

Identity Rising
Julian Langness

This is a significant book. As Langness himself says, the awakening from the long torpor of progressivism is a protean era for philosophers and social thinkers. Langness has composed a far-reaching book that manages to be quite compact while drawing on a very extensive bibliography of classical thinkers and his own contemporaries.

His thesis is that progressivism has failed. America and Europe are beset by problems that are unprecedented in both their nature and their severity. At the top of the list is the onslaught of unassimilable immigrants. The problem is compounded by stupendous levels of debt and a disastrously low birth rate, among many other difficulties.

Langness' two previous books, *Fistfights with Muslims* and *The Coming War in Europe* focused on Europe, where he spent a fair amount of time after graduation from college. In this book he offers a bit more biographical information. He was born in 1985, subjected to the fully cultural Marxist indoctrination to which all public school children seem to be exposed, even in his remote corner of the Mountain West, served as an Obama delegate to the national convention in 2008, then rather quickly concluded that progressivism simply wasn't working, either in the US or in Europe, and that he would make himself an expert on the issues. The first two books chronicle his progress. This is the mature outcome, with significantly more breadth and gravitas.

It compares to *Generation Identity*, the call to arms in Europe, written by a young Austrian and published in France in 2011. The similarity of the titles cannot be accidental.

One wants to remember a book as rich and important as this. I include my reading notes as comments. More than just a five-star effort – this book marks a sea change for the millennial generation.

Comment 1

The procession of generations

Langness begins with a discussion of the procession of generations within his memory. The Greatest Generation were hardened by both the depression and the war. Men of that generation did not question their masculinity. They had been forced to exercise it. Their children, the Baby Boomers, born in the postwar period up to 1964, experienced the greatest period of national wealth in the world's history. They were followed by Generation X, which Langness does not discuss, then the Millennials, born roughly 1980 through the mid 2000s.

Langness begins his discussion with a book entitled "The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy – What the Cycles of History Tell Us about America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny" by American authors Neil Howe and William Strauss. Their thesis is that history repeats itself in four generations cycles. The greatest generation had come at the peak of one cycle, the one prior to that having been the Civil War. He makes the case that the millennial generation will be another "hero generation" that will endure great hardship and carry on our civilization.

One can take a cyclical or a linear view of history. The cataclysmic disruptions of our time, the television revolution, the sexual revolution, the drug revolution, the entire antiestablishment revolution called cultural Marxism, and our precipitously declining population are unprecedented in history. In their cyclical view, however, Howe and Strauss posit four generational archetypes, the "Hero Generation," the "Artist

Generation,” the “Prophet Generation,” and the “Nomad Generation.” The rough mapping would be as follows:

- Hero – greatest generation
- Artist – silent generation
- Prophet – baby boomers
- Nomad – generation x
- Hero – millennial generation

In the hero generation societal cohesion is high, as it was in World War II. In the artist generation they start to question, as did the beatniks in the 1950s. In the prophet generation there is an unraveling, as in the 1960s and onward. Institutions are unpopular and individualism is on the rise. This would have continued through Generation X, finally ending in a crisis which completes the cycle back to hero. The prediction is that there will be a severe, multifaceted crisis involving racial problems, demographic collapse and economic collapse sometime in the next decade or so. From this the Millennials will emerge as heroes. I, the reviewer, have children in both the Millennial and the successor, which I call Generation Phoenix. The question is whether the soft, directionless Millennials will have the fortitude to restore society, or whether it must be done by a Generation Phoenix which, like the Greatest Generation, was hardened by growing to adulthood in hardship.

As Langness says, the Howe-Strauss paradigm is only a metaphorical structure. It could not be 100% accurate. What is important is that there is an impending crisis that will profoundly affect both America and Europe. The liberal, progressive policies that have been operative for half a century will be proven bankrupt and something new will take their place. Whole new philosophies of social organization, human behavior and government will emerge. Langness makes a strong case throughout the book.

Langness contends that the Baby Boomer phenomenon in Europe roughly paralleled that in America. As a Berkeley native who lived in Germany in the early 70s, I offer the opinion that it came about a decade later. Moreover, it had a harder political edge. The Sproul Hall protests in Berkeley and the Fillmore West drug scene in San Francisco seems more intent on enjoying sex drugs and rock ‘n’ roll. The major political issue seemed to be avoiding getting shot at in Vietnam.

