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The long tradition of anti-intellectualism, mixed with American exceptionalism, mixed with not understanding the history or culture of anywhere else, mixed with extreme individualism, mixed with imperialism.

It's a helluva cocktail.



L Harris
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The long American tradition of anti intellectualism is really showing, innit?
But I am getting tired of being "schooled" on science by arrogant idiots who think they have singlehandedly figured it all out by reading the back of their mass produced cereal packet.

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It seems clear that the residents of TERF-island are going to start more clearly expressing their opposition to being colonised by trans ideology in terms of a rejection of American cultural values and imperialism.

So a few random(ish) notes based on my time living in the States

1. Of course [#NotAllAmericans](#). There are a significant number of Americans amongst the people I love most in the world. They all have pretty much the same understanding of the States as I do.
2. I have never lived anywhere so convinced of its own superiority, and among so many people who assumed I must be falling over grateful to get a chance to live in the greatest nation on earth and would want to stay there. I left as soon as I could.
3. I have never lived in a supposed Western nation that treated its citizens with such implacable contempt and made it so apparent that there was no social contract, and that if you had no money no one gave a fuck about you or your needs.
4. I have never lived anywhere that claimed it was all about freedom but which had more regulations about what you could and could not do, and

which so consistently infantilised and micromanaged people and expected them to constantly jump through bullshit performative hoops.

5. The ignorance of history and other cultures is staggering. Even among students at universities. I once asked a class as an icebreaker, 'where

do we generally consider western culture to have started?' Answer: Columbus. There is also a marked tendency to treat British people as if they have arrived by timetravel from a fog filled Dickensian London. I once had to explain to a colleague in the philosophy department that

it was actually the same year in the UK as in the States.

6. There is a weird individualist tendency to think that your opinion is important and should be respected just because it's your 'opinion.' And very little grasp it seems that not all opinions are as well grounded in

facts and good reasoning as each other. Students would sometimes get very offended when I critiqued their opinions and take it extremely personally. I am trying to teach you shit here people, it's not just a validation exercise!

7. I have never lived anywhere where the

provision of goods and services was so utterly inequitably distributed by wealth. And in which it was apparently acceptable for large chunks of major metropolises to be left in such a parlous state. My cousin once visited me and got a cab from JFK to my flat in Brooklyn through

East New York and Brownsville. When she got out the cab she was white a sheet and all she could say is 'what was that?' It's hard to express how shocking that it to Europeans.

8. Which brings us to. The racial wound and injustice and generational poverty and violence is unlike

anywhere else I have ever seen or experienced. This is not to say Europe does not have issues. It manifestly does. But it is different. And the imposition of Americas absolutely fucked racial wound onto the cultural discourses of other nations is really really toxic.

9. America has a problem with death, and with decay, and with germs, and with the vulnerability of life in general. Everything is sanitised and irradiated to within an inch of its life. This is not conducive to the support of life. And it means the cheese is

really really bad, unless you can afford to go to Whole Foods, or the Brooklyn Food Co-op, where you can buy Roquefort hand-made by a lesbian collective in Oregon. This may seem unimportant, but I think it's representative of something quite profound.

10. As is the fact that

there is a massive dearth of public or municipal flower displays. And in spring time

that used to make me get really really depressed.

From a career point of view, not staying the the US was a really bad move for me. But I just had to leave. And given how history has panned out,

I am never more grateful I came home to TERF-island than I am right now.

I have never been inclined to patriotism. Britain is also fucked up in multiple multiple ways. But I have always loved the Pythonesque grasp of the absurd, the dislike of authoritarianism, the pisstaking,

and the lack of tolerance for bullshit.

And I think they are serving us very well right now.

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