

"The Politics of Black Americans"

What should be the politics of Black America from a long-term strategic plan (LTSP) perspective? In this regard, we must consider at least three factors: (1) Leadership; (2) political alliances; and (3) political actions.

Leadership.--Obviously, we want leaders who will produce the best outcomes. What outcomes do we desire? This takes us back to the question of whether we should pursue a separate versus an integrated status. In the short run, we may prefer leaders who enable us to survive most beneficially in America; i.e., leaders who enhance our economic, educational, and health well-being in America. On a long-term basis, we may prefer leaders who enable us to establish an independent state. What we know about political leadership historically is that Black leaders may not necessarily produce the best outcomes for us.¹ Consequently, we must concern ourselves with a panorama of issues when electing political leaders: Platforms, personalities, seniority, party, etc.

Political alliances.--We should adopt a dual approach when forming political alliances: One for the short run and one for long-term purposes. One fact is certain, we should make it clear that Black Americans have "no permanent friends, just permanent interests." What is quite clear is that in the short run we can build international alliances slowly. However, in the long term and as we approach efforts to achieve separate status, we should accelerate and deepen our international alliances as they may play a crucial role in our success to obtain a separate territory for self-governance.

Political actions.—There are two primary concerns for political action. First, our actions should be directed toward producing the best leaders. In other words, we should begin to groom Black political leaders from an early age. It should not be the case that Black American would-be politicians come to politics late in life. On the contrary, they should develop such interests early on so that they are able to prepare properly to realize optimal outcomes. Second, our political actions should be devoted to forming alliances and resources (financial and otherwise) that can be used strategically to obtain the outcomes that we desire.

Our political actions should also reflect cognizance of the following key requirements. We should shape political conditions by providing voting and financial support to those who will enable us to improve, maintain, and preserve our economic, educational, and health well-being. Nevertheless, we should not be dependent on government. In fact, government has been as much of a hindrance to Black American economic, educational, and health achievement as it has been a benefit. For example, the U.S. President and Congress passed Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Legislation during the 1960s. Yet, they did not set aside, on an ongoing basis, sufficient resources to strictly enforce that legislation. What we know is that it takes

¹ Please see "What Would an Obama Presidency Mean for Black Americans"; <http://www.blackeconomics.org/BE&Future/WWOPM.pdf> .

police to ensure compliance when it comes to simple and transparent traffic laws. You'll agree that it is difficult to travel two miles within urban areas without spotting policemen who are serving this very purpose. Why, then don't we see such prolific enforcement when it comes to the insidious, nebulous, and almost invisible nature of discrimination crimes?

Given these realities, a LTSP for Black American Politics should include the factors:

- **A process for deciding on the short- and long-term nature of our political status: Independent status versus being integrated into the United States' political system.**
- **Tried and true methods for selecting Black political leaders**
 - **We should devise methods for selecting would-be political leaders early**
 - **We should develop methods for grooming these leaders**
 - **We should clearly distinguish between those leaders that are selected by the media and those who are anointed by our community**
- **A framework for assessing the effectiveness of Black political leaders**
- **A mechanism for marshalling and growing domestic political resources**
 - **Votes**
 - **Alliances**
 - **Financial resources**
- **A mechanism for marshalling and growing international political resources**
 - **Direct formation of alliances**
 - **Alliance formation through international organizations such as the United Nations**
- **A framework for developing a self-governance structure**
 - **Constitution**
 - **Political leadership**
 - **Political bodies**
 - **Administrative bodies**
- **A process for ensuring that Black American political leadership, alliances, and actions are fully and effectively integrated into the remainder of the Black American LTSP.**