Lessons for Progressives - The Queens Gambit

The **Queen's Gambit** is a 2020 American coming-of-age period drama miniseries based on Walter Tevis's 1983 novel of the same name. It was created for Netflix by Scott Frank and Allan Scott. Chess is a game of strategy and skill. Major premise: Superior players "out-think" their opponents through skill and extensive preparation and thereby win.

What is the **Queen's Gambit** in chess? The **Queen's Gambit** is a chess opening when the following moves are played: The idea behind the Queen's Gambit is: White is trying to exchange their wing pawn (the c-pawn) for a center pawn (Black's d-pawn). If this is done, then White proceeds to dominate the center with his King pawn. (Increased power)

1 The game is played within a system and sub systems. Players first need to understand the basic systems when learning the game. *Games are systems. Democrats don't understand what system or game they are playing in. The Democrats play a game of checkers while Republicans are playing chess. Different games and results.*

2. Although played by individuals on a "checkered" board, at the highest levels the game is played by a team. Teams train, prepare, and research opponents and thereby support the person playing the game on behalf of the team. *Democrats and progressives are decentralized in their strategies and thereby reduce their power and lose elections.*

3. Grandmasters realize the need to train/prepare for upcoming matches. There is a need to devote extensive number of hours on the game, gambits, and their opponent. *The Republicans have better training opportunities for their team than the Democrats. Democrats have little or no organized training. Current Dem organized training is low quality.*

4. Players make data decisions related to strategies, moves, and counter moves. Training and preparation prepare players to react and make decisions while playing the game under time constraints. *Democrats do not collect appropriate data and lack advanced process improvement skills needed to create new and more effective strategies.*

5. Superior players understand the difference between the long game strategy and individual moves on the board. Players with the superior strategy win. *Republicans understand change and how it occurs at the individual, organizational, and institutional level. Democrats do not change and don't know how to change in order to win.*

6. Grandmasters understand power relationships between <u>all the pieces</u> on the board and how their overall power can <u>increase or decrease</u> as the game progresses. It is the difference between absolute and relative power. Examples: The power of a pawn increases as the game progresses and can be equal to other pieces that started out with more power at the beginning of the game. *Democrats don't understand how change occurs and its relationship to power. Building your power increase the probability of creating your vision of change. Republicans play the long game and focus on building power. Republicans are active 365 days of each year; one goal-build/preserve power.*

7. The game of chess has three phases: 1) opening phase, 2) middle phase, and 3) closing phase. *See number 6. Democrats have no effective strategies for opening and middle phases of their campaigns (6-12 months in advance).*

8. The selection of the color is the first task. The second task is the opening move that defines the opening phase of the game. White has an advantage because black must react or counter. *Republicans attack first to attempt to increase their power; many times, they succeed. Democrats react to attacks; result: diminished Democrat power.*

9. Anticipation is a crucial skill in a winning strategy. In deciding which move to make, Grandmasters mentally map out the future consequences of each possible move, often looking about eight moves ahead. **Anticipation of Republican strategies is not a common topic at Democratic meetings.**

10. Grand masters want to know the opponent and their moves through research. Then the grand master will try to knock down <u>their own pet theory</u> rather than finding ways to support it. Grand masters tend to correctly predict when the eventual outcome of their move will weaken their position. **Little data is collected/discussed to analyze or check Democratic strategies as well as the motivation and tactics of Republicans.**