

New Problems in Other Directions

How long have people been voting “for” one candidate, for the sole purpose of voting *against* another one, while saying, “at least it’s a step in the right direction”? I’ve even seen some people who call themselves anarchists doing this. But no, it’s never a step in the right direction. At best, it’s a step in a different *wrong* direction.

Take the example of Ronald Reagan. Of any president elected in a very, very long time, he was the most openly anti-“government.” In his first inaugural address, he famously said, “Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.” How could *that* not be a step in the right direction? But what was the real-world result of the election of the most (supposedly) pro-freedom, anti-“government” president for many decades? A vast *increase* in “government” powers, via the “war on drugs,” and a vast *increase* in militaristic war-mongering. Some might say—and I sort of think this myself—that Reagan in some ways was a troublesome puppet for the puppet-masters. I think he probably actually believed a lot of what he was saying. Nonetheless, if there is even *one* way in which some elected “official” would want to use the “Ring of Power,” *that* is where “government” will grow. “Government” power and control in *one* direction might not grow, but “government” power in some other direction *will*. In other words, a step in a *different* wrong direction, instead of a step in the right direction.

It’s human nature to be most concerned with whatever disaster, problem or injustice you see happening right *now*. And that makes it tough to be objective. If your house was on fire, it’s likely that your *only* concern would be to put out that fire. But if you did that by dropping your house into a lake, you would quickly learn that there are other problems just as bad as fire. And that is the *best* that voting ever is: replacing one problem with a different problem. Usually, it’s not even that good. Usually it’s leaving the old problem where it is, while adding a new problem in another direction. It’s not a “step in the right direction.” Ever.