The Decline of Progressive Government in Berkeley, California

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In 1975 the Cooperative Ownership Organizing Project, led by Berkeley city planning graduate Edward Kirshner, published *The Cities' Wealth*, a manifesto of projects loosely supported by Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA), a radical political body that was, within a few years, to gain control of that city's government. *The Cities' Wealth* should stand as one of the key documents in the visionary history of the city planning profession along with Ebenezer Howard's 1898 *Tomorrow: A Path to Real Reform* – which Kirshner credited as its inspiration – and a very few others (Bach *et al.*, 1976). It laid out a series of steps toward the reform of that city's economy and political arrangements: the takeover of the city's public utilities, the creation of affordable cooperative housing developments, support for community controlled social service agencies as an alternative to city bureaucracy, the creation of neighborhood organizations with a veto power over large developments, and the opening up of the city's many boards and commissions to wide participation through an innovative "fair representation" ordinance. BCA at that time only held a small minority foothold in the city's nine-member city council, but within a decade it reached a dominant majority position, and put several of the proposals of *The Cities' Wealth* into effect.

By 1998 BCA was a much diminished political force, the "progressive" city council majority was now a minority, a "moderate" mayor had won office in 1994, rent control, which had buttressed BCA votes, had been gutted by the state legislature and the courts, and BCA's core supporters were disillusioned while no comparable cadre of new activists had risen to succeed them. If BCA represented a "cycle of reform" in the 1970s and 1980s, that cycle seemed near its end. How did this happen?

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The Decimation of Downton, Business Interests

"The discussion of business interests in the 1970s and 1980s was often conducted in a context of opposition politics. It was a time when economic and political interests were at odds with each other. The discussions were often shaped by the tensions between business interests and the needs of the workforce. In the 1970s and 1980s, business interests were often seen as prioritizing profit over the needs of the workforce.

In this context, the role of the BCA in supporting business interests was often viewed with suspicion. The BCA was seen as an organization that represented the interests of business and was often accused of working against the interests of workers. This perception was reinforced by the BCA's role in promoting business interests in the workplace, often at the expense of the rights of workers.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the BCA was often seen as a tool of the government to support business interests. This was particularly true in the context of the Thatcher government, which placed a strong emphasis on promoting business interests in the economy.

The BCA was also criticized for its role in promoting business interests in the workplace. The BCA was often accused of working to undermine the rights of workers and to promote the interests of employers. This was particularly true in the context of the BCA's role in promoting business interests in the workplace, where the BCA was often seen as working to undermine the rights of workers.

In conclusion, the role of the BCA in promoting business interests was often seen as a tool of the government to support business interests. This was particularly true in the context of the Thatcher government, which placed a strong emphasis on promoting business interests in the economy. The BCA was also criticized for its role in promoting business interests in the workplace, where the BCA was often seen as working to undermine the rights of workers.
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The decline of progressive government in Berkeley was a result of a series of political developments. The city's past history of progressive governance, characterized by social and environmental reforms, began to unravel by the early 1990s. Several factors contributed to this decline:

1. **Erosion of Political Support**: The progressive coalition that had held power since the 1970s began to fracture. Key leaders, such as Mayor Tom McClintock, who had been influential in the city's progressive agenda, began to drift away. This erosion of support weakened the foundations of the progressive movement.

2. **Economic Challenges**: Berkeley, like many cities, faced economic challenges in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The city's reliance on state and federal aid during the 1970s and 1980s made it vulnerable to budget cuts and revenue shortfalls. This economic context created increasing financial pressures on the city's government.

3. **Political Divisions**: Internal divisions within the progressive coalition led to conflicts over policy priorities and leadership. These divisions were exacerbated by external pressures and the emergence of new political movements, such as the conservative counter-protest to the progressive agenda.

4. **Cultural Tensions**: Berkeley's diverse population and its history as a center of counterculture and radical politics made it a battleground for different cultural visions. The tension between progressive ideals and emerging conservative sentiments created a climate that was increasingly hostile to progressive governance.

In the wake of these developments, the progressive agenda began to falter. Key initiatives, such as the city's commitment to social justice and environmental sustainability, saw reduced funding and fewer victories. The progressive philosophy, which had once been a beacon of innovation and change, began to be seen as outdated or irrelevant.

The decline of progressive government in Berkeley was a cautionary tale of the complexities of sustaining a progressive vision in a rapidly changing political landscape. It highlighted the importance of continuous engagement, adaptation, and a strong base of community support to maintain progressive momentum.
The decline of progressive government in Berkeley...

...the rise of New Conservatism...

...the decline of the New Deal...

...the election of Richard Nixon...

...the ascendancy of Ronald Reagan...

...the rise of the Tea Party...

...the election of Donald Trump...

...the ascendancy of the Trump administration...

...the decline of democracy in America...

...the rise of authoritarianism...

...the threat to democratic institutions...

...the erosion of the rule of law...

...the decline of public confidence in government...

...the rise of populism...

...the threat to the future of democracy...

...the need for bold action...

...the call for change...

...the imperative for leadership...

...the challenge of the moment...

...the stakes are high...

...the road ahead is uncertain...

...the future is ours to shape...

...the time to act is now...
The Decline of Progressive Government in Peru

The American policies and urban policy now face serious challenges. More assistance is needed. Some believe that the American policies are as effective as the urban policy, while others prefer urban policy over the American policies. The American policies are considered more effective in urban areas, while the urban policy is more effective in rural areas. The American policies are considered more effective in urban areas, while the urban policy is more effective in rural areas.

Some of the key issues with the American policies include:

1. Lack of accountability: The American policies are often criticized for lack of accountability. There are concerns about the transparency and integrity of the policies. This lack of accountability can lead to corruption and misuse of funds.

2. Resource allocation: The American policies often struggle with resource allocation. There is a need to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively.

3. Sustainability: The American policies often lack a focus on sustainability. There is a need to ensure that policies are sustainable and can be sustained over time.

Despite these challenges, there is a growing recognition of the potential of the American policies. There are efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the American policies. However, there is a need for continued engagement and dialogue to address these challenges.

The urban policy, on the other hand, is considered more effective in urban areas. The urban policy is effective in improving infrastructure, providing basic services, and promoting economic development. However, there are also challenges with the urban policy. The urban policy often struggles with resource allocation, and there are concerns about the sustainability of the policies.

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References


