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The thing the liberal intellectuals of the west fail to grasp is that liberalism is a fashion that only exists on a conceptual framework of republicanism— & NGO Democracy is not republicanism, & so there is no “liberalism” of thought, there is the “oligopoly of fashions” — the principles of the Republic were abandoned long ago.

The emphasis on the “democratic institutions” (civil society funded by oligopolic trusts) is at the expense of “popular republicanism” (literacy). To have “professional activists” is to have already abandoned republicanism in favor of managerial oligarchy.

“The expert class does research & engages in discourse so we don’t have to. Our job is to simply tolerate the results & not cause problems.” This is what “democracy” has come to mean.

It is very easy to be a liberal in the sense of just being profoundly apathetic— to adopt new speech codes also apathetically & to abandon them apathetically— to simply “keep up with fashion”— but this is not a civic republican virtue, it is profoundly unserious.

The hidden thesis is this: “it is a good lifestyle to be a liberal academic, it pays well, it is spiritually fulfilling to be respected & there is much leisure. We all get along & have a good time together. We do not take it so seriously.”

& it is a good lifestyle! But— it is not available to the masses! It is a lifestyle for a very small elite who are groomed for this role, & each gatekeeper is ensuring that none of them will “rock the boat” too much. This cannot be translated into a civilizational mode of being.

For the urban menial service worker, nothing is that serious! There’s just “keeping healthy & keeping sane”— that is all! There’s no collective civilizational project, there is only “grooming” — nitpicking, & surveilling for “sickness” in mind & body.

This class cannot begin to imagine life for the majority of Americans— except as reflected online as “a cesspool of sickness” — to them this is “very online” because their environments are clean, healthy, the university with gym attached etc.

The random commenter online is “sick” but the tenured faculty are assuredly “well of mind”— if they were not, they’d be out of the job. They don’t let homeless schizophrenics audit lectures. The population are factory farmed animals— one feels concern for their “health” in the same manner

Oh it’s terrible how those chickens spend their whole lives sick! That’s why I buy organic produce you know. That’s why I don’t go to Thanksgiving anymore. Too many sick turkeys at the table.