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News Archives 2006 II



***Neither Liberal Nor Conservative Be***  
**Book Aims to Take Divisive Polarity**  
**Out of Today's American Political Arena**

**By Lorraine Boyd**  
**The Daily Record**

There's a new direction in American politics today. Polarization has apparently shut down the art of compromise, heck, even the art of discussion. Even moderate (what's that?) radio talk show hosts are lamenting the lack of middle ground. Labels have become sharper – liberal and conservative now imply radical left and right, with no where to go in between. The recent defeat of Democrat Joe Lieberman, who dared to support the war as a "moderate," points out the current polarization that does not allow for compromise.

Enter Omahan Larry R. Bradley, a man with a mission. The former Army major has seen the effects of politics on government from the inside out. He didn't always like what he saw. He likes it less now.

The Missouri native earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Missouri State University with a commission as a Regular Army Infantry Officer. During his Army career, he also earned an MBA in Management from the University of Tennessee.

Bradley split his military career between combat units (with a preference for Mechanized Infantry and Armor) and Research and Development (R&D) activities. His combat unit assignments included commanding a Mechanized Infantry unit in Europe. His involvement in R&D gave him a unique perspective into the political and economic dynamics of military procurement and national defense. During that assignment, he co-authored the Army's revised policy on modifications to Army equipment, a part of Army operations with a price tag at the time as high as \$36 billion.

Following his military career, he went into sales and training. In his website bio, he says that his "passion for the future well being of the country he served so long and his concern for the direction he saw that country

taking caused him to found Kindred Minds Enterprises."

To further his convictions, he has authored the book *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative Be – An Action Plan for People Disgusted by Polarized Politics* which is now available for pre-order, to be shipped September 5, just in time to be digested and acted upon before the national and local elections in November.

The self-published book (he said he didn't have time before the election to go through the conventional publishing process; "it was the quickest route") sells for \$15.95 and is available at [www.kindredmindsent.com](http://www.kindredmindsent.com) and Amazon.com (and will most likely be available at Barnes and Noble as well).

### **Action Plan**

When Bradley says action plan, he means it. The book, and website, include a prototype letter one can send to members of congress. The letter, in part, shares Bradley's philosophy:

"The author wrote this book because he was disgusted by the unending confrontational nature of polarized American Politics. He was furious with the approaches taken to solve our national issues. ... He asks in the book, if, while in the voting booth, I feel forced to choose between the lesser of two evils. He asks if I find myself asking, 'Is this the best we can do?' ... This book is an open letter to the political parties in the United States of America. The book is written in much the same way that you might write a letter to car manufacturers who are not producing a car you are willing to buy. While you might not expect that one of them will give you 100 percent of what you want, you would hope that one of them could give you 85-90 percent of your needs. In the same way, neither of the major political parties is promoting the policies and candidates or taking the actions I can have 85-90 percent agreement with. This book offers your party an opinion of what you must offer me in order to consistently receive my vote. ..."

### **Pulling Out Magnets**

The 6x9-inch softcover book is 200 pages, complete with original illustrations. Bradley said the book is not only written for the general public, but also could be used as a supplemental text for political science courses. "The theme is: The way we talk about politics is so polarized now; what can we do to foster objective discussions?" he said. "We're not so much polarized as misaligned."

Bradley likened the political discussion to the use of a compass, which normally finds true north. When placed by a "magnet" (the losing side of an argument who confuses the direction with emotional terms like liberal) however, the compass can't find north. "Politicians are getting too adept at pulling out magnets," he said. "You need to form your own political philosophy and determine what you believe and why. Then you can look at those governing you [and see if they are in agreement with you]."

"What's more," Bradley says in the book's introduction, "people today are likely to discuss political topics by using the same approach they hear on television and radio, little realizing that is ... a form of theater. ... So, using the language you hear on radio and television invites conflict instead of consensus in your discussion."

He said he is seeking to provide readers with a usable analytical framework without those conditions. He uses the example of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to show that getting not one, not two, but three or more points (of reference) helps to build a truer direction.

Using the car manufacturing analogy, one that he uses in his book, Bradley says to write to those in power and seeking power and tell them what kind of "car" you want, then tell them "whoever builds it, I will buy it."

When asked what he thinks is the possibility that many voters will take the time to determine their beliefs and communicate them to those running for office, he said, "We'll never know unless we try." Right now there are two diametrically-opposed parties and no third way, he said. "We need to tell them, this is what I *really* want. Can we at least have a dialogue?"

We all need to step back and live and let live. We need to learn, he said, to better resist those who would divide us by becoming goal-oriented, not issue-oriented. We need to resist those who would divide us.

"For example, a master comedian knows to tell a small joke first, the audience laughs a little, then tell another joke, the audience laughs harder, and so on, until they can't stop laughing. His timing is impeccable." The comedian manipulates us, which is okay. But when it's a political point of view, not a joke, we need to be resistant.

He cited the new party in Colorado, whose website is Unity08.com. It states that, "Eight out of ten Americans believe Congress is too polarized to solve our nation's problems. Unity08 is a citizens' movement to get our country back on track. Every day – with your support – we're making progress toward this goal."

"Are you choosing the 'lesser of two evils' when you vote?" he asks. "Is this the best we can do? If you think so, then read this book."

Bradley will be promoting his book around the country this fall. He will appear at a seminar for Metro Community College at Westside High School on October 21 from 9 a.m. to noon, and at the Concierge Marketing Booth at the Big O Show at the Qwest Center on October 25.

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