

“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It was the season of light. It was the season of darkness. We had everything before us. We had nothing before us. In short, it was a period very like the present.” (**A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens)

The words from this classic story of Charles Dickens describing the French revolution days of 1775 echo in my mind as we currently live the past, present, and future all at the same time. The words from the opening lines of the classic novel reflect that truth. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

George Orwell’s novel **1984** details a time that resembles our current day as does Alvin Toffler’s **Future Shock**. Ayn Rand’s **Atlas Shrugged**, the classic story of capitalism versus collectivism, reflects the challenge of our current milieu.

It appears throughout history and through the current era that we march on at times only to march backward. Technology grants us giant steps forward with gadgetry but many steps backward through power struggles on the political landscape. With over 6 billion people on this planet, it is not likely that all will be fed or housed with the same standards. With heads of state, whose growth is stunted by their egos and some with psychopathic tendencies, it’s likely that the planet earth may not survive another failed revolution.

Secular answers fall short of resolution, and spiritual goals seem out of reach. Religions play a significant role throughout all of history, but unfortunately without the desired peaceful outcomes. The common bond that we all share in the multi-dilemma of human existence is the ongoing struggle to live in and with freedom versus living with fear and ignorance. The struggles and conflicts throughout all of history remain with us today and continue to thrive in spite of all of mankind’s advances in technology.

It is the best of times and the worst of times. It is the season of light and the season of darkness. We have everything before us and nothing before us. It is the past and present as one.

And may the wind be always at your back.

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