



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on March 24, 2025

reflects the radical environmentalism of the college-educated, as well as an array of high taxes, high crime, endless government regulations, housing shortages, massive homelessness, illegal immigration, critical-legal-theory prosecutors, ethnic and racial chauvinism, defund-the-police city councils, and, most importantly, chronic budget deficits and vast, unfunded pension liabilities and obligations.

Will the Last Producer Leaving the Blue States — Turn Out the Lights

The bottom line is that population is declining in liberal states but rising in traditionalist ones. Consequently, red states are poised to gain 10 to 12 House seats during the next decade. A corresponding number of extra Electoral College votes will be theirs, too.

This, mind you, is one reason the Democrats have flooded the U.S. with illegals in recent years and have attracted them to blue states with the sanctuary-city carrot. Our census, taken every 10 years, counts all “persons” living in an area — *not just citizens*. So, yes, illegal aliens’ presence will get you more representation and electoral votes and hence more power.

Yet President Donald Trump’s reelection has scuttled this scheme, at least for now. And Hanson points out that the blue-state exodus phenomenon snowballs, too. As liberal states’ tax bases shrink, the burden on the remaining producers increases. This encourages even more of them to leave.

California, There I Go....

Hanson essentially says that the poster boy for this phenomenon is what he once called our “first Third World state.” As he writes:

We also may be witnessing soon the de facto implosion of a once affluent California — its growing poverty already visible in its decaying roads and infrastructure, dangerous and substandard public schools, soaring property crime, overcrowded, dysfunctional, and dangerous health care system, ethnic fragmentation, and the general bankruptcy and medievalism of San Francisco and Los Angeles.

... In California, 50 percent of all births are now paid for by Medi-Cal, which serves 40 percent of the state. And yet the health welfare system is flat broke, nearing \$7 billion in the red. California has the highest taxes in the nation at 13.3 percent (plus an additional millionaire’s tax). Its sales and gas taxes are also among the nation’s steepest, while utilities charge the highest gas and electricity rates in the continental U.S.

Other Golden State realities are staggering, too. For example:

- Its top one percent of earners pays well more than 50 percent of the tax burden, according to Hanson.
- Greentopian folly makes power costs high. The result? Almost a quarter of Californians simply don’t pay their utility bills. Nonetheless, they’re generally not disconnected — they’re subsidized by the producers.
- This asymmetry is also reflected in California having a surfeit of laws *and* lawlessness. For instance, while the wealthy are subject to burdensome building codes, those restrictions are not



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enforced on others (e.g., the immigrant population). In fact, when Hanson asked a building inspector why he wasn't entering a compound with trailers and obviously substandard wiring, the man replied, "I'm not crazy, sir."

- Because of the high taxes and cost of doing business, California is estimated to have one of America's largest underground economies. It's open and obvious, too, says Hanson.

Blue-America Blues

There's much more in the professor's article, too. In summary, though, California is paralyzed by leftist regulations and dogma. The restrictions prevent the state from building new power plants, improving other infrastructure sufficiently, or creating necessary housing. And, says Hanson, talking about the real cause of the problems — such as a half-century's massive influx of poor immigrants — is political suicide. So instead, politicians blame "systemic racism" and "privilege" and claim DEI-like solutions will save the day.

The bottom line is that in California, the law *isn't* actually for the little people — or the big people. It's for the middle people. And they're saying goodbye.

And as Hanson sums up about the blue-state blues:

The old traditional impoverished South is becoming the engine of American prosperity. The Northern Midwest, the Northeast, and the West Coast — for a century the font of American dynamism — have become stagnant and inert, and are shrinking.

Do note, however, that blue-state residents sometimes take liberal ideology and voting habits with them to their new locales. (This explains North Carolina's support for Barack Obama in 2008.) Moreover, Hanson didn't address [our moral decay](#), which, if unremedied, will ensure continued American decline.

Nonetheless, recent trends have been that red states have been moving farther right and blue states left. And what of managing the latter's deterioration, as, one could say, no state is an island? Well, a quotation from English polymath Herbert Spencer is relevant here.

"The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly," he noted, "is to fill the world with fools."

As left-wing states falter, they'll want federal bailouts. They should get nothing, however, because it would be just like feeding a junkie's drug addiction. Let them hit rock bottom, and then maybe, just perhaps, they'll start birthing babies instead of infantility.



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