

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

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functioning autonomously. To tell a person what to do or how to live or what to say implies that person is incompetent to do so, so they do not value being told or telling others what to do, e.g. with their resources. Republicans are that way, too.

The **Democrats** have adopted the traditional roles and functions of women up until two generations ago - primarily reproduction.

Women are genetically programmed to focus on reproduction, mainly to feed, give resources, and care for their helpless children. Democrats are keenly aware of hunger, illness, and basic needs. They feed the helpless infants with their bodies and the helpless with their behavior. They are attuned to seeing and correcting hunger and suffering and helplessness. They understand and communicate with the non-verbal small children emotionally, as the very young children cannot use words. They feel pleasure/good doing so and pain when not. This is extended in society to helpless adults, victims, disenfranchised, have-nots, and the powerless. It includes spending resources on them. The Democratic Party supports feeding and helping the helpless on welfare, the have-nots, the disenfranchised, the exploited workers, and the helpless, huddled masses of immigrants. Perhaps consciously, but certainly unconsciously, it was a woman, who was chosen to be the sex on the statue of liberty.

Women have a more limited potential for offspring than do males. Women are genetically programmed to want every child, not just the most competent ones, to survive into adulthood and reproduce. They prepare them for the external world by nurturing/raising them. This is extended in society to wanting to educate all children. The Democratic Party places a priority on education for all. The Democrats support all, especially endangered species, which cannot survive on their own, as with children. The Democrats are pained by inequality, especially income inequality and racial inequality.

Women want every child to be healthy. They heal the sick child in the nest. This is extended into society, for example in nursing and volunteering in hospitals. The Democrats support healthcare for all. This gives them pleasure. To ignore this function is painful for them, and they are anxious/nervous, when it appears it might not happen.

Women instruct children. They tell them what to do to survive - and should tell them what they should do to reproduce when and with whom they will be most successful in surviving and producing offspring that survive and reproduce. Democrats are comfortable telling people what to do. They do not consider it critical to imply people do not know what to do, e.g. how they invest their resources, because they see themselves as being moral in reaching out and helping those they consider helpless.

Women keep the nest comfortable and clean of waste. This is extended in society to concern about the environment, wanting it to be clean. The Democratic Party supports a clean environment.

Women are programmed to know what gets into their children. They get into their children's lives, friends, and even diaries more than do men. They do not see such behavior as intrusive, but as helping. Democrats are seen by Republicans as supporting big government, which intrudes into people lives and tells them how they must allocate the resources they worked for. Democrats do not do so directly. Rather, they see a problem, e.g. helpless have-nots, and feel pleasure making policies and rules to support them. They are pained if they do not do this. As this involves taxing, government gets bigger.

Women are affected more by emotions and are able to communicate with their babies before they can speak. This is extended to concern about the emotions of others and pain when others feel pain. The Democrats watch what they say, as names can hurt. They change names and say what is politically correct - to avoid hurting others by making them uncomfortable.

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Implications: The two political parties were not always split along sexual lines, but they are today. This illustrates the evolving priorities on survival and reproduction. It is a biological explanation of current America and current Western Civilization.

The rise and fall of civilizations, which can be called the Civilization Cycle, occurs for various reasons. Attempts to learn from history fail, because what we must learn from is biology. Just as the beaver focuses on getting the next great tree and the next to use for a dam for its nest, we focus on the trees of life. The beaver eventually exhausts the forest or its dam and social system collapse. This is also how it works with the bees. When their nest is unwieldy, another is formed - though the first may continue.

And we humans? We humans focus on the details in our world, such as making and spending money. We focus on who rules us and determines our survival and reproductive priorities. However, the question is whether there is a shift in focus more on spending resources on reproductive functions of caring for the helpless or on the survival functions of making more resources and protection against intruders.

Because we have mastered survival and reproduction, we have time for recreation. Still, our biological functions of survival and reproduction are manifest in non-essential pursuits, such as beauty in art and physicality in entertainment, such as sports. The rudiments of this genetically determined division of labor into survival and reproduction are even manifest inside the nest. There, little boys focus on strength and skill in fighting and machinery, and little girls focus on reproductive functions of caring for dolls. These behaviors and values can be significantly changed by parents and culture. However, they tend to re-appear in the following generation, indicating their control by the genes that transmit selected instructions and capabilities from one generation to the next.

If we do not seek to learn from biology, not just history, we will continually miss the forest. Our civilizations will continue to rise and fall.

If civilizations fall from their excesses, how does this relate to biology? Is it when survival is so secure as to be taken for granted? After all, when a day's work is done or an army's war complete, where do we go? We go into the world of reproduction, the home/nest. When we take the next meal for granted and our physical safety for granted, will we cease to value pursuing them as highly as reproduction and recreation? Do the men and women of successful civilizations come to think it more and more important to devote enormous resources to feeding the helpless poor and supporting expansive military campaigns for resources and pleasure/glory, as did Rome? Is it when Mom stops responding to the kids' yearning for Dad with support for his being out there earning them a living, and she shifts to wanting him to be home or go on a vacation with them instead?

Also, to turn Darwin's theories on their head, what happens to the people who are so successful at survival that they acquire vast resources? Per Darwin, they should have more offspring. However, in America, the rich have *less* children, not more. As those with less adapted survival competence, i.e. the poor, have relatively *more* children, their genetically programmed poor survival competence in obtaining resources will dominate our species. More people will be making less money. The income gap will widen. Eventually, with resource producers in dwindling numbers, and those remaining getting no support or reinforcement for their efforts, society will have even less resource acquiring activity and will collapse.

Unless there is focus on human biology, especially human sexual biology, which, after all, defines human behavior, society, and history, we can never learn why Rome and every other flourishing civilization collapsed. If we do not, Western Civilization will be just another example of the Civilization Cycle.