resources they obtain, in case those resources are unavailable for future survival and reproductive needs. This is extended in society to commerce, with rules agreed to in contracts and with courts to enforce them. Republicans favor jobs, business, and a strong economy. Republicans are pained/feel pressure by spending beyond what they can provide. They are focused on having enough resources for their biologically programmed roles of survival: obtaining resources to give to their offspring and protecting those offspring from intruders.

Men are pained when their autonomy is curtailed, even if it is replaced with resources. They are uncomfortable with big government, which does not let them decide what to do with the resources they are programmed to give to their families. They are also made anxious/nervous and pained, by powerful, intrusive forces. They see efforts by Democrats to help the helpless by taxing as curtailing their autonomy. They also see increasing taxes as building large, powerful, intrusive government. So do Republicans.

Because the essential functions of men are largely outside the nest, men are programmed to be comfortable