In Europe, on the other hand, the *soixante huitards* trashed the Champs-Élysées repeatedly and attempted to blow up American army installations with some regularity. They had more in common with the traditional European anarchists who had assassinated the Archduke, spearheaded the Russian Revolution and populated the Frankfurt School.

For somebody who wasn’t there, Langness does an extraordinarily good job of capturing the zeitgeist of the 60s in California. It seemed remarkable at the time how quickly the conventional wisdom that had survived centuries if not millennia we stood on its head.

He next chronicles the rapid onrush of widespread immigration. Some of us had misgivings when the Hart-Cellar immigration act was passed in the 1960s, but it was impossible to imagine how bad it would turn out. Already in the 1970s it was evident to me, in Frankfurt, that the Turkish guestworkers were both there to stay and refusing to integrate. Langness does an excellent job of recounting the political blunders that allowed immigration to continue year after year, until the final mad onslaught within the last decade.

Langness does a great job of summing up Enoch Powell’s “Rivers of Blood” speech in 1968. It may have ended his political career, but it has proven prophetic. Moreover, the controversy clearly established the conflict between the political elites, universities and newspapers on one side and the common people such as Powell’s appreciative audience in Birmingham on the other. The former, unfortunately, occupied the bully pulpits and

had the articulation to force their ill-founded views on a skeptical majority. Langness chronicles how they steadfastly, resolutely look the other way when their pet immigrants committed acts of terror and rape against the host country populace. His bibliography includes many books that describe the horrors, tellingly, entirely different from my long list of the same.

Langness cites some authors who attempt to explain what happened. Peter Turchin explores the concept of *asabiyyah*, the Arabic notion of shared cohesion and unity. In earlier books Langness noted that his Viking ancestors dominated Europe because they possessed such a strong sense of kinship, and that Europe was failing because they have lost it. Scandinavians had a higher altruism than any people in the world. It served them extremely well when they were fighting the rest of the world. However, extending that altruism to the rest of the world and inviting them to live in Scandinavia has been an unmitigated disaster.

Comment 2

Evolutionary strategies

Langness makes a lengthy argument on the basis of r/K reproductive strategies, one which he borrows from a blog called “Anonymous Conservative.” He writes that r-selected strategies, like those of rabbits and mice involve,

- conflict avoidance
- short-term pair bonding and low investment mating
- low investment in rearing offspring
- mating early in life
- and low or nonexistent in group loyalty

Evolutionary psychologists, notably [[ASIN:0965683621 Philippe Rushton]], put the emphasis on fecundity. r-selected populations (r for reproduction) have a lot of offspring in which they make little investment, K selected populations (K for the German of carrying capacity) have fewer offspring and make big investments. Rushton would have agreed that Northeast Asians are K selected. He would have disagreed about Muslims. With many children in which they make little investment in education, Rushton would have called them r-selected. Anonymous Conservative calls them K selected because they evolved in a resource poor environment and exhibit high levels of aggression and pack base social systems. Rushton’s analysis seems closer to that of biologists such as EO Wilson, William Hamilton and Robert Trivers, who originated the r/K concept. Another profound difference is that the evolutionary biologists look at r/K selection as an attribute of populations over evolutionary time, not something that would be K for the Greatest Generation and r for the Baby Boomers.

Langness quotes authors Bradley Campbell and Jason Manning claiming that there has been a shift in the West from an “honor culture” to an integrity culture,” and lastly to what we see today as a “victimhood culture.” Other authors such as Jack Donovan, one of Langness’ favorite sources writing in [[ASIN:B007O0Y1ZE The Way of Men]] and [[ASIN:B01MCUS3KV Sen. Ben Sasse]] have written of the same thing. Howard Schwartz does a beautiful analysis of victimhood in his book [[ASIN:9783319398044 Political Correctness and the Destruction of Social Order]].

