

Common Ground with Putin?

Something interesting happened the other day. I discovered I may agree with Vladimir Putin. At least at a personal opinion level on one topic; *not* on what (if anything) should be done about it.

Does this make me a Russian collaborator?

Putin wants to “control” rap in Russia. This seems to indicate he doesn’t like rap and believes it has a negative effect on young people. I agree with him on both, even as I disagree that government should get involved (in *anything*).

I can separate my personal opinions from what I believe should be done. And I understand what someone has a right to do and what they don’t. No one has a right to ban a type of self-expression just because they don’t like it.

I *hate* rap. It’s just my opinion based on my personal tastes. I don’t like pit bulls, either. I don’t want government banning or “controlling” either one. Not on my behalf or for any other reason. That’s just my feelings on those things. Every pit bull I’ve met has been gentle, but I still don’t like the breed, and I understand that rap expresses some useful “anti-establishment” themes, but I still don’t like it.

I have noticed a negative effect on my daughter’s psyche since she was first exposed to rap. Yes, it may be correlation rather than causation; she’s reaching that hormone-saturated age, after all. I know banning it from the house would be authoritarian. And pointless. All her friends and frienemies listen to (and *live*) rap almost exclusively, and she’s much more peer-oriented than I ever was. Still, I would have to be blind to not see the effect it seems to be having on her (and the other kids). For that reason, I have asked her to avoid it (and anything else dark and negative) until she seems better able to handle the exposure without evident harm.

This could get “interesting”.

The topic will probably keep coming up in the house for the foreseeable future. No, I don’t have the parenting thing all figured out.

But as much as I hate rap, I wouldn’t support any “law” aimed at suppressing it.