



Things aren't as bad as some suggest

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The national dialogue since Nov. 8 has been interesting. If you listen to some pundits and commentators, you'd probably conclude the apocalypse is just around the corner.

Contrary to the naive assertions of many of my fellow citizens, however, I am not convinced that things are as bad as some obviously seem to think they are. In fact, if you look back at our quarrelsome history as a nation, it becomes pretty obvious we have survived much worse.

Honestly, do you think the sense of dread and despair some have been articulating lately compares with what those living during the Civil War encountered? Or do you really think the problems we are confronting today are comparable to what most Americans endured during the Great Depression?

Even the contentious election cycle that just concluded was relatively tame compared to many from the past. The Trump-Clinton rivalry didn't come close to being the most "outlandish" we've ever experienced. When you have some time, Google the elections of 1824, 1860, 1912, or 1948.

Look, it is not my intention to be condescending to those who are genuinely depressed or otherwise downplay the challenges we currently face. People have a right to their feelings.

But some folks could probably benefit by looking up the word "hyperbole." Dictionary.com defines it as "obvious and intentional exaggeration; an extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally."

This is exactly how I categorize most of the rhetoric that's been flying around the airwaves since Nov. 8. We didn't get this far as a country by going off the deep end whenever things got a little difficult or didn't go our way.

So regardless of how you interpret the results of the election, take heart. I'm sure the 2020 campaign will be underway shortly.

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