Langness quotes a young author conjecturing that the 1960s cultural Revolution was based on four principles that might be summarized as

- Disloyalty toward family
- Disloyalty toward faith

- Disloyalty toward race
- Disloyalty toward nation

Since it was essentially negative, it was able to incorporate internal contradictions without feeling the need to resolve them. Howard Schwartz' book, above, does an exquisite job of dissecting the contradictions and the mental gymnastics of ignoring them.

Langness reports that many of the millennial generation had a sense as they experienced them that the flood of pornography and consumerism and the lack of purpose in their lives was not a good thing. It represented a kind of an enemy force.

He writes that for him this came and the focus on 9/11, and especially in the drama that played out on the last airliner, United flight 93. The passengers fought back. In the last moments of their lives they found meaning and purpose as they stormed the cockpit and prevented that last airplane from crashing into the White House.

Comment 3 – The meaning of life. Asabiya and consumerism

Langness says that it took very little reflection for him to realize that the motivation of the hijackers was not any sort of revenge. It was deeper. They viewed themselves as "part of the struggle between good and evil, in which the United States and the 'decadent West' represented the latter. They defined their struggle in tribal, national, racial, and religious terms, and made clear their desire to die for it."

In this passage is the key to Langness's thesis. The Muslims believe in something, believe in it strongly enough to die for it, and certainly enough to confront the lazy, passive citizens of the West. President Bush, and Obama after him, were dead wrong in calling it an aberration.

The advocates of the wars in the Middle East were hopelessly wrong on two counts. First they were wrong that a nation steeped in the victimhood culture could steel itself to project its will on others. Secondly, they were delusional to imagine that democracy and the American way of life held any appeal for the Muslim Street. They may have liked the material goodies, but they despised the moral laxity of the West.

Langness condemns the naïveté of Bush's "bomb them and bring them" politics. Steve Sailer expresses it as "invade the world, invite the world." Either way the idea is phenomenally stupid yet widely held.

Langness includes some interesting material on the situation in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The mainstream media put their usual 'whites are evil' spin on the devastation visible in the city. What their helicopters broadcast was a vast mass of scared, hungry, enraged African-Americans in a situation where law and order had completely broken down. He reports that black refugees viciously turned on white ones, and racial violence on a truly horrific scale was only averted through the arrival of the National Guard. Conversely, white people did apparently resort to threats of violence to keep Blacks out of their neighborhoods. There were rampant charges of racism, always directed at white people. Conservative whites were totally cowed, unable to muster a defense against the charges of racism.

Liberals would twist slight verbal missteps by conservatives, or dredge up things they had said or written in the past, to force the most abject apologies. Those apologies seldom worked. Some brave souls such as Joe Sobran and John Derbyshire stood by their words and accepted being fired by politically correct organs such as Bill Buckley's National Review magazine.

The college-age Langness avoided the whole issue, concluding that the elders of both America's right and left were simply ignoring the real issues. His generation, indoctrinated since kindergarten with white guilt, started

to question the narrative. It took only a little investigation to determine it was totally one-sided. Youth is always skeptical, and the liberal Emperor truly had no clothes.

Liberal positions were predictable on all matters. They started with race and women's rights, but progressed into the rights of gays and transgender people and any other definable minority. On the topic of transgenders, Langness quotes Mike Cernovich as saying "Modern conservatism can't even conserve the ladies room."

Langness discusses the Donald Trump phenomenon from a millennial's point of view. They reacted with scorn and sarcasm to the mainstream media's constant attacks. Unrepentant genuine conservatives such as Peter Brimelow, Steve Sailer, Jared Taylor, Ann Coulter and Pat Buchanan, who had survived years in the wilderness being ostracized by the prim, politically correct establishment right, came into their own.

Langness quotes Vox Day saying that politics is downstream of culture. Among the most effective tools in Trump's victory campaign were twitter, which he used to brilliant success, and other alternative media. Langness points to media creators such as Walt Bismarck and their biting, witty attacks on political correctness and the left in general. He points to a number of extremely talented people who were attracted to Trump, or perhaps more so, repulsed by Hillary and the establishment and rally to Trump. Scott Adams, the creator of Dilbert, offered some useful psychological into what Trump was doing and how he was doing it.

He concludes that Trump's election was a massive rebuke to multiple groups: Hillary and the corrupt Democratic establishment, the establishment Republicans, and above all the media. We can add, postelection, that it was apparently extraordinarily threatening to the "deep state" institutions such as the CIA and FBI, which collaborated massively in trying to undermine his presidency. As I write this, 15 months after the election, Trump seems to be going slowly and letting the extent of the corruption leak out bit by bit, dominating the news and sapping the vitality of the deep state week by week. Trump may appear to be in danger, but he is a survivor. It is the deep state that is suffering.

Comment 4 – Culture wars

Langness celebrates the intellectual awakening of this age. He writes "For truly, when was the last time there was such an organic flowering of youth culture, and politics, and writing? When was the last time so many thousands of young authors and artists simultaneously began examining such subjects, and advocating for new political realities, and creating such a vast proliferation of art and books and scholarship?"

As we write, there is a monumental battle going on between the Boomer controlled media and the independent outlets on the Internet. Just this morning the Unz Review publicized the availability of their alternative to the Google controlled YouTube, namely www.unz.com/video. If YouTube, Facebook, Google, Twitter and all shut down alternative voices, there will simply be other channels.

Langness says that whereas "white privilege" is a construct that has no substance, "liberal privilege" – that of the smug white liberals who decry their fellow whites – is extraordinarily real. The people who for school busing, neighborhood integration, affirmative action and so on are usually sufficiently insulated by their geography and their educations that they did not suffer the consequences. They impose them on people without the financial or intellectual resources to escape the downsides of diversity. Langness describes how this hypocrisy operates globally: the elderly people beat to death by Gypsy immigrants in France, the firemen who cannot put out fires in Malmo, Sweden without an armed escort, or the travails of a white kid attending a predominantly black school in Los Angeles.

Langness describes the measures that have been taken by governments and the major media to shut down inconvenient people whose views they oppose. They root out people who have donated to parties on the right, expose them and cause them inconvenience. In the United States, this exemplified by Lois Lerner incident, interfering with the tax exempt status of conservative organizations. In Europe, it's worse. The government and the media conspire to track down people who as much as contribute to Alternative für Deutschland and call them Nazis, discourage people from doing business with them and threatened violence. They call them racists and white supremacists.

In the United States they have caused a split in the Republican Party. The so-called cuckservatives cave to the left wing demands that they be quiet. The alt right does not. Brave souls like Jared Taylor, Mike Cernovich and Steve Sailer keep right on going. He cites a quote by Walter Newell saying that "Teddy Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were more similar to the men of ancient Greece than they are to the men of today."

Another quote, from [[ASIN:1907166467 Guillaume Faye]], saying that "a citizen is a person who, if need be, can re-create his civilization." That goes to the very heart of the issue. Even though children are being born today, few in number, they are in no way being educated in their civilizations.

Comment 5 – Where is it headed?

In his concluding Book Three, A Future of Too Much History, Langness returns to the "fourth turning" model, the idea that generations somewhat repeat each other in cycles of 80-100 years.

Every total war in US history has occurred during the fourth turning, no fourth turning has yet unfolded without one. But this time the war may well take a different form.

The catalysts will be financial, but the root will be deeper. We have greater levels of debt than at any point in history. After 2008, governments turned to massive borrowing to stimulate their economies. It didn't work. Government debt has skyrocketed. So has personal debt. In Denmark the average household debt is 266% of yearly income. In the Netherlands it is 250%. If interest rates rise a little bit, huge percentages of those populations will be underwater.

The rich are able to borrow money at essentially zero interest and invest it profitably. As money becomes worth less, the 99% eat the difference. The demographic crisis has been largely ignored. In Germany there are twice as many 50 to 54-year-olds as there are 10 to 14-year-olds. He does not go on about the ethnicity of those 10 to 14-year-olds; large, some large number of them are immigrants, who will never be able to replace the Germans were dying. In any case, he continues, "the elderly within a society require large amounts of time, money, and care, and it is the younger generations who must provide this." "Old people consume far more state resources and the younger ones." "The governments of Western Europe borrowed against future generations in order to fund the mass importation of Muslim immigrants." In Sweden, only one third of 1% of the immigrants have found work.

Chapter 9 defined the problem; Chapter 10 is a prediction of what will happen. Two defining features in the United States will be the student loan crisis and the pension crisis. Langness quotes David Mamet as saying "the baby boomer generation, my own, is content, if of the Left, to live out our remaining years upon the work and upon the entitlements created by our parents, and to entail the costs upon our children - to tax industry out of the country, to tax wealth away from its historical role and use as the funder of innovation."

Langness believes that the baby boomers and the older generations are stuck with their ideologies and will be unlikely to change. The millennials will be split, a larger and larger percentage becoming identitarian, that is, nationalistic whereas the rest will remain in the thrall of cultural Marxism. As the money runs out for welfare,

the immigrants, and Europe largely Muslims, will become more and more violent. Governments will become more repressive, both of the white nationalists and of the immigrants. It will end in failure and the governments will become ineffective. Then it will revert to a kind of chaos. A precedent is seen in the fall of Yugoslavia.

The Visegrad countries, the East, have already shown their will to resist the West. They will become even more resistant to European pressure for immigration. However, France, Germany, Sweden, Spain and Italy are and England are already too far gone. They cannot fight the tide. There will be chaos. It will be of course exacerbated by the fact by the demographic collapse. It will simply not be enough young white people to mount an effective flight.

Chapter 11 addresses ways to fight this coming collapse. Langness writes that the millennial generation is often disparaged as a collection of lazy entitled brats. This is a result of the progressive teachings through which the millennials were indoctrinated since birth. But more and more of them are turning away from it. He says that if his predictions are right, large swaths of the millennial generation will end up leading the fight to save Western civilization. Trump's victory is a sign of hope.

Immigration must be throttled. "From the beginning, immigration has been associated with corruption, dishonest politics, illegality and greed." This is certainly true. The waves of immigrants included my German ancestors before the revolution, Irish in the mid-19th centuries, Southern Europeans in the late 19th century and waves of Jews around the turn of the 20th century. They established a succession of big city machines such as Tammany Hall in New York City. They were always characterized by corruption.

Langness closes by presenting to "best case scenarios." In scenario one immigration stops and the conservative forces are overwhelmingly successful in the culture wars. In scenario two there is a peaceful breakup of the United States into smaller, more homogeneous chunks. There might be a Hispanic American chunk, an African-American chunk, and a European – American chunk someplace. Curiously missing from his scenario is the red state/blue state split many envision.

Langness points to the fact that technology increasingly allows people to live where they want, regardless of work considerations. It would be practical to split up. Our major corporations are already multinational. They employ people from all over the world. We could simply extend that paradigm.

Without further probing the feasibility of his two alternatives, Langness presses on to say that the worst case scenario is that progressivism is triumphant. "Should that ideology again control every branch of government, in addition to its stranglehold on the culture, the future will look bleak." America would likely devolve into an even more pronounced high crime, low trust society. Mass immigration would continue, eroding the asabiya of the country until nothing is left. I remind the reader of this review that asabiya is an Arab concept of cultural unity.

He says that everyday life would be like in Brazil or South Africa. For that reason the fight against progressivism in America must be won. He goes on to say that the situation in Europe is simpler than that in America, though perhaps less hopeful. Europe was essentially homogeneous until the 1960s, since when things have gone steadily downhill, and it is clear that mass immigration is a disaster of epic proportions. It is basically native Europeans versus Muslims. Western Europe may be too far gone. Langness sees hope for Eastern Europe. As a resident of Ukraine I agree.

Langness writes "the best case scenario in these nations (Western Europe) is for some manner of societal collapse to take place." The sooner the better. The pieces seem to be in place for a widespread depression.

"The suffering such a collapse would entail is terrific beyond comprehension. However the alternative is far greater suffering later on, and it is suffering the governments of those nations should have known it would eventually come." The outcome may entail a Balkanized Europe, split into Muslim and native European zones. It is hard to see this as any sort of a stable solution. The Muslims are young, warlike, and lacking in the ability to support a viable economy. Cut off from the support of the native European taxpayers, they would be in a hopeless situation.

Langness closes "God willing, we in the millennial generation will not go down in history as a last generation of "last men", who allowed our civilization to die, but rather had the opposite - as a generation that awoke from the madness it was born into, and ushered in the West's rebirth.